

ALEXANDER STARTLES LOCAL FANS BY REFUSING TO SIGN AT TERMS OFFERED BY CLUB

PLAYERS AND MAGNATES BOTH ARE MAKING MISTAKE IN THEIR THREAT OF BASEBALL CONFLICT

Fultz Should Have Kept Plans Secret Until Reporting Time Was Near and Owners Are Talking Too Much—All Depends on the Public

THE owners of major and minor league ball clubs insist that they are not worried about the threatened strike of the players who are members of the Players' Fraternity. At the present time we can see little cause for them to worry, but if the magnates do not fear that the latest move made by President Fultz will have any effect on the game, why are they talking so much? Little can be gained by talking, and the magnates should realize that silence is the best policy at the present time.

Players and Magnates Are at Fault

AFTER carefully going into all the details, one cannot help but realize that both the players and magnates are at fault, and that a continuation of the wronging will do nothing but kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. In the first place, the players made a mistake in taking action at this time. The best chance for success of such a move as anticipated by Fultz depended upon its secrecy.

Chief Complaint Against Minor Leagues

THE chief complaint of the Players' Fraternity is against the minor leagues, but as all members of the organization have agreed to stand together, regardless of classification, President Fultz insists that the men will go through with their threat. The most important request made of the major leagues was granted by the National Commission, but the National Association of Minor League Clubs refused to consider the petition tendered by Fultz.

Everything Depends on the Public

IT is all very well for the magnates to say that they are not worried and that it is the best thing that possibly could happen to clean up the game as manager and part owner Mack, of the Athletics, has said; but this is entirely the wrong view. The magnates are acting upon the supposition that the public will stand for anything. There is no question that a large number of the fans are of the opinion that the players are overpaid. In this respect the magnates have the sympathy of some, but there is an equally large number who have no sentiment or prejudices. The fans merely will become disgusted with the game, and turn their attention to other forms of amusement.

Shortage of Ball Players in Future

THERE is another way of looking at the whole affair. The magnates are acting as if they believed that the players who are striking now will be in the game forever. When a man invests one or two millions of dollars in any venture, he must look to the future. Suppose the minor leagues did close up their tracks for a year, as favored by several presidents of smaller organizations, according to interviews given out to the press. Where will the major leagues get the players to fill the gaps, if the players go through with their strike threat?

Standard of Game Will Be Lowered

THE magnates say that the farms and small cities are full of star players if they can be uncovered. They contend that there would be a new batch of stars developed at smaller cost. But do the magnates realize that they must lower the standard of the game at a time when they are boosting the prices of admission all along the line? The public is willing to pay for its amusement, but when the prices are raised it expects a superior form of entertainment, and the two major leagues cannot afford to lose more than a few players right now, because the playing standard is lower than ever, notwithstanding the opinion of magnates and some critics to the contrary.

Owners Have Cause for Worry

SOME of the major league owners can well afford to stand pat and smile at the thought of the players passing up their monthly pay checks for a season. Others, however, are not so fortunate. Some of the owners with smaller payrolls, lighter mortgages and less expense in every way probably could afford to close their parks for a season; but what would become of owners who are mortgaged up to their necks or who are paying exorbitant rent? These owners say that they would play if they had to use minor leaguers in their lineup, but do they think for a minute that the fans would pay major league prices for minor league ball?

Labor Unions Would Sympathize With Players

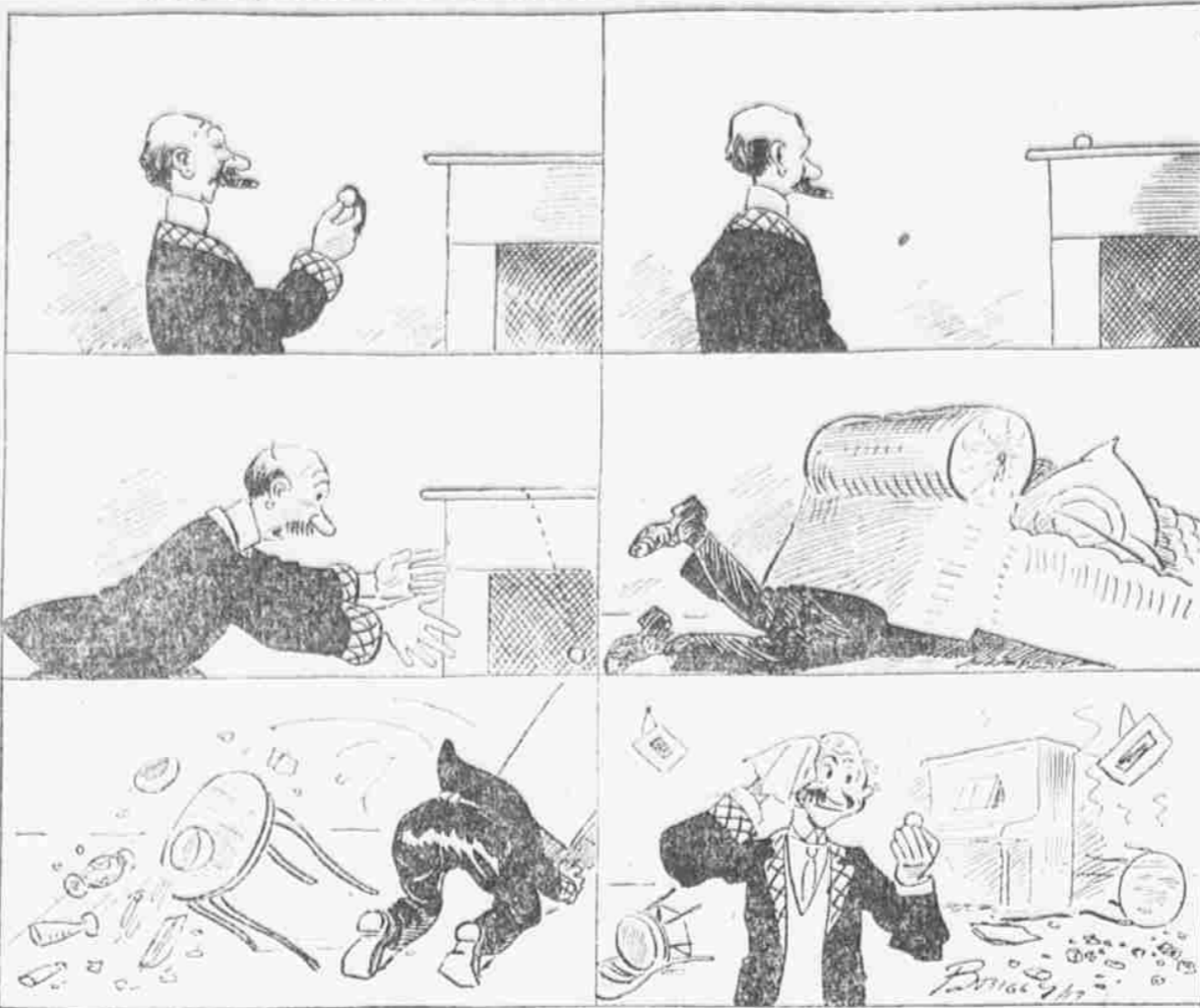
IT ALSO would be well for the magnates to realize that the players would have the sympathy of the various labor unions throughout the country, particularly if President Fultz is as close to the American Federation of Labor as some persons say. It is argued that the Players' Fraternity move will fall flat when it comes time to call on players like Cobb, Alexander, Johnson, Spinker and many other high-salaried players to join them. The contention is made that these players, who are drawing \$10,000 a year or more, will refuse to pass up this money merely to help other lesser lights, particularly in the minor leagues, who have grievances. It is possible that these players will take this view of the matter, but the fans are of the opinion that these players can better afford to be idle a year than the magnates can, and will stick by their fellow players if they already have pledged themselves, as is asserted.

WE ARE making no attempt to predict the outcome of this squabble between players and magnates, but wish to state both sides of the argument. Some are of the opinion that a strike would not amount to anything, so long as there is no independent league or leagues in existence to take care of the jumping major league players. Virtually every one admits that the minor league owners would save themselves by cutting away from the national agreement if two players' leagues, like the one formed during the Brotherhood war almost thirty years ago, were in existence. And do not overlook the fact that there are many wealthy men anxious to break into baseball, and were seriously considering organizing another outlaw league before this trouble broke. Readers of the EVENING LEDGER were informed of this attempt at organizing another outlaw league on the closing day of the National League meeting in December. The magnates do not take this statement seriously, but may learn, when it is too late, that Fultz and his colleagues know more about it than they pretend.

IT WAS erroneously stated in these columns that Penn received a large guarantee to play Oregon at Pasadena. A member of the football committee declares that Penn received nothing but expenses and that the game was scheduled merely to add prestige and for the sake of sportsmanship. Until the member of the football committee made this statement the impression was general that the Red and Blue had been given a large guarantee to appear at the Tournament of Roses.

JACK BARRY'S first move probably will make a big hit with the veteran members of the Red Sox. He announced that under no condition would he part with Heinie Wagner, the veteran coach. Barry insists that he will need Wagner's advice and that the veteran will be a great help to him. Wagner is unusually popular with the veteran members of the Red Sox, and they would not have liked it if Barry had decided to part with him. It would have been only natural if Barry had released Wagner, as a new leader seldom enjoys having a prospective manager about.

THE GOLFER'S DEVOTION TO A LITTLE GOLF BALL



BAKER SAYS 'ALEX' WILL SIGN PAPERS

Phillies' President Declares Differences With Pitcher Will Be Fixed SALARY WAS INCREASED

President William F. Baker, of the Phillies, said this afternoon that he did not consider the return of the unsigned contract of Alex Alexander a hold-out. Baker said that matters often return to the original contract to have some clause stricken out or other changes made.

Baker also stated that Alexander's contract called for a liberal increase over the amount paid the Nebraska for the last two years, and that he thought "Alex" would be satisfied with the new document. According to the Philly president, there is only a slight difference in what Alexander wants and what the club is willing to pay, and this will be adjusted as soon as possible.

Baker would Alexander yesterday to come back to the club's expense to talk over the new contract, and he believed he is on the Nebraska will be here within a week. It is said that Alexander demands \$15,000 a season for three years, and that he will not consider a compromise.

President Budge has been quoted to the effect that "in ball player is worth \$15,000, and he will not pay it, no matter who it belongs to." If Baker really has adopted this attitude, it may prove a hard task to interest the Nebraska, who apparently has made up his mind to get \$15,000 and accept no compromise.

"I don't see why all this fuss is being made about Alexander," said Baker this afternoon. "He merely refused his contract, saying he believed he is entitled to more money. That is something we can adjust by talking things over. Little differences of this sort occur in every line of business."

Says "Alex" Will Sign "The best of feeling prevails between Alexander and myself and I am sure that he has no thought of creating a hold-out. As near as I can understand, Alexander has fallen around the three greatest sporting heroes America has produced: 1. Jim Thorpe, conqueror at the last Olympic games. 2. Francis Ouimet, conqueror of Vardon and Hay. 3. Maurice McLoughlin, conqueror of Anthony Whiting and Norman Brookes."

The Hard Luck of It "Leaving out the ethics of the situation, it is at least more than unfortunate that Alexander's three greatest admirers should have had windows cast across their amateur conduct. This may be taken as proof that our amateur laws, just as above all personalities, are not perfect. Then again, it may be taken that a shining mark makes an easier target. In any event, it has all been an unfortunate turn."

NO STRIKE FOR OLD 'FEDS' Tinker Says Fultz Refused to Admit the "Outlaws"

CHICAGO, Jan. 12.—Former Federal League president Fultz will not support David Fultz, president of the Players' Fraternity, in his threat to declare a strike if the requests of the fraternity are not granted, according to Joe Tinker, former manager of the Chicago Nationals and Chicago Federal.

Tinker declared that at the time he was in the Federal League he and other players in that organization attempted to obtain membership in the fraternity, but were not admitted.

Bowling News Wendham is champion of the Quaker City League. His victory over White Elephants decided the first-round tournament. As Liberty Bell won in the Philadelphia League, the roll-off will be one of the heaviest to be acted upon at the meeting of the local chapter in the Bingham Hotel next Monday evening.

Wendham won the second game by knocking down 216 pins, while the us-champions totaled 82. The third game was won by a 1000 score in the final game.

President Bert Frazier gave way to Flood after the first game and the latter assumed the mantle for 220 and 194.

Martin finished with 241 for the champion. Bill Knox totaled 825, concluding with 221.

Hyder of the Giants had a chance to capture the high single game prize, but only knocked down six pins in the final game, which gave him a score of 250.

Yonham of Maestri, rolled high game first series score, 247, in his last game. Harpethwin's 225 helped the Elephant greatly in its opening contest.

Mount of the Giants, after striking with 147, struck out 220 and 245 in succession.

RASPING ROLE—THIS HERO STUFF; AX FALLS ATHWART THE NECKS OF BEST AMATEURS FREQUENTLY

Quimet, Jim Thorpe, McLoughlin Three Samples of Worshipped Athletes Who Were Beheaded by a Lucre-Hating Public—Golf Records

Beyond the Last Trench Here is the "peace that passeth understanding." The rest that each has sought through the years. No more joys, no more sorrows of the strife, no more joys to charge the battlements of life.

Never another dawn, where, to eyes weary, The glow light steals upon the sleepers. The tramp of feet—the call of bugle drum— To end the dream or stir the dreamer's dream. Never another dawn with strife's tomorrow. The day is done—the last long cough quiescent— Here at the road's end of all strife and sorrow. Safe through the Twilight Gates.

ONE of the toughest, most rasping assignments that this country has ever produced is that of being a hero. Not that we exclude from any personal experience. Far from it. But the facts speak eloquently for themselves. You may recall the hero legend that Mr. Richmond Pearson Hobson reached—and what happened subsequently. You may also recall the case of Admiral George Dewey.

And the late amateur sprouting, or whatever you care to call it, has in the main fallen around the three greatest sporting heroes America has produced: 1. Jim Thorpe, conqueror at the last Olympic games. 2. Francis Ouimet, conqueror of Vardon and Hay. 3. Maurice McLoughlin, conqueror of Anthony Whiting and Norman Brookes.

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McFarlan Roadster for two, three or four passengers, owned by Mr. W. A. Shackelford. Price \$2500. Wood wheels, dual ignition, Westinghouse and Bosch magnets, Magneto transmission furnished to order.

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ALEXANDER THE GREAT, HOLDOUT; BAN JOHNSON DECLARES HE WILL DRIVE DAVE FULTZ OUT OF GAME

Sensational Events in Baseball Follow in Rapid Succession—Clash Between Players and Owners Cannot Be Averted

SENSATIONAL events in the baseball world are occurring with such rapidity that there is no telling what may happen next. On Thursday night Dave Fultz, president of the Players' Fraternity, threw a bomb into the ranks of organized ball when he suspended Harry "State" Salter for signing a contract with the New York Giants after he had agreed to wear until that he had received word from Fultz that he had promised to sign. Fultz declared that a similar punishment would be meted out to other Fraternity members who broke their pledge, and he threatened to issue an order to the players not to report at training camp.

On the same evening Fultz met several members of the Players' Fraternity in the city and discussed the situation with them. It is said on reliable authority that every one who attended the meeting pledged himself to stick by the Fraternity. Similar meetings were held in many other cities, and in each instance the players pledged loyalty to the Fraternity.

These events stirred the baseball world, but the excitement was nothing compared to that created by the announcement that Grover Cleveland Alexander, the secretary of the Philadelphia Athletics, had returned his unsigned contract to President Baker, with a polite note telling him that the terms were not satisfactory. This message was flashed from Alexander's home in St. Paul, Neb., last night, and the famous pitcher verified the report in a wire this morning.

Predicted Holdout Before he departed for Oscar Dugre's ranch in Texas after the world's series, Alexander admitted to the writer that he expected to have trouble getting the contract he wanted and insisted that the terms would be satisfactory to him or he would not report, regardless of threats of suspension. Judging by Alexander's remarks at the time he wants several thousand dollars more than he believes the Philadelphia club is willing to pay, but insists that he will get it or remain at his home.

Alexander pointed out that he received less money in 1915 and 1916 than many players who were acting as substitutes or who were just about holding their jobs. He declared that he had remained loyal to the club during the war with the Federal League, that he had treated the Phillies fairly when he could have jumped with out fear of court restraints, that he has been responsible in a large measure for the winning of the pennant and the big financial returns to his owners, and that the time had arrived for him to get a real contract.

Local fans were amazed at the announcement as President Baker remarked a few weeks ago that Alexander would be sent a contract that would please him greatly, and that they would be no trouble getting the famous hurler in the fall. Evidently there is a big difference in what the club has offered and what "Alex" thinks he is worth, but he would not have returned the contract, if the difference was slight. Alexander probably would have waited until he came East to discuss his new contract with President Baker.

Must Sign Alex It is believed that President Baker will send Business Manager Shottelmeier or another representative to St. Paul to talk the matter over with Alexander at once, as it is believed that the hold-out of this wonderful hurler will influence the other members of the Phillies and many other unsigned players.

The impression is general that Alexander eventually will get what he wants, as the Phillies cannot afford to lose him to the west at his home while the rest of the squad is at St. Petersburg. Alexander is the Phillies' great and only hope for the flag and really is all that stands between a

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