

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

There won't be better grounds in Canada for cricket, base ball and foot ball than the St. John Cricket and Athletic club's grounds...

The grand stand will be completed by the 20th, and all ready for the curious hundreds of local lovers of ball who have never enjoyed watching a ball game from the best position, behind the catcher...

The membership of the Cricket and Athletic club is over 240 at present. Rev. John de Soyres, rector of St. Mark's parish, had been in the city but a few days when his application for membership was in...

When I read the presentation of the grand jury on the subject of prize-fighting, I laughed. I am laughing yet. If there was one-tenth as much fist as there is fake in the lurid reports that the daily papers sometimes print, this town would be drenched with gore; but there isn't. The grand jury has no occasion to feel any concern.

Those who have been privileged to see the genial and athletic captain of the St. John Salvage corps snatching furniture from destruction will not be surprised to learn that in the recent sports of St. Peter's college, Cambridge, his brother, Mr. Fred. C. Frink, took the prize, a handsome cup, for the long jump, covering 18 feet 6 inches. He also won the 200-yard handicap and a two guinea banjo, the start being six feet.

The wheelmen in the C. & A. club will have a good time this summer and they won't have to go to the Mahogany road for it either. Twenty-two cyclists have joined the club and contractor Cusack is placing a cement track around the C. & A. grounds. The track is greater in circumference than the cinder path of last season, requiring hardly five laps to the mile, while it took five-and-a-half last year. The wheelmen are a splendid addition to the club and will contribute handsomely to any public exhibition of sports.

Mr. J. M. Barnes, the swift and tireless cyclist who beat all competitors last year in the long distance record, winning a prize which has not been presented yet, has picked out enough dry places to make his cyclometer read 50 miles. The roads are in poor condition for wheeling yet, but a few warm days will make the boys shake the motths from their last year's uniforms.

Moosepath park has been leased by the St. John Agricultural society, which has appointed a committee to make arrangements for races, etc. The interest manifested by the society of late in horses is a good omen for the stock of the future.

William McKie, the East Boston builder, talks this way to the Globe:

I was much interested in the story which The Globe had about the new Nova Scotia challenger Blenstone. David Lynch, his designer, is one of the best builders in the province. I was down there several months, and met him, and saw a good deal of his work. He is a fine mechanic. All the vessels which he turned out were built very fair, but they were not polished as well as ours are. They don't smooth them up as slick as we do. Speaking of the hollow midship section, which Mr. Lynch claims he originated, I can remember a boat which was built right here in East Boston, 30 years ago, which had a very hollow section. She was built at the shop of Brown & Lovell. She was a dull sailer, because she had all the disadvantages of that section and none of its advantages. The hollow floor gives more friction surface, and the only reason for employing it is to get the ballast low, but in those days they did not know how to use outside weight, so she had her ballast all inside, and was slow in consequence; but she had the hollow midship section just the same.

I hope the opening of the cricket season will not wait the pleasure of the Halifaxians on June 27-28. It wouldn't be right to allow base ball too much of a start, but both games are so good and have so many admirers in our own club that rivalry need not enter the grounds. I would like to see an invitation extended to some New Brunswick club early in the season, or if that be not possible a few good games out of home material. You will want lots of practice boys to stand to keep your wickets and score in proper shape before Amund and Henry.

The engagement of Mr. Comber, professional, begins May 15, after which date real practice work will be begun. The terms of his engagement are practically the same as those of last year, but it is quite probable that the cricketers will profit more by his instruction than before. It is not worth while engaging a coacher for the same instead of the game.

I am glad the Halifax Garrison have asked for dates. They probably want to regain lost prestige and are coming for scores. St. John will be in better trim to meet them than when they visited us last, though their visit is two months away. I look for victory.

Bland, the American cricketer who surprised some of the boys last season, talks of returning to the states. He is a good cricketer, and would be a valuable addition to a first eleven. But we can't have the earth.

There will be a fine scramble for positions in the team which will face the Irish eleven, August 17 and 18. I am glad there is such an incentive, and if the managing committee will give the players to understand that their choice will be made upon the merits of the players, it will be a great encouragement for men to practice.

Some of the players have the idea that the St. John club should place 15 men against the visitors. This is absurd. Go in to win, and if you succeed the honor will be the greater. You will not win unless you are better than the opposition.

enough over your defeat, but if it comes with 15 men you will feel worse.

The Nationals came "on deck" for the season, Wednesday evening, and I dropped in on the boys and listened to their talk with a good deal of interest. Solomon in all his glory won't be able to hold a candle to them when they go on the field this year. Dark blue trousers and stockings and white shirts and hats, will be the uniform. So many friends of the club have volunteered to contribute towards the cost of these suits that a subscription list will be opened—and we will all be there.

The opening game, as everybody knows, will be with the Maine State College nine on the 24th of May; and I trust that the managing committee will succeed, as they hope to, in arranging two games with that club. Practice is likely to begin Monday, as the grounds are in pretty fair condition now. In the practice games, Christie and Kennedy are suggested as the battery for the regular nine, with Robinson and White-neck for the reserve nine. I should like to see it settled that way, for it would give both the change battery and the picked nine a fair show.

After that change battery gets settled down to work, I shall be prepared to gamble on it. I am one of many who think that Christie has never had half a chance, and that he will prove a valuable man when properly backed.

The base ball committee of the C. and A. club has hit a good idea on the choice of nines, and this is it: the committee chose the nine for the opening game, which nine will elect a captain; and in succeeding games the players will be chosen by the captain and the committee jointly. Under this arrangement, nobody will be able to charge that personal feeling served to keep a good man out or bring a weak one in.

It strikes me that the Maine State College nine would do a graceful thing to invite our boys to a return game, to be played in Bangor, say, since suitable grounds can't be had in Orono. Bangor would like to see the Nationals, sure, and the Nationals would like to see Bangor. Let the M. S. C. make a note of it.

A dismal rumor that the agile, athletic and untrifled Woodstocks will be missed from the diamond, this year, is floating around town. Is it true, brother Jones? I hope not. The Nationals would like to meet your merry men once more.

The junior league season opens May 28 and closes August 6, and between these dates the Lansdownes, Franklins, Thistles, Emeralds and Clippers will meet each other on the diamond. I expect to see a lively contest for the handsome trophy which my enterprising friend, Jennings, has offered the champions. There are good ball-tossers in all these nines and if there are not some sharp games played I shall be disappointed.

I have but one bit of advice to offer the juniors, just now; that is, that they should take pains to procure competent umpires and scorers. Incompetent ones are worse than none at all.

The veteran Henry Chadwick delivers himself in the Sporting Life as follows:

The Bangor Commercial had a paragraph recently relating to the fact that there is an Indian nine, composed of young Indians of the old Penobscot tribe of that section, who play quite a good game of ball. The Commercial says that "Joseph Newell, who has traveled the sphere on the Indian nine, leaves for New York in a few days to demonstrate his abilities there. The New York club will sign him at a fine salary if he shows up well, and he will be given a good compensation and his expenses while there. It would be a little singular if the New York club would have an Indian pitcher who would be able to fool the heavy hitters of the league through real Indian tactics. We have colored teams in the field, and why should we not have Indian teams? I think our Canadian friends could be able to train up a tolerably good Indian base ball team out of the material the Indian lacrosse players could furnish. What enterprising Canadian is there who will try the experiment?"

Perhaps Mr. Paul, the friend of the Sun, will take a hand.

Up to Thursday night, Boston led the National league, having won ten out of twelve games. In the series with Philadelphia and Washington, Kelly's pets captured everything and they had nine straight to their credit when they ran up against Keefe, Tuesday. They got but five totals off him, while the Giants made twelve off Madden and Sowders. Wednesday, Titcomb held the visitors down to five, while New York got seven hits. Thursday, Boston took the last game of the New York series by sharp fielding. To-day they meet the champions. More power to their elbows!

The percentages of the clubs were, up to Tuesday night, as follows: Boston, 83%; Chicago, 81%; New York, 63%; Detroit, 54%; Pittsburg, 45%; Philadelphia, 33%; Washington, 182; Indianapolis, 182. They that were tail-enders, they are tail-enders still, as the Scripture saith.

The best base ball writers in the country contribute to the Sporting Life, and it is interesting to note their estimates of their home teams, as expressed in this week's issue of that model paper. Here are some of them:

Detroit: The champions made a nice start, didn't they? Well, brethren, do not mourn. They will wind up very nicely. If I had seen as if the big fellows were never going to hit the ball, but I can state to an anxious base ball public that this glaring defect in their play has been overcome and that they are hitting the ball with all the vivacity of last season.

New York: The New York club, to win the pennant, must play a decidedly better game than it has done so far. The players must make more base hits and fewer fielding errors.

Boston: A continuation of the work Boston's nine has been doing will set the town base ball crazy. There are ten cracks now where there was one a week ago.

Pittsburg: Recollect, I still make no predictions about the club. Just how long the boys will keep up this streak is a matter of conjecture. Everybody will remember they opened well last season, but the fall after a short eclipse was very rapid.

Philadelphia: The Phillies are in bad shape, and it would not be fair to them to contrast their playing with that of last year or to formulate an opinion as to where they will land by comparing their work this far with that of other clubs.

Indianapolis: With Jack Glasscock sick at his home in Wheeling, Paul Lines unable to play on account of the injury sustained in the third game with the Chicago, Buckley and Myers alternating at right base, while Tom play short, the Indians' prospects are in a very sad condition, and not much

ought to be expected of it until some of the valuable men get back into their positions. Washington: In a tight pinch Washington can usually win against New York and Chicago, but when they strike Boston and Philadelphia the senators invariably weaken on the home stretch. Chicago: The "old man" has gotten in his first blow in this year's pennant battle and it is dollars to cents that every victory placed to the credit of the boys has induced them with a new streak of confidence which will make them a very hard team to beat. You will note that the boys are not crowing much, yet. It's too early.

To-day, as I said before, Boston will meet Detroit, at Detroit; New York will meet Indianapolis; Philadelphia, Pittsburg; and Washington, Chicago.

President H. E. Ducker, of the American Cyclist Union proposes, in connection with the grand international fair to be held at Buffalo, September 4 to 14, to have the greatest bicycle tournament America has ever seen. The Boston Herald says:—

He has just completed arrangements with the fair people, whereby he will hold the tournament September 4, 6 and 8, the opening days of the fair. He has already induced the champion riders of America, England, and France for the same amount of these races, and it is more than probable that the two champions, Rowell and Rowe, will take part. Over \$5,000 in prizes, with \$500 in addition, to be given to any wheelman breaking a record, and this will be given out on a new way, as follows: In any race that a record is broken, the winners of the three prizes will receive an amount of money, and will receive additional 10 per cent. to the prize already won, thus making an incentive for all to run fast.

Frank G. Carpenter, in his Washington letter to the New York World, says:—

Speaking about difficult bicycle feats, the marble steps of the great capitol building are numbered by the hundreds. They incline at an angle of 45 to 48 degrees, and each step is about a foot high. One rider here has written on a Star bicycle a number of times down the marble steps for the same amount of time as another rider has written on a Star bicycle his picture has been caught in action. This man, Mr. Harry Smith, has a remarkable nerve, and a fall in this case would almost certainly have broken his neck. He ran also across the coping of the famous Cabin John bridge on a narrow ledge two inches wide, and the least deviation would have thrown him into the water many feet below.

The Scotch Turfites are waking up. There are lots of good horses in the sister province. The following from the Recorder gives some idea of the early season's programme:—

J. L. Neary, of Keatville, has accepted the challenge of J. Lewis Cox, of Ganning, and will trot his Wedgewood stallion Tomano against Clayola, by Allie Clay, for \$400 a side, on the Halifax track, between June 20 and July 2, the time named by Mr. Cox in his challenge. He also offers to trot Clayola with Tomano on Keatville track for the same amount in June, any time from the 2nd to the 10th; and further offers to trot Tomano against C. R. Bill's Allie Clay in September for the same amount, for \$200 a side, as in above race; and will trot Confidence, Jr., against Allie Clay any time after the 1st September to 15th, for same amount. Messrs. Cox and Neary are to meet at Keatville, May 16, to endeavor to make arrangements for their races.

Jem Smith will cross the water the last of June to fight McCaffrey. The contest is to be one of ten rounds, with the smallest gloves permissible by law. The receipts are to be divided, the winner to take 65 and the loser 35 per cent. Mitchell is almost certain to be present at the encounter.

"Whether Mike Daly of Bangor is a real fighter or a clever bluffer," is a question in the mind of P. Jay of the New York World. Other people have wrestled with the same conundrum, Mr. Jay. The answer to it will depend upon the reply that Daly makes to Jimmy Carroll's challenge.

The six-round glove contest for points, between Jack McGee of Boston, and Jack Powers of this city, takes place in the Roller rink Thursday evening. Other contests announced are between Billy Beyer, Brown, Hazen Campbell, Jack Duffy, Steve McNeill and an unknown.

Richard K. Fox wants to bring Sullivan and Kilrain together, next fall, under London prize ring rules, for \$5,000 or \$10,000 a side. I fancy that Fox is much more anxious for the fight than Kilrain is.

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New Brunswick