

Galley Six

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—

Acting in the capacity of Secretary for the past three years has taught me a great many things about our Union, the place it is playing in the promotion and government of sport and the responsibilities that it should assume. This is the fortieth anniversary of the birth of our organization which through these years has accomplished most remarkable achievements owing to the self-sacrificing devotion of a long line of illustrious sportsmen. It is to them that we owe our gratitude for their foresight and perseverance in establishing and maintaining this organization which has played so important a part in the athletic affairs of our country. They carried on and succeeded in the face of many difficulties and have handed down to us a tradition which has taken a most important place in our national life and which, I trust, it will continue to do.

Times and conditions change and with these changes have come modifications in our organization to meet new problems and new situations, but time cannot change the traditions of sportsmanship and amateurism, the foundation stones on which our structure is erected.

The insidious tendencies of the present day toward the commercialization and professionalization of most forms of sport are tendencies which must be combated by all forces at our disposal and we must be constantly on the alert lest our own viewpoints are caught up and swept away by the on-rush of what to many are the all-important, but which in reality are merely the external and superficial.

The objects of the Union as stated in Article II. of the Constitution read in part as follows:—

"The improvement, promotion and regulation of athletic sports among amateurs.

"The incorporation of all eligible amateur athletic organizations in Canada into such separate Branches and representation in this Union as may be deemed best adapted to advance the cause of amateur athletics throughout Canada.

"The establishment and maintenance of allied membership with organization of general or special jurisdiction and composed of clubs or otherwise designated bodies of individual members, devoted wholly or partially to physical education or to some specialty in athletics.

"The establishment and maintenance throughout Canada of a uniform test of amateur standing, and uniform rules for the government of all athletic sports within its jurisdiction."

We have then, in consequence, adopted a definition of an amateur and certain rules and regulations to guide us in striving toward our objectives. In the past few years, we have witnessed a relaxation of several important principles and I have grave fears as to the outcome, should this tendency continue. We have chosen the side of amateurism, this is an **Amateur Union**, it was intended to be such forty years ago by those who handed it down to us and let us transmit it to the generation to come as strong or even stronger in its ideals of pure amateurism and noble sportsmanship.

It is not considered necessary to enumerate in detail the work carried on by your Secretary throughout the year, as the reports of the Chairmen of Committees will doubtless record the progress that has been made in the activities under their supervision. Mention may, however, be made of the fact that in addition to approximately 5,000 letters which have been written, forty-three (43) circular letters have been issued which either sought or transmitted information, thought to be of value. Special mention should perhaps be made of the following:—

(a) The establishment of a newly organized Maritime Provinces Branch and the deep debt of gratitude which this Union owes to Lt.-Col. Norman P. McLeod in effecting this reorganization.

(b) The consummation of Articles of Agreement with the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association.

(c) The co-operation between the Union and the Olympic Committee in the establishing of "Standards of Achievement" and the successful carrying out of a series of Sectional Meets, culminating in the Central Sectional Meet and Dominion Championships at Toronto on August 20th, 1927.

(d) The compilation of all amendments, records, rules for track and field, boxing, wrestling and handball, and the publication of same in pamphlet form.

(e) The new affiliations with International Federations in Fencing, Gymnastics, Bobsleighbing and Tobogganing.

(f) The Contribution made by the Union in the reorganization of the International Skating Union of America, the establishment of the Amateur Skating Union of America and the strengthening of the Amateur Skating Association of Canada.

(g) The establishment of a three-year contract with the D. R. Dingwall Company whereby a considerable saving will be effected in the purchase of the championship medals of the Union.

(h) The co-operation of the Union in the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation by special athletic meets and awards commemorative of the occasion.