

While the professional has become the first line of growth and guidance, the true amateur -- the man or woman who plays for the love of the game -- is worthy of high commendation.

A changing and challenging world leaves scars upon the body and mind. The changes in the tempo of living have had profound effects on health. The shift in population from the active outdoor life of the country to the more sedentary existence of the city and the progressive elimination of active effort through new techniques of automation have raised new health and fitness problems.

Emerson told us in a much quieter day that "the first wealth is health". We can apply this test also to the nations of the world involved in the contest between Communism and freedom. Mental and physical health are powerful weapons in this contest.

Success in competitive sport has become an important element in the contest for the hearts of men. Success in Olympic Games and in all fields of international competitive sports has a tremendous effect on the prestige of nations.

Types of Support Hitherto

One thinks of the many public-spirited persons, of the provincial fitness and recreation branches, of the many sports' governing bodies, of the voluntary organizations which devote themselves in full or part-time to fostering games and athletics among young people, to a work for which the reward is in the knowledge of a job well done.

A number of Federal Departments, including Health and Welfare, Northern Affairs, National Defence and Labour, among others, take an active interest in the promotion of physical efficiency and recreation.

However, despite all the efforts of persons and organizations, of federal and provincial departments, there is a lack of athletic and recreational facilities in the country as a whole. Through the municipal Winter Works Programme, the Federal Government has, in the last three years, assisted in the promotion of public projects, including worthwhile athletic and recreational construction projects and paying one-half of the payroll charges.

Last year the Federal Government assisted 915 projects through this Programme for the construction of hockey and skating rinks, swimming pools, sports facilities, and for the extension and improvement of parks and playgrounds. These projects cost in the neighbourhood of \$15 million.

Many sports leaders and other interested Canadians have been petitioning for legislation for the encouragement of physical fitness and athletics, while freely maintaining the primary and principle responsibility which the Constitution places on the provinces. A great step forward in this regard will be taken in legislation which will be brought before Parliament within the next few weeks.