COLLEGES TO FIGHT A. A. U., SAYS FUESSLE

Writer in The Outlook Declares They Are Uniting to Control Olympic Teams.

CALLS UNION A USURPER

Has Become a Hierarchy of Bosses, He Charges, Indifferent to High Standards.

INSISTS IT LACKS IDEALS

Cares Nothing for Character of Contestants, He Asserts, Citing the 1920 Games.

The unification of college athletics in the National Collegiate Athletic Association is looked upon as the means of shattering the control of American participation in the next Olympic games, which is at present held by the Amateur Athletic Union through the American Olympic Association, according to an article by Newton Fuessle in the Outlook of April 19. The two organizations are at war over the ideals which should govern amateur athletics in the United States, and which are necessarily reflected in the Olympic games according to which organization controls it.

The growing control of college athletics by the faculties, illustrated by the recent upheaval in Princeton athletics, when three team captains were declared ineligible by a committee composed of representatives of the faculties of three universities, is regarded with "suspicion and distrust" by the A. A. U., according to Mr. Fuessle.

"They stand for the exploitation of stars as against the development of careful physical education on broad and general lines," he says of the A. A. U.

The fight being made by the college association on the A. A. U. is led by General Palmer E. Pierce, President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Declares Ideals Vary Greatly.

Mr. Fuessle explains the differences between the two organizations by saying that the Secretary of the A. A. U. claims he can pick the Olympic contenders merely by referring to athletes' records on file in his office, whereas General Pierce contends that "no one should represent the United States at the Olympic Games unless he measures fully up to the proper standards of character, clean living and the amateur spirit, as well as possessing the requisite skill in competition. He claims that the proper selection cannot be made at a distance, but must spring from the intimate familiarity of wise and judicious local committees, which alone are intrinsically able to judge whether an individual is fit to compete."

Conditions during the last trip of American athletes to the Olympic Games in Antwerp were the cause which led to the fight being made on the A. A. U. At that time charges of improper housing and maintenance were made by athletes, but Mr. Fuessle goes a step further and tells of the conduct of some members of teams which he gives as illustration of the need for more careful selection of candidates.

"A number of men were drunk when they boarded the Buford and the Princess Matoika, on which they sailed," he says. "One athlete, in the course of a brawl, nearly succeeded in throwing a trainer overboard. Another stuck his head into the hold in the middle of the night and yelled 'Fire!' It is claimed that many of the men on the team were not amateurs in spirit. Some of them are known to have duplicated their expense accounts. Others became professionals in boxing and other sports immediately after their return from abroad."

Charges Usurpation of Control.

"The usurpation of authority by the Amateur Athletic Union," he continues, "and the kind of war that has sprung up between that organization and other more representative athletic interests is not confined to America alone. Troubles of the same sort have developed in both England and France, where various groups are likewise fighting strenuously for control of athletics."

The Amateur Athletic Union does not represent the large number of organizations from which the country's athletic strength is recruted, says Mr. Fuessle, who calls it a "self-appointed and self-perpetuating hierarchy of bosses." It refuses to co-operate with colleges and universities, the War and Navy Departments, the Y. M. C. A., the National Lawn Tennis Association or the Boy Scouts, although these bodies made overtures in an effort to do what was best for sport.

"What promised to be a friendly and generally useful interchange of ideas for the wise promotion of sports has developed into a booming controversy that threatens to shake the structure of our amateur athletics to its foundations," he says.

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