

BUCK EWING IS SELECTION FOR THE GREATEST CATCHER IN HISTORY OF BASEBALL

MANAGER'S IDEA FOR EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD SERIES RECEIPTS TO HELP BOOST GAME

National League Supports Plan to Divide Spolts Among First Seven Clubs—Fulton Reasons Why He Should Be Champion

There is an interest in baseball with the clinching of the pennants every year. It has been costly to the diamond game. When the half-way mark is reached it usually is possible to select the contenders, dark horses seldom to the front, the Braves in 1914 proving one of the few outsiders to triumph and win a flag. With the elimination of four or five of the clubs in the middle of the schedule attendance falls off, the gate receipts and the magnates suffer. Many suggestions have been offered to correct this defect, but none has been given any consideration. Now the National League, revives a plan that has been suggested before and there may be some chance for it to be accepted. The circuit presby wants every team but the tail-ender to share in the spoils of the series spolts. By so doing the blue ribbon contenders are going to receive a terrific financial reverse, but if it serves to revive interest and increase the gate receipts during the waning days of the season it has served its purpose.

Where two teams have been taking away the big winnings from the series, fourteen will share under the Toner proposal. He believes that the teams should be rewarded according to the places they annex at the close of the season. The first seven in each league will divide the spoils, the tail-enders rating among the also rans. Under this proposed system the collar position is an incentive for the teams to struggle to the top. President Toner attributes lack of interest among the ball tossers to the fact that the world series enthusiasm has died away during the last few seasons. He does not believe that the players' pool under the present arrangement is too much, but he is of the opinion that a more equitable distribution of the spoils should be made. And it is reported the league will support this idea.

This idea of the more equitable distribution is not a new one, but now seems to be the first chance it has had to succeed. With the National League behind Toner prepared to carry out his suggestion, it seems altogether likely that the American League moguls will agree to give it a trial. The plan is worth a test, for there is no denying the present system is inefficient and expensive.

Furious Fredward Is All Set to Claim Championship

WILLIAMS somebody steps in and claims the heavyweight championship of the world on December 18 or 19. Fred Fulton will be the new titleholder. Through Mike Collins, his manager, the pugnapulous plasterer has issued a warning to the world at large that Willard is afraid to meet him in the arena and that life is too short to worry about it. He has issued a challenge, posted a forfeit, expressed a willingness to battle ten or fifty rounds, and says that on December 20, unless the papers are signed, there will be a new champion "who will be willing to defend the title seven days a week against any men the matchmakers may select."

Fredward and Collins are serious about this. They have highly illuminated stationary, some of which resembles the character and technique of a black-hand artist. On the letter-head is a three-sheet poster telling of the numerous battles and maudlin pursues offered Willard for a bout with Fulton, and across the top is the placard, "Fred Fulton on December 20, 1917, will claim the heavyweight championship of the world." The warning leaves nothing to the imagination, and Collins has even gone so far as to place his telephone number in a conspicuous place. Perhaps he expects Fredward to win the crown over the telephone. Another thing which Fulton threatens to do is quite interesting. He offers any man in the world \$500 if he doesn't knock him out within five rounds before any club in the world does at any date. This shows his willingness to fight, if nothing else.

Collins breaks out into oratory and howls the following at the Dear Old World: "It is a well-known fact that since boxing was first organized," he says, "the custom for 100 years has been that a champion must defend his title at least once every six months or forfeit the same. Jess Willard has done only one fight since he won the title, and that was a ten-round no-decision affair. Notwithstanding the fact that the public has demanded a fight between himself and Fred Fulton, and that he, Jess Willard, was offered \$50,000 on several different occasions in the last two years, the champion declines to fight. Why does he refuse to fight Fulton? Does the public want this kind of a champion?"

WE HAVE our own ideas about Fulton as a championship aspirant, but we must hand it to him for his brazen effrontery and daring method to get something for nothing. Fulton has made a bona fide offer to box Willard, is willing to concede everything, has adopted everything known to ring craft to get him into the ring and big Jess ignored him. Fulton is adopting the proper method to obtain recognition, but it will take more than that to make the stress proprietor fight.

Collins Spills Nineteen Reasons Why

CAREFULLY concealed in the folds of his letter Mike Collins presents nineteen perfectly good reasons why Fredward the Furious is a better man than Willard's ever been—with apologies to Kipling. He has conceived himself of the fact and now asks every one else to pull with him. Collins closely and get an earful:

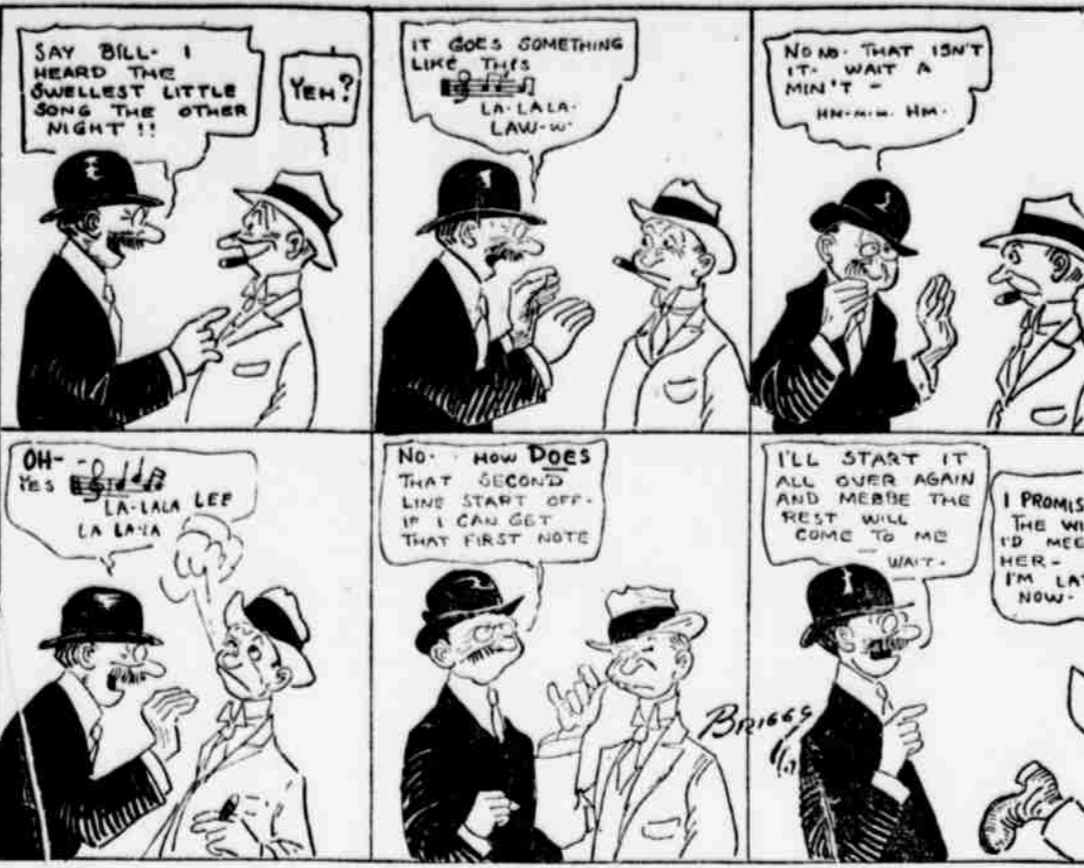
- 1. About two years ago I sent broadcast over the country a folder similar to this, giving sixteen reasons why Fred Fulton could beat Jess Willard. I will show a well-known bunch of reasons why Willard is afraid to enter the ring in a title bout with Fulton, although he (Willard) has been continually offered \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) for a ten-round bout with Fulton. Five thousand per round and he positively refuses. Why?
2. Fred Fulton has knocked out every heavyweight he has ever met in the last two years.
3. Willard has had one ten-round bout in the last two years and hasn't knocked any one out.
4. Fred Fulton is a young and perfect athlete of twenty-six years. Willard is a man of forty.
5. Who did Willard ever beat outside of Jack Johnson?
6. Fred Fulton knocks out every man he hits and hits every man he meets.
7. Jess Willard knows it.
8. Fulton easily beat Willard in a three-round exhibition on May 10, 1916, at Rochester, Minn. Tom Jones pulled the bell or there would have been a new champion at that time.
9. Willard still remembers all of reason No. 7.
10. Fulton has improved 600 per cent since that time.
11. Willard has sure gone back.
12. Willard perfectly understands reasons Nos. 9 and 10.
13. Fred Fulton has a greater K. O. record than any heavyweight champion of all time. (See record book).
14. Willard knows he cannot beat Fulton.
15. Willard knows that Fulton can easily outbox him.
16. Willard knows that Fulton can hit like a piledriver with either hand or any place.
17. Willard knows that Fulton is the next heavyweight champion of the world.
18. Willard knows that Fulton has the longest, greatest, fastest, hardest-hitting left hand that was ever possessed by any heavyweight of all time.
19. In view of the above cold, plain facts, Willard prefers to hide himself and his title behind the guarded walls of a circus tent.
20. Fulton is open to fight any man in the world, winner to take all, "no ifs or any place."

"YOU have the wrong idea about Fulton's ability," said Eddie Kane, manager of Tom and Mike Gibbons, who is in our midst for a few days. "Fulton may be the biggest cheese in the world, but how about Willard? This is not the case of picking out the best man. It is a case of picking out the worst. Now who do you think is the worst—Fulton or Willard?"

What Do You Think of the Deal?

Proposed bugs who gather in the grandstand and bleachers of Philadelphia National League Baseball Park pay the freight, and the club, you furnish the salaries, you pay the dividends, you are the manager. William F. Baker, president of the club, says the trade deal was made. It is supposed the price paid was \$75,000.75, the club's share representing Prudergast and Dillhoefer, the players' share to the better. Now, you fans have your own ideas on this matter. Write down with pen in hand and let your views be known to the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger.

SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



ST. LOUIS FANS OBJECT TO SALE OF HORNSBY; BOYCOTT PLANNED

15,000 Sign Petition Warning President Ricketts Not to Sell Star Shortstop to Chicago Cubs



ST. LOUIS, Dec. 14.—St. Louis baseball fans are all excited over the many rumors going the rounds in baseball circles regarding the proposed sale of Rogers Hornsby, the star infielder of the Cards, to the Chicago Cubs. The raw deal handed the Philadelphia fans by President Baker of the Phillies, when he sold the great shortstop to the Cardinals, is the greatest grievance in the history of the Windy City rivals.

A petition was in circulation yesterday informing President Ricketts that if Hornsby is sold to the Cubs many paying customers will be missing next season. The petition follows: "We, the undersigned, wish to inform you that if you sell Rogers Hornsby to the Chicago Cubs for cash we will not attend a single game at your park next summer." District managers reported that 15,000 names have been secured and they expect the number to reach the 50,000 mark. Hornsby is the idol of the St. Louis fans. He has created a greater sensation here in the last two years than Theodore Dretzenstein, Babe Waddell, and...

RIVAL MAGNATES MEET IN CHICAGO

American and National League Moguls Discuss Baseball for 1918

FAVOR LONG SCHEDULE

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—The first "allied war council of baseball" was held in the Congress Hotel today.

There the magnates of the National and American Leagues got together to discuss possibly of otherwise certain continuing the matter of cutting salaries, and so on.

National magnates cut their New York meeting short in order to catch a flyer for Chicago. The first session was scheduled to last all afternoon.

Will Pay the Feds

Before adjourning late yesterday the American Leaguers voted a \$55,000 conference fund as their share of a "hang over" from the peace agreement with the late Federal players the latter were interred at a conference in Cincinnati.

The Nationals will be asked to pry themselves loose from a similar amount today, so Ed Gwinn, owner of the Philadelphia Federal franchise, Harry Sinclair, "mascot" of the Newark team, and the estate of R. B. Ward, backer-in-chief of the third league, will get the \$110,000 fund, as has been promised them at that time.

Griff Collected \$36,000

Clark Griffith announced he had collected \$36,000 for the soldier's fund, but had not had contracted for \$60,000 worth of material. To help him out the league voted to play one game in each park next June, 25 per cent of the receipts going to the fund. It was also decided to raise a fund for Canadian soldiers.

An exhibition game between the Phillies and the Athletics will be played for the benefit of the family of William C. Weart, veteran Philadelphia baseball writer, who died last week.

War Clause in Contracts

President Johnson favors a war clause inserted in contracts for the 1918 season. The clause will include all drafted or enlisted players to the extent of protecting the club owners. The latter would be absolved from all salary obligations in the event the player enlisted or is drafted. But if the player returns to the game after being discharged from military service he must consider himself still bound to the club with which he last signed.

While it is regarded as virtually certain that the two leagues will decide on a 154-game schedule for next season, August Herrmann, president of the Cincinnati Nationals and chairman of the National Baseball Commission, advised the American League executive that the question of a schedule still was open with the National Leaguers. President Johnson favors a 146-game schedule, and will make a fight for it, but probably will be obliged to accede to the wishes of the older organization, as both leagues use the same park in New York.

Motor-Paced Race Tonight

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Five crack bike teams will start a four-mile motor-paced race for the world's championship at Madison Square Garden tonight. The teams are Egg and Curry, Carson and Hill, Wiley and Lawrence, and Paul Madonna and Drobosh and Madden. It is the first race of the kind to be attempted on an indoor track.

Caddock Meets Dr. Roller Tonight

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Earl Caddock and Dr. R. Roller will meet in a feature match in the International wrestling tournament tonight. Caddock obtained a furious round from Dr. Roller at the Madison Square Garden last night. He is enlisted in the army, but his matches were won by Yusuf Hussain, who defeated Hevonne the Greek and John Horacle, who won from Hans Assam.

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GRANTLAND RICE PICKS ALL-TIME ALL-STAR BALL TEAM; SELECTS EWING AS HIS CHOICE TO CATCH

By GRANTLAND RICE FOREWORD

BACK in the closing days of the last campaign in baseball, an argument was turned adrift one afternoon as to what group of players might constitute the make-up of an All-Time All-Star team—a team to be picked from the complete span of the game with its beginning nearly fifty years ago.

Naturally, a vast number of words were unfurled upon the occasion, with any number of entries named and listed as worthy members of the All-Star cast. Taking the cue, we decided to try the experiment of picking such a cast—not solely from our own limited observation, extending over a period of some eight or twenty years—but in the main from the collective opinion of those who have known a wider range. With this end in view, we discussed the possibilities and probabilities with such veterans as Frank Bancroft, forty years with the Reds; Clark Griffith, one of the game's wisest students, and with such veteran and keen-observing baseball writers as Sam Crane, William B. Hanna, Joe Vila and others who have played the long parade file by for periods, on the average, covering more than a quarter of a century.

As we expect to be held to a restricted output very shortly, due to the exigencies and demands of the article game, this seemed to be a fairly fitting period to unfold the results of the long investigation.

We can say in advance that out of the nine positions only one seems to rest in doubt. The others were almost unanimously backed.

No. 1-Catcher

Here we came to a long array—Frank Flint, Charlie Bennett, Zimmer, McGuire, Robinson, Bergen, Fling, Bresnahan and various others. As the vote went to Buck Ewing, of New York and Cincinnati.

Those who had watched Ewing's play over a period of years, and who had seen most of the others up through 1917, were also doing their share in the Red Cross work.

I am sure that 1917, the first year of the war, will always stand out as a special episode in the history of the game. It was a year when the patriotic spirit of the professionals who devoted much time to Red Cross work.

It was early determined not to hold the two national events at a particular time, but to let the place of the open tournament be decided by the players. The western officials, however, decided to extend an invitation to eastern players. Francis Outmit won the title. Jim Barnes, playing very fine golf, won the western open, and patriotic tournament went to Jack Hutchinson, who has played first-class golf the season through.

On the Pacific coast championships seem to have been played as usual, and in the South the southern championship was won by Bobby Jones, of Atlanta.

More Golf Than Ever

Although Red Cross golf has predominated, I think that more golf has been played by sustaining golfers than ever before, for men who are not largely of military age. However, even these games and events have been made contributory to the Red Cross. Hardly a club gave cups this year, and the prize money has been donated to the various war benefits. Many of the clubs have ambulances at the front and in various ways they have aided with contributions. Indeed, I estimate that the golfers of the country have raised in the neighborhood of a half million dollars for funds for soldiers.

A western golfer who deserves great praise for his unselfish Red Cross work is Robert Gardner, the national champion of 1915. Throughout the summer and up to the time of his joining the reserve officers' training corps at Fort Sheridan he played regularly and effectively in the Red Cross matches around the country.

CLEVELAND CLUB HELPS ATHLETES IN TWO CAMPS

Will Spend \$40,000 for Athletic Equipment for Camp Sheridan and Camp Sherman

The Cleveland Athletic Club, of Cleveland, O., will spend \$40,000 for athletic equipment for the soldiers stationed at Camp Sheridan, Montezuma, Ala., and Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, O. Of this sum \$18,000 has already been expended in supplying athletic goods for the men now in these two camps. In order to provide for the boys in the next draft plans for raising a fund of \$20,000 are already under way. The Commission on Training Camp Activities and the athletic directors at these two camps are co-operating with the Cleveland Athletic Club to get the soldiers in the best possible physical condition. There are 40,000 men in training at both stations.

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