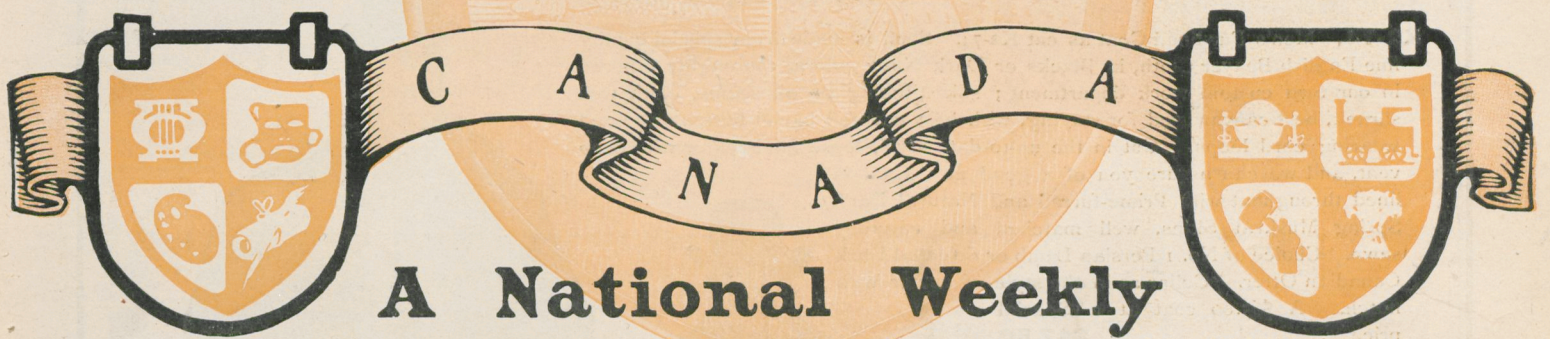


The Canadian Courier



FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF CANADA

JOHN A. COOPER · Editor
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Football Season of 1906

By J. K. MUNRO

RUGBY Football with its rush and plunge, its squirming log-heaps of struggling humanity, and its constant clash of weight and strength against weight and strength is probably the nearest approach to actual warfare the world of sport can produce. That is why it appeals so strongly to the fighting Anglo-Saxon nature. That is why when college meets college and champions meet champions, Canadians turn out in thousands to cheer on their favourites and fill the chill autumn air with college yells and club slogans. And in enthusiasm the season of 1906 has proved a red letter one in the history of the game.

It has been a prolonged season. It started inauspiciously, for the early practises always are marked by numerous accidents, more or less serious, were this year saddened by two fatalities. But as the season advanced and the struggle for supremacy in the three principal unions indicated a shifting around of championships, interest grew till the crowds at the games became large beyond all recent records, and never did it slacken till in Montreal on Saturday last, Hamilton Tigers, by defeating McGill on their own campus, became the crowned kings of the Canadian football field.

Senior football in Canada is practically contained in three unions—The Quebec Rugby Football Union, the Ontario Football Union and the Intercollegiate Football Union. These three bodies are affiliated with the Canadian Rugby Union, and at the end of each season the champions of the affiliated unions are entitled to play off for the Canadian Championship. But owing to marked differences in the playing rules of the various unions, it has of late years been an impossibility to bring the different champion teams together on anything like an equal footing. Last fall, however, the Canadian Union formulated a set of rules, a compromise between the "snap-back" and the "scrimmage," that all teams could easily accustom themselves to. The Quebec Union simplified matters by adopting these rules at once. The Ontario Union will probably adopt them at their annual meeting to-day. The Intercollegiate will doubtless soon fall in line and the same set of rules will govern the game in all the unions that go to make up the Canadian body. The struggle for premier honours in the different unions have been the best in years. In the Quebec Union, made up of Ottawa, St. Patricks of Ottawa, Montreal and Westmounts of Montreal, Ottawa have held almost undisputed sovereignty for years. But this year Montreal, who had gathered a team of stars after suffering defeat at the hands of St. Patricks early in the

season, went on and won all the rest of their games, finishing with a clear lead over all the others.

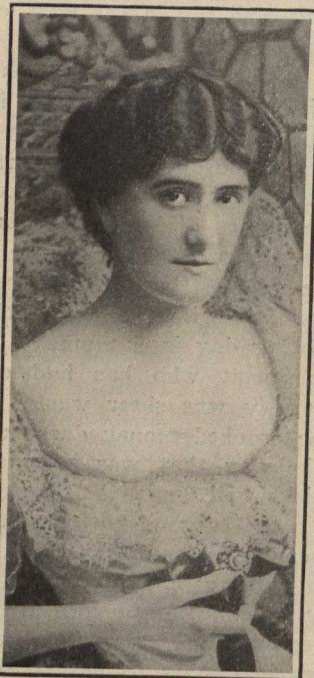
The Ontario Union, made up of Hamilton Tigers, Toronto Argonauts, Toronto Victorias and Peterboro, had to once more yield to Hamilton Tigers who have now been Ontario champions for four years. Tigers are undoubtedly one of the greatest football aggregations ever got together in Canada, but this year they had their work cut out for them to beat the Argonauts who put up a desperate finish and were only beaten in the dying moments of a game the critics generally conceded they should have won.

Neither was the fight in the Intercollegiate Union less earnest. Here McGill, Toronto 'Varsity, Queen's and Ottawa College fought it out. McGill won, but not till the whistle blew in the last game against 'Varsity in Toronto could they call the championship their own. 'Varsity had beaten them in Montreal, but the wearers of the red fought it out to a finish and in one of the most earnest, if worst played games of the season, landed the game and the honours by a single point.

In the meantime, Montreal and Tigers had met in Hamilton for the Canadian championship. Montreal, with a strong line and an exceptionally fast back division, were generally picked to win. But what Tigers lacked in speed and strength they more than made up by their exceptional punting ability and their general knowledge of the game. On a soggy field they held their opponents comparatively safe while their great back division punted away over the dead line for enough points to win by a score of eleven to six before the biggest crowd that ever witnessed a football game in Ontario.

For some time it was uncertain whether McGill would go after Canadian honours. It was generally conceded they were outclassed by Tigers and the faculty were reminding them that examinations were drawing near. But the rules gave them the game on their own grounds and the temptation was too great to be resisted. The game was arranged and Saturday last saw the students practically outclassed at nearly every point. In tackling, McGill were probably a shade ahead of Tigers, but that was all. Tiger's backs punted high and far and handled McGill's returns in masterly style, while the college backs occasionally made costly fumbles. Tigers plunged through the opposing lines for gains and worked criss-cross and other trick plays that dazed their opponents. The game was never in doubt after the first few minutes, and the final score was Tigers 29, McGill 3.

Two Transatlantic Visitors



Countess of Suffolk
(Formerly Miss Margaret Leiter)

GEORGE NATHANIEL CURZON, first Baron Curzon of Kedleston, is almost forty-eight years of age and has already held one of the most coveted imperial offices—the Viceroyalty of India. He was educated at Eton and Oxford, where he was president of the famous "Union." He entered political life and was soon recognized as one of the most brilliant of the younger members. He was Under-Secretary of State for India, 1891-92, and Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs 1895-98. In 1899 he was made Viceroy of India, a post which he held until 1905. In 1895 he married Mary Victoria, daughter of Mr. L. Z. Leiter of Chicago. Lady Curzon was an admirable consort to her distinguished husband and made many friends in England and India. Her death occurred in England last summer and Lord Curzon has been in depressed health and spirits ever since. There are three daughters, the eldest being ten years of age. There is a great deal of gossip about the unhappiness of the international marriage; but the Curzon-Leiter union was one of exceptional felicity. Lord Curzon's visit to America gave currency to the rumour that he is to be appointed British Ambassador to the United States; but his lordship has given emphatic denial to the report.

The Countess of Suffolk, formerly Miss Margaret Hyde ("Daisy") Leiter, accompanied her bereaved brother-in-law to America. She is the youngest daughter of Mr. L. Z. Leiter, and was married in 1904 to Henry Molyneux Paget Howard, 19th Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire. Lord Suffolk paid a visit to Canada the summer before his marriage.



Baron Curzon of
Kedleston



There once was a team--not the Nigers--
Who went out for a game with the Tigers ;
They returned from the ride
With McGill boys inside
And a smile on the face of the Tigers.

Scenes at the Hamilton-McGill Final Championship Match on McGill Campus,
Montreal, Saturday, December 1st. McGill wear red stockings,
Hamilton striped stockings.

Photographs by R. F. Smith, Montreal.