

SOCIETIES.

Masonic Regular Meetings. Minden, No. 253, on Monday, April 1st, at 7:30 p.m.

I. O. O. F. M. U. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, meet every other Friday in the Sons of England Room.

Sons of England. LEICESTER LODGE, No. 33, of the Sons of England Benevolent Society, will meet in their new Lodge Room, corner Montreal and Princess Sts.

Canadian Order Foresters. COURT STANLEY, No. 199, C.O.F., meets the SECOND AND LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH in the 'Prentice Boys' Hall, King Street.

Independent Order of Foresters. COURT FRONTENAC, No. 59, REGULAR MEETING, Thursday evening, March 21st. J. S. R. McCANN, Secretary.

INSURANCE.

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TENNIS SOUTH.

Brief History of the Southern Lawn Tennis Association.

SOME REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

Organized First in 1886, the Association Has Made Rapid Strides, and During the Coming Season Will Send Some Promising Players to the Front.

If it is true that England will send over to the United States some of her crack tennis players this season, as seems most probable, this is going to be a lively tennis year.

The Southern Lawn Tennis association was not organized until the fall of 1887, but prior to this tournaments for the championship of the south had been held on the grounds of the Delaware Field club at Wilmington.

It is in Washington that the tennis spirit of the south has received the greatest impetus. During the summer of 1887, the idea of having a southern association was matured, and on Oct. 30 a meeting was held.

The first tournament was held on Oct. 30, and the championship of the south in singles was won by Leigh Bonsal. Mr. Bonsal, with L. V. Le Moyne as partner, also secured the doubles championship for his club.

This first tournament served to increase greatly the interest in lawn tennis and many new clubs were organized in Washington and near by. In May another tournament was held on the courts of Kendall Green, the government college for deaf mutes, for the championship of the District of Columbia.

The championship in ladies' singles was won by Miss Bayard, a daughter of the ex-secretary of state. In doubles Miss Bayard and Miss Safford carried off the honors.

The second championship meeting of the association was held on the grounds of the Baltimore cricket club, June 13, 1888, and following days. In this tournament Messrs. Bonsal and Le Moyne carried off the honors for doubles, and a new champion, Mr. A. H. S. Post, made his appearance and won the singles championship.

Mr. Post is only 17 years of age, and as his play is not free from some of those faults and weaknesses common to young players, it was greatly to his credit that he succeeded in wrestling victory from opponents of so much experience.

His strokes were at times positively brilliant, and although his often shows inexcusable carelessness and a lack of steadiness, it was demonstrated that his game possesses real strength by the closeness of the match which he played with a strong opponent in the open tournament held at Narragansett Pier last summer. Mr. Post is undoubtedly one of the most promising of the young players, and the development of his skill will be watched.

Though the two tournaments held in Washington in the fall of '87 and spring of '88 did not produce a player capable of winning the championship, yet their beneficial influence was shown in the improved play of the greatly increased number who followed lawn tennis as a pastime. There were about ten clubs in existence two years ago. There are now seventy, and the total number of players is 2,000.

This did these tournaments result in a substantial improvement in play throughout Washington. Among the most expert, and among those whose improvement has been most rapid, may be mentioned Messrs. Oscar Woodward, C. L. McCawley, John Pope, R. B. Goodfellow, John Davidson, W. P. Metcalf and Dr. J. L. Wortman. No list could be complete without adding the name of Mr. W. V. R. Berry, who established his reputation as an expert some years ago, and who now appears to have joined the ranks of retired veterans.

Dr. McLean, president of the association, knew that the Middle States championship had been won by Mr. R. D. Sears, a resident of New England, and that the New England championship is at the present time held by a New Yorker. He felt that a tournament for the championship of the south, open to all comers, whether from the north or south, would excite general interest, and would, moreover, give the residents of Washington an opportunity to witness the skillful playing of the northern experts, who, it was hoped, would be induced to compete.

As a first step, the Country club of the State of Maryland applied for membership in the United States National Lawn Tennis association, with the idea of holding the proposed tournament under the auspices of that association. The application was granted and authority given to the club to hold the tournament for the championship of the southern states. This action, of course, placed the National association in an attitude of apparent rivalry to the southern association. The latter had already held a tournament at Baltimore, as has been related, and, naturally, would not recognize any champion for the year except the winner of that tournament. The rivalry was more appar-

ent than real, however, as Dr. McLean, the president of the Southern association, was one of the originators, and, in fact, the most active in the management of the Country Club tournament.

The apparent conflict and championship complication will not be experienced in the future, as it is probable that the United States National Lawn Tennis association, whose membership is now limited to single clubs, will at the next annual meeting engrave into its constitution a clause under which other associations may be admitted to membership in the older organization, thus making it a central and undisputed authority in lawn tennis throughout the United States.

The tournament was held on Tuesday, Sept. 25, and the following days, and could hardly have been a greater success. Mr. F. Mansfield, of the Longwood Cricket club, Boston; Messrs. F. V. L. Hoppin and H. A. Ditson, of the same club; Messrs. Ludington and Beach, of Yale university; Mr. Dean Miller, of New York; Mr. F. W. Kellogg, of New Haven; Mr. A. W. Tomes, of Brooklyn, and Mr. J. W. Smith were among the entries from the north, and all of these gentlemen enjoyed the hospitality of the club. The most expert of their southern opponents were Mr. A. H. S. Post, the champion of the Southern association, representing Baltimore, and Messrs. Davidson, Woodward, McCawley, Rives, Goodfellow, Metcalf and Wortman, all from the District of Columbia. There were in all



CLUB HOUSE, BALTIMORE CRICKET CLUB, thirty-six contestants, making it by far the largest tournament ever held in the south, as well as the greatest in interesting features. Dr. McLean had secured the presence of Thomas Pettitt, the professional champion of the world in court tennis, and also remarkably expert in lawn tennis. Pettitt played two exhibition games during the week, one with Mr. A. H. S. Post, in which he successfully conceded odds of fifteen, and the other with Mr. Mansfield, to whom he was unable to give the same odds, and was defeated. Pettitt's game is a model of good form, and delighted the spectators.

In Baltimore city the lawn tennis interest is almost entirely centered in two clubs, the Baltimore Cricket club and the Towson club, of Towson, a suburb of Baltimore. Of these two the 'Cricket club is by far the more prominent. It is an old organization, having been founded in 1874, but it was not until 1878 that the club, then quite small in membership, leased grounds at Mount Washington, also a suburb of Baltimore, and situated about six miles from the city, on the Northern Central railroad.

As its name signifies, the Baltimore Cricket club was originally organized for cricket purposes. But after lawn tennis was introduced as a club sport in the year 1879, that game rapidly became so popular with the members that the interest in cricket has decreased, a fate somewhat similar to that which has befallen this scientific game in St. George's Cricket club, of New York city. The rapid rise of lawn tennis in popular interest could not be more plainly demonstrated than by the experience of the Baltimore Cricket club.

At Wilmington, Del., is located one of the most flourishing clubs of the southern section. The Delaware Field club was organized in 1882, and the club was incorporated in 1885. It was one of the earliest clubs to join the United States Lawn Tennis association, and in 1886 a tournament held on its grounds was won by C. B. Davis, of Lehigh university. An open tournament held in 1887 was likewise held by Mr. Davis. The following table, taken from Outing for March, gives the facts relating to contests in the south:

Table with 4 columns: YEAR, FIELD AT, SINGLES CHAMPIONS, DOUBLES CHAMPIONS. Rows include 1886 Del. Field club, 1887 U.S. Mar. Bar, 1888 Balt. Cricket club, 1888 Highland C. C. Wash. ton, D. C.

Esterbrook's Traits.

The Courier-Journal, in speaking of Esterbrook, says: "Tommy Esterbrook possesses more than one peculiarity. To wear five different suits each day is not his highest ambition, but to captain a ball club will come as near satisfying his desire as anything else. To have full control of a team on the field is all that Tommy wishes, and there is no denying the fact that he will take an interest in the club and contribute as much to its success as is in his power. It matters not how hopeless a club's prospects for victory may be, he still works with an indomitable energy and always has confidence in their ability to win. He never desponds of victory, and plays with just as much animation when defeat seems inevitable as he does when the game is a tie. He is to be commended for that excellent quality, for it will prove of great value to the 'youngsters' who will be in his charge this season. Some captains have a way of abusing young players whenever they make an error, but it is just the opposite with Esterbrook, and instead of criticising their play he will say: 'That is all right, old man; we will lay for them next time.' This tends to give the youngsters encouragement, and it is safe to say that their work will improve, while, on the other hand, it would be abated. At all times and on all occasions Tommy has confidence in himself. He does not believe that he is the greatest ball player on the diamond, but whenever an occasion demands self control and good judgment he is just as ready to get there as the next one, if it is in him to do so. 'We will foot some of them next season,' was his remark to one of the boys last year, 'and I will yet have my picture on a placard with the word 'Champion' inscribed upon it.'"

Baseball in New Brunswick. "Will baseball be as great a craze this summer as it was last? This question has been asked again and again of late, and many are inclined to answer in the affirmative. And why should it not? It is healthful, and has less faking connected with it than any other branch of athletics.—St. John (N. B.) Telegraph.

Mr. J. H. Todd, secretary of the Columbia Chess club, says that a boom in the royal game started when Capt. Mackenzie sailed for Havana to play the Cuban champions. It increased when Messrs. Thigoria and Steinitz began their match, and it will culminate at the tournament which will begin in New York the last of this month.

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