

# Progress of Soccer in the United States

BY JAMES PHILIP, ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND.



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I was exceedingly glad of the opportunity of visiting the center of soccer in the United States, and to meet once more Mr. T. W. Cahill, the founder, to a large extent, of the game in America. My mind goes back to my first meeting with Mr. Cahill—a memorable one—in Stockholm in 1912 at a meeting of the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association*. He came to that congress and asked for admission to membership in the *Fédération* as a representative of the American Amateur Soccer Football Association. Mr. Wall of the Football Association, along with Messrs. Crump, Hughes and Simmons, the English delegates, pleaded with Mr. Cahill to go back to America and reorganize the game so as to have full control of soccer football, both amateur and professional. The writer, who represented Scotland, sympathized very much with the request of the United

States for affiliation as an amateur body, believing that recognition would bring the professional element into line.

However, the English legislators knew from their own historical past and experience of amateur and professional management of football that it would be easier to get control and to keep a grip of it as one body than to allow both amateur and professional to develop separately. Affiliation was therefore deferred and Mr. Cahill went back to the United States to perform in a short time a task which has taken England and Scotland nearly a lifetime to do. Profiting from the experience of the old country, Mr. Cahill accomplished his work, and on coming back to the F.I.F.A., was received into membership with open arms by all the nations. The outbreak of the World War put a damper on football in nearly all the European countries, and no doubt had also a retarding effect on soccer in the United States.

During my visit in June last it was quite apparent to me that the officials of the United States Football Association had started to build up the game on the right lines, as the Romans did of old—not for a day, but for all time. The progress made has been wonderful, and very soon the United States will take its place among the foremost nations at football as well as it has in other forms of sport. By studying closely the history and the work of the Football Association, avoiding the pitfalls and mistakes made in its early career, bringing in fresh ideas, together with its thoroughness and enthusiasm to excel in the game, the U.S.F.A. will soon make its presence felt in the football world.