

et d'entraide sont unis par un lien très étroit avec l'égalitarisme dont nous parlions tout à l'heure et qui n'est pas celui des conditions mais des relations, qui n'est pas celui des « ressources », mais celui des « manières », pourrait-on dire. Ainsi tout se tient et l'on conçoit parfaitement que le sport agisse en sens inverse de tout ce qui tend à encourager la guerre des classes. Il détruit l'envie par le fait de la justice absolue et quasi mathématique dont il se réclame. Il chasse la mauvaise humeur en installant à sa place la joie de vivre. Il diminue les distances jusqu'à parfois les anéantir, jusqu'à parfois renverser le sablier social en portant un modeste artisan au-dessus d'un prince. Il vivifie l'esprit de lutte, l'esprit d'effort, l'esprit de risque en adoucissant par la pratique d'un solidarisme inné en lui ce que le goût de la lutte, de l'effort et du risque pourrait engendrer de facheusement brutal ou de rude excessivement... Quel autre facteur trouverons-nous capable d'exercer une influence semblable sur les rapports sociaux ? Cette influence, on ne saurait trop y insister, s'exerce toute entière dans le sens de l'apaisement. Or il est des socialistes qui craignent l'apaisement, parce que les médiocres desseins conçus par eux et plus ou moins inavoués en seraient contrariés, compromis. Il en est d'autres qui, ne cherchant vraiment que le bien public de la façon dont ils le conçoivent, se montrent disposés à profiter du, renfort inattendu, vigoureux et acceptable par tous que le sport leur apporte.



How New-York City celebrates the Fourth of July.

Consequent to the many casualties which occurred at Fourth of July celebrations in New-York City prior to 1910, a Safe and Sane Fourth was suggested in which athletics events were to be a feature of the daylight celebration. The officers and members of the Metropolitan Association of the Amateur Athletic Union immediately volunteered their organization and services and at once started to interest city officials in a plan whereby a monster athletic celebration could be held to include every play ground in the metropolis. As a result, New-York now holds the honor

of having not only inaugurated the finest example of a sane athletic Fourth of July ever established but is being complimented and taken as a model by all progressive cities of the United States.

Through the untiring efforts of officers of the Metropolitan Association, this Independence Day celebration in New-York City has been established as a fixture and one which is looked forward by hundreds of thousands of citizens. The President of the Metropolitan Association, James E. Sullivan and its Vice-president F. W. Rubien have served under appointment of Mayor Gaynor as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Athletic committee. They in turn appoint sub-committees and directors of sports in the various parks.

From the report of Vice-President Rubien on Public Tracks and Playgrounds at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Association there were used for athletic celebrations on the Fourth of July 1910 which is the time when New-York celebration began to assume large proportions, the following parks and playgrounds : Seward Park, Tompkins Square Park, Hamilton Fish Park, St-Gabriel's Park, De Witt Clinton Park, Chelsea Park, Thomas Jefferson Park, Pastime grounds, South Field, Greenpoint Park, Mc Loughlin Park, Brooklyn Athletic Field, Commercial Field, Pelham Bay Park, Mc Comb's Dam Park, Crotona Park, Astoria Field, Curtis Field.

The most elaborate program ever attempted by any committee representing either nation, city, club or organization was arranged for the parks. Such gigantic plans to interest the youngsters of a city were never attempted before and that they have always been brought to a successful conclusion in each instance reflects great credit on those who have been in charge.

An idea of the magnitude of the plans arranged each year by the committee can be formed by the fact that events were held at each park for the boys of each of the following bodies : Amateur Athletic Union, Public Schools Athletic League, Parochial Schools, High Schools, Intersettlement Athletic League, Church Athletic League, Young men's Christian Association, Catholic Athletic League, Military Athletic League, Recreation centers and Playgrounds.

In arranging programs the committee had to take into consideration all the conditions surrounding each park. Particular attention had to be paid to the Public School boys, Parochial boys and to the boy known as the Playground boy. The interest

of the parents was enlisted through school principals etc... and they were present by the thousands to enjoy the youthful activities.

The general attendance in all cases was remarkable. At Greenpoint Park, a conservative estimate the first year placed the attendance at 20,000.

Monster undertakings of the character of the New-York Fourth of July Athletic celebrations cannot be brought to a successful conclusion without the cooperation of hundreds of experts in athletics and too much credit cannot be given to the 1913 amateur Athletic Union officials and Board members of the Metropolitan Association of the A. A. O. who have volunteered their services on this holiday for the past several years.

In connection with the Fourth of July sports there is also held a flag relay race, presided over by the Park commissioners and a separate feature has been exercises in over 250 schools of the great city. These represented summer schools under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. Patriotic exercises were held, the Declaration of Independence read and other suitable features, fitting for the day's program, were arranged.

Over 30,000 entry blanks are always required. These blanks are distributed among clubs, schools, churches, parks, athletic fields and all kinds of organizations where young men gather. For the celebration of 1912 over 30,000 contestants entered. There was no entry fee charged and to handle and direct the contests in which these young men took part, over one thousand officials were again required from the clubs and organizations in the Metropolitan Association of the A. A. U.

There were forty two parks, athletic playgrounds and recreation piers in use and an aggregate of 497 athletic events were given. The New-York Times estimated the number of spectators who witnessed these games at 300,000 and a total of 1492 gold, silver and bronze medals were distributed to the first, second and third, respectively, in each contest.

A committee appointed by Mayor Gaynor raised a large sum of money from voluntary contributions for the celebration and from this fund 1,536.25 dollars was allowed for athletic sports and the city of New-York contributed in addition the sum of 5000 dollars.

The success of the Fourth of July Safe and Sound celebration of the City of New-York was due to several interests, including that of the Metropolitan Association of the Amateur Athletic

Union of the United States : the co-operation of Park commissioner Stover who turned over to the Athletic committee all the parks under his jurisdiction, the Public Schools Athletic League which allowed the committee to use all its fields : the special schools committee of the Board of Education which turned over its playgrounds and co-operated in preparing other intertainsments and the Dock Department for use of piers.



Le handicapage de l'idée de retour.

Il vous est sans doute arrivé, lecteur — tous nos lecteurs nous aimons à le penser sont des sportifs — de faire à cheval, à bicyclette, en canot une excursion rapide d'un point à un autre et retour. Ce sont là des exercices très utiles et dont on ne saurait médire. Ils présentent pourtant un inconvénient sur lequel nous désirons formuler quelques observations. Si la notion du retour obligatoire incite excellemment à ménager les forces de façon à ne pas tout dépenser à l'aller, d'autre part elle contrarie et trouble l'élan sportif. C'est un art précieux que de savoir dépenser, ses forces de façon réglée et modérée; ainsi naissent l'endurance, le sang-froid, le calme, toutes qualités mi-physiques, mi-morales, dont la valeur est de premier ordre. Mais les élans sportifs d'un seul jet, vigoureux, spontanés... ceux-là ont aussi leur valeur qui n'est guère moindre; ils rendent audacieux. Et on nous concèdera que la prudence est médiocre lorsqu'elle ne se superpose pas à l'audace. Etre prudent sans plus, voilà tout juste une qualité. Mais être prudent quand d'autre part on sait être audacieux, voilà une qualité pour de bon.

Nous avons bien l'air d'épiloguer un brin. Nous venons de parler d'effort à faire par un cavalier, un cycliste, un rameur; nous pourrions citer encore le nageur ou l'alpiniste. Tous ces gens-là, dira-t-on, sont audacieux par leur acte même; s'ils se ménagent utilement en vue du retour, ils sont prudents par dessus le marché. Rien à reprendre donc ! D'accord mais n'empêche que si cette préoccupation du retour n'avait pas agi sur eux, leur élan sportif eut été plus franc. Or comme en éducation sportive, le rôle pédagogique de l'élan est immense, il importe