

	<h1>Editorial</h1>	



PROFESSIONALISM has been the spectre of athletic sport. It has been the shadow which has darkened a field brilliant with human endeavor. And it is a shadow, nothing less. The gigantic amateur associations of one kind and another have spent the better part of their time in frowning upon infringements of their arbitrary code. Professionalism has always been the bugbear of their dreams, the one force whose influence they feared the most.

In the great Institutions of Learning every effort has been made to stamp out professionalism. It has been pictured as a malign influence which threatened the entire structure of athletic sport. The individual who has been proved guilty of playing for gain has been thenceforth debarred from further participation in his college games.

The facts of the case are very simple. Amateur pastimes are indulged in for the pleasure they give the contestants. Amateur sport is therefore play, nothing more nor less. Professional sports on the other hand are participated in by trained athletes who have reached such proficiency in their particular line that people are willing to pay for the privilege of seeing them perform. Professional athletics as thus indulged in is work, simply work.

The days of Grecian splendor when men were content to spend a lifetime of patient endeavor to win a laurel crown are passed away. The age of fame has been replaced by the age of gold. None but the idealists will shed tears over this state of affairs, for the age of gold is immeasurably superior to its predecessor.

It may be well to keep intercollegiate sports on a purely amateur basis, though there seems to be no real reason why college students who are specially endowed by nature with a talent along some line of athletics should not help to pay the expenses of their education by its use and at the same time be eligible to defend their alma mater against rival institutions. Be that as it may, however, professionalism outside college walls has been the greatest factor in the evolution of modern sport. It has been the cornerstone of baseball's greatness. It has been the chief factor in the popularity of English football. It has revolutionized Canadian hockey.

Making a sport professional is merely placing it on a good business basis. The rules of amateur sport are at the best intangible and indefinite. In professional sport, however, they take on all the concrete solidity of business method and system.

And professionalism, far from being the rival and deadly foe of amateur sport, is its greatest ally. The moment a sport is placed on a working, professional basis it inspires tenfold interest, and a whole cluster of amateur clubs speedily gather about the parent professional organization.

There are several good games in America waiting to become professionalized. They have great possibilities, but lack the definite aim and concerted purpose which organization on a business basis would give them. The foremost of these pastimes which are pleading for the magic touch of organization is hockey. Make it a professional game firmly grounded and decently managed and you raise it at once to a position of commanding prominence in the world of sport.



THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE in this issue opens its campaign for the establishment of organized Ice Hockey in the United States. The difficulties which beset this task are many and the obstacles great, but the time is ripe for action. The great Canadian game is clamoring at our frontiers for admission and will not longer be denied. It brings with it the zest and eagerness of a strenuous people who have evolved for themselves a strenuous game. Ice Hockey is the baseball of winter, and in the home of summer baseball it is sure of a hearty welcome.

Hockey is a wonderful game. It is the national sport of a restless people whose creative activities are being directed toward the development of a land of boundless fertility, inexhaustible resources and limitless prospects.

The growth of the game has been phenomenal. It has developed by leaps and bounds. It has swept from coast to coast. It has penetrated into the farthest confines of that great empire which is presided over by the ancient Hudson Bay Company. And everywhere it has gone it has evoked a boundless enthusiasm. But already it has reached a point where it must sweep across the narrow confines of its southern boundary if it is to continue on its present rapid career of expansion.

Hockey is the one great winter game. It has no rivals in its own season. It has no rival in any season save its great companion, baseball. Hockey is to January what baseball is to June.

The United States must soon unite in the world-wide campaign of Ice Hockey. Already the fires of its wild enthusiasm are lighted in the northern cities of the Union. Already the pulse of America is beginning to tingle with the tang of the arctic air. The ring of steel on ice, the whirl of snowflakes and glitter of frost crystals are the heralds of its coming. All hail to Ice Hockey, the national game of Canada, the Game of Ice and Steel, the King of Winter Sports!



THE recent trouble over the world's series ticket scandal is happily at an end. The problem remains as much a mystery as ever, but it is hardly likely to occur again. And in any case the threatened hostilities between the two great divisions of organized baseball have ended in tranquil silence.

The sensational press, ever eager to snatch the smallest scrap of information and magnify it fourfold, is specially active when any question of national policy in baseball comes up for discussion. The result of all this is scarcely harmful were it not misleading. Personal differences among some of the leaders of the national game are exaggerated and dwelt upon with sinister effect until the complete destruction of the whole great structure is darkly hinted at.

The power of publicity wielded by the friendly press has made baseball the gigantic game it is. Perhaps in view of this service it is no more than fair that the press in a featureless season should play with the game a little.

But people are now beginning to realize that baseball is far too firmly established to ever be seriously disturbed by any personal differences of the men who direct its councils, for whatever these personal differences may be, one and all possess mutual interests and are united in the common cause. And the public is also coming to see that among sixteen men who are engaged in a colossal enterprise the major league magnates have no more nor greater differences than any similar body of men engaged in any other business.