

## THE GRAND PATRON'S CHALLENGE

*The following letter was received by Lt.-Col. George Cf Machum, E. D., President, Amateur Athletic Union o. Canada, from Viscount Alexander of Tunis, K. G., G. C. B., G. C. M. G., C. S. I., D. S. O., M. C., Grand Patron of the Canadian Olympic Association and of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada :*

*Government House,  
Ottawa, 27th Jan., 1947.*

*I am Patron of many things, all of which I am proud of, but none more than of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada and the Canadian Olympic Association. I have all my life loved games and sports and have a great admiration for those who are good at them.*

*I have played most games from cricket, golf, tennis, hockey, racquets football, ski-ing and track running, and, although I have never been an outstanding performer, I did once win the Irish mile championship in 1914, and was on the chosen list of those to run for England in the Olympic Games which were scheduled for Berlin in 1916.*

*I have had one ambition in my life, and that was to be an Olympic champion. As this has not come my way, my pleasure now is to take an active interest in those who may one day win what I have missed. But I don't feel this way for the sake of personal glorification, but because I believe that athletics, played in the right spirit, have a tremendous effect in developing the good qualities of an*

*individual. This is too well recognized to need enlarging on—it is something we all know.*

*Like most things in life, games, as such, have their good side and their not so good side. Amateur sports played in the right way are all good, because they develop moral qualities as well as physical.*

*The ideal is a high standard of amateur sport and for those who go to watch, and these are the great majority, it should elevate the soul of us older ones by recalling the glories of our youthful vigor, and spur the younger ones on to emulate the prowess of the stars of the day.*

*And this is not enough, for we should do what we can to provide facilities, grounds and opportunities for as many young people as possible to play, themselves, those glorious games which help build a sporting and healthy nation.*

*Here, in Canada, you have all the requirements needed, a fine race of young people of the best stock in the world, room enough for developing all the playgrounds you want, a magnificent and invigorating climate which allows you to play all the well-established games in summer and fall, and this lovely winter for its ice hockey, ski-ing, skating and curling. There is no reason why Canadians should not lead the world in sport.*

*The answer to that is up to you.*

*(Signed) ALEXANDER OF TUNIS.*