Sporting Comment

The attendance at major league baseball games since the decision of Secretary Baker has stunned the club owners and recalls the days of small crowds in many cities. At one time the smallness of the crowds in Cleveland became notorious. One day Bob Emslie, the great veteran umpire, who had served as a player and umpire since 1868, when he first broke into the business, stepped out into the Cleveland park to start a game between Chicago and Cleveland. A few lonely figures were freckled around the big wooden stands, but there seemed to be more players than spectators. Joe Quinn, the undertaker humorist, was on the infield. Bob dusted off the plate and was just turning to announce the batteries when Quinn rushed toward him.

"Wait a few minutes, Bob," he called. "Wait just a few minutes; don't start the game yet."

"Why, what's the trouble?" inquired Bob.

"I gave passes to two of the chambermaids of the hotel and they ain't here yet," said Joe.

The other day the glorious news of a victory was coming from France and in front of a bulletin board in New York a cheering crowd was shouting and every half hour or so it would break into singing as the bulletins told the story of the work of the American soldiers in their drive against the Hun.

Down the street came a typical Broadwayite, his spats a bit discolored, his cane a trifle out of plumb, his shirt and cuffs and collar a bit soiled, but he still radiated that consciousness of superiority which all real Broadwayites feel. He arrived at the edge of the crowd and asked:

"Wot's goin' on?"

"The Yanks win, the Yanks win," exclaimed a patriot.

"Ah, he said, disgustedly, "Let 'em win. I'm rootin' for de Joints."

Those English sport writers have been having a tough time of it trying to learn American baseball nomenclature. But they have courage. They have already begun helping us out.

Look what they have dubbed a "Texas leaguer"! That name means nothing, absolutely nothing, to them. Indeed, some of them think Texas is still the abode of ferocious savages.

But they've gone and called the "Texas leaguer" a "snick."

In the meantime Johnny-on-the-spot Heydler will continue to perform the duties of president of the National League same as usual.

The magnates will not have to worry about training camps for their players next spring. Uncle Sam will attend to that.

With the regular season closing down September 1, the Hot Stove League will open a month earlier this year.

In All The Big Leagues

DIFFERENT KIND OF PITCHER.—"Bill" James, formerly of the Boston Braves, has changed his uniform for that of Uncle Sam's crack team of "Scrappers." In this photo "Bill" is showing his fellow-troopers how to hurl the newest thing in bombs at a training camp. He has been appointed drill instructor.

SERMONS TOO LONG

There is interest amongst Methodists in an effort to induce ministers to preach shorter sermons. The matter was brought up at the Toronto conference in June, and there have been a number of letters following up the subject. As one writer points out, the lengthy orations of Pitt and Gladstone and the long editorial articles of half a century ago, would not be read in the present rushing times. It is argued that sermons should follow low suit, and temper themselves to the age which demands brevity and brightness.

CANADIANS SUFFER 10,428 CASUALTIES

Those Killed in Action Total 130 Officers and 1,474 Men

DESERTERS WARNED

Extreme Penalty for Those Who Fail to Back Up Canada's Heroes

Ottawa, Aug. 20—Hon. Martin Burrell, acting Minister of Militia, in a statement to the Canadian Press tonight, referred to the recent Canadian offensive and expressed in no uncertain tones the Government's views in regard to the amnesty for deserters which expires at the end of this week.

"Since the first of August," said the Minister, "the Canadians have marked their entry into the fifth year of the war by achievements which have confirmed the reputation of the Canadian corps as the most formidable fighting force of its size on the Western battlefront. The recent advance made by our men has been important in its results and brilliant in execution. In the past three weeks they have captured 10,000 prisoners, 150 guns, and thousands of machine guns. During the same brief period they have suffered 10,428 casualties, in killed, wounded and missing, 130 officers and 1,474 men having been killed in action.

"No comment can be so strong as this simple statement of facts. The figures carry their own story, both of valor and grief. They are at once an evidence of the unshaken resolve of our countrymen to crush the foes of our common liberty, and a challenge to ourselves. We dare not and we will not fail to support them in their great task.

"Across the sea we have much cause for gratitude and pride. Within Canada itself we have reason also for pride. The call for an expeditionary force to Siberia, to assist Russia in the fight against her German foes, has evoked a keen response throughout the country, showing that four years of effort and sacrifice have neither exhausted our energies nor deadened the national will to obey on.

Thousands of Absentees

"Thousands of our young men have been enrolled during the last few months, most of whom it is hoped will become reinforcements for their fellow-countrymen overseas. They have answered their country's call for duty, though such an answer, in thousands of cases, has meant heavy sacrifice for them and their friends. I have to say with profound regret that there are thousands of others who have failed their country in their country's need; thousands of men who, having been notified to report for duty, have refused to obey the law, and have thereby become criminals in the eyes of the law, dishonoring both themselves and their country.

"During the past two months nothing has given me greater anxiety than this condition of affairs; a condition the continuation of which would be intolerable. Many of these men, recreant to their sense of manhood, honor or duty, have deliberately constituted themselves outlaws. I am convinced, however, that thousands of them have been misled by people who have encouraged and persuaded them to disobey the law, and who, through their fuller knowledge, are more guilty than those who are now deserters, and who may not have realized the gravity of their offence. This whole matter was thoroughly discussed by my colleagues and myself, and the decision was reached by the Government to grant an amnesty until August 24. Its terms are well known, a full and certain pardon to those who failed to report and are deserters; an equally full and certain punishment to those who fail to surrender themselves and to those who shelter deserters after that date.

Must Preserve Discipline

"Canadian soldiers, both abroad and at home have an enviable record for discipline as for bravery. No large body of soldiers can, however, be entirely free from discipline-breakers, and we have lately had to impose punishments of ten years' penal servitude on a number of men who set their fellow soldiers an example of disobedience to military orders which, if followed, would stamp us as unfit to fight the Hun. It is inconceivable that while punishing the soldier for breaking a military law, we should not punish the man who refuses to become a soldier and is thereby guilty of breaking the fundamental law upon which all military regulations and discipline are based. To those who have any doubts on the matter, I cannot too strongly emphasize the determination of the Government to carry out the terms of the proclamation. Court-martials have now been constituted in all military districts, the law will be rigorously enforced and the extreme penalty be imposed on those who fail to surrender.

"It is gratifying to know that many of these men are now reporting for duty. It is equally gratifying to know that the press of all nationalities and large numbers of influential people are doing fine service to the State by warning those who have ignorantly transgressed and by advising them as to the course they should now pursue. I hope and believe that the warning and advice will be heeded. The State gives privileges to all alike, and it demands an equality of sacrifice and service. Without such equality the State cannot exist.

"Since August, 1914, more than 40,000 Canadians have met death in order that our constitutions, our laws and our liberties may be preserved. It would be well for those who hitherto disobeyed the laws of their country to realize these things now before it is too late, for it is the plain duty of those upon whom falls responsibility of governing to see that the burdens of the war are equally borne and that duty will be discharged."

AMERICA SOLID BEHIND WILSON

The U. S. Social Democratic League Delivers Assurance to Entente

London, Aug. 21. (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Members of the Mission sent to England and France by the Social Democratic League of America declare that the way to defeat the expected German peace drive is to convince the Socialist and Labor leaders of the Entente nations that America stands solidly behind President Wilson and backs up his peace terms to the limit.

Their purpose in coming to Europe to confer with Socialist and Labor leaders of England and France is to convince them that American Socialists and working men are in support of President Wilson's peace terms.

The mission is composed of John Spargo, A.M. Simons, Louis Kopalin and Alexander Howat, the latter of the Kansas Mine Works.

"The next vital step" they said in the statement given to The Associated Press before leaving for France," is to convince the world of labor that the whole people of the United States is devoting its fighting strength to nothing more or less than to secure the peace laid down by President Wilson.

"Once this fact is accepted by the Socialists of the Allied nations there will be an end of pacifism there and a spread of peace sentiment in Austria and Germany. Already it is claimed that the Socialists of Austria and Germany have agreed to accept substantially these terms. If this is true the need of an interbelligerent Socialist conference disappears since the Socialists of all nations will have agreed upon the peace terms asked by the United States.

"Whether the expected German peace offensive finds sufficient response among the labor and Socialist bodies of the Entente nations to injure morale to the extent that Germany may obtain peace while her military autocracy remains a danger to democratic nations depends largely upon the possibility of convincing such bodies that America stands solidly behind President Wilson's peace terms.

"The overwhelming mass of British laborers and Socialists wish to win the war. They are misrepresented by a small group controlling their political organization. Even this group protests its desire for victory, but some believe victory impossible and others charge that it obtained it will be used by imperialists to have the way to future wars.

"Yet all, pacifist or pro-war, join in praise of President Wilson's program. Thorough discussions with re-presentatives of every shade of labor and Socialist opinion shows that there is almost unanimous and enthusiastic agreement upon this point. President Wilson is to-day the great hope of the democratic world.

"But those who are already pledged to pacifism, peace by negotiations, inter-belligerent Socialist meetings or other means of securing a peace without fighting argue in excuse that, though America may not solid in support of Wilson's peace terms.

"Suspicion of an American plutocracy and possible alliances with Japanese elements elsewhere is now the main stock in trade of Socialist pacifists, who are still sufficiently strong to be dangerous allies to a skillful German drive. Facts have at last overcome a German propaganda sufficiently to convince even this class that America means to fight with all her strength."

FIGHT AT DAMMERY TYPICAL OF WORK OF THE CANADIANS

Perfect Weather Has Aided Operations on the West Front

By Courier Leased Wire
(By J. F. B. Livesay, Canadian Press Correspondent.)

With the Canadian Army in the Field, Aug. 19—(Via London)—So far from being the exception the story of the fight for Dammery that follows is essentially typical of the work of the incomparable Canadian infantry during the past ten days, and here it may be remarked that throughout these operations the weather has been perfect, with good visibility and not a drop of rain.

In front of the village lay a famous unit long ago christened the "lumberman's own." At the "kick off" of last Thursday week it had fought its way through Hangard wood. It had lain since Sunday night in the old trenches 'n front of Dammery bombed and gas shelled each night. On Thursday it was decided that the village should be attacked. Practically no opposition was offered, the village being gained with only five casualties.

The enemy's plan was grasped on the assumption that he would hold the village and that the enemy would then have us in a trap with a concentration of gun fire and converging infantry assaults.

The colonel, who had led this attack from the start immediately decided to take up a line in front of the village. The movement was carried out barely in time for there broke an intense enemy cannonade with heavy and light guns from the northeast and west, all concentrated on the doomed village. Not a shell touched our men lying just behind a slight rise in the ground. Then after the preparation was considered complete dense waves of grey clad troops converging on the village both from Pressoy and Goyencourt prepared to reap an easy victory.

They came in full marching equipment with their blankets evidently expecting to break through. Not less than four enemy battalions came into line against our force. They came confidently on to one of the most terrible slaughters of this war, for our magnificent artillery, assisted by French batteries on our right laid down an intense barrage in the centre of their massed advance. The front waves were caught between the road and the village and had to fight their way through or surrender. They fought with desperate courage. Our centre fell back a little to the border of the village when the enemy artillery could not longer play, while both our flanks poured a murderous machine gun and rifle fire into the penned enemy masses. He was doomed.

SEPTEMBER IN ALGONQUIN PARK.

September is one of the most delightful months of the year in the "Highlands of Ontario," and Algonquin Park offers attractions that are not found in other districts. It is situated at an altitude of 2,000 feet above the level of the seas, assuring visitors of pure bracing air that rejuvenates body and mind. A few days here is better than ounces of tonics and saves doctors bills. The territory is also easy of access via the Grand Trunk, 200 miles north of Toronto and 170 miles west of Ottawa. The "Highland Inn," a charming caravansary, affords most comfortable accommodation at reasonable rates. Descriptive literature telling you all about it, from any Grand Trunk Agent, or write Miss Jean Lindsay, manager, Highland Inn, Algonquin Park, Ontario, or C. E. Horning, D.P.A., Toronto.

DUTCH SOCIALIST SPLIT

Associated Press

Amsterdam, Aug. 21—The election of the first woman to the Dutch parliament has already caused trouble in the Social Democratic Labor Party to which she belongs. Her comrades charge her with forsaking the party and anti-militaristic principals because she declared in favor of national defense, and consequently resignations from the party are rumored.

PURE RICH BLOOD PREVENTS DISEASE

Bad blood is responsible for more ailments than anything else. It causes catarrh, dyspepsia, rheumatism, weak, tired, languid feelings and worse troubles.

Hood's Sarsaparilla has been wonderfully successful in purifying and enriching the blood, removing scrofula and other humors, and building up the whole system. Take it—give it to all the family so as to avoid illness. Get it today.

STEAMSHIP LINES AFFECTED

Associated Press

Tokio, Aug. 21—On account of the American restrictions on Japanese imports, many of the non-subsidized and individual steamship lines of Japan, unable to transport Oriental rice are other products to South America via the United States, unloading the goods at American ports on the western coast, have been obliged to withdraw their steamers from the Pacific service.

This fact, however, has proved a boon to the South American services of three representative Japanese companies. One of them recently placed an extra steamer, the Panama Maru, in South American commission and is planning to dispatch another boat to meet the demand for the transportation of Oriental rice, Japanese emigrants and export goods. Another Japanese company also intends to enlarge its line.

That Son-in Law of Pa's

(By Wellington.)

How did Ma ever let Pa escape.

HA! HA! OH BOY! LOOKS LIKE MY DEAR SON-IN-LAW KINDA GOT HIS SOMEWHERE!

S-SUFFERIN' CANINES! HIS MUTT MUST HAVE BEEN IN TH' SAME SCRAP!

OW! T-TH' TWINS, TOO!

DON'T GET EXCITED, PA, NONE OF US ARE INJURED! IT IS ONLY THAT I H. BEEN TRYING TO GET SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE APPLICATION OF BANDAGES, SO THAT I'LL BE FITTED TO GO TO THE FRONT IF THE RED CROSS CALLS ON ME.