

Sport Recrudescence on Heels of Army Training

Returning Soldiers, Often Physically Fit for First Time in Their Lives, Show Active Interest in Golf, Tennis, Baseball, and Other Exercise

ATLETIC activity during the coming season should set a new mark in American sports. Army life has aroused a new interest for out-of-door games. Youths whose diversion in the past has been nothing more vigorous than billiards have learned in military service to exercise, and they like it. After that strenuous training the American boy is going to get out and do something himself.

After a year of soldiering a young man who lives at 110th Street now walks back and forth to Forty-second Street every day to business. Hiking has become a habit with him. Unless he walks five or six miles a day he doesn't feel fit. This is the spirit which is likely to bring about a great revival of sports during the Spring and Summer. Golf and tennis are the sports which probably will command the greatest interest among amateurs. Championships have been restored and new events have been instituted. The golf people have started new tournaments for junior players, while the national tennis officials have given even greater encouragement to the development of promising talent among the boys. The United States National Lawn Tennis Association is already receiving applications for tournaments in all sections of the country.

A renewal of the Davis Cup matches will bring the United States back into international play in 1920 or sooner. Italy has challenged Australasia for the Davis Cup, and this action may bring about international competition at the end of 1919. International golf play is not improbable this season. Golfers especially are enthusiastic about the coming season, for the links furnish a common meeting ground for men who can meet each other in no other way. Courses are going to be improved, new courses are to be built and, in the larger cities, there is a cry already for more public golf courses and more public tennis courts in the parks. The ranking tennis players of 1916 will be out of service and available for the championship singles at Forest Hills on Aug. 25. The best known of the amateur golfers who have been in the service will be free to compete when the big tournaments come along.

Athletics proved such a valuable ad-

junct to military training in the colleges that practically the entire student bodies have been induced to participate in some branch of sport. Depleted athletic treasuries have forced a curtailment of expenses in several colleges, but with the renewal of the big football games in the Fall all the most interesting college athletic classics will return to normal. Mass athletics has brought the whole student body into action and intramural competition has brought students to the running track or baseball diamond who used to spend much of their exercise periods in the college library.

College track games, baseball games,

everything else to produce a winning team.

Returning soldiers have already sought places in athletic clubs, and the Amateur Athletic Union predicts the greatest outdoor season in its history. Running, jumping, boxing, hurdling, soccer football, volley ball, and baseball were popular sports with the soldiers over seas and in this country. Another sport which the army has brought into prominence is polo. This game was played in every camp where cavalry was stationed, and it was one of the best methods of training the mounts for service.

proved a valuable aid in military training and was of practical value to the soldiers, not only in handling themselves, but in developing confidence and judgment. Where, before the war, there was one amateur who knew how to use his fists, today there are thousands. It means a great boom of amateur boxing in clubs and athletic associations.

An unusually successful season is in prospect for baseball, professional and amateur. It was the favorite game with the soldiers and was played in camps more than any other form of sport. It has been introduced in England, France, and Italy, and may in time become an international game. The soldiers of the allied armies found great difficulty in mastering the points of the sport, which come so readily to the Yankee youth. It will take many years to establish the sport in Europe, for it is a game which cannot be played well except by those who begin to play in boyhood.

The presence of professional baseball players among the ranks of the soldiers added to their interest in the game, for there is no one figure in sport who has such an appeal to the American youth's hero worship as the big league ball player. The major leagues, after two years of subdued interest, find a public anxiously awaiting the opening of the cham-

pionship season on April 23. It is expected that all, or nearly all, of the players will be out of the camps in time for the opening game. There was so much baseball played by the army during the last year that it interested boys who were never before able to distinguish a bat from first base. Army baseball has recruited a new army of fans to the standard of the major leagues. The baseball public this Summer will be more numerous and more enthusiastic than in the past.

Many changes have been made in the executive end of baseball which should prove beneficial. The club owners have seen the wisdom of keeping the commercial end of the game in the background as much as possible and centring attention on the sporting feature of the game. There is little doubt that the standard of



A Forecast of the Golf Links Next Summer—Crowds Like This Typical Tournament "Gallery" at Siwanoy Are Waiting for Warm Weather to Relieve Their Favorite Sport of the Wartime Blight.

and boat races will come back with renewed interest in the Spring. Triangular and dual track meets will be numerous and the intercollegiate championships will be a greater athletic spectacle than ever before. Yale and Harvard are even talking of sending crews to England. Two years of forced absence of normal intercollegiate competition has given opportunity to eliminate some of the features of intercollegiate sport which brought about Faculty disapproval.

Excessive extravagance in connection with training and coaching has been curtailed, and the second-rate athlete is not going to be thrust aside to give a monopoly to the specialized star. Athletics for the many instead of the few has been inaugurated. This season offers the colleges an opportunity they have sought for years to inaugurate a policy of sports for sport's sake, instead of sacrificing

The excellent showing of the American mount in the war will add to the interest in breeding, which will mean more racing and polo during the coming season. The Polo Association has re-established all its championship events and is looking forward to the revival of international polo in 1920. In anticipation of this event, the Long Island Polo colony and other clubs are planning a great season.

Many prominent horsemen, who withdrew their patronage from the race-tracks during the war, will again sport their colors this Spring. The Jockey Club announces that there is a remarkably bright outlook for the thoroughbreds in the countrywide renewal of sporting activities.

Boxing has become such a popular sport in the army and navy that there is a movement to legalize the sport in States where it is now prohibited. It



Polo Players of Squadrons A and C in Van Cortlandt Park, Near the Old Van Cortlandt Mansion.

Brown Bros.