

Football Reform and Undergraduates

Responses from Several Colleges to Dr. Hopkins's Proposals

TWO weeks ago The Outlook recorded the proposals of the President of Dartmouth College in the interest of making football a less intensive, more normal college activity by limiting football to sophomores and juniors, by arranging for games to be played simultaneously on the fields of both participating colleges by teams from each college, and by coaching by seniors. Without attempting a general canvass, The Outlook has sought expression of undergraduate opinion on these proposals from three sources: first, Dartmouth itself; second, the so-called "Big Three," which instituted other reforms some five years ago; and, third, one or two universities in the Middle Western Conference, which has been active in maintaining athletic standards. The response has come in the form of editorial expression in college papers.

From the "Dartmouth:"

Destructive criticism will run rampant. We believe, however, that the wisdom behind the proposal will be able to offset the opposition of a football-loving public. Whether the changes suggested will be realized in their entirety is somewhat doubtful, but we predict that some definite modification will result, and that is more than has resulted in the past.

From the "Harvard Crimson:"

The first and second of these propositions immediately throw open to a much larger number of undergraduates opportunities for participation in football. The first also frees seniors from the demands of intercollegiate competition and enables them to devote themselves exclusively to the primary purpose of the college.

Most important of all, the home-and-home arrangement will diminish, may even destroy, the whole public emphasis now devoted to the university eleven. With two teams of equal strength instead of one there no longer will be any varsity for the papers to write about and the public to talk about incessantly for two months every autumn.

It will end the Saturday emigrations of the undergraduate body. Furthermore, it would seem a logical deduction that two teams playing the same intercollegiate schedule would develop an intramural rivalry which might even outweigh the interest incidental to the outside games. . . .

The reform of the abuses to which intercollegiate football is at present subjected, the further development of intramural sports and athletics for all—on these things Harvard and Dart-

mouth agree. Toward attaining these ends Harvard has so far chosen to be slow and cautious. That method, certainly useful when sympathy among other colleges for Harvard's aims appeared doubtful, is no longer necessary.

Dartmouth has taken the lead. Harvard, in view of its announced principles, can do nothing less than co-operate to the fullest extent possible.

From the "Yale Daily News:"

Without attempting to weigh the value of the specific methods by which President Hopkins would eliminate the undesirable features of football, it is apparent that they imply a sweeping reform of the entire athletic system of American colleges. He is applying a severe mechanical remedy to a condition that has been gradually developing for the last thirty years. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the traditional English attitude toward athletics which makes them merely recreational activities does not exist in the American colleges. That it does not is only too evident in the seriousness with which we take our so-called pastimes—the cause of the conditions which the suggested reforms would eliminate. President Hopkins's proposals will not be generally looked upon with favor until the prevailing attitude toward amateur athletics has changed, but in the movement in the direction of this goal he has already become a leader. Even if his suggestions do no more than to arouse interest in the question of athletic reform and to draw forth a widespread expression of opinion, his efforts will not have been in vain.

From the "Daily Princetonian:"

President Hopkins has doubtless foreseen a state of affairs wherein, by the substitution of two teams of juniors and sophomores for one representing the entire college, interest in football as a spectacle and as a symbol to the alumni would vanish, to be replaced by an enthusiasm for the game as a game, to be played for relaxation—in short, the English situation. Dr. Kennedy [in a statement on behalf of Princeton about Dr. Hopkins's proposals], on the other hand, who has taken more heed to the peculiar American theory and practice, foresees a renaissance of proselytizing, with other undesirable features, and little change in the prevailing attitude. We are forced to place our money on the latter alternative as the more likely to occur. To remove from collegiate football this bugbear of overemphasis—which, although a bit ri-

diculous, hardly seems to us personally to be worth the fuss which is being made over it—the American attitude toward athletics must be rendered less serious and more truly sportive by a process of education. Until then, to abolish old rules and make new ones is to let ourselves in for old evils without bettering our condition.

From the "Michigan Daily:"

His proposal . . . would seem to bring little improvement, if, in fact, any is needed. Student coaching, both in its physical and moral aspects, would be mediocre. Though the proficiency of the players would be lowered, student and alumni interest would very likely continue as great. His suggestion of a "home-and-home" arrangement of games is open to the same arguments advanced against the proposal when it was being considered in the Big Ten Conference. In brief, it is questionable if the plan would remove the criticism of commerciality from football, better the seating situation, distribute glory to more coaches and players, increase loyalty to the institution, or enable students to receive more from their academic pursuits.

ROBERT B. MACPHAIL, the captain elect of Dartmouth's 1927 football team, considers his President's suggestions "a commendable step to clean football of many of its faults," and he deems as likely to be especially beneficial the proposal to have seniors not play football. But he believes that playing reciprocal games on the same day would "result in the two best teams meeting, relegating the other game to a contest of second teams."

An undergraduate survey at Wesleyan College (Middletown, Connecticut), reported simultaneously with Dr. Hopkins's proposals at Dartmouth in favor of the two-year rule:

Our chief concern is to widen the range of men who will experience varsity play. The additional benefit gained by a shortstop in four successive years on a varsity baseball team is analogous to the benefit derived by an honor student repeating Astronomy I throughout his college course. Through teaching a sport in which we have shown varsity caliber we would learn more than through playing our position a second varsity season. There is no question but that all of us who are on varsity teams are accomplishing in our senior year only a fraction of what we might achieve were it not for the incursions of varsity practice demands.

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The Ranch for Recreation

A New Phase of Summer Outdoor Life in America

By DON C. SEITZ

IT was Colonel Theodore Roosevelt who gave us our first glimpse of ranch life as a form of health-giving recreation, but, outside of regular ranch dwellers, few Americans availed themselves of the wide-open spaces. The development of the National Park system in the Rockies has tempted many Eastern folks to visit the big out-of-doors, and with this has come the mutualization of the ranch as a resort. The result is a fast-growing use of the open for warm-weather diversion, chiefly in the Northwest.

Here ranch owners have now arranged comfortable accommodations for guests who would ride broncos, learn to throw a riata, wear "chaps" and spurs, sombreros and gaudy kerchiefs. They can gallop gloriously over the plains, follow mountain paths, hunt bears, and be as robust as they like. The Yellowstone country makes a special bid, giving as it does the greatest variety of scene and the finest opportunity for adventure. Thanks to the great park spaces, the region is as wild as when it was first explored. None of its attractions have been dimmed by civilization; only the ranchmen have taken the edges off the rough spots in affording accommodations and conveniences. It is not necessary to live a hard life to enjoy the great feast offered by nature.

The several reserves accessible from ranches include the Teton National Forest, the Gallatin, Madison, Beaverhead, Targhee, Salmon, Lemhi, Helena, Jefferson,

the Bitter Root, the Lolo, Selway, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Pend Oreille, Kootenai, Coeur d'Alene, Cabinet, St. Joe, Missoula, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Blackfeet, the Absaraka (where Colonel Roosevelt hunted much), the Beartooth, the Shoshone, the Custer, and the great Yellowstone Park itself. Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho all hold out welcoming hands to the visitor who would like a sniff of air unflavored with monoxide, a fast ride over the plains, or a climb on horseback up a mountain trail. In the parks, of course, hunting must be done with the camera—a more satisfactory sport, after all, than shooting the wild folk.

Out there the horse is still king, and inviting days in the saddle call loudly to dwellers in the effete East. The ranchmen have found it profitable to develop the attractions of their establishments, at the same time preserving all of their realities. Jackson's Hole as a resort for visitors, instead of a hiding-place for ruffians, is something of a shift, but the scenery has not changed, and the elk are more plentiful. It is possible to meet the buffalo on his native heath and to exchange salutations with the grizzlies.

Scores of ranches are now available for the entertainment of guests. These are easily accessible from the Northwestern transcontinental railways, and afford a variety of pleasuring not to be found elsewhere. Indians are plenty, too, and Tame Crows, Piegons, Nez Perces, Blackfeet, and

other good red people abound. They take kindly to visitors.

By this new process of refreshing the native parks will come to have increased value to the people to whom they belong. The region rings with romance; its ranchmen preserve the traditions of their exciting past. Only the "bad men" are gone. The great mountains thrill the eye, the racing broncos arouse the blood, and the ozone gives to cramped lungs an excuse for expansion that means a renewal of health and vigor.

For those who wish to go farther afield the Alberta plains in Canada offer ample accommodations for the adventurers. Her local ranches can be rented fully equipped and the visitor can to all intents be a home in surroundings exclusively his own. Limitless room exists for rough riding and the region is easily accessible.

Down in Arizona the ranches are year-round rendezvous for nature-lovers. Her one rubs shoulders with Spain by way of the new and old Mexicos. The Sierr Madres in Mexico rise majestically, towering over the very sky itself. Blackta deer, bear, mountain lions, wildcats, and small game plentifully abound. It is still almost virgin country.

The quaint old missions offer interest old customs and manners have survived down through the generations. Beautiful walks and drives and the abundance of wild life make Arizona an untouched natural paradise.