

sensational performances and have developed a huge branch of the entertainment industry, called 'professional sport' (although it is strictly business and not sport at all), which results in the production of spectators rather than participants, the very thing de Coubertin deplored. And politicians in some countries have conceived the idea that Olympic success is essential for national prestige and threaten the use of methods that violate the spirit of the Olympic Code.

It was not the Games as a sports spectacle which had the primary interest of Baron de Coubertin. He did not revive the Games merely to give contestants a chance to win medals and to break records, nor to entertain the public, nor to provide for the participants a stepping-stone to a career in professional sport, and certainly not to demonstrate the superiority of one political system over another.

His idea was that they would:

1) bring to the attention of the world the fact that a national program of physical training and competitive sport will not only develop stronger and healthier boys and girls but also, and perhaps more important, will make better and happier citizens through the character building that follows participation in properly administered amateur sport;

2) demonstrate the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship, which could be adopted with great advantage in many other spheres of activity;

3) stimulate interest in the fine arts through exhibitions and demonstrations, and thus contribute to a broader and more well rounded life;

4) teach that sport is play for fun and enjoyment and not to make money, and that with devotion to the task at hand the reward will take care of itself; the philosophy of the amateur as contrasted to that of materialism;

5) create international amity and good will, thus leading to a happier and more peaceful world.

*Le Comité de Pierre de Coubertin* can be of great service to the Olympic Movement by continuing to remind us of the ideals of the Renovator of the Games. The public must be taught the philosophy of the amateur and the rewards that it offers; that sport is for fun and for the self-satisfaction that comes from success, and not to make money. It must learn that the Olympic Movement is not just for the athletic elite. It is for all the youth of the world and not merely for the Champions. Take care of the youth and the Champions will take care of themselves. The social, educational, aesthetic, ethical and spiritual values of Amateur Sport properly administered are just as important as its contributions to physical well-being.

## Reply to 'In defence of Sport'

by

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(see our last *Bulletin*)

The Olympic Games in the brief period of three score years since their revival by the Baron de Coubertin, in 1896, have met with such phenomenal popular success and acclaim purely as a sport event, that the important objectives of the Olympic Movement which the Games were designed to promote, are sometimes in danger of being overlooked or forgotten. And this is not the only danger. Promoters have perceived the commercial value of sport because of public interest in the thrilling contests and