

iary advantage from the event.

The question that is pertinent at the present time is this: Is it necessary or best to make this distinction? We may be sure that when a rule is universal there must be some good reason for its being in force. An artificial distinction can not long exist.

It needs no seer to foretell the result of commercializing athletics. The man who steals a little time from his study or his business to perfect his skill is met by the man who steals just a little more, and he in turn is defeated by the man who appropriates more still. This is an endless evil that defeats itself only after it has slain its victims.

Let us look at the arguments in favor of commercializing sport.

First, there is an opportunity for some men to make a legitimate living. Baseball is essentially a professional game and every summer there are a great many men who make the main part of their livelihood by playing ball. In regard to this vocation there is no reason why men should not pursue it any more than there is objection to an actor's making a business of entertaining.

Second, any man who has the ability ought to be permitted to turn skill into coin, even if he does not make a business of sport. In many cases this money is put to a good use, e. g., paying the expenses of a college course.

Third, every man has a right to represent his institution regardless of his past record in making a living in a certain way. This is a legal side of the question and one that has not been brought prominently to the front.

Fourth, the distinction between amateur and professional tends to induce men to perjure themselves in order that they may play in the game desired.

Fifth, the abolition of the distinction would result in developing ball-playing in colleges and athletic clubs, and the standard would be raised.

Sixth, it would give some young men a chance to develop into specialists in the game.

Seventh, it would hold out hope of the time when skill would be a source of income, not a means of livelihood. It would encourage the spread of athletic ability and its consequent health and virility.

The arguments for a distinction between the man who makes sport a source of gain and the man who does not are: