

The Fastest Sport in the World

By WALTER H. CURRAN

PERHAPS the most significant feature in the life of a nation is the manner in which it plays. A nation is like the individual in this respect, that it becomes most natural and is least affected by the opinion of others when engaged in athletic competition.

You find nations that are noted for win-at-any-cost spirit. The business methods of such countries will be keen rather than square. They will not only be go-ahead, but they will consider that success is indispensable even though they have to sacrifice principle to accomplish it. There are nations who are noted for a keen desire to win and a great distaste for defeat, but who prefer to take the bitter pill of the vanquished than gain the laurel by unfair methods. Some countries take their sport strenuously, and their popular games demand not only skill, quick thinking and speed, but the ability to stand great physical hardship.

We need go no farther in seeking Canada's place in the world of sport. We have given the world its most strenuous and swiftest pastimes—lacrosse in summer and hockey in winter. True, these games are played elsewhere, but nowhere will one see the same strenuousness on the part of the players as in Canada. They play lacrosse in Australia and quite excellent lacrosse in England, but neither in these countries nor in the United States is the game anywhere nearly as trying on the physique as in this country.

We are a virile people—there is no question about that—and the nature of our sports and the determined way we go into them are a very good indication of the manner of people we are. Generally speaking, it might be said that we will win at any sacrifice so long as it be not the sacrifice of our self-



respect or principle. We like to win as much as do our cousins to the south, but we have the saving sense of British fair play, and long may we keep it.

HOCKEY is the fastest game in the world! Swift sometimes beyond the alertness of the eye to follow is the progress of the little rubber disc that forms the bone of contention between the flying players. Rushing, swirling, the players sweep along the congealed surface. Frequently, speeding skaters will come together with all the weight of their bodies. Up and down, the very embodiment of perpetual motion, bumping, sprawling, but always, whether rushing, checking or colliding, the very personification of unleashed energy.

Such a game is our National Winter Pastime, which from coast to coast has given the youth of the land the outlet for the expression of the spirit that is in him. It is a great developer, and, we might say, leavener of the right spirit. As soon as the kiddies' ankles are strong enough we permit them to get a "shinny" and straightway learn that the road to a "goal" is a rocky one. Of course they fail at first to attain their goal. This fills them with chagrin, and though they may give up, they'll soon come back and through much trying develop that unquestionable spirit that has become characteristic of the nation.

Amateur hockey has prospered in Ontario. The senior finals in the Ontario Hockey Association drew by far the greatest crowds that ever witnessed a hockey match in Toronto. T. R. and A. A. defeated St. Michael's, ex-amateur champions of the world, after the finest games played at the Toronto Arena during the season. Tremendous crowds from all over the province saw Berlin defeat Orillia for the second J. Ross Robertson cup. Perhaps the finest hockey in the Association was that seen in the Junior series, where it was finally left for the champion Orillians to prove supremacy with the University of Toronto III.

There was very little amateur hockey of distinc-

tion in the Maritime Provinces. Mount Allison are Intercollegiate title holders. The professional game, with players imported mostly from Ontario, supplied the thrills. Sydney won the championship after a splendid season's hockey.

Queen's University won out in the Intercollegiate Union after the closest games ever played in that series. Owing to the defection to professional ranks of many Ottawa players, the Interprovincial League, although composed of several fine teams, with Grand Mere deserving special mention, was not a success. The Intermediate series produced some interesting hockey. The Lower Ottawa Hockey Association finished with a hard series between Alexandria and Hull.

THE Northern Ontario League was a thriving institution this year, and North Bay won the championship after some thrilling battles. The Cobalt League and the Porcupine League also provided some bitter contests. Fort William and Port Arthur were, as usual, the scenes of many notable games. Kenora is another Ontario town that is always there or thereabouts in competition with the best of Winnipeg.

Is the House of Commons Too Big?

TWO weeks ago several members of Parliament and other public men gave their opinions in THE COURIER as to the wisdom or foolishness of reducing the present proportion of Rep. by Pop. in Canada. Most of the correspondents favoured leaving the present standard as it is. Two were in favour of reduction. One went so far as to advise abolishing the Commons altogether. The one thing in which all the correspondents seemed to agree was that Canada has so much geography and such a diversity of interests and people that to reduce the representation would be inadvisable. The two remaining letters published below contain much the same opinion. It seems that Canada is in a class by itself when it comes to government. We do not

BETTER AS IT IS.

By H. H. Stevens, Member for Vancouver.

WHILE it is true that there are only 670 members in Great Britain for a population of 45,000,000, still there is a vast difference between the territory of Great Britain and that of Canada. It must always be borne in mind that, insofar as Canada is concerned, the geographic difficulties are stupendous. For instance, one of my colleagues from British Columbia, Mr. H. S. Clement, has a territory about 1,200 miles from one extreme to the other, and an approximate area of about 200,000 square miles, with a shore line, including islands and inlets, of 25,000 square miles. This is represented by one man, and, while the population of the area is comparatively small, yet you can readily understand the utter impossibility of one man doing justice to such a territory as this.

We have many other constituencies in Canada of a similar nature. For instance, the Yukon, with a population of about 8,000 people, is almost equal in size to that of Comox-Atlin, which is also represented by one member.

I quite agree with you that, if the interests of the country were confined in a comparatively restricted area, and with a greater similarity of interests, possibly a smaller number of members would suffice. You may answer to this, "What about the United States?" Off-hand, I am not in a position to discuss the history of the representation of the United States, but even taking it at its present number, namely, 435 members, it must be borne in mind that very large areas of this country are very thickly populated. Take for instance the city of New York, which contains a population of over 4,000,000, and the interests of which, from a legislative standpoint, are very uniform. Then take, for instance the city of Pittsburgh, with its iron industry. This, again, has a common interest requiring no great variety of consideration in its legislation.

Another argument, I might call to your attention in comparing the United States with Canada, is that the system of Government in the United States places all matters not specified in the constitution under the States' control, of which there are, I think, 49, and which relieve the Federal Government of many things which, under our system of Government, come under the control of the Dominion Government; inasmuch as in Canada all matters not specially placed under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government come under the jurisdiction of the Federal or Dominion Government. Then, again, we have only nine Provincial Governments as against 49 State Governments, and our territory is greater than that of the United States, although, of course, not nearly so highly developed.

In Canada, in the past, it has been the custom to apportion the members with a much higher ratio

The home of the 1912 amateur world's champions, Winnipeg, is the scene of some of the finest hockey in the world. The senior teams are evenly matched. Monarchs were holders until recently of the Allan Cup, but failed to hold it when they met Regina. There is much fine hockey played by teams all through the West clear up to Dawson City in the Yukon. Edmonton Dominions were eliminated as aspirants for the Allan Cup by Regina Victorias.

PROFESSIONAL hockey in British Columbia and in the National Hockey Association of Upper and Lower Canada has prospered as never before. Many prominent amateurs took the jump and the teams seemed to be given a new lease of life. The games were played with a vim and spirit that quite revealed the amateur players; deliberated roughness was not as noticeable as in the past. The public had become convinced that every team was out to win in every game, and the retention of that confidence made the N. H. A. prosperous.

Victoria won the championship of the Coast, and came east to wrest the Stanley Cup from the winners of the National Hockey Association. They lost in three straight defeats.

It is a noticeable fact, and an important one, as an index to the rectitude of the national viewpoint, that the Canadian public will not support any sport where there is the slightest doubt of integrity and that unfair method of any kind will kill the game in the public esteem.

compare to even the United States and we are absolutely dissimilar to Great Britain. We are cheerfully reminded that Quebec fixes the ratio anyway and, until the B. N. A. Act is repealed by the Imperial Parliament, will continue so to do. If the men who spend their time on Parliament Hill in the interests of Canada and of their constituencies are satisfied to keep the House of Commons the same relative size that it is now, we have no reason for wishing them to do otherwise. It is presumed that a member earns his indemnity or he would not take it. To have an M.P. do more for his country than he is paid for by making him represent more people and a greater area of territory would be a real grievance.

of population for city members than for rural members. For instance, in my own constituency of Vancouver, I represent, at least, 175,000 people at the present time. On redistribution, the utmost we can expect in this same area is two additional members, making approximately 60,000 people to each member. Whereas, in many rural districts, probably only 20,000 or 25,000 will be allowed to each member.

Then again, I would draw attention to the fact that the representation in Canada is not likely to increase at a very rapid ratio. For instance, in the present redistribution, Ontario and Maritime Provinces will lose some of their representation, while the new and undeveloped areas of the West will receive some increase. But, inasmuch as our representation is based upon a fixed number for the Province of Quebec, it can be readily understood that the representation will not increase at a very rapid rate.

In conclusion, I might say, I am of the opinion that we are not over-represented, owing to the very large territory over which we hold jurisdiction; and, secondly, that our system of representation is probably as satisfactory a method as could be devised, so that I am not in favour of any serious reduction in the representation of the House of Commons.

MIGHT BE REDUCED.

By W. F. NICKLE, Member for Kingston.

FOR the determination of the correct membership of a legislative body one should consider, I suppose, the character of the country; for example, the size, the settlement of the people, whether in centres or scattered, their ambitions, whether diverse or similar. These points being determined, such a number of representatives should be allowed as would permit of all classes and sections having adequate representation, keeping in mind, however, that the smaller the number the greater the ease with which authority is centralized. If the representation is more than actually required, responsibility is apt to be evaded. The fact that the English House has 670 members and that of the United States 435 would indicate that the question of numbers alone is not the influencing factor in determining efficiency. In both these countries there is a much greater density of population, and as a result a Member may more easily adequately represent the views of a greater number. Certainly 33 Members could not properly represent Canadian interests, nor could 110, if the unit of population for representation of the United States or of Britain were to be adopted in this country. It would probably not make a very material difference if the number of Members of the Canadian House were somewhat reduced. Numbers are not the test of the worth of a representative body, but well-directed activity and enthusiasm in public service of capable men is the standard by which values are to be determined.