

CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION

THE HONOR OF THE PLAYING FIELD

By ARTHUR MEE

MANY of the great lessons of life come from the games we play in youth. The great healthful games are those played out of doors. In the playing field we should seek, and we may find, a strong arm, a sure aim, a steady eye, and dignity of bearing.

We should keep, as one of the mottoes of our outdoor life, the thought that a noble mind should live in a noble body.

We should play a game for its own sake, and never play it for profit at the expense of somebody else. If a game is not interesting enough in itself we should leave it alone.

Play the game for the game, and for nothing but the game.

Our games are our own lessons in noble things. The playing field is, in truth, the high school of life.

We must think of the game and not of ourselves. That game is lost in which one member of the team seeks his own glory. All should work together for a single cause, each playing his part for the general end.

Good sportsmanship, the surrender of self, obedience to the law that holds the team together—these things grow natu-

rally with every game we play, and we should cherish them as a part of ourselves. We should be staunch and loyal and true; our comrades must be able to rely on us.

Especially is it true that we should be good losers; we must be able to yield with grace and cheerfulness to a victor who has played the game. We should leave out haggling, quarreling, grudging, and disputing.

We should be willing to lose a thousand games rather than win one by the shadow of unfairness.

If we hold together in the nation as we hold together in the team, we shall give back to our country a hundredfold the talents entrusted to us.

If we are loyal to our team, to our school, we shall be loyal to our town and to our country. The very beginnings of patriotism lie in our games.

And now, young reader, put down this copy of *The Young Citizen* and go to your games. They will give you strength and courage; they will bring to you unselfishness and manliness. Play them to win, and win if you can do so fairly and honestly.—*Adapted.*

