



REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS

SPORTS AND THE LAW

HAS the time arrived when the lawmakers of Canada should lend their aid to the regulation of sports? Physicians and others who make a study of the effects of exercise on the youth of the country are unanimously of the opinion that the strain caused by long distance running will impair manhood and shorten lives if indulged in during the growing period. Statistics too show that men prominent in athletics rarely live to an advanced age.

Yet every evening the streets of the city and the roads of the country are full of growing boys plodding along in a vain endeavour to develop staying qualities that will bring them some easy money or give them a prominent place on the sporting page of the newspapers. And only the other day a Toronto stripling of eighteen made the long journey from Hamilton to Toronto with the one object of proving that he had more endurance than others who had gone the distance before him.

In other ways the youth of the country is protected by law. The man who sells him cigarettes pays a fine; the man who provides him with intoxicants goes to gaol. Is it not time for our legislators to further protect him against other things that are almost equally harmful?

Of course the newspapers if they would take hold could do much to suppress what might be called the Marathon evil. But it is the newspapers that are largely responsible for its existence. Not only do they lend their columns to that publicity that is its very lifeblood but the more "enterprising" of them conduct Marathons of their own. Newspapers in this advanced age are business propositions first and public servants afterwards. They are looking for readers and some of them will go to any length the law permits to secure those readers. The law puts a certain limitation on the class of matter they print. It may be premature to suggest a censorship of the sporting page but that may yet be necessary to put an end to the Marathon massacre.



POLITICS AND THE CIVIL SERVICE

WHEN in opposition, the Dominion Liberals were in favour of a rule which would prevent a member of Parliament accepting a position in the civil service until three or four years after he had ceased to be a member. Since they came into office in 1896, the principle has been ignored and several score of members of the House of Commons have been appointed to salaried positions under the Crown. The Liberal Government, however, have to their credit, the Civil Service Act of last session which puts all the inside service under the control of an independent Civil Service Commission. Hereafter no member of Parliament may have any advantage in the "inside" or Ottawa service. They still have first call on the "outside" service, on judgeships, commissionerships and senatorships. Even here they do not always win, for the new Intercolonial Railway commission consists of four gentlemen who have never been members of Parliament, or even prominent politicians.

While the Conservatives at Ottawa, having no present prospect of getting positions for themselves, are openly advocating the civil service reform which the Liberals advocated in Opposition, the Conservatives in the Provincial Governments are not so high-minded. The other day, the distributor of law stamps at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, died and a new officer was required. Sir James Whitney's government had the appointment because there is no Civil Service Commission in Ontario, and they immediately proceeded to appoint Mr. J. H. Carnegie, M.P.P. for East Victoria. Mr. Carnegie lived at Coboconk and devoted most of his time to farming. Recently he moved to Toronto, and was apparently looking for an easy position in which to

spend his declining years. He has been rewarded with one worth \$2,200 a year. Just what value his experience in farming will be to him in the distribution of law stamps is not apparent, but no doubt he will make a creditable officer of the crown, as creditable as any other politician. The men now at work in Osgoode Hall are thus plainly told that strict attention to duties and long and faithful service does not count with Sir James Whitney's government as compared with long and faithful party service.

If Mr. Borden intends to make Civil Service Reform one of the planks in the Conservative platform at the next general elections, he should at once get to work on the Ontario wing of his party. Their conversion would be in order if the public is to believe that the Conservatives are any more in earnest than the Liberal Opposition previous to 1896. Mr. Borden might also take the question up seriously with Mr. McBride, Mr. Roblin and Mr. Hazen, and point out that as their supreme chief he has declared for the abolition of the "spoils" system. Apparently these gentlemen have not heard of the Halifax platform.



RELIGION AND CITIZENSHIP

ALL sorts of discussion are proceeding on this continent as to the causes of the low standards of citizenship which prevail in both countries. Miss Jane Adams of Chicago tries to explain why 15,000 young people came before the police courts last year in that great city. She seems to think that the religious education in the public schools and Sunday schools has been too perfunctory or has had too much to do with creeds and not enough with conduct. These young people are not inspired to conduct which is pure and noble and true. In other words, the present day teaching does not make for a high type of citizen.

An editorial writer in the *Chicago Interior* says that sectarian suspicion keeps moral instruction out of the schools. Roman Catholics are jealous of Protestants, Methodists of Presbyterians, and Jews of Christians. The moral-minded men of all religious beliefs have never got together upon even a minimum of teaching which might be made part of the school curriculum. The consequence is that the intellect is being trained, and the conscience neglected. Sectarian suspicion prevents this conscience training.

In Canada we have a large percentage of separate schools, mostly Roman Catholic, a few Protestant, in which religious teaching is a regular part of the course of study. Yet no one has brought forth any proof that the pupils from these schools have higher ideals of citizenship than those who come from the ordinary public or "godless" schools. Of all the cities in the Dominion, Montreal has the largest percentage of religious schools; yet it would appear, from general public sentiment, that the standards of citizenship are lower in Montreal than in any other Canadian city. When reform is talked about in Montreal, the general answer is that it cannot be secured because the population is so preponderantly Roman Catholic. Sometimes these critics will use the term French-Canadian instead of Roman Catholic. If the Roman Catholic schools, with their regular course of church catechism, are not producing better citizens than the public, "godless" schools, the public ought to know it. If the reverse is true, the Church would do well to have the facts made clear.

Apathy in regard to the relation between our schools and our citizenship is so manifest that one wonders if our religious guides are not overlooking citizenship in their fidelity to creed. It does not matter much whether this country has forty per cent. of Roman Catholics or fifty per cent.; twenty-five per cent. of Methodists or twenty per cent.; ten per cent. of Jews or five per cent.; but it does matter whether we have forty or eighty per cent. of patriotic, self-sacrificing and high-minded citizens. We are spending millions of dollars annu-