



TAIL OF WOE.

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THE OLYMPIC GAMES

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international sports program that has become the modern Olympic Games. His early organizing efforts were concentrated in schools and colleges, and most of his early helpers were college professors, who gave time, money and academic prestige to the cause.

The inaugural modern Olympic gathering at Athens in 1896 was a great success. The games in 1900 at Paris were rather submerged in a World's Fair that was being held there at the same time and the 1904 Olympic Games at St. Louis suffered from the same handicap. There was an "intercalary" set of Olympic Games at Athens in 1906 that was quite successful and then the scene shifted to London and a bitter brawl in the Olympic Games of 1908. The visiting athletes didn't like the way the British were running the show and didn't hesitate to say so. It can be stated modestly that United States voices were loudest and longest in critical comment on the British handling of the situation but the athletes and officials of other nations joined in to set what still remain as the Olympic record for the running high dudgeon in all directions.

However, great good came from this quarrelsome gathering because the sound and fury led to a complete

change in the system of conducting the games. Since 1908—and because of 1908—the actual competition in the various sports on the Olympic program is under complete control of the international governing bodies of those sports. There is nothing national. The Olympic Games are not allotted to a nation; they are assigned to a city. The selected city provides the physical equipment and natural requirements for the program. The officials are appointed by the international governing bodies of the different sports.

The athletes are young. The officials are human. Mistakes are made now and then. Nationalism and sectionalism and race prejudice have not yet been eradicated from the human mind. Hence there still occur exhibitions of poor sportsmanship. This arouses cynics to point out laughingly that the Olympic Games, allegedly designed to promote international amity, were in fact promoting international enmity. Of course, of a hundred athletes from different nations gathered for competition, four who are fighting will attract more notice than ninety-six getting along well together. If the Olympic ideal is vain, if the more we get together the more fighting we do, then the human race is inherently vicious and there is no hope for the world.

