



REFLECTIONS

IIII BY STAFF WRITERS IIII

AS this issue is a Sportsmen's Number, it will be in order to say something of the growing literature on sport in Canada. The late Edwyn Sandys wrote many articles for "Outing" on fish, woodcock, prairie

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chicken, duck, grouse and other wild things, and some of the best of these will be found in his volume "Sporting Sketches" (New York, 1905). Mr. Sandys' work is almost the only accessible writing on our small game. Big game seems to have had more admirers. Almost the only book on the Maritime Provinces is "Moose-hunting, Salmon Fishing, and other Sketches of Sport," by T. R. Pattillo (London, 1902). On the northerly and newer districts the works are more numerous. "Through the Sub-Arctic Forest," by Warburton Pike, appeared in 1896, the same year as "On Snow-Shoes to the Barren Grounds," by Caspar Whitney. The latter went straight north from Edmonton, while Pike sailed from Victoria to Fort Wrangel and the Stikine River. The following year came "Across the Sub-Arctics of Canada," by J. W. Tyrrell, the well known Canadian explorer. In "Sport and Travel," published in 1900, Mr. F. C. Selous tells of two Rocky Mountain hunting trips but they were in United States territory; his Canadian book, just out, is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. Every Canadian with sporting blood in his veins should read "Sport and Travel in the Northland of Canada," by David T. Hanbury, the first man to travel overland from Chesterfield Inlet to the Arctic coast. This was published in 1904. "Campfires in the Canadian Rockies," by William T. Hornaday, issued last year, is a beautifully illustrated volume which will interest almost any earnest reader.

Those who want lighter books about animals may of course turn to Ernest Thompson-Seton, now in the north pursuing his studies, to Charles G. D. Roberts and William J. Long. These three men know Canadian animals well, the two latter having studied in the Maritime Provinces.

THE man who reads only newspapers will have only unorganised information. He will know many facts but he will not be likely to have these arranged in his mind in proper groups. He will lack a definite view-point.

AN HISTORICAL VIEW-POINT

This is not to say that newspapers have not an important office. They are, however, merely news collectors, not educators. The person who desires education must go to magazines and books, where collected facts are presented in organised form and treated in relation to their historical significance.

For example, the reader of the daily paper will learn much about the progress of public ownership, but however good his memory he cannot look back over the previous twelve months and accurately summarise the features in favour of and against that movement. He must needs consult a magazine summary or a book record. So a man in business should be able to look back over a series of years and see his business in its historical relation to the life of the community. He will thus gain an historical view-point which will be his best guide in future business conduct.

These remarks are induced by an examination of Mr.

Hopkins' Annual Review for 1906, just issued. Here the events and movements of 1906 are collected, grouped, arranged and summarised by an unprejudiced expert. A person interested in mining will find in a few pages everything of importance about mining in Canada in 1906. So with regard to lumber, transportation, electricity, finance, insurance, commerce, industry, municipal conditions and public affairs. Few persons will desire to read all of its 650 well-packed pages; it is a book of reference to be consulted when information is required. Nevertheless, there are chapters which the average man will desire to read and study, because they summarise the facts relating to the subject in which he is most interested. This is the sixth year of issue of "The Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs," and this volume is superior to its predecessors in several respects.

THERE is one insidious phrase which indicates the weakness of modern society, both as regards business and politics; that phrase is, "Will it pay?" It is becoming entirely too common. It is relegating the other phrase, "Is it right?" to the limbo of forgotten things.

For example, the newspapers in Toronto are publishing daily reports of horse-races in the United States, though they know that by so doing they are encouraging the betting fever. The worst offender is a paper controlled mainly by members who stand high in the Methodist church. Since that paper began to get out a sporting extra late in the afternoon the profits of the bookmakers have materially increased. Errand boys, mechanics, factory girls, barbers, bartenders and even higher grades of society are making daily bets on these horse-races. The Attorney-General of the Province closed all betting houses devoted to this business some years ago. It must amuse him mightily to see a Methodist newspaper playing the game of the professional gambler. Of course, the question the publisher asked himself was "Will it pay?" It does pay; his paper has a greater circulation and his advertising patronage has increased.

This incident is not singular, and the newspaper concerned will forgive us for taking it as an example. In the business world, there are many similar cases. The manufacturer could make his wares much better and truer; but he uses cheap materials and an extra coat of paint. If he is advised to make his goods more honest, he answers "Will it pay?" The workman is careless about learning his trade thoroughly; he hurries his work and covers up the defects he should have had the patience to eradicate. If you protest, he answers "Will it pay?" The mining broker puts bad prospects on the market and sells worthless shares to the public at "25 cents to-day; to be advanced to 50 cents on the 15th." Some person protests and tells him he should wait until he is absolutely sure of his mine, but he answers "Will it pay?"

In no walk of life does this line of reasoning obtain more potently than in politics. A politician seeking for votes delivers a stirring appeal to the prejudices of his listeners. You protest and tell him that he should be fair and state both sides of the case, and he comes back with the question "Will it pay?" Tell a Minister of Justice that he should ignore petitions for the release of