

and prizes for athletic ability. The name of the organization under which they gather is the International Border Agencies and it includes members of the F.B.I., RCMP as well as Customs and Immigration officers from both Canada and the United States. The atmosphere of this meeting lends itself toward good fellowship, friendly co-operation and better understanding.

The 7th Annual Field Day of the I.B.A. was held at Lakewood Golf Club, Tecumseh, Ont., (near Windsor) on July 15. Golfing, pistol shooting, softball, tug-of-war, horseshoes, and a three-legged race filled the day completely. The day's activities concluded with a banquet at which the prizes were presented and vaudeville entertainment of a professional nature was enjoyed by all.

Windsor Detachment personnel, though the smallest agency numerically, play an active part

in the affairs of the organization. The NCO in charge holds the position of treasurer for the current year and one member of the detachment is chairman of the special events committee.

Many members of participating agencies from points remote from the Windsor-Detroit area also attend. This year there were personnel from Hammond, Ind., Port Huron, Mich., Walpole Island and Leamington, Ont.

One of the guests of the day was the Officer Commanding "O" Division whose able assistance undoubtedly won the tug-of-war contest for Canada. During the evening he was called upon to present one of the trophies and responded in a highly capable manner when asked for words of wisdom and humor.

This Annual Field Day, usually held alternately in Canada and the U.S.A., has been a wonderful builder of close friendly relations.

## Book Reviews

**THE FALL OF A TITAN**, by Igor Gouzenko. Cassell Co. Ltd., London, England and British Book Service Ltd. (Canada), Toronto, Canada. Pp. 680. \$3.75.

"The Fall of a Titan" is an absorbing, brutal story. In it are all of the elements that characterize the Russian novel. It is long; it covers a wide range of events; its pace is varied; many characters take part in the action. Some are lightly drawn, others are sharply delineated. And, like the central figure in earlier works, the hero-villain philosophizes about the Russian soul, the meaning of life, and the mission of Russia.

Briefly, the story, set in Rostov in the late 1920's and early '30's, is this. Feodor Novikov, a young historian on the faculty of the local university, is directed by the secret police (the NKVD) to discover why the prolific output of the great writer Mikhael Gorin has suddenly dried up. Gorin's silence, coinciding with the violent social upheaval caused by the implementation of the first Five Year Plan, has embarrassed the Soviet Union and lowered its prestige abroad. How Novikov carries out his mission and how in the process, he induces Gorin to write an historical play acceptable to the Party leadership, thus

justifying the current policies of the regime to the outside world, is told with considerable dramatic power. As the story unfolds, the contrast in the characters of the two principals, one the old revolutionary humanist, the other the new Soviet man, is at once striking and powerful.

Although the story is told skilfully, the work falls short of the standards of the great Russian writers. Many of the characters are thinly-veiled caricatures—take offs on individuals who were at one time leading personalities in the Soviet Union. Gorin is patterned after Maxim Gorky; Veria after the late Beria. Stalin, however, is himself, white coat and all. Similarly, many of the incidents around which the tale revolves are drawn from controversies that in recent times convulsed the Soviet Union. Feodor Novikov's spectacular rise to prominence, based as it was on a cynical rewriting of early Kievan history, has its parallels in the precedents set for Soviet historians by Pokrovsky, Marr, and others. Thus, when all of the components of the novel are examined, "The Fall of a Titan" is nothing more than another appraisal of the Soviet Union written within the wider artistic bounds of the novel form. As a product of the Soviet environment the