Our One Real AMERICAN GAME

WONDERFUL SPREAD OF LA CROSSE,

which beginning with Indians is now invading the World. Wonderful record of the CRESCENT ATHLETIC CLUB TEAM

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO BLOCK WALL OF THE CRESCENT TEAM FROM SHOOTING A GOAL

By Albert V. Simis

LACROSSE, the ancient game of the American Indian, is steadily winning its way into favor of the sport loving "Americans" of the present day. Its simplicity, so marked that a person seeing the game for the first time can understand its points, and its panorama of exciting situations, are surely bringing the sport into popular notice. Today nearly every university and college supports a team, many athletic clubs include it in their activities, while all over the United States independent clubs are being formed. A comparatively few years ago the game was practically unknown here, though long the national game of Canada. In New York nearly all of the preparatory schools are now taking up the sport, and during the season, now at its height, the contests draw hundreds of spectators. In Brooklyn the Crescent athletic club, at its Bay Ridge grounds, has had an attendance of 9,000 at some of its important matches.

Centuries before the whites came to America the American Indians played "baggataway"—later known among the French in Canada as "le jeu de la crosse"—now lacrosse. In 1667 Nicholas Perrot, agent for the French in Canada, was entertained by a match, of which he wrote, "played by more than 2,000 Indians, each with his 'crosse,' which, with its constant movement, made a noise like that one hears during a battle." A tribal rite, the game was then believed to aid in curing disease, in averting any impending disaster. By its ceremonious practice guests were entertained. Often a match was battle practice held before the red warriors took the warpath.

Indians and Lacrosse

Perhaps the most familiar reference in history to lacrosse is the story of the capture of Michillimackinack, in June, 1763. At that time the British had gained the ascendancy over the French in Canada and cities near the boundary. Pontiac, a Catawba prisoner adopted by the Ottawas, was then emperor of the Indians throughout Michigan and Ohio. He had fought for the French, then turned to the British and finally reverted to the French. In 1763 he headed a conspiracy to gain the country back for the latter. Town after town was captured by strategy. Some of his band were sent to take Michillimackinack. Day after day, pretending to be friendly, the Indians played lacrosse in front of the fort. On June 2 three of the English officers were outside the gates, watching the game, when the Indians in an exciting contest slowly worked the ball between them and the fortifications. Several braves followed it, but as soon as they were behind the officers they turned upon them and carried them off. The other Indians rushed through the open gates, killed many of the garrison and made the remainder prisoners.

Perhaps the British officers looked upon a lacrosse game with the eyes of an unknown enthusiast who wrote:

Speed, strength and skill and high surprise;
They make lacrosse a royal sight;
The looker's heart leaps to his eyes,
And burns to join the eager fight.

Later the white man learned the knack of lacrosse and the pandemonium of the old Indian "rough house" was systematized. In 1860 Dr. William G. Beers of Montreal, the "father of lacrosse," brought that result about. Today it is Canada's national game. It has been introduced in England, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

One feature of the game that commends itself at once is that it is not necessary to be a "specialized athlete" to be a lacrosse player. Short or tall, light or heavy, nearly every one who can run at all can learn the game. The advantage in body checking, the light man can usually run faster or dodge more quickly. Again, the heavy man, be he dextrous in his stick handling, can make good his lack of speed. Some positions require more running than others. To the goalkeeper size is an asset, but a quick eye and expert stick work are necessities. Danger of injury in the game is usually confined to a few hard bumps and bruises and some, or many, hard thumps with the stick. But there is no danger that any one would want the game done away with because of its roughness. No "mollycoddle" will play lacrosse, however.

A net covered cage or goal, 6 feet square, is at either end of the field. One is defended by one team, attacked by the opposing. The ball cannot be touched except by the lacrosse stick. When one player can cage the ball in the opponent's goal one point is scored. The game is usually played in halves, the length of time to be agreed upon. In short, such are the rules of the game; no onside nor offside, no forward passing to be guarded against, no intricacies of regulation to be mastered. But out of this simple sounding code can be evolved one of the prettiest of athletic games.

The popularity of lacrosse in the metropolitan district and its success in many schools and colleges have been due in a great measure to the Crescent athletic club of Brooklyn, whose team is the champion organization of the United States. At the country seat of that club at Bay Ridge a beautiful spot overlooking the Narrows, teams have been entertained season after season and the smaller organizations encouraged in the game until they have met success.

To the efforts also of Lewis J. Doyle, manager of the Crescent team and a well known player himself, are many schools and colleges indebted. An instance of the result of the work of the Crescent club is shown in that when Harvard university a few years ago prohibited its team from competition with athletic clubs the Crescent was made an exception.

In 1897 the Crescent team went abroad, winning seven and drawing two out of fourteen games played. In 1901 the team won the United States championship at Buffalo, but lost the world's championship to the Capitals of Ottawa. The Oxford and Cambridge lacrosse team visited the Crescent club in 1903, and was defated at Bay Ridge in a sensational game by a score of 4 to 3. Last year 16 matches were played, the Crescent team winning 15 and drawing the other. An interesting game will be played this year, June 15, with the Tuscarora Indians from Canada. The Toronto A. A. A. and the Shamrocks of Montreal, crack Canadian organizations, will also be seen here later in the season, which ends about the first of July. Later than that it is usually considered too hot for lacrosse, although a few contests are sometimes held in the early fall.

The history of lacrosse in New York does not cover many years. In the early 90's in the metropolitan district there were about six teams playing, only three of which could be compared favorably with the senior Canadian twelves. The teams then in the field were the New York athletic club, Manhattan athletic club, Staten Island athletic club, Lorillard athletic club, Astoria lacrosse club and the Jersey City lacrosse club. Besides these, Columbia, New York university, the College of the City of New York, Stevens and Polytechnic institutes were playing. In Philadelphia the athletic club of the Schuylkill navy and the young men's swimming club each had a twelve, while Baltimore was represented by the famous Druids.

Brooklyn then was unrepresented except by the polytechnic institute, as many former Brooklyn players, members of the old Ravenswoods, Brooklyn and Bedford teams, had cast their lot with the larger and better known Manhattan organizations. The inducements offered at that time by the larger clubs were very attractive, and a good player was first on one team, then on another.

Through this jumping about, the followers of the sport were constantly in "hot water" and quarrel after quarrel ensued, which eventually went far toward bringing about the disbandment of some of the clubs. Protest after protest had been filed and the amateur athletic union, which was supposed to have control of the sport, was unable to solve the difficulties it was called upon to face.

Disgusted with the state of affairs that had arisen, five Brooklyn men, Lewis J. Doyle, Charles H. Roberts, Embury McLean, Dr. C. A. Bush and the Rev. George Gilmore, decided to make another start in the interests of the game on an entirely different principle. It was then that the renaissance, so to speak, of American lacrosse began, for by that time the clubs that had advanced the old Indian sport had either disbanded or given up the game. These five men, however, in the spring of 1892 joined the Crescent athletic club, and with some members of the old Staten Island athletic club built up a new foundation for the game. Since that time its growth has been constant.

Princeton and Yale universities had teams from about 1895 to 1898, when they dropped the game. Yale, however, is now seriously considering taking it up again, and it is more than likely that Princeton will do likewise. Harvard has played steadily since 1895 and the game has proved a popular one in that institution.

Today the spread of the game all over the United States is marked. Independent clubs are springing up everywhere. In Chicago there are three, and two in Pittsburg; Buffalo, Syracuse, St. Paul and Minneapolis are in the field, while the Philadelphia lacrosse club and the Mount Washington club of Baltimore are rapidly making their names known.

The majority of the players in these independent clubs are former college men, whose ranks are steadily increasing, as now nearly every college and university includes lacrosse in its list of athletic games. In New York in the preparatory schools the game is making wonderful progress and some interesting matches are being held weekly. In Brooklyn all the preparatory schools are represented on the lacrosse field and in Jersey the sport is becoming popular, helped, perhaps, by the fact that at Stevens institute lacrosse is the chief athletic aim.

In Canada, where lacrosse is as baseball here, every boy is brought up with the stick and of passing it can be acquired with practice. Upon the man's eye, quick thinking to master critical situations and his physical condition depend his ultimate efficiency.

The heavy man can use his weight to

WAITING FOR AN OPENING

GENERAL VIEW OF LACROSSE GAME AT FIELD OF THE CRESCENT ATHLETIC CLUB

ALLAN, CRESCENT CAPTAIN, MAKING A SORTIE FROM GOAL

Crewel Worsted Work in Fancy Stitches

IT is through watching the details of new gowns that women with nimble fingers are often able to give to their old ones the cachet of smartness. This season it would seem that any one with a taste for fancy stitches might delight in the various lattice works which can be so advantageously used in renovating old gowns. Simply slash them into a new and desired shape and put them together again with lattice work instead of with uninteresting seams. Lattice work, indeed, appears on gowns of both light and heavy materials, while Doucet of Paris shows a preference for their being made of worsted instead of silk thread of the stuff of the gown. Should a flounce of fanciful shape be placed at the bottom of the skirt, its means of attaching might well be the worsted lattice. The flare of the flounce can also be accentuated by slashing it at graduated intervals and using the worsted lattice to hold the cut cloth together.

The worsted used to make the lattice is of the double zephyr sort. A slightly complicated catstitch makes an attractive lattice work, while those of Louis XV design are made by simply tying the worsted where the slanting lines cross each other.

It is not necessary, however, to copy any exact design in making a lattice work on some old gown. One that is originated and constructed with little labor will serve the purpose admirably. By its means small, ungainly sleeves may be made full and modish, and belts, showing slashes and lattice work at their sides, appear as though lately brought from Paris.

Crewel worsted work in fancy stitches is seen on the most hairy of all hairy cloths. Heavy lines of it are worked at the top of flounces and on the sleeves and collars of small jackets. In such cases designs of leaves are popular. This crewel worsted work is broad and heavy, the stitches being very long. Sometimes the outlining is done with black and the filling in with crewel worsted toning with the color of the cloth. Another effective detail of Paris gowns is the gleam here and there of gold thread in fancy stitches. On back gowns especially this is seen as a quite new and gay trimming. The sheaf of wheat pattern is one of the most attractive. It is, however, an elaborate design to undertake, and should be stamped at some reliable shop before the filling in with gold thread is begun.