

SOCCER FOOTBALL IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

BY GEORGE NEWLOVE,
Secretary Verdun City F.C.

Soccer in the Province of Quebec, Canada, made great strides up to the year 1914. Prior to the outbreak of war there were in Montreal and district more than one hundred and fifty soccer clubs, comprising four divisions, and church and juvenile leagues. There were three cups for competition. The Connaught Cup competition for the whole of Canada has been suspended until the end of the war.

The Charity Cup, the proceeds of the final for which are solely for the hospitals, two hundred and fifty dollars being for a soccer endowment bed in the Montreal General Hospital, thus aids players who are injured.

The Quebec Cup is played for at the end of the season and the final gate receipts are divided among the two finalists and the P.O.F.A. When war broke out soccer had a setback here, well known clubs having to shut up shop through officials and players going to play the bigger game in France, and now, in 1918, only two divisions are in operation—first and second—with junior, juvenile and church leagues operated by the boys.

With their early training these will be good material for the clubs in the future to bring the game back to the prominent position it held before the war. How clubs are badly hit by the war conditions is instanced by Montreal Locomotive F.C., which paid a visit to Schenectady, N. Y., last year. They were the champions of the Senior League in 1917, also winners of the Quebec Cup, being an undefeated team. This year it bottoms the league and has one win to its credit. Such is fate in these troubled times. There has been one cup won this year. The Charity Cup which was won by Lyalls F.C. from Sons of England after a draw, 0—0, the former won in the replay by 2 goals to 1.

The final of the Quebec Cup takes place in October. Taking into consideration the trying times all kinds of sports are up against, soccer is growing in popularity in this Province. French-Canadians are playing it in their schools, so we shall soon follow the States in bringing this great game more before the public to insure the success which it deserves.



BEN GOVIER

Ben Govier (at left) and Richard Jarrett.
Photo taken in 1906.

An active soccer player for thirty years, and a member of teams in the front rank for nearly twenty-five seasons, Ben Govier of Chicago, Ill., is in a class by himself in point of continuous service in the kicking game. He was born of English parents on January 11, 1876, at Coatbridge, Scotland, and left for the United States in December, 1891.

Govier played his first game on this side of the water for the Pullman team against the Detroit. He played a few more games for Pullman, then signed with the then famous Thistles of Chicago. There Govier and Dick Jarrett, who still is connected with soccer in the Middle West, formed the left wing. They played together for several seasons. Jarrett went to St. Louis in 1896 to play for the St. Louis Cream Club. Two months later Govier followed Jarrett to the Mound City, and they were together again for two seasons.

In the course of his long service in the game, Govier captained the Chicago, a picked team which defeated the Pilgrims, the first English team to invade the United States.