

IT SHOULD BE A GREAT YEAR FOR ROWING IN CANADA

By ALECK SINCLAIR

"GIVE her ten, boys," yelled Jeff. Taylor. We were on the starting line in the finals of the Senior Eight Oar National A.A.O. at Saratoga 1911—the race emblematic of the North American Championship. We were in against New York, the Detroit and Mound City Rowing Club of St. Louis. New York had the call to beat anything on the water that year. As we left the slip we were told we would start in the English fashion from scows with a man holding the rudder of each boat. Joe gave us our final instructions. As we arrived at the starting line the starter announced his decision to change the start to one from an imaginary line. "I'll give you the warning—Ready," he bawled, "and then the gun." As he stood on the bow of the starter's boat shouting "Back up Argos"—"Come up Detroit"—"Steady there, New York," "Hold it, Mound City," we heard his instructions, "Eyes on the boat" and then—splash, splash—we looked around and there we were still at the starting line and the other crews away. Down at the other end of the course were five timers—three to watch the smoke of the gun—two to catch the splash. That gun was never fired. The race was off without it. We were left at the post.

"Give her ten, boys," yelled Jeff. Taylor. This meant ten, hard, fast strokes with everything we had—the famous Argo start and finish. We leaned to it. "Lay on it," yelled Jeff and we leaned still harder. "Give her ten," again yelled Jeff, and we started on our third spurt with the best part of that killing mile and five hundred and fifty yards still ahead of us.

"Give her ten," once more—and we were up even with New York and we stayed there, until we came in with the Senior Eight Championship. We won the Senior Fours the same day, and after that Joe Wright again became a human being.

The big news in the rowing world in Canada to-day is the return of Coach Joe Wright who comes back to this country after eleven years at the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Athletic Club. He returns with the greatest winning record of any college coach in America. His record includes wins by the University of Pennsylvania over Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Princeton, Columbia and the Navy—the greatest college crews in the United States. His return brings memories of the mighty Argonaut crews

who swept the championships of North America year after year in the Senior Eights, Junior Eights, Senior Fours, Junior Fours and Singles—when the fame of the Toronto Argonauts was known the continent over.

The war played havoc with all Canadian rowing clubs, the Argonauts lost fifty, and others in like proportion. But rowing is coming back again in Canada and we should soon see Canadians giving the Americans merry competition.

At the last Olympic, the University of Toronto coached by Professor "Tommy" Louden, added to the fame of Canadian oarsmen by getting second place in the Senior Eights, being beaten only by Yale,—which Joe Wright describes as being in his opinion "the fastest crew that ever sat in the Senior Eights." Last year Lachine took the Intermediate Eight Championship at Philadelphia.

In 1926, Canada was unfortunate to lose the Hanlan Memorial Trophy, one of the greatest rowing prizes of America, to the Wyandottes of Wyandotte, Mich. It represents the Eight Oar Championship of Canada. It has been lifted only twice by foreign crews. The year before last, Coach Joe Wright brought up a crew from the Pennsylvania Athletic Club which won it for the first time; then Wyandottes repeated last year.

This year it is the hope of all Canadian oarsmen to see it brought back to Canada. With the Olympics in sight for 1928, "Tommy" Louden will have four of his Olympic crews back in the Varsity Eight and this will give him a wonderful nucleus for a championship crew. Joe Wright should bring out a great crop of oarsmen for the Argonauts and with what is happening in other rowing clubs Canada's chances should bring the Hanlan Memorial Trophy back to this country.

With a new crop of oarsmen coming up, there is no lack of coaches in this country equal to any in the world. Joe Wright will, of course, coach the Argonauts again. Then in "Tommy" Louden Toronto University has one of the really great coaches—a professor in Varsity, an engineer with a scientific mind, and a man who was coxswain for Joe Wright's Argonauts Senior Eight crew which still holds the world's record made at Baltimore in 1907.

The Lachine Rowing Club, which has for years turned out splendid crews, will have entries in all the senior events. They will

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This picture takes us back to the Canadian Henley of 1912—a thrilling epic of Canadian rowing. The Argonauts had been to the Royal Henley and to Stockholm—and then took the boat back to Canada to compete at the Canadian Henley—after a nineteen day ocean voyage. It was a superhuman test. The picture graphically portrays the state of exhaustion of the oarsmen at the conclusion