

THORPE BAN ABSURD, SAYS RED SOX CHIEF

President McAleer Regards
Rules as Neither Just
Nor Sensible.

CAN'T LAUD INDIAN

Old-Time Distinction Between
Amateur and "Pro" Has Been
Largely Outgrown.

"To me it seems absurd," said President James H. McAleer of the Red Sox yesterday, "that Jim Thorpe should be considered a professional in track sports because he has played baseball professionally. I am aware that there are rules to this effect, and I do not commend Thorpe for having concealed the fact that he had transgressed them. But the rules themselves do not seem to me to be either just or sensible.

"I should say that the conventional distinction between 'amateur' and 'professional' is more or less a survival from a conception of social life which the world has outgrown, just as it has outgrown the idea that kings rule by divine right.

Nothing Demeaning in Baseball

"It is hardly a twentieth century idea that there is anything demeaning in the act of playing baseball professionally. A professional baseball player does not have to say 'sir' to anybody or to enter the clubhouse or hotel by the side door.

"The notion that a professional baseball player cannot regard even his own particular game from a thoroughly sportsmanlike standpoint is merely silly. The professional understands the amateur point of view even though the force of circumstances compel him to regard it as a luxury which he personally cannot afford. He can turn to other branches of sport, however, and participate in them with just the same kind of pleasure and the same love of sport for its own sake which the best amateur of them all experiences.

"When it comes to baseball, I should say that any expert amateur player, who was really 'stuck on the game' would feel a decided temptation to try to join a professional club, as only by so doing could he 'find out just how good he was.'

"His Nature Not Changed

"Playing baseball for money doesn't essentially change a man's nature, any more than it changes his nature to sell goods on the road. It may modify it in time, but I have seen veteran leaguers cry over a defeat, and I've seen college amateurs who I knew were not bluffing. I'll bet you Snodgrass would rather not have got a best for playing in the world's series than to have muffed that fly in one game.

"I don't think a boy who plays ball professionally should be allowed to play ball as an amateur. I very decidedly believe that he should be allowed to row, or play football, or run on the track or take part in any other branch of school, college or amateur sport. Thorpe's baseball playing did him no good as a track athlete. In fact, baseball tends a little to stiffen a man up, and so unfit him for track athletics. If the contrary were the case, there might be a chance for an argument."