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## THE VALUE OF SCHOOL ATHLETICS

LEO. J. FRACHTENBERG, *Manager Chemawa Athletic Association*



**E**ACH year there appear a number of articles in the college papers and other publications that deal with the question of college athletics. This subject has occupied the minds of thinking men for a good number of years. Those interested in college athletics either favor the retention of same or are bitterly opposed to it, and would like to see it abolished. The enemies of college athletics base their opinion upon the three following assertions:

(1) There is too much commercialism and newspaper notoriety connected with college athletics. Too much stress is laid upon victories and very little upon the moral value of athletics for all students.

(2) Athletes suffer physical injury, serious enough to shorten their lives.

(3) Athletics are detrimental to the interest of scholarship.

It will be the object of this paper to prove that these statements are not true and the conditions complained of by the opponents of athletics prevail in a small number of institutions only. It is quite true that, until a few years ago, college athletics was permeated by a spirit of commercialism and newspaper notoriety. This condition was merely due to the fact that athletics at all colleges were controlled by the students or by the alumni. Fortunately, however, a radical change has taken place during the last few years. The college faculties have come to appreciate the value of well-balanced and controlled athletics and have placed them under faculty control, in charge of a well paid and properly trained physical director. Under this system more stress is laid upon the educational, social and moral benefits resulting from athletics to all students, than upon the mere matter of winning victories. An examination of the records of all colleges in the United States will show that, in eighty-four per cent of them, athletics are under full