

meeting which settled disputes and made plans for the future. The presidency rotated by a set agreement and in case of tie, the president had the deciding vote.

The manner in which this league came to an end will give a characteristic picture of intercollegiate athletics of that day. Wisconsin had played at Beloit and returned incensed because spectators had thrown tin cans at the Wisconsin fielders. Beloit returned the game and when a luckless Beloit spectator picked up a ball which had passed the catcher and tossed it into the field, apparently causing a Wisconsin out, the crowd shouted to mob him. "Taffy" Sheldon, the Wisconsin catcher, stood over the prostrate form of the frightened Beloit man with a bat, threatening to "knock the block" off of anyone who touched the Beloit man. A bunch of policemen finally rescued the Beloit man, led him out of the field, and he was seen to go at full speed in the direction of the Beloit train.

Beloit won the game, but during the game someone took a photograph of the Beloit pitcher and thus it was determined that the Beloit pitcher was a ringer from a professional league. Wisconsin challenged the game and in the end championship honors for the league depended on the decision. Lake Forest would vote with Wisconsin, Evanston would vote with Beloit, and the tie would be decided by the incoming president who, by established rotation, would be from Lake Forest. But it devolved upon the outgoing president, who was an Evanston man, to call the meeting. The Evanston man never called the meeting and the league was no more.

The following Fall, a law student, Alexander Bruce, a great

debater but not much of an athlete, appeared on the lower campus with a football and organized a group of lithe young chaps like himself to kick it around. He had, to be sure, a rule-book, but probably the only games he had ever seen were in England where "Rugby" which is more like our soccer, is played. Bruce led his band of lithe runners up to Minneapolis where a forerunner of Minnesota's proverbially overweight teams with their flying wedge, just scattered the light boys from Wisconsin to the wind. The score was unbelievable, and the Wisconsin team arrived home with their crutches and bandages, looking like a cartoon in a comic supplement. The football season for Wisconsin was over. The following year Wisconsin started on modern athletics.

While the college athletics of the early '90's were primitive, Grandfather is inclined to think they furnished quite as much fun to the student rooters who helped win the class ball games by razzing their opponents as do the great professionalized intercollegiate games of today with their organized shouting.