

# WORLD SPORTS ARE DECLARED CURE FOR WAR

## Games in Place of Goose Step Would Have Preserved Peace, Says Creed

World peace and its concomitant—settled conditions of trade and commerce—depend on an international understanding based on fair play for all and a sporting chance for the less powerful, says Capt. Percy Redfern Creed, noted British military organizer, writer and sportsman. He goes a little farther than this—he says



**CAPT. PERCY REDFERN CREED**  
British Sports Writer and Secretary of  
Sportsmanship Brotherhood Organized  
in Boston to Promote World Peace.

that international sports—the setting up throughout the world of a free-masonry of sportsmanship—is perhaps one of the most dependable relationships in which men of different nations can meet and agree. He sees, then, in sports and games, the straightest and surest road to that condition of harmony which the world, through the usual agencies of politics and diplomacy, is finding so difficult to attain.

Captain Creed, himself a sportsman of wide acquaintance and influence especially in polo, a game with which he has been closely associated for many years, came to Boston early in the year with the idea of impressing on American sportsmen the political value of sport.

### "Sportsmanship Brotherhood"

The idea instantly commended itself to all who heard of it. Among those impressed with its soundness was John P. Bowditch of 50 Congress Street, Boston. Mr. Bowditch, some three years ago, put into operation a similar plan on a small scale, when he offered prizes in the Framingham schools for the pupil who showed the best sportsmanship throughout the year—not for the best athlete, but for the best "sport"—which is not always the same thing. This prize has become the most prized trophy in these schools. Thus the originator of this plan now becomes the founder of what is to be known as the Sportsmanship Brotherhood, the charter members of which include some 25 of Boston's foremost citizens.

The object of the brotherhood is "to foster and spread the spirit of sportsmanship throughout the world," and its code of honor—the code of a sportsman—is that he shall:

- Keep the rules;
- Keep faith with his comrades, play the game for his side;
- Keep himself fit;
- Keep his temper;
- Keep from hitting a man when he is down;
- Keep down his pride in victory;
- Keep a stout heart in defeat, accepted with good grace;
- Keep a sound soul and a clean mind in a healthy body.

Establishing the peace of the world through the medium of sports and games is a new idea, seemingly. In

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the words of Captain Creed, "the founding of the brotherhood is America's contribution to democracy." He believes it will succeed where other agencies appear to have made scant headway.

Interviewed by a representative of The Christian Science Monitor today, Captain Creed, who has been made secretary of the brotherhood explained the plan. In the first place no elaborate organization is to be set up. It is not the idea to make the Sportsmanship Brotherhood a vast and distinct machine. It is not another order along the lines of the Boy Scouts. Rather it proposes the utilization of any visible machinery for "putting across" the "big idea"—fair play. It might be through the Boy Scouts, Rotary clubs, schools, in fact through any organization whatever, that chose to be a part of it.

This sportsmanship idea is a far-reaching one. It stretches from the tot bending over his primer in America to the stadia of the Argentine, and the polo fields of the Orient.

## German Case Cited

"If German children had been taught sportsmanship instead of the goose step, perhaps we should have had no war," said Captain Creed. Thus one phase of the project is to inculcate in the children of the world the sense of fair play. A sport-loving, game-loving generation to come is the best guarantee for world peace that I know of," added the captain, "for war is the negation of fair play."

Captain Creed does not think it necessary that any one game should be made universal in order to develop contests between countries and sections of countries, although he believes that at the present soccer football offers the most popular medium. Soccer, he said, is being increasingly played everywhere. This is particularly noticeable in Spain and in South America where the bullfight has given way to it. Mr. Bowditch tells of a soccer game in the Argentine where there were 50,000 spectators with 100,000 outside who could not gain admission. The Latin races appear to have taken quickly to it and are playing it with surprising facility. The development of the game in America is well known.

## International Contests

In Captain Creed's opinion democracy owes its progress to the instincts and impulses of the masses—not the intellectuals. For that reason the international sports idea must be shared alike by all people. He would like to see workingmen's teams from American cities—soccer or whatnot—play teams in other parts of the world and vice versa, not so much as having international as intersectional significance.

Strictly international contests be-

tween some countries would tend to carry them intense national feelings, Captain Creed thought, although he does not oppose them. Every sort of international sporting contact helps the idea along—polo, yachting, the Olympics and the great contests on field and track between the colleges of America and Great Britain. Yachting, Polo and intercollegiate competition are representative of the capitalistic phase of this activity, he thought, and while vital and splendid, cannot alone achieve a freemasonry of sportsmanship.

Captain Creed believes that this movement on the part of American sportsmen will bring about a favorable reaction everywhere—that America is the natural leader and that its lead will be followed by other nations. Already Germany is showing an increasing interest in athletics, as evidenced by its desire for the next Olympics.

"No powerful and highly organized effort will be made to push the brotherhood. It is to be permitted to grow and spread of its own accord.