

Equal in prestige to the Allan Cup is the Memorial Cup, which is awarded to the best Canadian junior hockey team. This cup was donated in 1919 as a memorial to the many Canadian hockey players who had served in the First World War. Memorial Cup competition is for junior teams with players of 19 and 20 years of age, a group that includes practically all the professional "stars of tomorrow". The national playoffs attract large numbers of spectators, the record being a total of over 100,000 for a seven-game series.

The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, which stimulates interest and encourages ability in hockey through Canada, does not provide for national competition below the junior level. CAHA branches stage provincial championships for juveniles (players aged 16 to 17), midgets (14 and 15), and bantams (12 and 13). Intermediate divisions for adults, and junior classes below Memorial Cup calibre, have their own championships.

One reason for an upsurge of interest in hockey is the annual "Minor Hockey Week in Canada", held under the auspices of the CAHA and its branches. National publicity, thousands of community "minor hockey nights", and the support of public figures, including the Prime Minister of Canada, have all contributed to the success of this national institution.

#### Hockey Canada

As a result of the report in 1969 of the Task Force on Sport for Canadians, an organization entitled Hockey Canada was established. This organization has on its board of directors representatives of all hockey interests in Canada, including the National Hockey League, the World Hockey Association, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union. In addition, it has representatives from the Federal Government and from the public at large.

Hockey Canada has assumed responsibility for Canada's participation in international hockey. In addition, it offers scholarships to outstanding young hockey players who wish to continue their education, and conducts research into coaching methods.

#### International competition

Hockey has made great strides internationally since the first recognized world hockey competition took place at Antwerp in connection with the 1920 Winter Olympic Games. The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association has each year (with one or two notable exceptions, such as the Winter Olympics in Moscow in 1957, at which Canada was not represented) provided the Canadian representative. Club teams (as