

INTERESTING FRENCH SOLDIERS IN THE POPULAR AMERICAN GAME OF BASEBALL



American Soldiers With an Automobile Load of Y. M. C. A. Sporting Goods for Men on Duty at the Front.

The birth of baseball on one section of the French line where the game had never been seen before, is described in an interesting report by a Y. M. C. A. secretary in charge of a foyer du soldat.

"The paraphernalia at my command," he writes in telling of how the great American game became popular, "consisted of a backstop, an indoor baseball and two bats. The bases were improvised by sawing a plank into four squares. As I walked out of the foyer one evening with that equipment under my arm, the lounging groups of French soldiers cast sidelong glances of curiosity and scorn. It was evident they were not optimistic in regard to the success of the innovation.

"After I had established the home base, there were only two Polius audacious enough to show that they entertained some degree of listless interest in what was going on. I began batting the ball at the backstop, knocking out a few base hits into the wire netting. Then suddenly wheeling about, I threw the ball at one of the spectators. He dodged it, but another Poliu went after it and threw it back at me.

"Becoming interested. I swung at the ball, but it passed me, and the Polius laughed to see me carried around by the momentum of the swing bat. Others had been attracted by that time, and it was evident that interest was beginning to grow. The man who had thrown the ball volunteered to pitch, and after a while he was able to land the ball near enough to the bat to enable me to give it a wallop that sent it way out into the field.

"There were some who by this time had become sufficiently interested to accept an invitation to do outfielder work, and after 15 minutes of batting I yielded the bat to another.

"Some of the Polius got onto the knack of batting very quickly and this, of course, engendered an ambition to surpass one another in sending the ball to a great distance.

"I had taken a position in the field and chased the ball with a far greater liveliness than would have sufficed under ordinary circumstances and always took care to pull off some sensational or amusing acrobatic stunt to win as many laughs as possible. Recruits came flocking to us by this time and in a short while there were enough Polius in the game to constitute two teams. So, taking the ball on the next fly, I walked into the home base and called the other players about me.

"Then I proceeded to give explanations for a corner-let championship contest, with drawings on the ground, and everybody lending an open ear and eye, but nearly all of them scouting the possibility of making a 'go' of it. Then we began to choose sides and place the players.

"Forgot to Run. The first batter to hit the ball forgot to run. The fielder who should have fielded the ball, yielded to his impulses at football and kicked the ball as far as he could, and the first baseman started to run around all the bases to home plate. A country circus clown could not have wanted a better combination to amuse an American audience. But after five minutes of explanations I had succeeded in pushing the batter to first base; in convincing the first baseman that it wasn't his turn to run, and in filling the fielder with chagrin that he had lost a good chance to hurl the ball against the moving physiognomy of the batter.

"After this, some of the players began to grasp the principle of the play. Having one or two allies was a great help. They were able to cuss out their comrades much better than I, for their mistakes and it enabled me to save my voice for the important crises in the play, when a third baseman might start to run home, or the second baseman, having found a friend, renounced all interest at a critical moment with two on base and a line drive toward second, to engage in a conversation that lasted for at least three minutes.

"Interest Kept Up. By this time, an audience of at least a hundred had gathered around and the blatant indifference of this second baseman compelled him to retire from the game before the hoots and jeers of the crowd and particularly of his teammates. At the end of an hour and a half the game was well on route and the crowd kept up the interest for another hour—in fact, they played until it began to get dark.

"They agreed, at the end, that it was 'interesting,' once one knew the game, and they volunteered to come around the next evening. They held good to their promise, too. The next night they started in earnest, needing but little direction, and playing with the keenest interest. After two or three nights they developed into lovers of the game, and as long as those troops were in town we were sure of having a ball game every clear evening from 6 to 8."

MATHEWSON IS NOW CAPTAIN

Idol of Baseball Fans for Many Years Has Been Given a Commission in the Army.

Most recent picture of Capt. Christy Mathewson, one of the greatest ball players the national game has produced, who was given a commission in the chemical warfare service of the



Captain Christy Mathewson.

United States army. For years Matty's prowess as a pitcher for the New York Giants, his late managership of the Cincinnati Reds, and his genial personality both on and off the diamond had won for him a soft spot in the heart of every ball fan throughout the country.

ONE RECORD FOR SCHALK

Ray Schalk, the star maskman of the White Sox, established a new world's big league record for continuous service when he caught the first game at Shibe park on August 24.

This game was the one hundredth of the season in which he had been behind the bat and made the sixth straight year he has caught 100 or more games a season. He started in the century class in 1913, and in 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 and this year duplicated the feat. The previous record was held by George Gibson, then with the Pirates, who caught 100 games or more a season for five consecutive years.

CHINESE TAKE TO BASEBALL

Thousands of Chinks Playing American Game—Want in on Any International Series.

While we have been hearing so much about the advance of baseball in England, France and Italy, don't forget that another one of the allied countries also is booming it. A newspaper man recently arrived in this country from China says thousands of Chinese are playing the game and that the contests put on in Shanghai often draw more than 5,000 persons. If there's ever to be an international world's series this newspaper man, whose name is Graham Barrow, says China wants in on it.

CAN BASEBALL GAME REGAIN OLD PLACE?

Will National Pastime Be as Popular After the War?

Magnates Will Have Tough Time in Rebuilding Teams When Great Struggle Is Ended—Big Stars Are Not Coming Back.

Unless peace is declared before another summer rolls around baseball is going to have a tough time regaining the high standard it has attained after long years of operation.

Under the ruling of Secretary Baker, not to mention the change of draft ages, there will be no baseball next season. Baseball is nonessential and must take a back seat until the olive branch is waving over this turbulent globe of ours, says a writer in an exchange. In the meantime, with the oncoming generation engaging in baseball in a purely amateur way, the magnates will be up against it when the time rolls around to rebuild teams, for there won't be enough talent available to pad a crutch.

It is reasonable to figure that a certain per cent of the players who have their John Hancock contracts now will return to the game when peace returns to the world. Yet, compared with the few who will come back retaining their old-time efficiency, there will be dozens of players in all classes of leagues who will be unable to return to the game. Others will not return to it because of the fact that baseball will have lost its glamour for them.

The big stars—the boys like Cobb, Collins, Speaker and Alexander—who have been paid enormous salaries, have laid by enough of this world's goods to keep them for the rest of their days, and they are not coming back to labor on the diamond for greatly reduced salaries, which are bound to follow the war.

For the same reason a goodly per cent of the players who up to a year or so ago were the coming eligibles for big league jobs will pass up their baseball aspirations for other lines, and the incentive for the youngsters will not be as great.

Baseball will finally come back as strong as ever, of course, but it will take time. The powers that be hung on as long as they possibly could for this very reason. They foresaw that a cessation of operations would be a terrific body blow. They have said so many times. There is nothing that could have happened to the baseball business which could have hurt it more.

During the reconstruction period, which is going to involve nearly every country on the globe, baseball will have to go through a reconstruction period of its own, and baseball will weather the tough days ahead because the public will realize what it is, up against and will be tolerant.

No game is more red-blooded than baseball as a sport or pastime in peaceful days, and people will want plenty of red-blooded amusement after the war is over. So the magnates need not go about hanging crepe on each other. The future of the game is bright enough, and it will be much better off for having gone through the fire. This view of the baseball situation is of course contingent only upon a lengthy continuation of the war.

FAMOUS RUNNER IS HONORED

"Ted" Meredith Has Been Promoted to Commander of Flying Squadron in France.

"Ted" Meredith, University of Pennsylvania's great miler, has been promoted to commander of a flying squadron in France. Meredith has distinguished himself in air battles with the Boche and is recognized as one of America's best flyers. He enlisted at the outbreak of the war.



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GEO. KRICK GOING TO ITALY

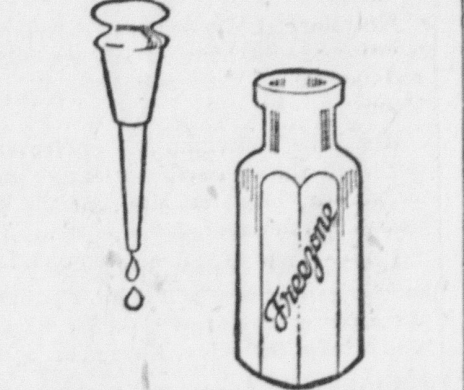
Texas Sporting Writer to Take Up Duties as Physical Director for Y. M. C. A.

George Krick, well-known in the South as a baseball player, manager and league organizer and now a sporting editor of Fort Worth, Tex., will leave for Italy soon to take up his duties as Y. M. C. A. physical director, giving particular attention to baseball activities. Krick was an organizer of the Texas league and was its first secretary. He also organized the Jacksonville club of the South Atlantic league.

LIFT OFF CORNS!

Doesn't hurt at all and costs only a few cents

Magic! Just drop a little Freezone on that touchy corn, instantly it stops aching, then you lift the corn off with the fingers. Truly! No humbug!



Try Freezone! Your druggist sells a tiny bottle for a few cents, sufficient to rid your feet of every hard corn, soft corn, or corn between the toes, and calluses, without one particle of pain, soreness or irritation. Freezone is the discovery of a noted Cincinnati genius.

His Father's Were Larger. Tommie thought that his father was the best father, that his mother was the best mother, and that his house was the best house. Indeed everything of his was best.

One day on a visit to a neighbor woman, he followed her upstairs to watch her make the bedrooms tidy. "Are those your daddy's shoes?" he asked, as the woman put those articles in their proper place.

"Yes," she answered smiling. "They are pretty large, don't you think?" "Oh, yes, but my daddy's shoes are larger," he said quickly.

Catarrah Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure Catarrah Deafness, and that is by a constitutional remedy. HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. Catarrah Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result. Unless the inflammation can be reduced and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing may be destroyed forever. Many cases of Deafness are caused by Catarrh, which is an inflamed condition of the Mucous Surfaces. ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for any case of Catarrah Deafness that cannot be cured by HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE. All Druggists Tel. Circulars free. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

Saw Trouble Ahead. It was Robert's first day at school, and because he was very mischievous the teacher had to call him to task immediately. When he arrived home his mother said: "Robert, how do you like school?" He said: "I think I am going to have trouble with that teacher." "Why, what is the trouble?" she asked. "She has sassied me three times already," he replied.—Chicago Examiner.

Pimply Rashly Skins Quickly soothed and healed by Cuticura often when all else fails. The Soap to cleanse and purify, the Ointment to soothe and heal. For free samples address, "Cuticura, Dept. X, Boston." At druggists and by mail. Soap 25, Ointment 25 and 50.—Adv.

An Outside Recreation. Jack—What was the best thing you caught on your fishing trip? Bert—A pair of kings.—Judge.

Granulated Eyelids, Sties, Inflamed Eyes relieved over night by Roman Eye Balsam. One trial proves its merit. Adv.

Under normal conditions the Scilly Islands produce yearly 700 tons of flowers for perfume-making.

Worth Knowing How.

"Army life makes a man out of a fellow."

"So it seems."

"There's Reginald Graboin, for instance. Before he was drafted he couldn't even dress without the assistance of his valet. His favorite exclamation was, 'Oh, mercy!' and his nickname was 'Elizabeth.'"

"Soft and effeminate, eh?" "Exactly. He's been in the army only six months, yet he can eject a stream of profanity on short notice that is the envy of his top sergeant and he is commonly referred to by his associates as a 'hard guy.'"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Advising the Chaplain.

A British officer decided to hand some advice to a rather ineffective chaplain. So he said:

"Padre, if you'll excuse my saying so, you're a d—d rotten chaplain; the men will never follow you to heaven."

"I rather felt that, sir," stammered the dumfounded padre.

"But I tell you what," continued the officer, "you'd make a fine company officer, and the men would follow you to hell."

Everywhere.

"I see the French are on the qui vive."

"Where is that located?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

When Baby is Teething GROVER BABY SOOTHING MEDICINE will correct the Brounch and Bowel Troubles. Perfectly harmless. See directions on the bottle.

No man blows hot air and cold sense out of the same mouth.

Was Told He Couldn't Live Six Months

But Doan's Brought Mr. Clayton Health and Strength.

C. T. Clayton, 78 N. Broad St., Woodbury, N. J., says: "I had about the worst case of kidney complaint a man could have. My kidneys were in terrible shape. I had sharp, knife-like pains in the small of my back, and my back often gave out entirely. I couldn't stoop to lace my shoes. For two years I was in this helpless condition and didn't do a tap of work and no one thought I would ever be able to work again. In fact, I was told I couldn't live six months. But fortunately I began using Doan's Kidney Pills. They made me feel better from the first and after taking several boxes, I had better strength and health than ever before. I think Doan's are worth their weight in gold, and I recommend them whenever I hear anyone complaining of their kidneys."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 60c a Box DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

PARKER'S HAIR BALM A toilet preparation of merit. Helps to eradicate dandruff. For Restoring Color and Beauty to Gray or Faded Hair. See and Buy at Retail.

It's Acid-Stomach That Makes Millions Sick and Suffer

Life is dark—not worth much to the man or woman with an acid stomach. Acid-stomach kills sleep. Ambition, Energy, Courage. It saps the strength of the strongest body—impoverishes the blood—causes untold suffering—makes millions weak, unfit and brings on premature old age.

Millions of people are weak and unfit, suffering all the time, in one way or another, from superabundance of acid-stomach. They don't seem dangerously sick. They're nervous and irritable; lose power and push, frequently have severe attacks of indigestion, splitting headaches, subject to fits of melancholia and mental depression. And nearly always their stomachs are out of order, even though many experience no actual stomach pain—digestion poor—never getting anywhere near the full strength from their food.

So, you see, it's just this—acid-stomach—that is holding so many people back—sapping up the strength they should get from their food—taking away their vigor and vitality—leaving them weak and inefficient.

Get rid of the excess acid. That's the secret of good health and is the only way to obtain good digestion and assimilation. It is the right way to be well and keep strong. Ordinary medicine won't do any lasting good. The best they can do is to spur up your appetite for awhile.

A modern remedy makes it possible to remove excess acid without the slightest discomfort. It is called ELYTONIC, in the form of small, tasteless tablets. Their action in the stomach is a good deal like a piece of blotting paper taking up a drop of ink—they literally absorb the excess acid and carry it away through the intestines.

Begin using ELYTONIC right now—today—send out for the bottle to bounding, vigorous, vibrant health. Thousands upon thousands of people who have used ELYTONIC are enthusiastic in its praise. They say they never dreamed that anything could bring them such quick relief.

ELYTONIC is fully guaranteed. Your druggist will give you a big box for only 50 cents with the distinct understanding that if you are not pleased in every way, you get your 50 cents back. If you can't get ELYTONIC where you live—send us your name and address, we will send you a fifty-cent box and you can send us the 50c when you get it. Address Elytonic Remedy Co., Lancaster, Pa., Dept. 111.

COLT DISTEMPER

You can prevent this loathsome disease from running through your stable and cure all the colts suffering with it when you begin the treatment. No matter how young, SPOHN'S is safe to use on any colt. It is wonderful how it prevents all distempers, no matter how colts or horses at any age are "expended." All good druggists and turf goods houses and manufacturers sell SPOHN'S at 69 cents and \$1.15 a bottle, \$5.50 and \$11.00 a dozen.

SPOHN MEDICAL CO., Goshen, Ind., U. S. A.

WHAT CONSTIPATION MEANS

It means a miserable condition of ill health that leads to all sorts of special ailments such as headache, backache, dyspepsia, dizziness, indigestion, pains of various kinds, piles and numerous other disorders—CONSTIPATION is a crime against nature. Take DR. TUTT'S LIVER PILLS and have your liver and bowels resume their health-giving natural functions. At all druggists.

Dr. Tutt's Liver Pills

ATTENTION! Sick Women

To do your duty during these trying times your health should be your first consideration. These two women tell how they found health.

Hellam, Pa.—"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for female troubles and a displacement. I felt all run down and was very weak. I had been treated by a physician without results, so I decided to give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial, and felt better right away. I am keeping house since last April and doing all my housework, where before I was unable to do any work. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is certainly the best medicine a woman can take when in this condition. I give you permission to publish this letter."—Mrs. E. R. CRUMMING, R. No. 1, Hellam, Pa.

Lowell, Mich.—"I suffered from cramps and dragging down pains, was irregular and had female weakness and displacement. I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound which gave me relief at once and restored my health. I should like to recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's remedies to all suffering women who are troubled in a similar way."—Mrs. ELISE IREX, R. No. 6, Box 83, Lowell, Mich.

Why Not Try LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO. LYNN, MASS.