

School Athletic Associations. The interest and the leadership given by state universities; the handling of athletics as a direct administration problem in the office of the city superintendent as at Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit, and other cities; the direct management by state directors of physical education and health as executive officers of the state high school athletic association such as at Michigan and New York,—these and many others are signs that we are trying to put athletics on an educational basis.

The danger signs, however, are many. State tournaments develop the spirit to win. Winning becomes the only idea. The expenses for athletics mount rapidly and this demands gate receipts, gate receipts demand winning exhibitions. Athletics becomes an affair of the arena, so we have high schools building stadiums at a cost of a quarter to half a million dollars, and gymnasiums being turned into arenas. The tendency is to neglect the physical welfare of the entire student body. Little is done in intramurals. Emphasis is placed upon the coaching of the four varsity teams in track, football, basket ball, and baseball. No longer is athletics a school affair but the high school team is adopted as the town's team. No longer are stadiums composed of high school students, but is dominantly composed of town folks. Every high school in a small town has a downtown Strategy Board. These are some of the danger signs.

National Federation Resolutions

A few big constructive happy signs, however, are as follows:

At the annual meeting of the National Council of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, the following resolutions were adopted. It is significant that the National Federation has gone on record as against not only national basket ball tournaments but also interstate basket ball tournaments:

WHEREAS, Our high school athletics are constantly being exploited by agencies and for purposes generally devoid of any educational aims and ideals, specifically; for purposes of advertising, publicity, community, institutional and personal prestige, financial gain, entertainment and amusement, the recruiting of athletic teams and other purposes, none of which has much in common with the objectives of high school education; and

WHEREAS, This exploitation tends to promote a tremendously exaggerated program of interscholastic contests, detrimental to the academic objectives of the high schools through a wholly indefensible distortion of values, and, in general, subversive of any sane program of physical education; and