

THE HUN IDEA IS TO CARRY A HOME UMPIRE AND CLAIM THE GAME AFTER PRACTICE

MANAGERS AND CLUBS MAKE PLAYERS OR VICE VERSA? QUERY EVER ALIVE AMONG BALL BUGS

Cases of Cobb, Speaker, Alexander, Johnson and Others Cited to Sustain Viewpoint of Average Fan

BASEBALL has several problems that are harder to down than a bad conscience. There is the question of relative merit of the game now and then. This is an annual query that is no nearer being settled than when it began the second year of the existence of the pastime.

Will the war put the game on the blink this year? That one hasn't many followers in the ranks of the bugs, who declare that they will want the game more than ever on account of the need for mental relief from the stress of the conflict and will be satisfied if the game goes on.

If you would get the real alert bugs started upon a line of endless argument, however, merely suggest this pithy problem: Do the managers and clubs make the players or the players the managers and clubs?

Nearly all really big teams—those which have held together for years—could have slid along with any manager rather than lose some one or more great stars who were just great natural players.

ABOUT the best illustration of the point suggested by the argument in question is that well-known utterance of Dr. Gormany Schaefer, who, when asked whom he considered the greatest manager in the business, remarked, "Cobb and Crawford at the bat."

Say Alex's Case Was One Well in Point

THOSE entertaining the line of opinion set out present Alex's case as clearly in point. They point to the years of playing success of Philly teams while the Nebraskan was in the cast, to the previous seasons of

Take the case of Tris Speaker. The big Texan alone put new life into the game at Cleveland at a time when it was absolutely necessary to secure a great star to start back the tide from the long years of constant slugging.

Another player who carries a whole club on his shoulders is Walter Johnson. Clark Griffith may be a miracle man, but he can't seem to get other ball players together or develop them into stars.

During Fielder Jones's days as the hitless team manager at Chicago, Ed Walsh was held in popular estimation as the main cause of the great victories scored.

THE great baseball machines of modern times have been the Athletics, Cubs and Giants. It is contended by some that the wonderful success of Connie and Chance was due largely to chance and luck, and the inability of each to build up another on old lines is cited as proof.

Golf Doesn't Aid Baseball Play, Says Pratt

DERRILL PRATT, of the Yankees, is one of the numerous baseball players who have gone in strongly for golf. Rather, he is one. He isn't strong for it now. Not that he loves the game any less, but he doubts seriously whether golf is good for a baseball player, and he has dropped it for a time anyway.

"I wasn't satisfied with my batting last year," Pratt says, in explaining his sudden desertion of the links. "I had been getting all the time at St. Petersburg and thought that might have had something to do with it. Anyway, I made up my mind to give the cure I had in mind a thorough trial, so I have dropped the golf and baseball swing."

"There is nothing in common between the golf and baseball swing. You're hitting at a moving ball in one, and in the other you always are swinging from above to an object lying on the ground. The baseball swing isn't that way at all. Habits acquired become fixed or are hard to shake off, and my experience has been that there is nothing whatever in the golf swing which can be of use in the baseball swing. I am cutting loose from the former, confidently expecting to improve the latter."

GOLF may be a good thing, or harmless, for a pitcher, whose playing doesn't cut much figure, but anybody who professes to be something of a hitter had better leave it alone.

Loss of Eye Ruins War and Baseball Careers

PLAYFUL snapping of a heavy bath towel cost Uncle Sam a good soldier and deprived a promising catcher of participation in any more baseball games.

Red Kuhn, formerly of the Chicago White Sox and later of the Coast League, and star receiver for Dallas when the team won the Texas League pennant last year, was drafted into the army last fall. He was glad to serve Uncle Sam. Along with several thousand others he went to Camp Travis, at San Antonio, and in a few weeks the husky ball player was transformed into a regular soldier and made a corporal.

A few weeks ago he was lounging in the barracks when the troopers started scuffling. One had a bath towel with a long, heavy fringe. Red said something and his companion snapped the towel, the fringe striking him in the right eye. The army surgeon found that the fringe had struck the pupil with enough force to destroy the sight permanently.

Kuhn was given an honorable discharge from the army. His sight was gone and he was of no use as a fighter. Now he's back in Dallas. His baseball days are over, but he's not disheartened.

"I'LL COME out all right," is the way he expressed it. Kuhn's home is in California.

Tigers Have Often Favored the Yankees

WUOHEY JENNINGS, manager, and Frank Navin, owner of the Detroit Tigers, can never be accused of not helping give New York fans a winning American League team. The Detroit club has always been ready to help the Yankees without asking a bundle of cash and players in return.

When Colonel Ruppert and his partner purchased the club from Frank Farrell and Bill Devery, Jennings willingly gave up Wally Pipp, the slugging first baseman, and Lefty High, the diminutive outfielder. Jennings could have fixed up a nice trade for this pair, but he contented to let them go to the Yankees so as to help Ruppert and Huston.

It was only the other day that the Detroit club sold George Burns a small amount to the Yankees so that Huggins could make the trade deal.

Cubs Look Good in California

ALGO scribbles doing the long-distance pen work from the only big camp in California pronounce prospects scrumptious. Dode is showing up unusually well and is sure not only of a regular berth but of the clean-up batting role. Dode is frisking around and in the first exhibition game of the year made two circuit swings. It has it that Young Hollocher is coming through at short stop. The wonder claimed for him by Walter McCredie, who has seen Hollocher, Walker and Weaver are young twirlers, of

SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



TEN BILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF FIGHTING MEN UNCLE SAM'S CONTRIBUTION IN WORLD WAR

At Least 85 Per Cent of Sammees Have Taken Out War Risk Insurance Policies, Writes Sergeant Louis H. Jaffe

By SERGEANT LOUIS H. JAFFE

SOMEWHERE in France, Feb. 22. UNCLE SAM'S contribution of fighting men to the Allied forces in the Great War for the purpose of eliminating Kaiser and autocracy, apparently is the most valuable organization of human flesh in history of the world's hostilities.

Eight billion dollars' worth of humanity is being sent to the front. The great fortune is estimated following a campaign of insurance work by the war-risk section of the United States army, an organization sent over here from Washington under the supervision of Major Willard D. Straight, of New York.

85 Per Cent Accept Every enlisted man in the United States service was to have been given an opportunity to protect himself and also his family. Every man had sufficient time, the limit being February 12, to take advantage of the government's splendid offer.

Working from camp to camp I had an opportunity to meet a lot of French and her people, although my inability to speak French was a great handicap in getting the full benefit of sight-seeing. When with the Americans, though, I evened up matters. In the camps where our men had been in training for three or four months there were toughened, seasoned soldiers, fellows who were fit for hard work and all ready for the battle. They were clean, snappy and in their drills showed a lot of pep.

No Inactivity The men in training over here, like in the camps at home, have their daily recreation periods. Nobody is seen around moping or looking like a dreamer. Baseball, football and boxing are the chief out-of-door pastimes. In the Y. M. C. A.'s the boys find conveniences for letter writing and also for a game of chess or checkers.

Not a soldier here has a complaint about quarters or chow. Barracks like those in the camps at home are being put up daily, while the Americans also are having the advantage of living in quarters previously occupied by French soldiers. The Sammees have showers where warm water is turned on during certain hours on certain days. Con-

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Interesting Work It was interesting work, too, insuring our anxious American boys; anxious to save the Kaiser and anxious to return home. Small units of war-risk repre-

connected previously. I hope that I succeed. While in artillery camps last Saturday morning I was a spectator at a barrage fire. Three 3-inch guns and three 6-inch guns were being fired at thirty-second intervals. It was a great sight. The 3-inch shells were invisible as they left the gun, while the 6-inch shells looked like peas for several hundred feet before they became invisible.

Views Landscape After being put on the field for a month, sightseeing and working on the insurance, I was lucky to be one of two enlisted men to be selected for the return trip to headquarters by motor. Our journey covered a distance of about 180 kilometers and we were back in the gay city after a three-day trip, stopping in several towns "just to look around"; also to see a number of chateaus, cathedrals and numerous small churches built by the Romans centuries ago.

Since returning to headquarters, I am trying to get a transfer back to the field artillery battery to which I was

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MORAN TO REMAIN IN ST. PETE TO GREET HOLDOUT CREW WHILE PHILS MAKE JOURNEY TO MIAMI

Peppery Pilot, Three Veterans and Five Rookies to Linger at Training Base—McGuffigan's Great Work Impresses

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

PAT MORAN has decided to assume the watchful waiting role down here in the training camp and will stay on the job to greet the holdouts if they happen to wander in this direction in the next few days.

One problem seems to have been solved, however, and Pat is relieved of additional worry. McGuffigan is playing a swell game at second base, and is proving every day that Bert Niehoff, the midget infielder looks better than ever before, is hitting the ball hard and his all-round work has made quite a hit with Moran.

Discovered by Wolf Last year McGuffigan was discovered by Scout Jim Wolf out in Vernon, Cal., and shipped here for a tryout. He made a fairly good showing, was taken North and stayed with the club until July, when he was railroaded to Richmond. While working under Otto Knabe, Mac picked up some inside baseball, and when he reported this spring was 50 per cent better than last year.

Yarns From Dixie Training Quarters Larry Doyle, who is back with the Giants again after an absence of nearly two years, first came to the club in 1907. He was then a ruddy-faced youth of nineteen, who had attracted the attention of Dick Kinsella, at that time a scout for the Giants, by pounding the ball for an average of .299 with the Springfield club of the Three-L League.

"I believe," said Larry, the other night, "that I was the greenest busher that ever broke into the major leagues. I thought McGraw, Dahlen and McLean were regular man-owners, and I was afraid to open my mouth on the Polo Grounds. Also, I was more easily kidded than most bushers. I remember a fine stringing Lou Ritter, who was then catching for Brooklyn, gave me. Shortly after I joined the Giants we went over to Brooklyn for a series and opened it with a double-header. Between games Ritter came over and began to talk to me.

"Where did you come from, kid?" he asked. I told him Springfield. "What did you hit?" was his next question. When I told him, he said: "Well, I don't wonder you stand up here well. What do you like to hit?" he went on. I told him that, too, and after that I told him to what field I generally hit. Before he got through with me he sure had the low down on me. He knew just what to call for when I went to bat and every player on the Brooklyn club knew where to play for me. I was as respectful to him as I could possibly be, and it wasn't for a long while that I tumbled to the fact that he had been kidding me and warning everything he wanted to know right out of me."

Phils Lose Practice However, it gives the new men a chance to show what they can do against real opposition, as most of the rookies will be taken on the trip. Fred Luders will chaperone the party, which consists of Luders, first base; McGuffigan, second; Pearce, short; Lal, third; Meusel, left field; Picken, center field;

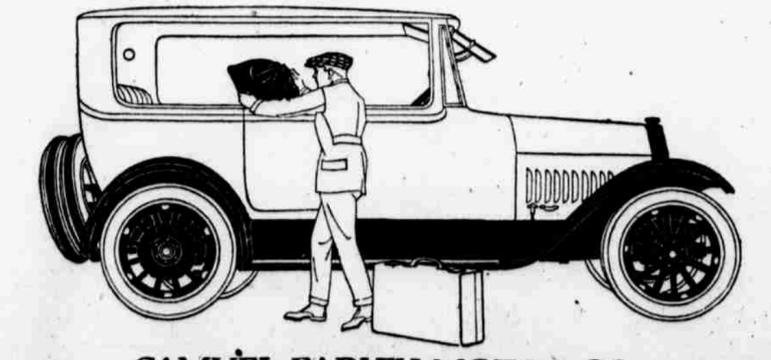


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