

KNOCKER SAID ST. JOHN DEAD AS BASEBALL TOWN

Joe Page Sets Things Right
With Hugh Duffy

Latter Revives Matter of St. John Going Into New England League—Greetings to Friends Here From Fred Mitchell.

A member of the "Knockers' club" of this city recently called on Hugh Duffy, erstwhile manager of the Toronto Leafs and now manager of the Boston Sox, and during a conversation informed him that baseball in St. John was absolutely dead. It will be recalled that Mr. Duffy took a keen interest in the New England League, and was one of the magnates who favored admitting St. John into its circuit.

Recounting the incident a few days ago, while in conversation with Joe Page in the lobby of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, Mr. Duffy expressed surprise at the information handed out by this man.

Any person saying that baseball is dead in St. John either has no regard for veracity or else has been away from the city during the summer months. Never in the history of baseball in these parts did baseball enjoy the popularity it did during the last two years. In 1919, when the West End League was in vogue, as many as 2,000 people turned out to witness games, despite the fact that there was no grand stand or no bleachers to accommodate them, and they had to stand during the nine innings craning their necks to follow the many plays. Despite this lack of essential to make baseball attractive to the fan, there were no complaints, and all that they asked for was a good brand of ball, and it was generally agreed that they got it.

This year the city league was one of the feature attractions during the summer months. Evening after evening, on Saturday afternoons and on holidays crowds invaded St. Peter's and the park and taxed the seating and standing capacity of the grounds. This was also true when visiting teams came here to meet local aggregations. From this it is evident that baseball instead of being dead is very much alive in St. John.

In addition to the senior league, there were a large number of the leading summer pastime in these parts. Naturally, fans will be pleased to learn that Mr. Page vindicated their city, although he is a citizen of Montreal. Fortunately he had the pleasure of coming to St. John frequently during the summer months, and as a result of his observations he absolutely disagrees with the statement made by this city's erstwhile manager. As a fan, he believes that it is one of the greatest ball towns of its size.

That St. John is one of the professional baseball and have a representation in the New England League was the glad tidings brought here by Mr. Page, who was recently admitted a member of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. While in conversation with Mr. Duffy the latter asked him in event of the New England League being re-organized if he would attend the meeting as a representative from St. John. Mr. Page said that he would be delighted to do so, and if he was not in a position to do so he believed others would assuredly be there from this city.

While Mr. Page was in New York recently he had the pleasure of meeting Fred Mitchell, erstwhile manager of the Chicago Cubs and now manager of the Boston Braves. During their conversation St. John was mentioned, and Mr. Mitchell recounted his pleasant visit to this city under his real name of Yapp. He asked Mr. Page to remember him to St. John fans and extend his greetings at this festive season. Many fans here will remember Fred's great pitching with the Alerts and the stellar catching of his battery mate, Harry Hope, and will unite in wishing the new manager of the Braves best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and the hope that next season they will have an opportunity of going to the Hub to witness his new charges battling for the baseball championship of the world.

Mr. Page, who came in from Montreal this morning, was heartily congratulated today on the honor conferred upon him recently by the Baseball Writers' Association.

It has been learned that baseball fans in America owe a great debt of gratitude to Oscar Reichow, sporting editor of the Chicago Daily News, as it was largely due to his efforts that Judge Landis was secured to take over the helm at the head of the baseball commission, during this troubled period. Mr. Reichow is a brilliant writer and knows baseball from a to z. As a result there is a report current that he will be offered the position of secretary to Judge Landis, and men in a position to know say he would be a good choice.

AT WAKE OVER CORPSE OF MAN HE HAD KILLED

Arrest Made and Sheriff Says
Man Has Confessed Using
Knife.

Annisston, Ala., Dec. 20.—C. A. McCulloch, arrested yesterday while sitting up with the corpse of John W. Loudermilk, who was mysteriously killed on Friday night, has confessed to the killing of Loudermilk, according to a statement issued last night by the sheriff of Calhoun county.

The sheriff asserted that McCulloch said he was in Loudermilk's room when he latter returned home, that he hid behind a bed and that, after Loudermilk had heard him attempting to leave, he struck Loudermilk with a knife.

BULGAR ELOPES WITH GIRL UNDER SIXTEEN

They Are Married and Husband Faces Charge in Courts.

Bridgeburg, Ont., Dec. 20.—John Donoff, a Bulgarian, faces a charge of having taken away a girl under 16 years of age without the consent and from under the protection of her parents. Donoff and Rebeah Gibbs, daughter of John Gibbs, a Jewish merchant of Jarvis street, went to Toronto and were married.

Gibbs brought the girl back, and Donoff was haled into the police court, as also was Peter Vichoff, another Bulgarian, who is charged with complicity in the case.

Donoff's trial and are out on \$1,000 bail each. Donoff says that because of the opposition of Gibbs, they were forced to elope. He admits that he lied about her age when the marriage ceremony took place in Toronto.

YESTERDAY IN CITY CHURCHES

Christmas music was given with fine effect yesterday at Queen Square Methodist Church, under the direction of Mrs. J. C. Rayworth, organist and conductor. Soloists were Mrs. C. R. Merceau, Mrs. Margaret Rowe and Leslie Bowick. Music is taking an increasingly important part in many of the services of the churches in the city and the regular services are brightened with beautiful instrumental and choral selections. Services of sacred song are also being more and more popular. On Sunday in the Exmouth street Methodist church the services were largely choral, and an enlarged choir rendered with fine feeling Christmas-time music. Miss Mabel Sandall, the organist, gave most expressive interpretations of organ voluntaries. The choir was led by E. E. Thomas and showed in its singing of the special numbers what careful training it had received. There were large congregations both morning and evening and the pastor, Rev. George F. Dawg, read sermons appropriate to the occasion. At the morning service, the carol "Brightest and Best of the Sun" of the Morning, the Te Deum and the anthem "Behold I Bring You Good Tidings" were sung. J. R. Hopkins sang the solo of the hymn, "The Song of the Morning." In the evening the carol "O Come All Ye Faithful," the anthems, "The Song of the Morning" and "Great Joy" and the Hallelujah chorus were sung and the solo, "O Come to Me," was sung by Miss Mabel Sandall. The solo "When Heaven Sang to Earth," by Miss Minnie Myles.

The sacred concert in the Victoria street church in the afternoon had a large congregation. These sacred concerts have attracted a growing number of people and are being greatly enjoyed. The orchestra, under the leadership of Harry Black, gave excellent numbers. Mr. Lillian Lillian, a soloist, sang "The Song of the Morning" and "The Song of the Evening." A new soloist has sung at each of the concerts. At the evening service, the carol "The Song of the Morning" and "The Song of the Evening" were sung. The solo "The Song of the Morning" was sung by Miss Mabel Sandall. The solo "The Song of the Evening" was sung by Miss Minnie Myles.

A Christmas carol service was held in St. Luke's church after the evening service and was very largely attended. With Miss Lillian Lillian presiding at the organ five carols were very charmingly sung. Duets were sung by Willard Smith and Mrs. Lester Mowry. A male chorus sang one of the carols. The service was most inspirational.

Rev. F. H. Bone, pastor of Central Baptist church, in the concluding sermon of a series dealing with the question of the church's world-wide failure to carry out its functions with full success, spoke very plainly of chaotic conditions now existing in capitalist labor and pastor circles, yesterday morning. After giving it as his opinion that the present-day struggle of labor and capital is primarily due to the repudiation by Germany of her honorbound treaties, the clergyman gave some examples of conditions as they affect the ordinary household.

The Ludlow street church is to remain draped in mourning for three months. It was draped for the funeral of Rev. W. R. Robinson, according to a resolution adopted in the church last night. At the evening service, R. J. Anderson, the chairman of trustees, moved the resolution, and the church was draped in mourning for three months.

Several city pupils were occupied by visiting ministers yesterday. In Main street Baptist church Rev. R. J. Colpitt was the preacher in the absence of the pastor, Rev. Dr. David Hutchinson, who was in Halifax taking part in the service of dedication of the new Tabernacle church of which Rev. G. E. Daley is the pastor. Rev. J. C. Berrie conducted the services in the Tabernacle church while the pastor, Rev. Isaac Brindley, occupied the pulpit of the Ludlow street Baptist church, left vacant by the death of Rev. W. R. Robinson.

The service at the Seaman's Institute was attended last evening by the largest Sunday evening crowd in the history of the institution. The meeting was addressed by Rev. R. P. McKim, of St. Luke's church. The speaker took for his topic the Life of Christ, and gave an instructive talk on the subject. This was further enhanced by illustrative slides depicting scenes from the life of the Saviour. After the address, refreshments were served by the ladies.

JAPS DECIDE TO
KEEP TROOPS THERE

Tokio, Dec. 20.—The withdrawal of the Japanese expedition to the Chentao district, on the Korean-Manchurian border, which has been indefinitely postponed, according to the Jiji Shimbun today.

The newspapers, which says its information is obtained from the most reliable sources, adds that the postponement was because of the increasing gravity of the situation in the district, where Korean insurgents and bandits had been active.

GIRL BANDIT LEADS VICTIM TO ROBBER DEN

Pearl Handled Revolver
Leaves Little Choice

Three Daylight Hold-ups in
Chicago Are Successfully
Carried Out — Another
Theft Case With \$5,000 In-
volved.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—A pretty girl with a pearl-handled revolver yesterday played a leading part in three daylight hold-ups in the north side residential district. In each case she pretended to be lost, stopped a passer-by and asked him to direct her to an address which always proved to be only a few doors distant. Generally the person volunteered to point out the exact door, but when it was reached the pearl-handled revolver was placed against his ribs and he was ordered to "go in or get filled with lead."

Inside, two men completed the hold-up and tied the victim to a bed. Then the girl went to another victim. After three men had been robbed and tied the hands left. One of the victims broke loose and notified the police. Two men and a girl were arrested last night in connection with the robberies, but details they were implicated.

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