

ditions would have a similar result. This is a matter which demands immediate attention of a more adequate character.

In this connection it may be remarked that it seems strange that the Canadian Government has not provided for a full display of Canadian products at the Buenos Aires World's Fair to be held next year. It looks like the loss of another golden opportunity.



A PROMINENT grain dealer in Montreal has made the latest estimate of the Western wheat crop and places it at 120,000,000 bushels. This is the highest figure any dealer, if we mistake not, has yet given out. The government estimate is still higher, and it is still probable that the government statisticians may be more nearly correct than the grain dealers. A Toronto capitalist who has recently returned from the West, after an observation trip, lasting some months, refuses to accept the grain dealers' estimates and maintains that the crop was fully 150,000,000. This is higher than the government estimate.

What is ascertained is that not more than ninety million bushels has yet been sold. The remainder of this record wheat harvest remains in the hands of the farmers. Apparently the railways have been able to carry all that was offered and the facilities for transshipment at Fort William and Port Arthur were equal to all demands. There was the usual rush at these ports between December 1st and 5th, and all records for expeditious shipping were broken. During that "last awful week," forty-six grain boats left the twin harbours with full cargoes. The Lake Shippers' Clearance Association, with its newly adopted methods, has greatly facilitated the loading and more than justified its formation.

Early in the season, when it was clear that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway would not carry grain this year east of Winnipeg, many feared that the hopper would be too full for the funnel. The double-tracked Canadian Pacific and the single-tracked Canadian Northern, however, proved equal to the great task imposed upon them and the grain was moved to Lake Superior without serious difficulty. For this happy conclusion of Canada's greatest wheat-moving season, every person concerned should be exceedingly grateful. In 1910, the Grand Trunk Pacific will be able to handle a twenty-five per cent. increase in the wheat crop, and henceforth no blockade is to be anticipated. The funnel will then be adequate.

HOCKEY THE NATIONAL GAME

WITH lacrosse threatening to foregather with the buffalo, and association football, baseball and other alien sports gathering strength in the race for popular favour, it is refreshing to know that there is one game that is still peculiarly our own and in no danger of being stolen from us or crowded off the sporting map by fads and importations. That game is hockey. It is Canadian because the speed, daring and strength required to play it are the national traits of the youth of Canada; because the ice on which it is played is one of the natural products of a climate which produces natures that demand strenuous sports.

Hockey has not the age or traditions of lacrosse. It has no historical romance to feed upon and must be sustained by its own merits. That these merits are sufficient is evidenced by the majestic sweep with which it has covered that large portion of the map of North America where the thin red lines of Britain have painted their own peculiar colour.

It is little more than a quarter of a century since Canadian boys discovered that the ancient game of "shinny" as played on skates could be reduced to a science and made one of the speediest and most spectacular of sports. It took time to develop the game, but once reduced to a composite formation it spread over Canada like an epidemic. To-day it is played in every city, town and village from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Rocky Mountains, and so well has it proved its worth that the big cities of the United States are building artificial ice rinks to get their share of a sport for which nature has denied them the raw material.

So why should we deny to hockey the place lacrosse is failing to hold? It is really a "more national" game than the one borrowed from the Indians. For it is lacrosse on ice. It is the old national game fitted more particularly to Canada. To be sure, some folks will say "It can only be played in the winter time." But baseball can only be played in the summer time and it has dislodged poker, which can be played all the year round if the money holds out, as the

national game of the United States. And wherein lies the difference?

Of all strenuous sports hockey occupies the unique position of having no rivals. It is secure in its position. That position is in the heart of the grand Canadian winter and in the hearts of the Canadian people. Hail to hockey, the national sport of Canada!

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

OTTAWA *Le Temps*, commenting on a recent article in the "Canadian Courier" advocating an extension of last year's measure of civil service reform, speaks thus:

"Le *Canadian Courier* dit que l'opposition à l'application de la loi du Service Civil, au service extérieur vient surtout des députés. Le fait est que pour plusieurs d'entr'eux, être député sans patronage équivaut à un droit de chasse et de pêche au pôle nord."

Quebec *La Parole*, dealing with the same article expresses similar sentiment. It says:

"Le *Canadian Courier* dit que l'opposition à la loi du service civil vient des députés. Il est vrai que pour un bon nombre leur utilité aurait cessé s'ils n'avaient pas de patronage à distribuer."

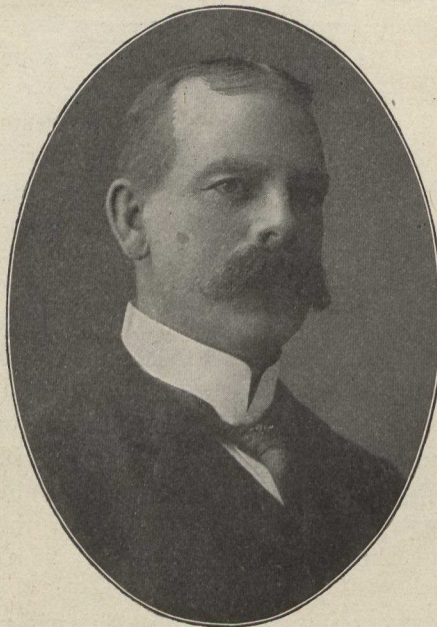
Civil Service Reform is still one of Canada's great problems. A splendid beginning has been made in the management of the Inside Service but the Outside is still subject to the whims of the politicians and the patronage-mongers. So long as any portion of Canada's Civil Service remains in a position where it is dependent upon the whims of the vote-seekers, so long will our administration be weak and imperfect.

A RATHER UNIQUE TRIBUTE

ORDINARY citizens have little chance in the public press as compared with the politicians; the latter monopolise most of the space. Nevertheless, there are occasions when ordinary citizens receive a due meed of praise. Last Saturday evening, one hundred and fifty of the most prominent citizens in the city of Toronto attend-

ed a banquet at the National Club in honour of Mr. Noel Marshall, President of the Standard Fuel Company. Mr. Marshall was Vice-President of the Club for six years and President for three years. For more than a dozen years he has been its leading spirit and to him more than to any other one man is due the credit for the Club's present leading position.

As one speaker at the banquet phrased it, "we do not all perform unselfish deeds, but we admire the man who does." Mr. Noel Marshall has the reputation of having performed as much unselfish work on behalf of his fellow citizens as any other man in the community. He is a director of many charitable institutions, has served on the Board of Education, has



Mr. Noel Marshall.
Banquetted at the National Club,
Toronto, last Saturday
night.

been a church warden for twenty years, was a member of the Council of the Board of Trade for six years, and is now an active worker in connection with the Canadian National Exhibition. He is the founder of the Open Air Horse Show and has been President of that Association since its inception. His purse has always been open for public and private charities and civic movements.

Mr. Marshall was born in London, England, but came to Canada when yet a boy in knee-breeches. For fifty-three years he has been a resident of Toronto, with the exception of a short term spent in the Northwest. He has been engaged in the coal business nearly all his life. For nine years he was manager for the C. J. Smith Company, and in 1888, with Mr. William McKenzie, he bought the business and shortly afterwards re-christened it The Standard Fuel Co. He is also interested in several other business undertakings and is a director of the Sterling Bank. He was the first President of the Ontario Motor League and is the president and a founder of the Broadview Boys' Institute, one of the most unique social experiments in Canada.

Generous to a fault, kindly in disposition, fraternal in his habits, he is an ideal citizen. In honouring Mr. Marshall the National Club has honoured unselfish public service.