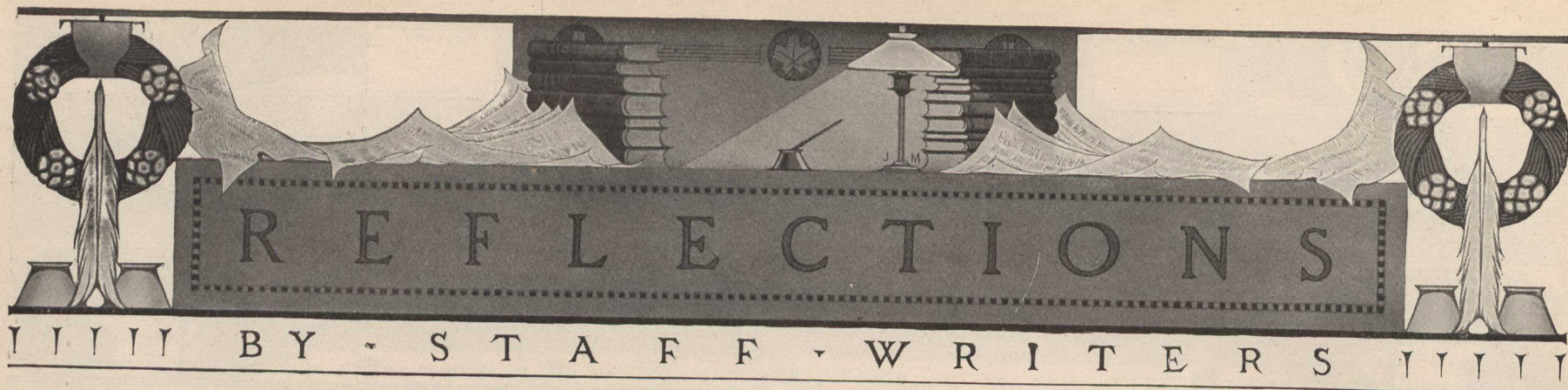




THE CANADIAN IN SPORT

CANADA because of its climate and the hereditary tastes of its sons is naturally a sporting country. But it is a new country, and as in all new countries the making of a living is the first thought, work must occupy the first place, and sport the second.

It is for this reason that Canadians do not shine in cricket as their showing in the recent international game with the United States evidences. Cricket is the sport of the leisure class. It requires almost constant practice and from two to three days to play a first-class match. Canada in the rush and hurry of national development has not time for it. She yearns rather for those sports that can be used as an aid to her daily toil. Her sons play baseball and lacrosse till they reach a certain age and then turn to lawn bowling or curling, by which they hope to appease an appetite for contention with their fellow men without imperilling a chance for taking the tide that leads on to fortune when it happens along. These games can be played after the day's work is done.

Of course every people with sport-loving tendencies must produce a certain number of experts who will sacrifice their business future to the allurements of their favourite pastime. This has led to professionalism in baseball and lacrosse. But even here the business instinct is everywhere evident. We find professional ball players using baseball simply to advance them from a worldly point of view. They are pushing their way through college to the professions or gathering together enough money to purchase a saloon. The professional lacrosse players, too, are after something more permanent than glory and it is a fact that they as a rule will accept a situation, that promises advancement as an equivalent for their services, more readily than a salary.

Thus it will be seen that in Canada business dominates sport. Even in the colleges sport has not the ascendancy it has in the older countries. All our schools of learning have their football teams, their hockey teams and other athletic organisations, but they are merely incidental. The degree is what the average Canadian student is after. If he can take his degree and some sport, too, well and good. But if it comes to a choice between the two, the sport becomes a secondary consideration. Most Canadians go through college at some sacrifice either to themselves or to others. This evolves a certain anxiety that keeps them from becoming too enthusiastic even when the honour of their Alma Mater is at stake on the athletic field.

And if at present track athletics are taking a large share of the public interest, what do we find on closer examination? Simply that the Canadian end of the track contingent is largely composed of boys who have not arrived at business years and that the maturer members have mainly drifted in from across the ocean. There are exceptions, and Tom Longboat is one of them. But Tom is an Indian and Indians are not noted for their application to business.

Figure it all out and you will find that Canada's motto is "Sport for boys, business for men." For baseball and lacrosse in their higher branches are business pure and simple, rowing is a young man's game and horse racing is business reduced to a science. What is left is used by men of affairs as an aid to business.

THEATRICAL CENSORSHIP NEEDED

THE Civic Legislation Committee of Toronto appears to have taken into consideration recently the means of stopping indecent plays and performances. Toronto has fallen into the fashion of patting itself on the back for the general tone of the city government; yet a visitor from a United States city declared last year that posters and performances are allowed in Toronto which would be condemned and stopped in many communities across the border. The difficulty in such a matter is to obtain censor officials who are discriminating in

matters of dramatic presentation. There is no question as to the existence in Toronto of places of theatrical amusement which are, in the main, degrading and disgusting. These places are crowded, no doubt, chiefly by youths of sordid taste, with the lowest ideals of pleasure. Yet, the problem of censorship is not of easy solution. A young woman in Europe indulges in Salome and other dances of similar exuberance and is warmly applauded as "Maude Allan the artist," while Toronto is proudly pointed out on the map as the scene of her childhood joys. But it would be difficult for the average censor to distinguish between such performances and those which were recently condemned in Toronto. The citizen of refined taste would probably shun both but it may be doubted whether the refined citizen is in the majority. For years Toronto has been on the verge of doing something by way of civic legislation in the matter and some day the talk may pass into the form of action.

Dramatic entertainment, in one form or another, has always been demanded and its production has become a source of extensive revenue. There are theatres in Canadian cities which provide clean and wholesome plays for the amusement or edification of the citizens, in which the most captious would find little to condemn. During the last three seasons, however, vaudeville of the most sensational character has been greatly on the increase, with a corresponding deterioration in the audience. No one wishes to revive the Blue Laws, or to have a Twentieth Century imitation of Cromwell's theatreless Protectorate, even if such a thing were possible. But the streets of Canadian capitals should not display posters which are an offence to the eye and a suggestion of all that is degrading, while there ought to be some civic authority to determine the point at which the inferior theatre should be restrained.

THE NAVY LEAGUE IN CANADA

THE Navy League has a branch in Canada which has for years patiently worked towards a greater Canadian interest in the Empire's great fleet. It is not unjust to say that its first idea was that Canada would contribute eventually to the cost of its maintenance. As the discussion proceeded, it has been forced upon the body, as well as upon statesmen and journalists, that Canada will not do so. This country, like Australia, values a fleet but would prefer to have one of its own. Now we find that the Navy League in Canada has accepted that as the attitude of the nation. It apparently bows to the inevitable. It has offered a prize of \$400 for the best essay, not exceeding 6,000 words, on the subject, "Shall Canada have a navy of her own?" The essays must be in hand by January 1st. One would not be daring if he were to predict that if the prize is won by a native-born Canadian the answer and the arguments will be in the affirmative.

Was there ever a people of blood and stamina and force which did not seriously want to be independent and self-supporting? Is it not the history of every northern race that its national reputation and its self-governing privileges were nearest and dearest to the hearts of the people? Canada will long remain a part of the Empire, but the history of the last eighty years clearly proves that when she makes any national advance in the direction of a navy it will be along the lines of national control. In time of war that navy would be under the control of the British admirals, just as our soldiers in South Africa were under the command of the British generals. It all seems so perfectly simple to a "colonial" mind but the average Britisher does not seem able to grasp it. He thinks that if we were half as British as we are said to be, we would send money over to London to help relieve the British taxpayer. This man has not yet learned the lesson which was taught between 1776 and 1783, nor has he learned the peculiar attitude which makes a "colonial" sing "God Save the King"