

SPORTING COMMENT

(By Joe S. Jackson).

Detroit.—When one of these very magnates gets to running wild, he is sure to cut loose with some very interesting conversation, even if it isn't important. Since Captain Huston went to France, with the engineer, Col. Ruppert, his partner, has taken active control of the New York club, and is now spending his time figuring on whom he will engage to succeed Bill Donovan, as manager, and what players he will try to secure for strengthening purposes. And his quoted opinions in an interview with William B. Hanna of the New York Herald, a writer whose report of any talk may be relied on as correct, furnishes an interesting addition to the literature of the Winter league.

Col. Ruppert admits that he is after Derrill Pratt, the St. Louis second baseman, who, with Johnny Lavan, is in wrong with the Browns' ownership because of the trouble last fall. "Pratt isn't a writer, whose report of any talk may be relied on as correct, furnishes an interesting addition to the literature of the Winter league."

Said already, it is the reported plan of the St. Louis club to rid itself of both Pratt and Lavan, neither of whom has withdrawn his \$50,000 slander suit against President Ball, the cases being docketed for trial at the January term of the Missouri court in which they have entered. President Johnson, as the news dispatches tell, is at St. Louis now, conferring with the owner of the Browns, but it is said that neither he nor Mr. Ball will make any overtures to the players, in connection with the lawsuits. If St. Louis wishes to rid itself of the players it will have no trouble, Pratt will help any club, and Lavan developed into one of the best fielding shortstops in the game.

Reverting to the original topic, which suggested the Pratt talk, there now appears to be no doubt whatever that Bill Donovan is through. Col. Ruppert is quoted as saying: "I don't know who the manager of the team next year will be. I haven't decided. I may do so in a day or two, or it may be a month, but at present I do not know." Which is an infernal statement, about as strong as a direct one, that Bill is all done. From things that occurred during the world's series games in New York, the general belief among baseball writers is that Miller Huggins, who is through with the Cardinals because he and Branch Rickey couldn't get along together, is first choice right now. Col. Ruppert's charge against Donovan is that he was not a sufficiently strict disciplinarian, and that his major successor must rule with a rod of

iron. He also says that Caldwell will be turned loose if he acts badly again.

For several years there has been a cessation of the argument on the comparative merits of schedules of 154 games, the present arrangement in the majors, and of 149 games, which was the distance the American league clubs travelled in the early history of the organization. But the agitation for the shorter season has been renewed this fall, and President Johnson has gone on record with the statement that the junior circuit will top off 14 games next season. This arrangement he says, will be made at the annual meeting in November.

President Tener, of the National league, favors a retention of the longer schedule, but it is very probable that he will not head his present league in 1918. If one league shortens, both must, or there will be considerable trouble in avoiding the conflicts that now are so few, and that are confined to Chicago, where they do no damage. A shorter schedule would allow the team to start about two weeks later than now close earlier and have more open dates. The late start is really no great advantage, because the public is hungry for baseball in the spring, and a good April is just as probable as a bad one, take it year in and year out, but towards football time the public begins to weary. There is one thing certain. No matter what they do to the schedule, it cannot possibly be made as bad as the one the American league had this year.

Another opportunity for the National commission to impose some of those fines that are, but are not—\$200 penalty with all or most of it rebated, and a warning not to do it again—now offers. The governing board recently issued an order that not only must champion teams desist from barnstorming, but that no player under reserve should take part in an exhibition unless he had permission of his league. This did not prevent Johnson of Washington, and Alexander of Philadelphia, from having their annual duel on Sunday last, at Kansas City, and from ringing in about a dozen other players to whom the rules also applies.

Johnson, whose team was beaten 4 to 3, had Pratt, Sisler and Lavan of St. Louis; Kilduff, of the Cubs; Wheat of Brooklyn, and a trio of lesser lights from the minor leagues. Alexander's major leaguers included Carey of Pittsburgh, Stengel of Brooklyn, Hornsby and Snyder of the Cardinals and Chase of Cincinnati. The men have an excuse in that the order was not issued until the day before the game was to be played, when all arrangements were completed, and when they had spent considerable expense money. Rube Marquard was fined \$100 for pitching a game without permission of the Brooklyn club, one week previously, but came right back last Sunday and worked another exhibition in New York. Chief Bender, under reserve to the Phillies, did the same thing. These men were violating a standing rule in playing in territory controlled by a major league club, without permission.

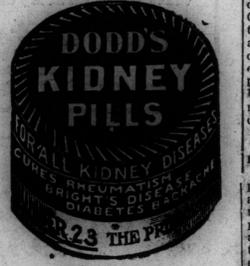
mittee of the smokes, refreshments, etc. The supreme proof of its usefulness comes when it lends money, to the amount of \$400, to any man going out into civil life needing a lift, if he can give proper security, and every dollar loaned to date has been repaid.

This is a boon to the man who lived on salary before he enlisted, and whose family used up his small savings in his absence. In the Edmonton Fair the boys cleared \$2,000 on a show they started. Each man who worked was paid \$2 a day; and ten per cent. of the profits were turned over, as is their custom, to the widows and orphans fund of the Great War Veterans.

INVALID SOLDIERS FORM NEW LEAGUE

Convalescent Soldiers at Edmonton Form Model Organization

The Invalid Soldiers' Welfare League is a newly formed organization in the Edmonton Convalescent Home which proposes to become a model for similar leagues in all the convalescent homes of the Military Hospitals Commission. There are many phases of life to be carried on in the homes, and the patients here hit upon the idea of forming an organization which would provide machinery for promoting athletics, social life and maintaining a canteen, as well as a bond of interest common to all the men in the home. The membership is constantly changing, of course, as cases are discharged and new ones come in, but every man while he stays here belongs to the league. The aim is simple—"For the welfare of the men in the convalescent home and hospital"—and the appeal is direct. The returned Tommies like the idea. There are three chief committees, one is in charge of athletics and air-ranges games, field days, and all sports; the "social committee" has charge of all the picnics, concerts and movies; and the canteen com-



MET WITH BOMB AND BAYONET

Germans Who Attacked the Canadians Driven Off With Heavy Losses

TOOK 500 PRISONERS

Foremost Position Within 1,000 Yards of Passchendaele Itself

NO SECRET TO ENEMY

Transfer of Canadians from Lens to New Area Was Known to Him

Canadian Headquarters in France, Oct. 29.—Subject to intense artillery fire, and fighting machine guns and gas, wait and in slimy mud, the Canadians are steadily strengthening their positions on Bellevue Spur and Passchendaele Ridge. On Saturday night the Germans gained a foothold on our right flank only to be repulsed with heavy losses when our infantry met them with bayonet and bomb and drove them back. A further enemy attempt to weaken our hold on the right flank, though supported with successive and intense artillery bombardments, has proved unavailing.

Our foremost position is now within one thousand yards of Passchendaele itself, while the number of prisoners taken by Sunday night amounted to 16 officers and nearly 500 of other ranks. On the left where Bellevue Spur runs on to Passchendaele, with the slimy stretch of the Ravbeck Valley between it and Passchendaele Ridge, our men have made slow, stubborn progress through an almost impassable barrier.

As the result of the last three days fighting the Canadians, now masters of the lower slopes of Passchendaele have before them strong enemy positions at the Crest Farm, on the left front and Metechie on the right. In reply to the enemy's employment of gas in the attack Saturday night, our artillery bombarded the opposing batteries with gas shells, while for at least forty-eight hours our guns had been maintaining a persistent fire on Passchendaele, Crest Farm, Haalen Copse and selected strong points.

Known of Lens Transfer. Early Sunday morning the German artillery which shelled our right heavily, brought down upon itself the concentrated fire of our guns to which he retaliated with heavy shelling of our forward area. Again in the afternoon he shelled our right, while yesterday enemy re-opened a heavy fire on our left position. Examination of prisoners has further proved that the enemy was informed of the Canadian movement from Lens to the salient, and he hurried up fresh forces, including the 11th Bavarian Division, to meet the expected attack.

High Praise From Haig. The striking victory won by the British on Friday last just west of Passchendaele has called out high praise from Field Marshal Haig. In a telegram sent on Saturday to Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Plumer, commander of the army which made this remarkable drive through the marshlands, the Field Marshal said: "The successes gained by your troops yesterday under such conditions and contributed materially to results achieved in the performance of the Canadian division in particular, was remarkably fine. The ground gained is of high importance and I congratulate you and all under you on the results of the great efforts made."

A HUNGARIAN HOLIDAY. By Courier Local Wire. London, Oct. 29.—A school holiday has been proclaimed throughout Germany in celebration of the Austro-German victories against Italy, and the display of flags has been ordered. The Amsterdam correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company cables, Emperor William and Emperor Charles are expected to meet on the Isonzo front in a few days.

PRESS FEEDERS STRIKE. By Courier Local Wire. New York, Oct. 30.—Virtually all printing establishments in the city, according to union claims, were tied up here yesterday by a strike of press feeders. The walk-out came as a result of refusal by the employers to grant them a flat wage increase of \$4 a week.



The National Interest

IN their enthusiasm to serve Canada, a number of men in Class One—bachelors and widowers without children (not otherwise excepted) who were 20 years old on the 13th October, 1917, and whose 34th birthday did not occur before January 1st, 1917—will desire to report for service, when in fact it is in the national interest that such men should continue in their habitual occupations. The purpose of the Military Service Act is to select the authorized 100,000 reinforcements in such a way that the industries essential in the national interest will not be handicapped unnecessarily. With this in view, the privilege is extended to employers to claim exemption for men referred to in the first paragraph. This course obviates the possibility of requiring that men be returned to civilian employment after months of military training—a waste of time and money for all concerned. The grounds upon which exemption may be claimed, of special interest to employers, are:

- (A) That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in Military Service, be engaged in other work in which he is habitually engaged. (B) That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in Military Service, be engaged in other work in which he has special qualifications. (C) That it is expedient in the national interest that, instead of being employed in Military Service, he should continue to be educated or trained for any work for which he is then being educated and trained.

The Employer's Statement

Where an employer claims exemption for an employee on the ground that it is expedient in the national interest that the man should continue in the work in which he is habitually engaged, he should prepare for the tribunal a statement and a schedule as follows: Total number of employees, grouping them according to their respective occupations and qualifications, and stating the number in each group. Indicate the possibility or otherwise of replacing the labour of Class One men with the labour of those not in the statutory class called up; also the extent to which the withdrawal of men in the statutory class would affect the business, the reasons for considering that the carrying on of the business is in the national interest; and such other facts and circumstances as may appear to be relevant.

The Employer's Schedule

This should state the names, ages and occupations of all Class One men employed, and the medical category in which those who have been medically examined have been placed. There should also be noted against each name whether or not claim for exemption is being made and whether in the employer's opinion exemption, if granted, should be conditional on the man's continuing his present occupation, or whether it would suffice if exemption were granted for one, two, or more months, as the case may be.



EMPLOYEES ARE SAFEGUARDED

Penalties for Employers Who Make Exemption Claims Conditional

Ottawa, Oct. 30.—Amongst the penalties provided for infractions of the Military Service Act is a very necessary and useful instrument designed to guard employees from employers who make a reduction of wages or some such alteration in working conditions as a condition for applying for the exemption of a man or men in their employ. Any employer guilty of such conduct is liable to a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for six months. The honorable course for employers to follow under the Act is to

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

apply for exemption faithfully and loyally for the men whose work is essential to the success of their business and who cannot be replaced, or who have special qualifications not to be duplicated, and not to make the application for any indirect or improper purpose, whatsoever. Exemption Tribunals will not be deceived, and the system will provide fairness for all, sooner or later.

EXIT THE KAISER. Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Oct. 30.—(Associated Press)—A portrait of Emperor William of Germany, which had been hanging for many months in the government palace, has been removed by order of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Its place has been taken by a painting showing the Portuguese recognition of Brazilian independence. The Emperor's picture was put in a store room.

Dr. Yeomans of Belleville has received a message from the Imperial Flying Corps Department in England that his son, Flight Lieut. Ted, has been missing since Oct. 21.

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Now it's beginning to leak out



THAT SON-IN-LAW OF PA'S

---By Wellington

Wed- ng, Oct. continues v. 3rd RE LIST!