

ONLY SORROW FOR THORPE

THE SIN OF PLAYING BASEBALL ADMITTED BY THE GREAT ATHLETE.

Yale and Harvard Football Stars Received More Money for "Writing," but They Are True Amateurs—Thorpe Has Returned All Trophies.

New York, Jan. 25.—Nothing but expressions of sympathy were heard here today over the plight of Jim Thorpe, the big Indian athlete, who was yesterday condemned out of his own mouth of the sin of professionalism because he played ball—a true American sport—with a now defunct league and has thus been read out of amateur athletics and all of the trophies that he won by his gallant work in Sweden ordered returned to the Olympic committee. But there was much bitter condemnation for the management of the A. A. U. for the manner in which it has handled the Thorpe case as contrasted with hundreds of cases of real professionalism.

The committee did right, it was conceded, in repudiating Thorpe, and in ordering the return of all his prizes. But there is an undercurrent of resentment that the committee had not taken cognizance of the fact that the big Indian had played professional baseball before his Olympic entry was put through. It was admitted that if the A. A. U. had any real method of investigation the farce which will certainly be acted upon by the nations on the other side to renew their attacks upon American athletic methods would have been prevented.

A. A. U. METHODS ARE ANTIQUATED.

The present registration methods of the A. A. U. are antiquated. There are any number of professionals masquerading as amateurs and it is pointed out that Thorpe, who played the game for the love of it, had been disqualified although he received very little money, while Drickley, the Harvard football star, and Flynn of Yale and a score of others during the recent football season earned more for one article from their pens—and in most instances they did not actually write a sentence—than Thorpe did for a whole season of ball playing in the bushes, but they retain their standing.

There was a general feeling among the real lovers of athletics today that something should be done to give Jim Thorpe the recognition that his mighty deeds deserved, despite the fact that all the records he made are now automatically wiped out by the A. A. U. Thorpe's clean breast of the matter, saving time and trouble, was accepted as a real proof of sportsmanship, and although the trophies of royalty will go to others, sporting experts unanimously concede that Thorpe will be more respected than ever, for not having "tried to lie out of it."

HAS RETURNED ALL TROPHIES.

The trophies won by Thorpe are already en route to J. E. Sullivan, and will be immediately sent back to Sweden to be given to the contestants who finished second to the incomparable Indian.

Notwithstanding the disqualification of Thorpe, the United States still remains in the lead in the readjusted program of the results of the last Olympic games. Sweden gets second place in the list. In the Decathlon Swedish athletes finished second, third and fourth to the American, and the five points are added to their total, making them 32, and putting them ahead of Finland.

The total of the United States is reduced from 85 to 79, through the loss of the Thorpe points. J. J. Donahue of the United States takes second instead of third, in the Pentathlon, first honors in which now go to F. H. He of Norway.