

## OTTAWA TRACTION COMPANY LIMITED

248 ALBERT STREET

-2-

OTTAWA,  
CANADA.

compensation because we have no leisured class as in England and in some parts of the United States. The demand for compensation was unfortunately supplied in the beginning of these games, outside of the Universities. Now the whole amateur structure in Canada is honeycombed with veiled professionalism as a result, and I believe that it is too late to mend it except by permitting amateurs and professionals to play together as is done in cricket in England.

All over the country young men are signing affidavits which state that they are receiving no compensation whatsoever, when, as a matter of fact, it is not true. It is absolutely demoralizing, all the more so as the players are mostly very young men and in some cases only boys.

That is the reason why people like myself are supporting open, honest professional hockey, and that is why the public in Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton are deserting the amateur hockey games for the professional ones. I do not mention Montreal because I feel that the professional team there might be in better hands. I would, and I think most people would infinitely prefer to have these games amateur, but I am convinced that we cannot have honest amateurism, outside the universities, unless we have a very large leisured class in Canada, and that is only a remote possibility, and I am glad that it is.

I trust you will forgive me writing this gratuitous letter, but I thought that you might be interested in hearing a point of view that, no doubt, differs from the orthodox one held by most well to do people. I can honestly say that I formed these opinions from close contact with amateur hockey, and what I have done was done because I love hockey and want to help put it on a firm and decent basis. I am so situated that I do not need to or want to profit from it.

I would not think of writing this to you, sir, but I know from the conversations I have had with my oldest friend, Willis O'Connor, and from your speeches, how much value you set on having the young men of Canada lusty and athletic, and making hockey popular helps a lot in that direction.

Believe me, Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

*Frank Frank Ahearn*