

Same Old Crowd of Five in .300 Class in American League Again During 1917

That .300 class of American league batsmen is getting to be an old story. In the National league new names and new faces are continually appearing, and in the membership list of the Society of Swat, but with the younger league an old guard is holding forth. There are evidences of a new select set, with George Sisler, Happy Felsch and Sam Rice heading the advance, but the old squad continues to hold the fort.

Back in 1906 Tyrus Cobb first flashed his real greatness over the American league circuit and with his entry as a .300 hitter a new class of swate specialists came into the fading stars of the passing age for two seasons and then Tris Speaker came into the picture to give the Georgian many a chase for honors. The same year that Tris made his appearance as a .300 regular Eddie Collins began to make life miserable for American league pitchers, and a year later Stuffy McInnis joined the ranks. Joe Jackson came into the society in 1911, a year after the Gloucester youngster began to make himself famous with the bat and at first base for the Mackmen.

Five Consistent Hitters.

These five players—Cobb, Speaker, Collins, McInnis and Jackson—compose the old guard of American league sluggers, as contrasted with the younger set that now is beginning to assert itself. Year after year, with lapses decidedly rare, one finds these names listed in the select society of American league hitters. Cobb now has gone through twelve consecutive seasons as a .300 hitter, and in the past nine years the lowest mark he has had for a season was .368 in 1914. A long series of continued successes in leading the league as a batsman was broken in 1916, when Tris Speaker beat out Cobb by 15 percentage points, .386 against .371. Speaker has recently concluded his ninth consecutive season as a member of the .300 class. He started back in 1909 with a mark of .309 and each succeeding year has found the stocky Texan in the lists. Tris did his best work in 1916 with .386 and he dropped back this past season to .352.

Joe Jackson is the only other American leaguer who can claim the distinction of having remained in the .300 class for the past seven seasons or longer. In fact, Cobb, Speaker and Jackson are the only major leaguers to enjoy this distinction. Jackson had a close call during the past season and only by a remarkable spurt during the last few games of the campaign was the Chicago slugger able to crowd his way into the charmed circle. He finished with an official batting mark of .301, merely winning his membership string up to seven consecutive years.

Each Missed One Season.

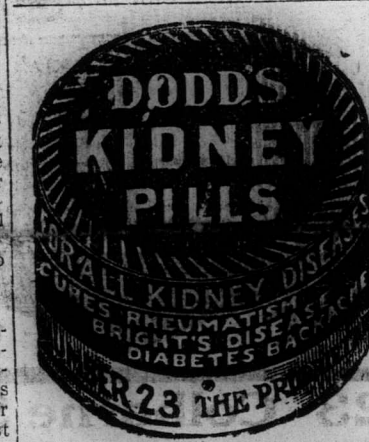
Collins has finished more campaigns in the .300 class than Jackson has, and McInnis has tied Jackson's mark, but each of these players has met with one failure. A post start during the recent campaign cost

Collins a place in the select set after eight years of unbroken success. The close of every campaign from 1909 to 1916 inclusive found "World's Series Eddie" among the Celebrities of Clout, with figures ranging from .308 to .365, but in helping the White Sox to win a pennant this year Collins could not do better than .289 with the stick. So he takes a drop after keeping on even terms with Tris Speaker since the pair started in as members of the .300 class back in 1909.

Four in New Group

In the new guard one might include the name of Bob Veach, though the Detroit slugger has been in the league much longer than Sisler, Felsch and Rice. Veach was in the select set as far back as 1912, then fell away for two seasons, and finished among the .300 hitters in 1915-16-17. Sisler gave evidence of his batting power with a mark of .285 in 1915, his first season with the Browns. In 1916 he batted .305, and during the past season he hit .353, winning a place next to Cobb, Felsch hit only .248 in 1915, his first year with the White Sox, but followed with marks of .301 in 1916 and .308 in 1917. Rice also shows steady improvement. He finished the 1916 campaign with .299 and followed with a .302 average in 1917. Sisler, Felsch and Rice are youngsters and may be as prominent in the .300 class in future as Cobb, Speaker, Jackson, Collins and McInnis have been during the past several campaigns.

Italy feels keenly a shortage of wheat.



SUTHERLAND'S

An Excellent Xmas Gift!
Waterman's
Ideal Fountain Pens
\$2.50 to \$25.00 Each

Sutherland's Perfecto Fountain Pen—the best \$1.00 pen in the world. All fully guaranteed.

Jas. L. Sutherland

BOOKSELLER & STATIONER
Store Open Evenings Till Christmas.

TO STAKE ALL ON FINAL GAMBLE

Kaiser's Christmas Speeches Indicate Surrender to the Militarists

A MASK OF COURAGE

While Germany is Perishing With Hunger and Simmering with Revolt

London, Dec. 24.—The Kaiser's two Christmas speeches to the soldiers in the trenches renewing and strengthening the claim of a direct alliance with God and announcing that Germany intends to punish with the iron fist and the shining sword her enemies for rejecting Germany's peace terms is the most truculent expression by the Kaiser in many months, putting to rest the rumors which, till the eve of Christmas Day, still persisted in Germany to a no less extent than in Britain that the Kaiser would make a peace move on Christmas. The British interpretation is that the Kaiser is assuming a bold face with the backing of Hindenburg's threat to crush the western allies, and is hoping to gloss over the fearful conditions in Germany, which are rapidly increasing to despair. The privations of the people who are demanding peace and increasingly threatening to revolt before Winter is ended gives the Kaiser confirmation to statements describing the dire straits of the German civil population. Food and internal economics are so desperate that there is reason to believe that they will determine the duration of the war, regardless of the military situation. The British Government learns that if relief does not reach Germany from the outside the country is incapable of holding out until next harvest and is likely to reach exhaustion much sooner. The popular discontent is intense, and is no longer repressible.

The Kaiser's speeches therefore are regarded merely as a proof that he has finally acquiesced in the plans of the military party to stake everything on a huge military gamble, hoping to break the allies before Germany breaks. Recent detailed information from Germany, which is explicit or authoritative, makes a different conclusion impossible. The German people, sustained for a long time in the hope of supplies of foodstuffs from Russia are now discovering that it is more likely that Russia will become a burden instead of a help to Germany. The only Russian area where hope was derived of food supplies was the Ukraine, whose break with the Ukrainians and determination to join hands with Roumania to continue the struggle, deprive Germany of this hope. The Ukraine is the richest portion of Russia, with a population about equal to that of the United States at the beginning of the American Civil War, and is therefore an important military factor if effectively utilized. For which sound reason it is believed the allies are taking effective steps thereto.

The only thing that is plentiful in Germany this Christmas is children's toys. Shiploads of these, manufactured before August, 1914, and intended for the British market have been heretofore unmarketed because the manufacturers hoped for peace; the manufacturers of the British market, and are now selling throughout Germany. German children are delighted at receiving miniature battle ships named Drake, Nelson and Trafalgar, and toy trains labelled Scotch Limited and Northern Express.

An earthquake shock of great intensity was recorded at Conales Heights observatory, Victoria B.C. Ex-Ald. Henry Greenless of London, Ont., a well-known barometer, was found dead at his home, stricken with heart failure during the night.

Louis Pearce, a well-known dairy farmer of Concession 6, Norwich township, South Oxford, suddenly dropped dead while chatting with the mail carrier.

Patterns for British, French and Italian submarine chasers were destroyed by a mysterious fire in the G.H. Thatcher Co.'s plant at Albany, N. Y.

Technical students of high standing will not be required to enlist under the U. S. draft, but will have to join the Engineers Reserve.

The Boston and Maine R. R. is again cutting its passenger service in order to economize on fuel.

PAINT CANADIAN HEROISM

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Dec. 25.—(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency.)—The story of Canada's glorious deeds in the war, at Ypres and elsewhere, which already have been told in print, is now to be told in glowing colors by some of the most distinguished artists of the day, British and Canadian. Under the auspices of the Canadian war records office, a war memorial has been inaugurated with Lord Rothermere as chairman and Lord Beaverbrook as a member of the committee. The fund now amounts to about \$75,000, the whole of it has been raised in the United Kingdom and Canada by the propaganda section of the Dominion Government, the object of which is to tell the people of Canada down to the smallest detail what their share has been in the war.

ZBYSKO CHAMPION

By Courier Leased Wire

Boston, Dec. 25.—Zbyszko, the Polish wrestler, defeated Yousouf Hussane, in a wrestling match announced as for the world's heavyweight title, here last night. Zbyszko won the first fall in one hour and forty minutes. His opponent was unable to continue.

WELTERWEIGHT BOUT

By Courier Leased Wire

Lawrence, Mass., Dec. 25.—Tommy Robson, of Malden, got the decision over Fred Dyer of Australia in a 12 round bout here last night. The men are welterweights.

WINNING PRAYER

By Courier Leased Wire

Edinburgh, Dec. 25.—St. Andrew's University has awarded the first prize of \$500 to Rev. Samuel McComb, of Baltimore, in the first competition under a trust established last year for essays on "Prayer." The competitors are open to the world with essays in any language. There were 1,700 competitors. The other prizes were awarded as follows: Two to England, one to Switzerland and one to India.

Children Cry

FOR FLETCHER'S

CASORIA

BRANT-OLA

"THE PHONOGRAPH OF MERIT"

In less than two years the Brant-ola, the product of a Brantford factory, has taken its place in the front rank of Phonographs. This has not been accomplished through extensive advertising but purely on merit.

A Demonstration OF THESE WONDERFUL INSTRUMENTS WILL BE GIVEN AT THE

Tea Pott Inn FOR TEN DAYS

COMMENCING

Dec. 20th

The Exhibit will be in charge of one of our experts and an invitation is extended to every one to see the product of a Brantford Industry

Concerts Afternoon and Evenings

BRANTFORD PIANO CASE CO., LIMITED

Xmas Old Country Football Results

London, Dec. 25.—The football results Monday were:

London Combination
Chelsea 4; Clapton Orient 1; West Ham 2; Crystal Palace 1; Tottenham H. 6; Millwall 0; Fulham 1; Arsenal 1; Brentford 1; Queen's Park 1; Brentford 1; Queen's Park 1; Brentford 1; Queen's Park 1.

Lancashire Section
Burnley 1; Blackpool 1; Preston 2; Blackburn Rovers 0.

New vessels in course of construction for the U. S. navy total 424, in addition to 350 submarine chasers, which will be in service early in the spring.

COAL CEMENT
JOHN MANN & SONS
LIME BRICK
323 Colborne Street
BELL 90 MACHINE 46

Food from Russia is expected to reach Austria soon.

Christmas in London is sober, but without distress.

China has ordered the Bolsheviks in Harbin to depart.

A Federal enquiry is to be held into the packing industry across the border.

Although the acreage of winter wheat in the States is the highest on record, its condition is the lowest ever recorded.

WILSON'S "The National Smoke" Eighteen million "Bachelors" sold annually in Canada

BACHELOR

Every smoker would appreciate a box of "Bachelors" as a holiday gift, because he knows that this is a cigar that always satisfies.

CIGAR 3 for 25¢ Cheaper by the Box

(ANDREW WILSON & CO. TORONTO AND MONTREAL)

THAT SON-IN-LAW OF PA'S

--By Wellington

NOW PA—I POSITIVELY FORBID YOU TO SHAVE! YOU SIMPLY MUST RAISE A MUSTACHE BY CHRISTMAS!



I-IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF DEAR CEDRIC'S FEELINGS, PA!



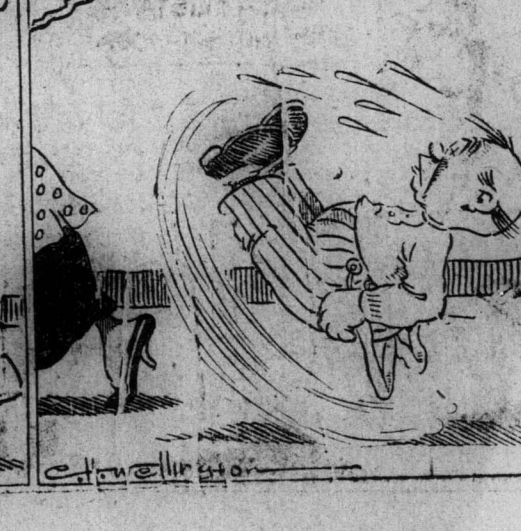
WHAT TH SAM HILL HAS MY RAISIN A MUSTACHE GOT Y DO WITH THAT SAPH-HEAD'S FEELINGS?



WHY—I'M AFRAID THE DEAR BOY WOULD FEEL BADLY IF HE WERE TO REALIZE THAT HE'D MADE YOU A USELESS XMAS GIFT. AND I HAPPEN TO KNOW—



—THAT HE'S GOING TO GIVE YOU A MUSTACHE-CUP?



Copyright, 1917, by Hearst Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.