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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1920

NATIONAL NEED OF CLEAN SPORT

President D. Bruce Macdonald Outlines Needs and Dangers to Sport and State—Plays Bad Amateurs.

President D. B. Macdonald of Toronto, president of the A. A. U. of C., submitted the following presidential address, in part, on Friday morning at Winnipeg at the annual A. A. U. of C. meeting.

"I believe Canadian citizens worthy of the name are beginning to awaken to a sense of a life-giving principle in athletics, which will bring with it increased national vitality and ability to perform in the arena of everyday life.

"There is no doubt that an athletic people, playing the game for its own sake, will be a saner people for having made such use of its leisure hours. Nor can we, as a national governing body, afford to lose sight of the great value in character development which lies in the participation by youth in organized sports under the guiding principle of 'the game first and victory second.'

The Real Danger.

"The real danger we have to confront is not the professional athlete. He at least is honest and once for all elects to leave the realm of amateur sport for that of professional.

"It is the pseudo-amateur who provides the factor truly threatening to the welfare of the state. You can see his traces in padded expense accounts. Or it may be that at the close of a successful season, the management vote the player an honorarium. Such action is to adopt a low estimate of the quality of the athlete's manhood.

The Peripatetic.

Perhaps the most conspicuous example of pseudo-amateurism at the present time is furnished by the peripatetic player whose colors change from season to season. For this man himself is not so much to blame as the local men who in their eagerness to obtain victory do so at the cost of honor.

"In the long run it is the boy of the town who is robbed. For he misses his heritage of healthful sport for sport's sake, while he is brought up to believe the victory, and not the game, is the important thing. As such false ideas weaken the character of the man, so they will surely weaken the character of a nation.

"What the Canadian public needs is fewer touch line sports under thirty years of age, fewer so-called 'funs' who have never been contestants. The time comes when a man must look on while others strive, but he who has never been anything but a looker-on, is to be pitied. For his own sake, he should be known for his reticence rather than for his noisy opinion.

"A noise is often made and criticisms uttered by those whose chief concern is that the wager should be won and not lost."

ENDLESS PRACTICE IS HOPPE'S SECRET

Cue Champion Spends Hours
Daily Training the Ivories.

The question as to how Willie Hoppe does it—how he goes along year after year cuing his way through the strongest opposition that can be mustered against him—is the chief topic of conversation in billiard circles in New York. Ever since the perennial champion defeated Walter Cochran and Jake Schaefer in the tournament at the Hotel Astor last week enthusiasts have sought to find the answer of the champion's mastery of the ivories. They have sought to ascertain just why it is that no other seems able to step along the broad highway and measure strides with him.

When a close study of Hoppe's methods is made and when these methods are compared with those employed by others who have sought to strip him of the laurels he has so gracefully worn for the last fifteen years, or ever since he was eighteen years of age, the answer is simple enough. It is practice—close application to conscientious practice. It will surprise a great many to learn that even when the billiard season is at its height Hoppe spends at least two hours a day in practice. This does not include the time that he devotes to playing afternoon and evening exhibition matches.

After the recent tournament Hoppe was asked to what he attributed his success. He replied:

Hoppe's Secret.

"Practice. Billiard playing is my profession. A man in any other profession or business devotes at least seven hours a day to work, doesn't he? That being true, why shouldn't a man who makes billiards his work do the same thing? I put in an average of four hours a day playing exhibition matches in the afternoon and evening. I also devote two hours in the morning to practice. On days when I have no matches scheduled, and I am in a position to do so—that is to say when I am not on a train making a jump from one city to another—I manage to put in at least a two-hour session at the table in the morning and follow this with three hours' work in the afternoon.

"When I am playing an exhibition or a match game I always make a mental note of the shots that I miss or those that I have failed to play accurately. It is these shots that I practice. I try to remember the exact position the balls were in and then I place them. I keep playing the shot, not until I make it once or twice, but until it becomes almost second nature to me to make it properly. Naturally, in making shots I am always seeking to make them in a way that will give me the best position for a succeeding shot. Position is everything in billiards. A player who simply plays ball to ball, billiards, with no thought of the position the balls will be in after the immediate point has been made, cannot hope to get very far in competitive billiards."

Charlie Peterson, a famous fancy shot maker who knows as much about Hoppe and the champion's work as any one, declared: "I have never seen such a hard worker. He is a glutton for work. One might think when a man had attained the perfection of play that Hoppe has that he would be inclined to shirk practice; that he would get enough billiards in his exhibition matches to satiate him, and make him want to remain away from the table until it was absolutely necessary for him to play a game. But that is not so. He is at it all the time."

RATS AND POISON GAS.

(The Outlook.)

Photographs come from Paris showing a war on rats, which have been very destructive. But the despised rat once did the French a good turn, according to Col. Repington's just-published history of the

war. He says: "On the parapets of the front trenches are what look like window flower boxes. They contain chemical materials for making a smoke screen to lift the German gas when it comes. All the rats in the trenches congregate round these smoke boxes when the gas comes, as they realize that they save them from

asphyxiation. This process of lifting the German poison gas was discovered quite by chance. During a gas attack some straw was set on fire by accident and forced the German smoke up. The rats came in swarms to squat around the burning straw, and gave the French the hint."

KING WILL SIGN

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

London, Dec. 16.—In the house of lords tonight, the lord chancellor announced that the royal assent would be given to the home rule bill on Saturday.

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