

under an independent commission.

It must be a matter of congratulation to all in the public service of Canada that Sir Wilfrid has pledged the government to a policy of reform in the outside service similar to that in the inside service. It must be borne in mind, however, that the government's attention is taken up with a formidable array of business, and that it will shelve the item which seems of least pressing importance. It is the plain duty of the combined inside and outside service to hasten the formation of the proposed federation of the Civil Service of Canada, so that to the weight of just argument may be added the weight of a united service, acting through and by the force of public opinion.

ATHLETICS.

The introduction of a government measure purposing to make it a criminal act for business men to pay secret commissions, recalls to mind the fact that the athletic atmosphere is constantly charged with rumors of secret payments to those indulging in amateur sports. Athletics being only play, the enormity of corrupting the principles of the participating boys is not recognized by the powers that be. In all respects the corruption of the boy in athletics is a more heinous offence than is the one the new act is intended to correct. This point may be amplified under three heads:

1st. The youth of the player as compared with the man of business. It is almost superfluous to reiterate what is freely admitted, that the mind of youth is indelibly influenced by its associations. What the boy is taught the man will largely practice. The Juvenile Court and the Children's Aid Society are modern acknowledgements of this elementary ethical truth.

2nd. The constant practice of hypocrisy. The man of business is rarely questioned as to his giving or receiving of bribes. The athlete professing amateurism and accepting a commission or salary, denies in fact such acceptance each and every time he appears in amateur games, commits an act of hypocrisy and lays an easy foundation for the practice of this vice all through his life.

3rd. Athletics in the hands of corrupt managers are a preparatory school turning out its annual supply of graduates into the business world where the taking and giving of secret and improper gifts and commissions will be simply a logical sequence.

It is claimed that, although it takes longer, it is more profitable to improve the race by education and example than by punishment, but if the government finds it necessary to put a check upon improper commissions in business, how much more important, for the above reasons, to do so in respect of the club manager who, usually in a business way, makes secret payments to the boys. The man who makes dishonest payment to boys is a menace to society, and if he will not respect the decencies of life must be made to fear the law. At present there is no law to reach the many who are said to be corrupters of athletic clubs, but surely there is occasion for an additional clause in Mr. Aylesworth's bill to provide for this condition of affairs. Aside from morals, the prosecution of which is only incidentally the function of club executives, the tendency of secret money payments in athletics is towards the policy of win at any cost with its twin brother, brutal and unmanly tactics.

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The unmanning of the race of Canadian boys goes merrily on in the national winter game, and there is