

acres, of which half is in wheat, but this acreage is but a very small proportion of the 74,000,000 of acres which, it is estimated, is fit for farm land. Manitoba is now an old-timer. Progress is more striking in regard to the growth of manufacturing industries, the creation of electric energy, to say nothing of the great strides made by Winnipeg as an emporium and in attaining to the position of being one of the greatest, if not the greatest, grain centres in the world.

In the Province of Quebec hay and clover are the principal agricultural products; oats follow with a substantial yield. In this Province, as a result of the large amount of Government money—upwards of \$2,000,000—which has been expended in improving the roadways of the Province, the farmer has been helped to market his products, and has been given easy access to financial centres. It is unfortunate that this policy has not been adopted by other Provinces as heartily as it has been in the Province of Quebec. The prospects for an excellent harvest are exceptionally good. The prosperity enjoyed by the agricultural population of Quebec and by the people generally of that Province is the result of industry and thrift on the part of the population rather than of the richness of the soil or of weather conditions. The acreage in Quebec under hay and clover is about 3,000,000; oats claim 1,300,000, with 600,000 devoted to all other kinds of vegetables and grains.

The interests of British Columbia are not so much bound up in agriculture as they are in lumbering, mining and fisheries. These last three furnish 75% of the total amount realized from the various industries. The lumber interests have been sorely tried by the present policy of "Free" lumber, which has almost driven Canadian lumber companies off the plains; the absence of an outside market makes matters so much worse. The lumber interests deserve some efforts on the part of the Dominion Government to find new markets, particularly so in view of the fact that in order to propitiate the interests of other Provinces the lumber interests of British Columbia have had to suffer. Mining, however, continues prosperous, and the yield from that source was no less than \$30,000,000 during the year 1913, with fisheries realizing as much as \$14,500,000. The opening of the Panama Canal will be of enormous benefit to British Columbia. I am told that contracts have already been made for the carrying of 15,000,000 feet of lumber from Vancouver to Toronto Bay, at a saving in freight of from three to four dollars per 1,000 feet.

Maritime Provinces.—Although we are not represented in the Maritime Provinces, yet we have had opportunities of obtaining information regarding that section, and are assured that general conditions throughout are better than in any other section of

the Dominion. The Steel and Car Industries and factories that have been depending on the West as a market for their output are feeling the depression, but lumbering, fishing and agriculture are prospering, and these, after all, are the backbone of the East. The Fox Industry of Prince Edward Island is the one threatening feature of the situation. Not that it has not brought large sums of money into the Province, but, as it has been wisely said, it is undermining the native thrift for which the Province has always been noted. If the number of foxes increases as rapidly as has been promised by the prospectuses it will need as much capital to carry on the business as it does to move a good-sized grain crop.

Ontario.—In our own Province the outlook for a good crop is improving, and we can only hope that the results will justify the present expectations. The value of Ontario's agricultural yields last year amounted to \$185,790,341 of the total yield of the Dominion of about \$600,000,000. The condition of live stock remains generally satisfactory, being reported all over Canada as over 90% of the standard of health and perfect state.

POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION.

It is estimated that the population of Canada as on 31st March, 1914, amounted to 8,075,000, as compared with 7,758,000 for the corresponding period of 1913. There was an actual addition to the population by immigration of 384,878, of whom 142,622 were British, 107,530 came from the United States, and 134,726 from other countries.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

There has been a falling off in the revenue of the Dominion for April, 1914, as compared with April, 1913, and for the year which ended 31st March, 1914, there was a falling off as compared with the same period of 1913 from \$168,690,000 to \$162,521,000. The amount realized was, however, not only sufficient to meet all expenditures on Consolidated Fund Account, but furnished \$45,000,000 out of the \$56,000,000 required for capital expenditure. It is gratifying to note that the total imports of the financial year fell short of the previous year by over \$40,000,000, and that the exports of the year exceeded the exports of 1913 by \$38,000,000—the total balance of trade against Canada for the twelve months was only \$172,000,000, as compared with \$300,000,000 for the year ending 31st March, 1913. The adverse balance has been more than provided for by large borrowings abroad on the part of the Provinces, Municipalities, Railway Companies, etc., and it has not occasioned the slightest strain upon the financial resources of the Dominion.

UNITED STATES.

The amendments to the Banking Laws of the United States and the incorporation of the "Federal Reserve Banks" have already inspired confidence throughout the United States, and have removed for the time being, at any rate, all fears of money stringency, the result of the crop movements, which has more than once intercepted the flow of prosperity. The Federal Reserve Banks will furnish all other Banks who are members of the Reserve Bank System with facilities for borrowing on short notice upon such of their assets as consist of "negotiable paper issued or drawn for agricultural, industrial or commercial purposes," and New York and Chicago will no longer be called upon to bear the whole strain and responsibility of East, West, North and South. I have gone carefully over the "Federal Reserve Act," and although it contains features which might be criticized adversely, yet on the whole it is a great piece of legislation, and has removed many of the dangers which are incidental to the National Bank System, but without leaning in the direction of encouraging unhealthy expansion. It places at the disposal of every section of the community and of every industrial and agricultural centre not only the whole Reserves of the District to which they are tributary, but the surplus funds of every other Reserve Centre can be made available. It comes as close as it can to our Canadian system in providing a flexible currency, and in one respect it is better than our system, in so far that it binds its members together in one helpful, sympathetic body, and provides an emergency currency and emergency capital of great value. The time will come in Canada, and come early, when we will find it advisable, yes, necessary, with our growth and development, to establish a Bank of re-discount under the patronage of the Dominion Government, and with somewhat similar powers to those that have been granted to the reserve Banks of the United States.

The Scrutineers appointed at the Meeting reported the following Shareholders duly elected Directors for the ensuing year:—Messrs. D. R. Wilkie, Hon. Robert Jaffray, Wm. Ramsay (of Bowland, Stow, Scotland), Elias Rogers, J. Kerr Osborne, Peleg Howland, Cawthra Mulock, Hon. Richard Turner (Quebec), Wm. Hamilton Merritt, M. D. (St. Catharines), W. J. Gage, J. A. M. Aikins, K.C. (Winnipeg), E. W. Cox. At a subsequent Meeting of the Directors Mr. D. R. Wilkie was re-elected President, and the Hon. Robert Jaffray, Vice-President for the ensuing year.

D. R. WILKIE, President.

E. HAY, Asst. General Manager.

OFTEN I am asked why ladies find it hard to improve at lawn tennis, and I think usually it is because they do not know how to make their stroke properly. The most important thing in tennis for a beginner, or indeed for any lady player, is correct style. Certainly, good style is to be desired in every one, man or woman, but a man is so much stronger that he is correspondingly more fitted to play strokes with mere force if he so desires. As a general rule, women have not the muscular strength of arm or wrist for any unnatural action, and the best weapons at their command are swing, timing, and touch. Thus their aim should be to obtain the maximum of effect with the minimum of effort, and if the strokes are played in the correct way, very little effort is really required. Unnatural actions lead not only to the worst results as far as tennis is concerned, but also to damage instead of benefits to health and physique.

The foundation of a good style is a correct grip, and this should be one that is comfortable to the player, and one from which it is easy to play the ball at practically any height. The "Colonial" grip is greatly at fault in this latter respect, as some strokes become absolutely impossible when the racket is held in this way. It also produces a very awkward and ungraceful action, not at all suitable for women.

The simplest grip for the forehand stroke can be obtained as follows: Hold the racket straight out with its face perpendicular, and then grasp it so that the "V" between the thumb and first finger comes on the left or front edge of the straight piece down the side of the handle. Close the fingers round the handle naturally, slanting slightly upwards, and the little finger will be half or three-quarters of an inch above the leather at the end. With this grip it is possible—and easy—to serve overhead or underhand, and to take any forehand stroke with the ball at any height, volleyed or off the ground, but

EXPERT TIPS ON TENNIS

V—TENNIS FOR LADIES

By ETHEL W. LARCOMBE

for the backhand the grip must be changed. The hand should be turned to the left until the whole of the back of it is showing flat on that straight side-piece where the "V" was before. The thumb should be placed straight up the front of the racket, as it gives added power and control.

JUST at first, if one is not accustomed to these grips, they, and the constant changing, will perhaps seem awkward. But afterwards the action will become purely instinctive and natural. The racket, of course, should always be "rested" in the left hand between rallies, and from this position it springs quite easily to whichever grip is required.

I have proved these two grips to be exceedingly comfortable and simple, and in helping others to learn have found that they are easily acquired and tend in a great measure to defeat the natural difficulties of the beginner. The usual reluctance of a woman to take a backhand stroke can be traced almost always to an incorrect grip and position. She tries to play the shot with the back of her hand in front of the racket, and a backhand cannot be produced in that way without a terrible lot of strength behind it. Fright, too, makes her stand too close to the ball, whereas a backhand stroke is more easily made when the ball is even farther from the body than it is for a forehand.

The correct positions of the feet are too well-known to need recapitulation here. I have laid stress on these particular grips only because I consider them the easiest ones with which to produce all kinds of strokes in good style.

The phrase "all kinds of strokes" might, I think, be repeated with emphasis, because lack of variety is the

chief fault in ladies' tennis of to-day. There must be thousands of women playing tennis who possess really only one stroke—the forehand drive across the court. Just think how their game would be improved and their pleasure enhanced if they possessed all the other strokes! And as a rule this is a self-imposed limit, incurred simply by lack of trying. They like their own stroke and they are perfectly content to have a useless backhand, or to say, "Oh, I can't volley." Very often, I admit, they cannot volley or play a backhand in the way they attempt to do so—it is a physical impossibility. But they give it up at once, without trying other methods or attempting to find out the correct way. It is a recognized fact that ladies are beginning to realize the necessity for volleying, but the number of good volleyers is still far too small. Playing at the net adds so much to one's pleasure and interest in the game that if a few hints on how to volley will help any woman out of the stagnation of the base-line, I shall feel that this article has not been written in vain.

FIRST of all, the methods of base-line strokes, and those of volleying are totally dissimilar. The grip is the same, or rather the manner of holding the racket is the same, but the action is absolutely different. For ground-strokes the wrist should be flexible and loose, and the racket allowed to swing freely both before and after the actual stroke. For volleying the wrist should be tense, the racket gripped more tightly, the lower part of the back of the hand pressed down as it were on the handle, with an action that causes the head of the racket to tilt in the air. Then, except for overhead "smashes," there

should be practically no back-swing, and not very much follow-through. The racket is almost still—held tight and stiff in the right place and at the correct angle for the stroke required. The wrist, in good volleying, is turned slightly as the shot is played, but there is no "swing."

The reason for this is two-fold. First: The primary object of a swing is to produce pace, and, in volleying, the need for pace is more or less absent. The ball, when met, is travelling faster and will return with its own pace so to speak—and extra speed is easily imparted with the wrist. Secondly: For a good swing, correct body position is absolutely necessary, so that the arm can swing freely and follow through completely. Now, net-play is so quick that as a rule one has no time to assume correct body position. One turns one's body instinctively and places one's feet in as correct a position as possible in the time at one's command, but that time is far too short for complete position and a long swing.

This is the difficulty experienced by most women, who try to volley (if they try at all) with the same action that they use for their ground-strokes. An easy maxim for general use might run thus: "For your ground-strokes use as much swing as possible—for volleying use as little as possible."

Learning to volley and to make different strokes will help greatly to counteract the fright and apathy that I have mentioned before. These two apparently contradictory characteristics seem to occupy too much space in the average lady tennis-player's brain. I say apparently contradictory because in reality they are firm allies, working towards the same end of mental laziness and futility. Most women are so dreadfully afraid of losing a point, or of losing a practice match perhaps, through trying a new stroke or two—and this leads to the apathetic way in which they go on with their one stroke and their same ideas year after year, instead of learning various strokes and trying the effect of a