

CANADIAN FIELD

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COMMENTS

“Salutatory”

“To Canada belongs the Twentieth Century” is the slogan that fits the aspirations of our people. Canadians are inspired with a new hope, an enlarged ambition and a new enthusiasm, through the development of our natural resources, the expansion in trade and commerce and the growth in population.

The march of events has awakened a new spirit of national importance, has suggested the trend of national destiny, and has brought forcibly to the minds of thinking men a realization of national responsibility. To be a Canadian to-day means more to the individual than at any time in our country's history. Every department of human effort throughout the length and breadth of this great Dominion seems to be pregnant with illimitable possibilities.

But hope is vain and ambition futile unless we have a vigorous race—a self-reliant, zealous, resourceful and masterful people. Race efficiency is possible only through individual excellence. Every youth needs at least a strong and well-developed body, a keen and trained mind, good morals, a high sense of honor and a true perception of the obligations of citizenship. Youthful efficiency can scarcely be constrained within a smaller compass. Without these things the nation will surely decay. It should be noted also that in a nation of toilers the key to the social problem lies in the wise employment of the hours between work and sleep.

With a view to attaining these objects CANADIAN FIELD is published. The journal enters upon its work unfettered by competition, and will strive to establish, through efficient service, a friend in every Canadian. CANADIAN FIELD will be Imperial in scope and essentially National in spirit. It will stand for the efficient life—individual, social and national—working it out, for example, through clean and manly sport, indoor and outdoor games, through hunting, angling, boating, rifle shooting, horse-back riding, etc.; through military training and National Patriotic Service; through awakening an interest in and the creation of enthusiasm for life and things in the open country.

CANADIAN FIELD will stand for military efficiency and national integrity. It will endeavor to keep its readers informed as to the results of passing events in the world of recreation and sport and will tabulate events scheduled for the future. It will strive to become an authority on the subjects treated in its columns. It will exert its influence in behalf of non-professional sport and will advocate the general adoption of Canadian ideals of athletic honor. Its editorial independence will be absolute.

CANADIAN FIELD makes no apology for its birth for we believe the need is great and the time opportune for such a journal.

Military Training Improves National Physique

Those people who are raising the cry of militarism because it is proposed to introduce physical and military training into the public schools of Canada overlook entirely the advantages that will accrue to the children through this training. They claim to see, in the introduction of it, a standing army. This bugbear does not exist, and never will exist, in this country, if we adopt the ideas of the Patriotic Service League.

Look at some of the advantages that will be derived from the training in the schools—An improvement in the physique of the children, and eventually the men and women of Canada (for it is as vitally important that the girls should be given a physical training as the boys—without healthy mothers no nation can be strong and robust). It will teach children sub-servience of self to higher authorities. It will tend to prevent crime by nurturing habits of self-control. Are not these advantages worth having? Is not the health of the nation of first importance? If that health can be improved, by systematic training, is it not worth doing? Is it not of some importance to reduce crime? We think that you will agree with us, that it is cheaper to build up a healthy, law-abiding nation than it is to cure a sick, criminal one. The training of the youth of the nation is the highest duty of the state, and the soundest investment for the nation's money. The education must be national—the training of the pupil as an individual must never overshadow his training as a unit of the tribe. “The people,” says Macauley, “that takes no pride in the noble achievements of its ancestors, will never achieve anything worthy of being remembered with pride by its descendants.”

To say that the introduction of military training in the schools is going to train up a race of fighters is nonsense. Statistics prove the contrary. Recent wars have not been made by soldiers, but by our “peace-loving citizens.” A man who knows his strength, and has been trained to control it, will not generally be found a bully, but, on the other hand, he will be respected the more for that strength—so with nations. “To arm that we may rob our neighbor's vineyard would be wholly criminal and unworthy of a great nation, but to abstain from arming lest our neighbor should think we harbored such a motive, and had no intention of preventing him from raiding our vineyard, is arrant folly.”

Jealousy and Rivalry in Sport

Where rivalry ceases and jealousy commences is at times hard to distinguish, both in sport and business, but the effect left by each is entirely different. Rivalry engenders a spirit of keenness and fairness, while jealousy kills all the noblest qualities of a man's nature.

The field of sport offers good breeding ground for the development of friendly competition, and the creation of a spirit of rivalry. Unfortunately, however, in place of rivalry, we often find the green-eyed monster, jealousy, creeping in—when this happens the best that is in sport is lost. The true sportsman wins or loses on his merits, and congratulates the victor on success. By this line of conduct he is the gainer morally by having entered the competition. On the other hand, when we find individuals, teams and supporters unable to appreciate the good qualities of their opponents, because they are jealous of the superior skill displayed, the spirit of sportsmanship is killed, and we see question-