

Secretary Timmins Football Club Reviews Situation

A Letter to The Advance Shows How Timmins Played Fair Last Year, at Much Loss and Inconvenience and How Ulsters This Year Did Not Do Likewise. Advises O.F.A. to Keep Firm Stand.

In regard to the Ontario Football Cup series, Mr. W. A. Field writes The Advance as follows, fully reviewing the situation this year, and recalling last year's performances as well: "Following the ultimatum of the O.F.A. to Ulster re their default to Timmins in the Ontario Cup game and the subsequent suspension as made official by Secretary R. B. Muir, and in the face of the published explanation of Ulster as to why they did not travel to Timmins, I agree that it is only right and proper that the public should have placed before them a few of the facts of the hardships experienced by the Timmins Football Club in their quest for the Ontario Cup not only this season but last year as well. Incidentally in my opinion, the Ulster Club in not coming to Timmins on the dates agreed on lost something more valuable than any championship trophy, Dominion or otherwise, that is, their reputation and character. Last year, although the boys from the North did not win the trophy, they retained throughout an unblemished reputation for good sportsmanship.

"I do not like to refer back to old troubles, but a man's word means a lot to me. At the annual meeting of the O.F.A. last January, while placing the grievances of the North before that body, in regard to the treatment it was receiving, I distinctly said that I was not there to make any trouble for football and that the district that I represented was willing to forget our grievances but that I would keep in closer touch with the O.F.A. this year to see that the rules were enforced to the letter. Now along comes Ulster and practically defies the O.F.A. officials and all the Ontario District Associations. The time has come for a show-down as to whether the O.F.A. shall rule the province or will Toronto rule the rest of Ontario.

"In the first round of the cup last year Timmins had to travel to North Bay at an expense of \$300 and every player lost three days' work. In return we received only \$25 as our share of the gate. In the second round, after Toronto and district had held up the whole works for two months, Timmins had to travel at Toronto's convenience to Toronto where a double-header was staged by the Powers-That-Be there without consulting us. The result was that the gate was split so many ways that all Timmins got for their share was \$41—some gate for the city of Toronto. I must say, however, that we were entertained royally by the Mimico team who represented Toronto last season, but this trip cost the Timmins Football Club \$550 and the players all lost four-days' work and some lost five. In the semi-final Oshawa were the unfortunates who had to travel to Timmins but we did not hear much of a squeal from them because after paying all expenses, grounds, referee, etc., we were able to pay the thirteen railway fares to Oshawa out of the gate. We did not put on a double-header either or any counter attraction farther up the street as Toronto did for us. Oshawa went home the loser in the semi-final but holding in high regard the treatment they had received from the boys here.

"Next was the order from the O.F.A. that home-and-home games would be played to decide the final with Brantford and Timmins. The gates were to be pooled with Brantford playing at Timmins first, and then at Brantford with goals to count. All right. The game at Timmins was a no-score tie, and after all expenses were paid \$300 was turned over to the O.F.A. Timmins then travelled to Brantford. They did not ask for one cent or even a guarantee from the O.F.A. The players lost another five days' work and the expenses amounted close to \$700. What happened to

the Brantford gate has not been settled yet although a committee was appointed to investigate. All Timmins got for their share was \$170 of their own \$300 which had been paid the week previous to the O.F.A.

"This year North Bay travelled to Timmins in the first round of the Ontario Cup and got as their share of the gate ten times as much as Timmins received from North Bay last season. They were well pleased with the result. Toronto, as usual, got a bye in the first round. The date for the second round was set for September 5th. Toronto was not ready—too many other trophies to play for, although the Ontario rules say that the Ontario Cup competition shall take precedence over any other in Ontario. On the other hand Timmins should have played the Foster Cup Final with Kirkland Lake, this being the N.O.F.A. championship trophy. Four weeks went by because Timmins was living up to the rules of the O.F.A. and expecting the winners of Toronto every week. On Friday, September 11th, I received the following wire from the secretary of the Ulster Club: "If Ulster wins the Toronto District final will your club agree to play here; enclosed ground. Good gate assured. Wire reply at once.—Surgeoner."

"The following reply was sent by return:—"Sorry but the whole North is looking forward to game here next Saturday.—Field."

"Now up until Saturday, September 19th, there might have been reasonable excuse for delaying the second round, although personally I cannot see it, that is, if the O.F.A. rules and regulations are going to be enforced. And what use are they if they are not? For the Association to give in to Ulster in the first place was a big mistake as has since been proven. I am not finding fault, however, with Secretary R. B. Muir, of the O.F.A., because I realize what he is up against and a few more men of Bobby Muir's calibre would be a great benefit to football in general.

"On September 20th, the day following the final game in Toronto when Ulster beat Davenport 1-0, I received the official notice that Ulsters were to travel to Timmins and the date set was Saturday, September 26th, but Ulsters were asking for certain guarantees. I immediately replied that we would not guarantee one cent. Ulster would have to abide by the rules re gates receipts. I also sent word to both the O.F.A. and Ulster Club that, weather permitting, we expected at least \$1,000 gate. The Ulster Club have not yet had the decency to answer my wire or to send us the word that they were not coming. Advertising was arranged and sent out for a radius of seventy-five miles along the line from Timmins. Then along comes word that the date had been changed for the convenience of Ulster and that they had promised faithfully to travel October 3rd, also that Ulster had objected to the referee appointed, Mr. J. Craig, but with no reasons given. This official, I understand, has handled games in which they have taken part this season. Why did they not object to him sooner? I think, according to rules, Referee Craig is entitled to a little explanation. He is not in any way connected with the Association at this end and comes here with an Ontario referee's card and a 98 per cent. examination. Surely someone is to blame for giving this official so high a rating if he is not qualified for it. Everybody here thinks he is entitled to it all right. North Bay team classed him as the best referee they had seen handle a game.

"After receiving notice of the change of date considerable expense was incurred to recall the previous



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advertising and to put out new bills for October 3rd. The sale of tickets was started and everything looked fine for the game on Saturday when suddenly the announcement on Wednesday in the North Bay Nugget that Ulster had defaulted. I immediately sent a wire to Secretary Muir asking confirmation of this and received the following reply Thursday morning: "Regret exceedingly Ulster have refused to travel. Meeting of executive officers held last night. Ulster club players and officials have been suspended until further notice. Club grounds closed on same terms.—Bob Muir."

"The latest action of the O.F.A. in suspending the Ulster Club and closing their grounds must be commended, but they are not finished yet. They must stick hard and fast to the terms, giving justice where it is due and must allow no cliques or individuals to rule them. Not until then will the O.F.A. have the success it deserves so much. I think that the above is only mildly expressing the feeling in the North Country over this matter. The public is in a turmoil, as the press has already stated, and will not be satisfied until the offenders are made to pay the damage they have done, not only financially but to the game itself. "Claremont, the winners of Oshawa district and South Ontario champions, were notified on Thursday that the semi-final would take place at Timmins on Saturday, October 10th. This reply was received the next day: "We will be there to play October 10th.—W. E. Morgan, secretary, Claremont F.C."

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The Northland Post of Cochrane last week says:—"Mr. A. E. Stetson, of Clute dropped in to the Northland Post yesterday with some monstrous sized potatoes which were grown by him on his farm some 15 miles north of the town. He has harvested this year a remark-

able crop at the rate of 395 bushels per acre and feels sorry that he did not put in any more than he has done, as he considered at the time of planting that weather conditions would be against any harvest. Each one of the potatoes which Mr. Stetson brought in would make a good sized dish for a small family."

Mr. H. Parsons left this week to take up residence in Prince Edward Island.

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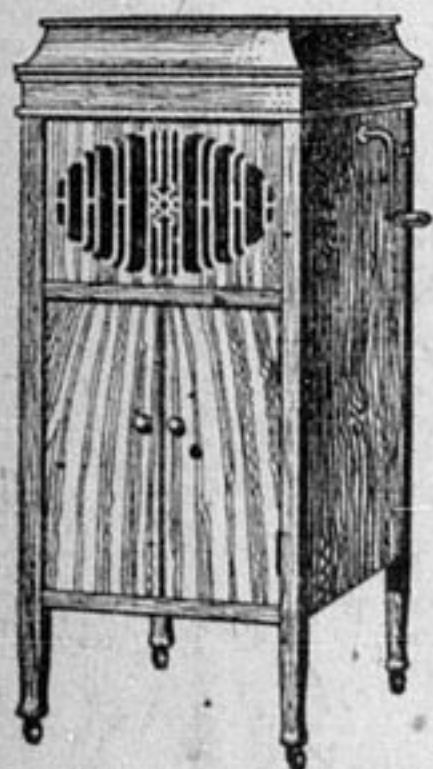
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