

High-Salaried Players Must Suffer if Magnates Are to Cut Down Expenses

Each Club Hopes to Lop off From \$25,000 to \$40,000 From Pay-Rolls—Drastic Cuts Are Being Considered

Baseball players' salaries and other expense items will be cut to the bone by all of the major league clubs before another season opens. Even the officials of both circuits together with club presidents, secretaries, treasurers and directors who have been drawing fat salaries will receive substantial reductions. The magnates who foot the bills, have decided to protect themselves against possible losses which may result from the ravages of the great war.

The first move will be the adoption of two schedules of 140 games each with the pennant races beginning simultaneously on or about May 1. A majority of the sixteen clubs will vote for this radical reform when the matter comes up at the fall meetings. The second move will be a hard and fast rule covering the spring training trips. The plan under consideration fixes the date for reporting not earlier than March 15. Some of the magnates already favor a player limit for the spring trips, say, not more than twenty-five men, and another of not more than twenty men when the regular season opens. It is argued that a schedule of 140 games will require a smaller number of players than are necessary when 154 games are in vogue, also that the shorter season guarantees more evenly balanced pennant races.

Having laid the ground work for a general curtailment by shortening the campaign and fixing new player limits, the magnates will proceed to slash the players' salaries right and left. There are comparatively few hold-over contracts calling for wartime salaries, so that the cutting will be of a wholesale nature. So many ball players will be in the market next year, as the result of the suspension of the minor leagues, that the big club owners will be in a strong position to dictate their own terms.

From inside sources comes the information that a \$6000 salary will be a luxury. Many players who have been drawing \$5,000, \$6,000, \$7,500 and \$8,000 from their overburdened employers will have to accept half of these sums or retire from the game. Clubs that have been carrying \$100,000 pay rolls will attempt to lop off all the way from \$25,000 to \$40,000 at the expense of their players.

It is figured that the government's 10 per cent tax on admissions to the major league ball parks will decrease the attendance figures and the gross receipts, thereby making reduction of expenses compulsory if baseball is to be kept alive.

Will Curb the Wealthiest Club Owners

In order to put these plans into effect equally it has been planned to curb the wealthiest club owners by legislation. The rich magnates will not be allowed to set a pace with which the second division club owners cannot compete successfully. The big fellows must be curbed when it comes to spending money. This restriction will apply to furnishing accommodations for the players while travelling on the road. Actual necessities, in the form of sleeping car berths, meals and hotel rooms, will be provided, but there will be no more extravagance. Expensive hotels will be shunned, also taxicabs, private Pullmans and the like parties. If some of the star players desire the old accommodations they can pay for them out of their own pockets. The practice of advancing salaries to players during the season will be abolished. The club owners will arrange numerous exhibition games on open dates for the purpose of taking in extra coin for their own use. In short, 1918 will be a lean year for the players and club officials who have been living on the fat of the land.

When new contracts with reduced salaries are drawn up by the magnates, the Players' fraternity may be heard from. The fraternity went on a strike last winter but was badly beaten. At first it was believed that the fraternity had been crushed for all time, but recently the magnates discovered that it still was alive and kicking, although the leaders were keeping things under cover. It is fact that the walking delegates were busy interviewing major league players in August and September. There was talk of another strike in the event of a general cut in salaries. Some of the hotheads, it is reported, still favor the tactics of Jesse James and are ready to call for a holdup as soon as the plans of the magnates

FAREWELL SERMON BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Departing Pastor of Alexandra Church Bade Farewell to Congregation

After seven years and four months of faithful service, the Rev. D. T. McClintock, prior to his departure for Nelson, B.C., preached his farewell sermon last night to the congregation of Alexandra Presbyterian Church. His message was one of encouragement for the future and of pleasant and inspiring memories of the past. His theme was eloquently and appropriately couched in 11 Corinthians, 13:11.

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

The early portion of Mr. McClintock's sermon was devoted to reminiscences of his pastorate and work in Brantford, he recalled his experiences here and the results that had waited upon his earnest and sincere efforts among the people of Alexandra Church.

"As pastors go to-day," he observed, "my seven years and four months stay among you has not been a long one. You will be interested to know that there is only one Protestant minister in the city to-day who was in service in Brantford when I came here seven years ago. I have never believed in long pastorates for myself nor for anyone. There may be exceptions, but not one man in a hundred can spend a lifetime in a charge without detriment to both himself and his congregation and although the ties of friendship bind me strongly toward you, I believe the path of duty lies yonder; I think time will show this move to have been in the interest of the Kingdom of God."

The speaker reviewed the progress that had been made by the church during the past seven years—the acquisition of a new and beautiful building, and the accord and union that had prevailed during his incumbency. He called attention to the fact that 507 members had been taken into the membership during his pastorate.

"Very few people in the teen age there are in the church, and I have not been enrolled in the church on profession of faith and I realize that this is the lightest part of the task. The greater work is for the church to take these young people and develop them to go out in loving service for God and their fellow men."

"It is gratifying to recall the peace that has prevailed in the congregation during my pastorate, in spite of the fact that during that time many difficult problems have been considered. I have had as good a session as any minister ever had, and I am greatly pleased that the congregation has not been split, even temporarily on any question. We will not, I hope, remember each other by our mistakes, but by the good in our lives. So, at the close, of a few days I take my journey to the West, to the strength and beauty of the hills and leave this beautiful and prosperous city, I sincerely hope that you will forget what has been weak and amiss."

The departing pastor spoke encouragingly of the rosy future before Alexandra church and predicted even greater progress in the years to come than what had been accomplished in the past. His hopes for the future are clearly defined.

"I have nothing but the very brightest of hopes for the future of this church. I think there is no other church in the city with greater prospects and when the time of re-organization comes after the war, I think it will be one of the best and largest in rank. In the days that are to come, let the message of this church, the message of your life, at the factory, at the desk or at the place of business, be a distinctively social message. Whatever influence the church has had in the past ages, this generation demands a social message. This age requires applied Christianity, service to the community, and not so much charity to the poor as justice to the poor. If there is any hardship in this city or in the sums of any of our cities, the cry is not for coal in the winter time, not hospital care in time of sickness, but a cry for fair play."

"Our church must be a medium of transmission of Christianity to the world. This war among Christian nations should never have occurred. The church should have prevented it, but the church failed to be the transmission system of Christianity. The church, not Christianity, has failed. Take your religion out with you and let it be a social benefit. The church of God has enough men to go into politics and make impossible things that now exist, there. The same guiding principle of our lives—the wisdom to know our duty, and the grace to do it—and after all, that is all that matters."

"Finally, my brethren, fare ye well, I am simply going to say good-bye, and my prayer is, 'Fare ye well!' and at the dawning of the Day,

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