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EDITORIAL

## TRAINING FOR (BUSINESS) LIFE

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**OW that the Committee on Football Rules is in session trying to “reform” the game; now that charges are being flung at the sport that it is a “waste of life and limb,” and “of no value in after years,” it is time to step in in defense of the time-honored gladiatorial exhibition.

Before the students of a well-known New England preparatory school last fall Coach McCormack, one of the most successful team-trainers now on the gridiron, let himself out as follows:

“Football,” said McCormack, “is a fight. I want you to remember that. Football is a fight. You will hear learned discourses on the New Haven campus and elsewhere, intended to convince us that deep-seated, scientific principles underlie the game. Don’t listen to them. They are intended for the poor public. You must forget all that dribble, and get it into your heads that football is simply a fight. I don’t care how much you know about the game, the man who gets on this team must first of all know how to fight. All I want to know about you is, have you got the guts? Can you sock it to ’em?”

The fact that football is not a game, but a “fight;” the fact that this is concealed under “dribble” intended only for the “poor public”; the fact that the only men who can look for success are those who have “got the guts” and can “sock it to ’em”;—what are these but so many testimonials in favor of football’s being not only a training, but the very best training for business life, wherein the “business” players are in a perpetual “fight” against their employes and their rivals; where the jungle nature of the conflict is also concealed under “dribble” of honesty and uprightness intended only for the “poor public”; and where again only he can hope for “success” who “has the guts” to “sock it to ’em”—“’em” meaning sometimes his competitors, but most of all the employes, upon whose labor both he and his

competitors live, and over the juicy chunks of whose product the sanguinary fight is carried on?

Long live football, the training for (business) life.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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