

Duke Worthy Of Island Backing Labored Long Without Rewards

By "DOC" ADAMS

IF Duke Kahanamoku has finally forsaken the amateur swimming for more lucrative fields he is to be congratulated. Connection with a good concern will undoubtedly make a success of the swimmer, even should his acting be not up to the standard of a Wally Reid or a Douglas Fairbanks.

Duke's reputation should be worth as much as a pair of high society eyebrows and his fame is every bit as valuable as the talent of wearing a fuzzy moustache and a suit of property evening clothes.

In other words, under proper management Duke Kahanamoku should be a success in pictures, and undoubtedly he thinks that he has the proper management or he would not have signed on with Oscar Henning for, what it is claimed is a five-year contract.

For years Duke Kahanamoku has been Hawaii's most famous son. Through his ability as a swimmer, in which sport he ranks as high as Dempsey does in the fight game, he has been a familiar character to millions of people in America as well as other countries. He has been strictly amateur for all these years and has given of the greatest swimming ability in the world for nothing, except his expenses while traveling from place to place.

In all his tours he has brought great fame to Hawaii, and has put the name of the islands on everybody's lips. He has been a smiling, hard swimming and genial perambulating advertisement for Hawaii that no agency, however powerful, could duplicate.

And he has done it without reward, except that of fame, which is not good exchange for room, board and clothing.

It is high time that Duke realizes something on his success in swimming. He could have done it long ago. Much as the most ardent swimmer would like to see Duke continue to compete for world and national championship, there is not one who will say that he is doing the wrong thing in deserting the amateur ranks for the presumably professional status which goes with realizing on athletic ability in one way or another.

And regardless of what success Duke makes in his new venture, he will still not have profited by his past labors as has Honolulu, and every village in the islands.

Hawaii has been the big winner in the past, through Duke Kahanamoku, and now it is up to Honolulu to do all it can to give Duke his chance to reap the reward of years of conscientious labor in the swimming field.