

WILL ROCHESTER YACHT CLUB RETURN CANADA'S CUP TO THE CANADIANS?

Doc Miles

Members Will Decide Whether Inland Yachting Trophy Shall be Forfeited at a Meeting to be Called for That Purpose by Commodore Pritchard.

Objection of Rochester Yacht Club to a Race in 1906 is Not Based on a Matter of Expense so Much as Upon a Desire to Prevent the Cheapening of the Greatest of Inland Water Events.

The ultimatum of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in the matter of a Canada's Cup race in 1906, which was published in the Democrat and Chronicle yesterday morning, created more than a ripple in local yachting circles. While it had been intimated in press reports that Canada would insist on a race next summer, and members of the Rochester Yacht Club were not wholly unprepared for this demand, it had been generally supposed that the Toronto Corinthians would hold out as long as they saw a chance for a contest, and then gracefully defer to the wishes of the Rochester Yacht Club.

Whatever regret the Royal Canadian Yacht Club may feel in exercising its prerogative by demanding a race or the return of the Canada's cup, is completely hidden. Precedent, local enthusiasts have argued time and again, governs to a great extent in yachting. Heretofore there has never been a desire to race oftener than once in two years, and there has been no occasion to decide the question put thus unexpectedly to the Rochester Yacht Club.

In declining to accept a challenge for 1906 local yachtsmen have not considered the expense of constructing defenders. There are men in the club who stand ready to-day to put up necessary capital. Two members have already entered into communication with Nat Herreshoff, of America's cup fame, with an idea of forming an estimate as to the possibilities of the designer were he given \$7,500 to work with in the construction of a boat. It cannot be said that the Rochester Yacht Club is financially unable to conduct a regatta in 1906, though thousands of dollars were spent this year in the entertainment of those who witnessed the victory of Iroquois off Charlotte harbor.

Commodore Thomas B. Pritchard, of the Rochester Yacht Club, was asked last night whether Rochester would forfeit the Canada's cup. Mr. Pritchard said he had not been officially notified of the demand of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, his

knowledge of its action having been gained from press dispatches. He expects to be notified at once of the result of the deliberations of the Canadians, and upon receipt of an official communication will call a meeting of the Rochester Yacht Club for its consideration.

"The Executive Committee of the Rochester Yacht Club, which is composed of myself, Vice-Commodore Mabbett and Fleet Captain Christy," said Mr. Pritchard, "will recommend to the Rochester Yacht Club that it return the Canada's cup to the Royal Canadians, of Toronto. Members of the club will vote upon the matter, and decide for themselves what course shall be pursued.

"I did not expect that the Canadians would insist on a race next year. It is natural they would consider our wishes in challenging, as we have theirs in former years. The return of the cup is a matter upon which I personally prefer to say nothing. It remains for the members of the club to decide what shall be done."

The matter of a race in 1906 has been characterized by three moves, two of which have been made by Canada. It is now up to Rochester. The Canadians first challenged, and Rochester accepted with the position that the year be changed from 1906 to 1907. This communication was not acted upon till Tuesday afternoon, when the Royal Canadian Yacht Club delivered its ultimatum. Rochester has the next move, and the action of the local yachtsmen will be awaited with interest. There is little chance for a meeting until after the meetings of the Lake Yacht Racing Association and the Yacht Racing Union of the Great Lakes in this city on Saturday, as the attention of Rochester yachtsmen will be occupied in these sessions.

It is said that a few of the active members of the club favor a race next season. With this in view, a paper may be circulated this morning for the subscriptions of those who wish to see a race for the cup. It is rumored that \$1,500 has already been pledged and that the remainder will be forthcoming.