

Sporting Comment

TOM LONGBOAT'S victories on the road are to bring him an education. That he will appreciate this great blessing is evidenced by his remark, "Won't have to work any more; only go to school." But while Tom's legs are undoubtedly of excellent quality, there is evidence to the effect that his intellect is that of the average Indian. And it is still a much troubled question whether education is a blessing or a curse to the average Red-skin. However, Toronto City Council, who are the originators of the education idea, are to be congratulated on their efforts to elevate the race. If the Queen City should produce a champion pugilist they would probably keep right on with their good work and give him a course in music or painting.

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Eddie Durnan has again challenged George Towns to row in England for the championship of the world, but the challenge does little except create remarks as to how professional rowing has deteriorated in the past twenty years. The Sportsman says England can boast but one professional oarsman worthy of the name and that even he is of doubtful quality. America has only Eddie Durnan and even his best friends do not claim that he classes with such giants of old as Hanlan, O'Connor, Gaudaur, Teemer and half-a-dozen others. Australia has Towns, who acted as chief assistant to old age in wresting the championship from Jake Gaudaur. Crookedness is the reason given by The Sportsman for the decadence of this sport. But is it not rather that great men in any line of sport, like great statesmen, come in bunches and that the interest they generate is responsible for the boom that always follows?

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The wild rush of associations and clubs to get under the sheltering wing of the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union would almost lead one to believe that all athletic Canada had come to look on the almighty dollar as a curse and that the millennium of sport is at hand. But it is well to remember that even in games "he who thinks must govern those who toil." It is not the active athlete who would draw the salary who is hustling for cover; it is the sensible management who would have to pay those salaries. The fact still remains that the great majority of athletes in Canada, though they are fond of glory do not hate money and there are a goodly number who would rather have the money than the medal.

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And as a matter of fact Canada is not peculiarly adapted to the strictest interpretation of amateur rules. In England the mechanic, or any one who has ever engaged in a menial occupation, is not eligible to compete in purely amateur competitions. Long experience has taught Englishmen that amateurism is too much of a luxury for the poor—that men whose living has to be earned by a daily grind had better make an extra dollar out of any special quality with which they have been endowed by nature.

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And to a great extent they are right. Take Longboat as an example. Down in Caledonia they will tell you that three square meals per day were a novelty to him till he started running. To-day he is a star of the first magnitude. He is fattening on flattery and about to be gilt-framed with education. Five or ten years from to-day where will he be? Ten chances to one he'll be back on the reservation with just enough education and taste for high life to make him dissatisfied. Forgotten by the public, he will probably have nothing to remind him of his glorious past but a photograph or two that won't pawn and memories that for his own peace would much better be forgotten.

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Of course all amateur authorities will

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