

PHILS STARTED LATE IN HOLDOUT RACE, BUT SHOWED 'EM ALL THEIR HEELS IN THE STRETCH

BASEBALL AS BUSINESS SPORT  
FACES ADDITIONAL PATRIOTIC  
DEMANDS THE COMING SEASON

Captain Huston's Arraignment and Defeat of  
Sunday Law in New York Sound Alarm  
to Diamond Interests

CAP HUSTON, New York Yankee mogul, has stirred up the animals with his sharp arraignment of organized baseball for its alleged lack of proper patriotism. The Cap seemed to be excited in spots, but his expression, which was widely circulated, no doubt will have effect in stirring affected interests to a better appreciation of the conditions to which he calls attention. Already his statement has drawn the counter-fire of Owner Charles Ebbets, of the Dodgers, who declares that the statements made were not in good taste and without regard to the full facts.

BASEBALL, of all sports, will be subject to criticism on account of it being on a professional basis. It will have to put the Star Spangled Banner at the head of the mast on all parks, and not as a decoration.

More Demand for Sunday Ball During the War

IF THERE ever was a time propitious for the Sunday ball movement it is the present year, when everybody will be working overtime during the week to speed up everything in the interest of war demands. The country's great munition plants and all factories and concerns engaged in producing anything that has any more than ordinary use will be going out of accustomed hours. Naturally, all will require special Sabbath recreation of some kind. Sunday ball games played in New York last fall by special arrangement showed what the possibilities were.

Also some of the Sunday games played in New York left the impression that they were covered with camouflage and were disguised to make money and get by the law and to avoid all obligation to the country at war in the interest of turning in extra dollars. The "sacred covert" stuff had its drawback and this situation no doubt was reflected at Albany when the bill was up for consideration. The factional bout between the up-State and New York city elements always is acute and the impression set out must have had its weight in the rural districts.

The West has all the advantage in the matter of taking up a subject like Sunday ball. Tradition in the eastern section has settled ways and habits of living. The fan in the older section doesn't want Sunday ball like the one in the newer districts. He has been going to the same always on weekdays; he feels that Sunday games would not be welcome to the best elements patronizing the sport, and the club owners take a similar view. It will be recalled that Barney Dreyfus fought the proposed move in this State on this general ground and that the Philly authorities fell in line with the view expressed.

IF INTERESTS inclined to back Sunday ball in the East cannot see the movement through during wartime, the chances are that they will have a long time to wait, if they ever get by.

Cub Stockholder Nurses Killefer Into Signing

THAT Bill Killefer was no ordinary holdout and that it took a lot of delicate persuasion to get him back into line to aid the Cub pennant dream this season is shown by a Chicago paper story from the club's California training camp. Killefer is a real business man, it seems, being associated with two uncles in a family commercial enterprise which is successfully manufacturing farm machinery.

The story is at least a good one. It goes so far as to state that the Cub stockholder in question, William Wrigley, who made a special trip to get the catcher lined up, became so much impressed with Killefer's business venture that he tried to put money in the concern himself, but was informed that it was a family affair and no outside capital was desired. This move may have been camouflage in order to flatter the great receiver, but it proved an effective feature of the general nursing process, which included a social visit to Wrigley's California home, where the pipe organ was turned on, the mansion and garden of the estate inspected and a filling collation served.

As to just how close Chicago fans and the Cub officials came to being disappointed is summed up by the Chicago scribe writing the story as follows:

"When reports came out of Los Angeles during the winter that Killefer might quit baseball because of business, people in general thought it was just another one of those stove league tales handed out for the purpose of holding up the club for more money. Killefer's case, however, is an exception. If it hadn't been for some effective persuasion by William Wrigley, one of the Cub stockholders, the star catcher would be giving his time to his business instead of to baseball."

IF IT is true that Killefer has got so close to a leading stockholder and has been put in such good humor, the former Phil star may be expected to come through this year with his best article of ball. A change of scenery no doubt will aid, as is usual.

Connie May Have Great Pitcher in Perry

IN ACQUIRING Pitcher Scott Perry from the Atlanta Southern League club Connie Mack has a big possibility. This at least is the opinion of those who have watched the hefty moundman in action in the Dixie circuit. The only thing to handle the big fellow successfully, which is something that previous big league managers have been unable to do.

Perry is a right-hander of imposing proportions. He surely is a "big pitcher" in one respect. He is strong as an ox and a glutton for work. He won twenty-six games in the Southern in 1916, but after being acquired by the Cubs at the end of the year he was let loose to George Stallings. It didn't take more than a day or so for the elephantine moundman to get crosswise with the Braves' chief, and following his rumpus he twirled semipro ball in Chicago last season. The Cubs retained hold, but sent him back to Atlanta this spring without trial, and now Connie has grabbed him.

As to whether the huge heaver has temperament is not certain. Connie will have enough to do to look after Tilly Walker unless there has been a change in that player's disposition, and it would be too bad to have another like problem dumped upon him during a year which now promises to give him a chance, in view of Philly prospects, to stage a real comeback with the fan flock.

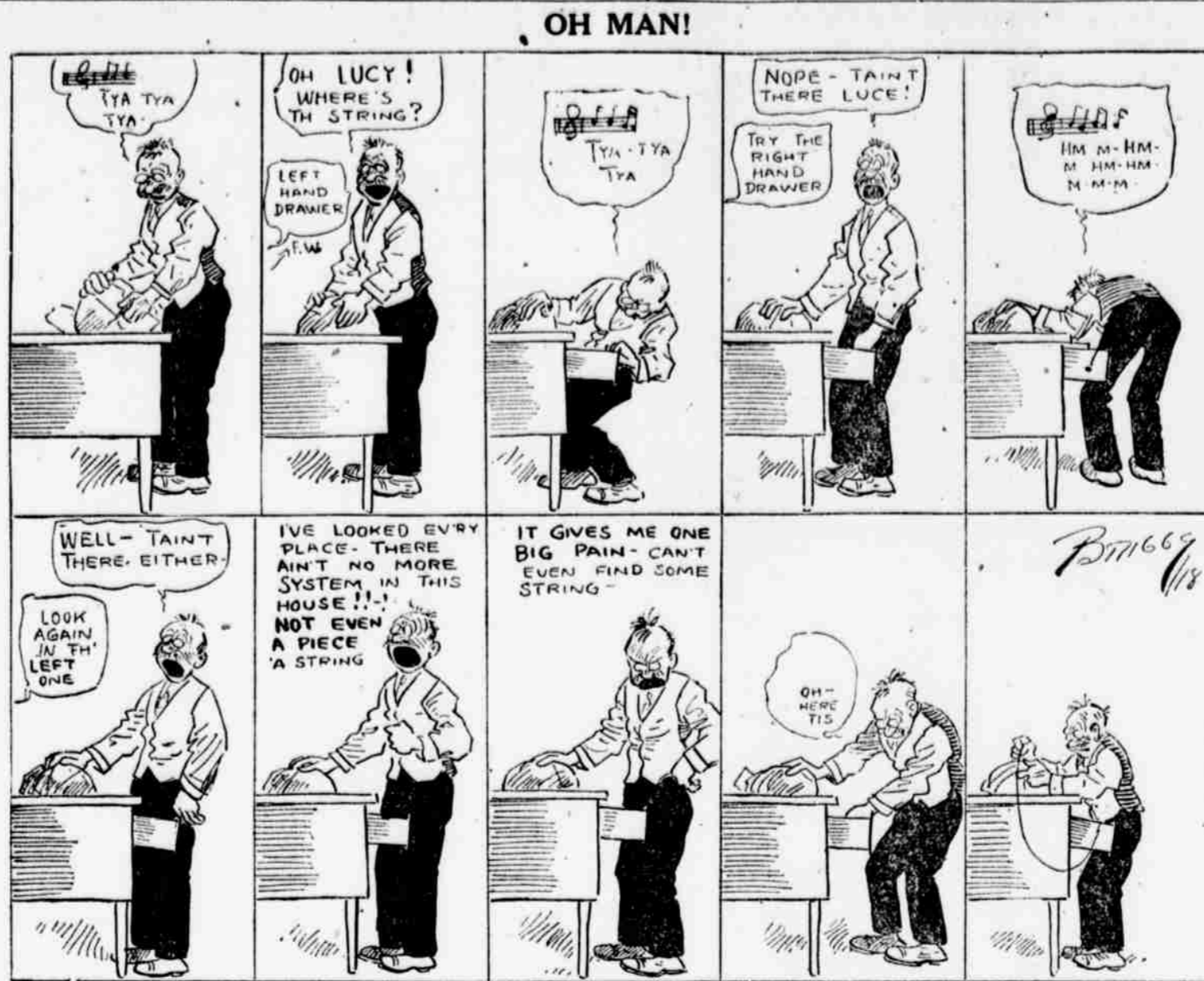
Williams Hints Weegman Worked Phils

THE latest from Outfielder Cy Williams via St. Pete is to the effect that there may have been chicanery in the deal by which it was proposed to send him to the Phillies. It states that there was no disagreement as to salary offered by President Baker, but that the fault for the misunderstanding on the part of the Philly club was due to the Cub management. The sentence is as plain as a direct charge that the Cub management knew he had quit the game and sold him without so advising the receiving club. Cy has a farm, however, and consequently is all right, no matter what happens. A farm is a fine thing.

Lavender Quits, but May Consider Atlanta

WHILE the Phillies are working down in Florida, Jimmy Lavender mends his farm at Montezuma, Ga., resolved never again to play ball. Such is the flowing fame of the major league diamond—a few days ago one of the best in the game, with a predilection for beating the ball and pound unsought by even minor league clubs. For many months he has been in the hands of the Phillies, but he has peddled all over the baseball universe, but nobody wants to buy. The price on Lavender was put at \$1000.

Lavender does not the spangles done more this year he will consent to play for only one club—Atlanta. Down there he would be near his home, no matter where he would be on the circuit he would not be too far from home at Montezuma. Lavender got his start down in Georgia, in 1908, and it is being said that he should wind up there. He has a farm, however, and consequently is all right, no matter what happens. A farm is a fine thing.



DODGERS WILL BE "WHEATLESS"  
AS FAR AS ZACH IS CONCERNED

Ebbets's Suspension of  
Holdout Would End Career of One of  
Nation's Greatest Outfielders

ACCORDING to an announcement from Uncle Charles Ebbets, the main command of the Brooklyn Dodgers, the spring drive of one Zachary Wheat has been suspended and in consequence the Wheat supply will be 50 per cent curtailed and the team will have to try to worry along without the older member of the vegetable or cereal family. Wheat may go missing, in fact, according to Uncle Charles who charges ingratitude and other offenses.

The elder Wheat was able along with the general run of the diamond flock to take advantage of the Federal League situation to boost his contract, and for the past few seasons has been enjoying a rich recompense, it is said. According to the management he declines to adapt himself to war conditions, and therefore will have to stand aside. He will be placed on the suspension list, according to word from the club office, unless he knuckles under promptly.

Wheat has been one of the big outfielders of the game since his first appearance in the big leagues in 1909. He has been good in all departments of play and has hit over .300 in six of his nine seasons. He finished third in National League batting last season, behind only Ed Roush and Rogers Hornsby, and while the ball at exactly the same figure in 1914—his mark both years being .312.

Strange to say, Wheat has been a much better relative player since he hit the road during his minor days. In the Kansas, Texas and Southern leagues, where he performed before climbing into the major league machine, he never slammed the pill better than .268. He came to Brooklyn from the



ZACK WHEAT

Mobile team of the Southern, in August, 1909, and in twenty-six games that season hit .301. He was bought for \$1500. He never has played on any other big league team. He is from the show-me section of the country, and advises from his Missouri domicile that he will have a right-hand throw and a left-hand hit.

SCHOLASTIC TEAMS  
PREPARE FOR RELAYS

Newark Central and Phillips-  
Exeter Training Hard to  
Retain Titles

MAY SMASH RECORDS

The many scholastic track teams of the East are now holding their practices outdoors in preparation for the annual relay carnival of the University of Pennsylvania, which will be held the last Friday and Saturday of next month. The big feature of the schoolboy events are the one-mile high school and prep school relay championships of America. Last year the high school race was won by the representatives of the Newark Central High School, with North-west High School, of this city, winner in 1916, a few feet behind, mainly through the wonderful running of Al Whitaker and Dewey Rogers. The Newark school is very enthusiastic over their prospects this season.

Kunkel Fast Quarter-Miler

In the John Wanamaker Commercial Institute games last week in New York they won the main scholastic event, a one-mile relay, from Merceburg Academy and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, in the time of 3 minutes 29.25 seconds. Coach Anderson only has one veteran on the team, Kunkel, who is one of the fastest quarter-milers in scholastic circles. He won second place in the 300-yard indoor championship race of the Metropolitan District of A. A. U. The other members of the squad are Caprie, Heibig, Ruseman, Heeper and Myer.

Newark will have some great competition from Washington, D. C., Central DeWitt Clinton High, of New York, and Northeast High, of this city. Thus far these four schools are the only teams entered. Coach Gerney, of Northeast, has lost his greatest star, Dewey Rogers, and must therefore develop some new speed merchants to make a first-class showing.

FAIR BALL FANS WILL  
BE EXEMPT FROM TAX

But They Must Be Accompanied by Man on Ladies' Day, Says Revenue Office

Washington, March 27.—"Ladies' day" at baseball parks will not be affected by the war tax, according to an announcement made yesterday by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The bureau has ruled that "the admission of a lady on a gentleman's ticket without extra charge is not taxable because the same

ticket covers both, even though an unaccompanied lady must pay the same admission as a gentleman." Others who are exempt are baseball writers, telegraph operators, home line employees of the baseball associations, public officials on official business and children under twelve years of age when admitted free. The bureau's announcement explains that the exemption does not apply to "newspaper critics and reporters occupying seats in the audience, but only to those who occupy special spaces such as press boxes. The term "public officials" includes policemen and firemen only when in attendance in the course of their duty.

PHILS OFF ON LONG JOURNEY  
TO MIAMI, WHERE MORANS OPEN  
SPRING SERIES WITH BRAVES

Trip Enjoyed by Every One Except Those Who  
Had to Make It—Hostilities Start Tomorrow—May Trade Whitted and Niehoff

Tampa, Fla., March 27. A GROUP of sleepy ball players, showing as much joy and enthusiasm as a guy about to be shot at sunrise, shuffled through the railroad station at 6 this morning and slowly climbed aboard an ancient but well-behaved train which each player guarded his own baggage, and to make sure of it carried it himself. The few nightawks who watched the motley mass marshaling through the trainshed imagined that a gang of reluctant heroes were answering the call of the draft and were on their way to a training camp or something.

The trip was enjoyed by every one except those who had to make it. Traveling through the southern end of the State of Florida at this time of the year is hard work, especially when it takes only sixteen hours or more to travel 300 miles. With good luck the players and unfortunate scribes will land in Miami at 10 tonight. If not, no one even can guess when the train will stagger to its destination.

That Series With Braves After the series with the Braves—which, by the way, will go a long way toward determining which team is the worst—the men will board another rattler which lives up to its name and return to St. Pete some time Sunday night. The boys will see lots of Florida before they get through.

The only pleasant feature of the trip is that no one is bothered with holdouts. Early this morning when he was aroused from a sound sleep, Erskine Mayer tried to hold out for the train which left at noon, but could not overcome the convincing argument which swept him off his feet and dragged him to the station.

Speaking of holdouts, however, President Baker motored over from Belmont yesterday and conferred with Pat Moran and Bill Shetsline for more than an hour. Nothing was done outside of spilling lots of conversation.

No Word From Gange It is believed that Williams will be on hand in a short time and Milton Stock also will fall into line. There was no news about Whitted or Niehoff and the chances are that they will be given the absent treatment if they don't appear in a short time. This is one year where the club owner seems to be in the right. The players are bucking public opinion when they refuse to sign their contracts, because some have been offered less money than last year, and they should consider themselves fortunate. The club owner is taking a big chance and the player will not. That's the way it looks at the present writing.

Holdouts Need Practice "This is a bad time of the year to be stubborn and refuse to report at the training camp, for the holdout needs the practice as much as any one else and the other members of the team need them to perfect their team play."

It wouldn't be at all surprised if a clause was inserted in the contracts next year to protect the clubs against holdouts. We must have some protection and I believe that these men will be on hand at the training camp if these contracts are dated from the first day they are ordered to appear. Then, if a player fails to show up, he will lose a few weeks' pay. Now all they have to do is to report on the first day of the season and get just as much money as the men who have been working for a month."

It is rumored that Whitted and Niehoff are likely to be traded to St. Louis or Pittsburgh if they do not come to terms in a short time.

KESNER, CARNEGIE TECH ATHLETE, KILLED IN WAR Pittsburgh, March 27.—The first Carnegie Tech athlete to be killed in the European war is "Sunny" Kesner, captain of the football team and one of the best quarterbacks ever produced in Pittsburgh. His father received a cablegram yesterday informing him of the death of his son in action somewhere on the battle line in France.

Baseball Bill in N. Y. Senate Albany, N. Y., March 27.—The Lawton bill, designed to legalize professional baseball games on Sunday, was advanced to the order of final passage in the Senate yesterday.



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