

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 Pollus 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 Pollu went after it and threw it back at me.

"I swung at the ball, but it passed me, and the Pollus 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 back 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 Pollus 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 Pollus 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.

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man, 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.

"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 ground to their promise, too. The next night they started in in earnest, needing but little direction, and playing with the keenest interest. After two or three innings 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."

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 United States army.



Captain Christy Mathewson. United States army. For years Matty's prowess as a pitcher for the New York Giants, his late manager 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.

Government Objects to Inducements Offered to Ball Players—Real War Work Evaded.

Ball players are not receiving the inducements from shipyards and steel plants that were offered a few weeks ago. The government has put its foot down on that form of evading real war work and now it is a case of actually working for so much a day and playing ball on the side simply for glory and exercise if they so desire.

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

Money for Athletic Goods. Bill introduced in Congress authorizing purchase of equipment for Soldier Boys.

Expenditure by the secretary of war up to \$50,000 during the fiscal year for athletic goods, including base balls and bats, footballs and boxing gloves, as a part of the equipment of each regiment, would be authorized under a bill introduced in the house by Representative Sigel of New York.

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.

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.

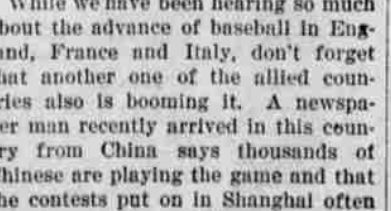
For the same reason a goodly per cent of the players who up to a year or so ago were the coming eligibles for big league jobs will pass up their baseball aspirations for other lines, and the incentive for the youngsters will not be as great.

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 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 upon a lengthy continuation of the war.

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



"Ted" Meredith. University of Pennsylvania's great flyer, 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.

YANKS SMASH THE HINDENBURG LINE

Brieulles and Romagne Are Carried by Americans

KREIMHILD LINE BROKEN

Pershing's Sweep Is Great Menace—General Hun Retirement to Belgian Border Believed Inevitable.

Washington.—Continued and increasing pressure by Marshal Foch along virtually the whole western front from Verdun to the North Sea has brought the Germans face to face with a critical situation, in the opinion of observers here.

French troops are over the Chemin-des-Dames barrier on a wide front, and as they now are pressing on the flank of the retreating Germans to the south and west the situation in the center of the great German defensive arch appeared to observers as most critical.

The Hindenburg line was believed to be foreshadowed. Farther north, British, Belgian and American troops are smashing through interwoven trench systems and across canals and other naturally strong positions at a rate that showed the desperate straits of the enemy to find men to meet the drive. No help for Laon can be looked for from that direction.

To the west, General Pershing's first army apparently has broken the new Kreimhild line, with the capture of Romagne. The Hindenburg position already is behind the Americans on their whole front, and to the left the French also have swept over the enemy defenses on a wide sector.

The Hindenburg line has been smashed in at least six different places. There seemed no possibility that the enemy could cling to the fragments that remained for more than a matter of hours. Cambrai, St. Quentin, La Ferre, St. Gobain forest, it seemed, might be engulfed by the tide of Allied and American soldiers at any moment, although it may prove necessary to pass them for latter occupation as it has been German practice to fill evacuated towns full of gas.

The Hague for Peace Talk.

Holland Gives Ready Acquiescence to Austrian Inquiry.

Famous Runner is Honored

Mineral Control Bill Passes.

Two Aviators Killed.

Hun Bases Bombarded.

Government for Palestine.

LIFT OFF CORNS!

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



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.

How a Hero Died. He was smiling but pale, when they wheeled him in—a black-haired youth of twenty—and he was still smiling when they tenderly transferred him to a cot after the doctors had counted seven machine-gun bullet wounds, one in his ankle, three in his side and three in his chest.

Catarrrhal Deafness Cannot Be Cured by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure Catarrrhal Deafness, and that is by a constitutional remedy.

Big Washing. A Minneapolis laundress, a negro woman, patriotic supporter of the Red Cross, was among the thousands who witnessed a recent Red Cross parade in the Mill city, in which 15,000 white-clad women participated.

Simply Rashly Skins. Quickly soothed and healed by Cuticura when all else fails.

Defined. "Pop, is a benign tumor a kind one?" "Yes; the kind you don't want to get."

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

About 60,000,000 acres of land is given over to tobacco cultivation in the world.

KAISER IN DIFFERENT POSE

"All Highest" Beginning to Realize He Is Not the Bold, Bad Man He Thought He Was.

"The Kaiser's whining speech on the fourth anniversary of the war," said Senator Myers of Montana, "declares that Germany's sole aim is to live at peace with peaceful neighbors."

How It Is. "And what are these poor fellows doing?" asked the would-be social worker who was being shown through the prison by an attendant.

Bankrupt! "Everything she had went at auction." "Public sale?" "No; bridge."

When Baby Is Teething. GROVER'S BABY SYRUP will soothe the Stomach and Bowels troubles. Perfectly harmless. See directions on the bottle.

Life is dark—not worth much to the man or woman with an acid-stomach. Acid-stomach kills Hope, 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.

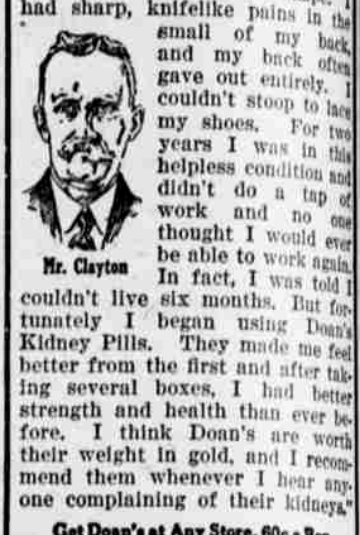
COLT DISTEMPER. You can prevent this loathsome disease from running through your stable and cure all the colts suffering with it when you begin the treatment.

WHAT CONSTIPATION MEANS. It means a miserable condition of ill health that leads to all sorts of special ailments such as headaches, backache, dyspepsia, dizziness, indigestion, pains of various kinds, etc.

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. LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND.

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 ached, and 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."

Especially in the Parlor. "Where there is so much smoke in the house there is bound to be a good deal of fire," observed the almost cyber as he hit down on a wartime battle-burn, causing his new false teeth to list heavily to port.

Something of the Sort. He—He has the earmarks of a great musician. She—Are all musicians marked on the ears?

PARKER'S HAIR BALM. A special preparation of merit. Helps to eradicate dandruff. For Restoring Color and Giving Vitality to Falling Hair.

It's a poor baseball field that has files on its floor.

Lot's of men spend half their time complaining of life's brevity and the other half in trying to kill time.