

BASEBALL STORIES OF THIRTY YEARS AGO

BY JOE PAGE

Every now and then a paragraph or two, written by American baseball writers, contains the information that the baseball game will not be seriously affected during the season of 1918, and as if to cap off the contention, they usually wind up with something on the following order: "After more than three years of war, baseball still holds its popularity in Canada, as witness the large gatherings at the various league games throughout that country in the last season."

Again—Baseball not affected by the war, as evidenced by the excellent showing of the International League in point of attendance at both Montreal and Toronto, Canada.

Again—in spite of the war baseball still holds the affections of the Canadian public. Toronto, winner of the International League pennant, not only finished first, but had one of its biggest if not the biggest, financial years, and this after three years of war.

The latest one is from my friend, Thomas S. Rice, representing the Brooklyn Eagle, in the city of churches—Brooklyn. While the gentleman undoubtedly looks for a diminution so far as baseball attendance is concerned, he writes that when the boys from America get thoroughly into the greater scrap, "Over There," and America would be reading the first of its horrible death lists about the time it would be reading the first of the baseball scores, perhaps if the United States had already been in the war three years, as Canada has been, and the public had become calloused, the effect might not be so serious.

One thing is this, I cannot find where they get this kind of dope. Any and everyone familiar with baseball and sports in general throughout the whole of Canada, knows absolutely that if there is any one thing that has suffered by reason of war it has been athletic sport (professional), and the professional baseball leagues either under organized or independent government have suffered by far more than all the rest of athletic sport put together.

When the war broke out in August, 1914, there were organized professional leagues in Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Today how many of these leagues are there in existence? None. Here we have the International League going to the wall only a short time ago, and this was supposed to be the premier league, after the two majors. While there were but two cities represented from the Canadian side—Toronto and Montreal, the former city has been touted all along the line as being one of the greatest baseball cities outside the major league on the continent, and mind you, this during the war and what's more, in the third year of the war. It is honestly enough to make one laugh. It is a well known fact that just like the other cities of the late circuit, they either had to be a winner or in place position to break even or better. Toronto, with a second division team throughout a season would not fare any better financially than any one of the other seven clubs. As it was last year, winning the championship, together with numerous exhibition games arranged between major league clubs, they managed, it is said, to clear less than \$15,000, which it is said by those who have inside information, is not a patch on what their losses have been since they won a championship previously. And had it not been for the generous helping hand of the press boys on many, many occasions during the stormy times, yes and again last season, together with the able business management of that reliable veteran of the game and one who knows its ins and outs from A to Z, it's better than an even bet that Toronto would have been lucky to find



JOE PAGE

ish any where near as well financially as they did. Hats off to good old Arthur Irwin.

With Toronto in this new league if it starts there is the bare possibility of one other city in Canada being in professional baseball for the coming season—Vancouver. So where would the United States stand on what Rice writes as follows:

"If the United States had already been in war three years as Canada has been and the public had become calloused the effect might not be so serious."

Figure it out, Mr. Baseball Dopester, and give the baseball public the answer to the following question: If Canada in 1913 had six professional leagues in organized ball and at least eight independent professional leagues and only one, possibly two, Canadian cities were in two American leagues for 1918, inside of four years of war, how many leagues in organized ball would the United States have if the war lasted until April 6, 1921 if they had only twenty leagues in organized ball on April 6, 1917?

Note for dopester—Especially if the United States keeps up the rapidity of her general mobilization as started until the period of time stated has elapsed. Baseball is not different from any other line of sport or business that is not absolutely essential to the winning of the war. Each and every manager, manager, player and baseball writer has that point to look at—squarely in the face. All industries, all sports and all classes, high and low, wherever they may be on this continent will not only have to give of their might but in whatever capacity they are able to will have to do their bit as the war progresses and the longer it takes to win it the surer the non-industrial war winning guy either of sport or business will in time be called upon to make good.

There is no question of the fact that we, the Allies, are out to win. So is Germany and her cohorts. The United States is young in this game of war as yet. And when 1921 rolls around and should the war not be over (please God it will be) there will be few sport writers writing to say that the United States public have become calloused and organized baseball might not be seriously affected. However baseball is in the real making and the war is the cause of it.

Editor's note—There will be several more articles on this subject to follow soon.

Six months in the work-house was awarded Mrs. Mary Takha, of Lexington avenue, New York, for flying a German flag outside her home.

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HERZOG CAMPS ON GIANTS' DOORSTEP

Likely to Draw \$10,000 For Warming Beach—Setting Bad Example

New York, April 9.—Charlie Herzog is in town, but so far has failed to renew acquaintance with President Hemphill of the Giants. Herzog declares that unless the Braves come to his terms he will camp right on the Giants' doorstep and present himself to McGraw for active service in next Tuesday's opening game at the Polo Grounds.

In the meantime the case rests right where it fell when Herzog took a run out on the Braves. It may be possible that the magnates have fixed up some sort of side agreement to cover the trade in case Herzog does insist in playing the prodigal at the Polo Grounds.

If he cared to stomach the resentment from manager and players his return would entail, Herzog could collect his \$10,000 salary for doing nothing but warm the bench. That would be \$8,000 less than he would receive at Boston.

With an expired contract next fall he would be forced to seek seclusion or play in 1919 at a ridiculously low salary.

Boston needs Herzog, it is true, and needs him badly, but it is doubtful if in the end it would be the better policy to capitulate. Capitulation now spells a source of great trouble in the future. If Herzog puts one over other players can't be blamed for attempting the same thing later on.

WILD HORSES, 800 OF THEM, ON RAMPADE IN STREETS OF CITY

Bombay, Feb. 26.—(Correspondence Associated Press)—Eight hundred unbroken horses ran wild recently in a paddock at the Byanah Racing Club here, smashed down the fences and spread all over Bombay, causing considerable panic in the native quarters, and dislocating railway and street traffic for the entire day.

Large numbers of the animals got on to the railway lines, where several of them were killed. Six of them fell into a large sewage culvert. Horsemen from the race track spent the whole day and the following night in pursuit of the animals. Only 480 horses were finally recovered, the remainder having either been killed or escaped into the countryside.

One man was seriously injured in the bazaar district by being trampled by a herd, while in a main street a motor car was wrecked by the horses rushing madly over it.

AMERICAN, BORN IN GERMANY, IS SENT TO PRISON IN ENGLAND.

Liverpool, Mar. 2.—(Correspondence Associated Press)—Richard F. Albrecht, an American, is serving a six months' sentence for concealing the fact that he was born in Germany, in statements made to the authorities here.

Albrecht was second officer of an American ship paid off at Barry and came to Liverpool to await a return steamer. He asserted at first that he was born in Holland, but later admitted that he was of German birth.

John McMartin Dead.
Montreal, April 12.—John McMartin, M. P. for Gleggarry, died tonight, shortly before midnight, at his residence, 7 Redpath Crescent.

GERRARD'S MONKEYS ONE OF FEATURES OF OPERA HOUSE VAUDEVILLE PROGRAMME THIS WEEK



A decided novelty in trained animals is the act presented by Gerrard's monkeys at the Opera House this week. They are trained to a high degree of intelligence, perform all sorts of amazing feats and will furnish a great treat for all the children and the grown-ups as well.

PERSIUS, NAVAL CRITIC, SKEPTICAL OF GERMAN DREAM

Freedom of Seas in Wartime a Chimera, He Declares—Victory Over British Fleet Would Not Secure Trade With Unfriendly Nations.

New York, April 12.—In rejecting unceremoniously the German idea of freedom of the seas, Captain Persius, the German naval expert, in an analysis of the question in the Berliner Tageblatt of March 2, revived here, reaches this conclusion:

"We can, in other words, gain freedom of seas of advantage to us only by means of peace by understanding. Every peace by force would seal the unfreedom of the seas for us also in times of peace."

From the captain's article it appears that there are two views of how Germany must secure freedom of the seas "for the future."

Acquisition of the Azores, a pamphlet by Dr. Victor Heuss, of Kiel, is referred to by Captain Persius. Dr. Heuss believed that German use of the Azores

would prove a strong card in the German campaign. The following passage from his pamphlet is quoted by Persius: "A German fleet, however strong, will not be able to prevent a breach of international treaties, for the enemy will always possess enough U-boats to disturb our commerce. If we could use the Azores as a base of support for our U-boats there would follow, in case of the destruction of treaties, a mutual destruction of merchantmen which, necessarily, would have to be avoided by both sides as sheer nonsense. That would lead then to the desired freedom of the seas."

British Sea Power.
Captain Persius then says: "Even if the British sea power which today dictates the conditions under which the seas are to be used, could be broken, hardly anything could be gained thereby. For, if the British fleet would have to cede its position to some other power, the latter would undoubtedly pursue, not a policy of sentiment, but one of materialism—to do what best serves its own interests. There never will be an undisturbed use of the seas in times of war."

"It should be clear to us that, even if our army and fleet should achieve the greatest victories we could not force the other nations to trade with us and could not force them to exchange raw materials for our industrial products. If other nations are not willing to resume friendly commercial competition, then our merchant fleet would be of no advantage to us."

"Our enemies in the west hold in their hands a large part of our possibilities of existence. Having this in mind, Dr. Michaelis, the chancellor, said in the Reichstag on July 17, 1917: 'We must safeguard the conditions of existence of the German people, the continent and abroad by understandings and compensation.'"

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CAPTURE OF PARIS WAS THE OBJECTIVE

All German Plans Contemplated Rapid Advance and Open Warfare

Washington, April 12.—Statements of German prisoners have convinced French military critics that the real object of the great German offensive was Paris, and that so far from expecting checks which would make Amiens the goal of bloody and undecided battles, the Teutonic high command sent its forces forward prepared for rapid advances in open warfare.

"In order to alleviate the march of the troops," says an official despatch from France, "the order was given to prepare for their departure and to organize the convoys in such a way as only

to carry with them what was indispensable. The remainder was to be stored at a depot designated by the divisions. The loading carriages, the munitions to be carried, the equipment and arming of the men all had been carefully planned as well as the distribution of maps of the country to be invaded. The men were to carry reserves of food, enough to last two days, and two flasks, the usual food for a day following them in rolling kitchens and provisions for three days in company convoys.

"In short, every arrangement shows that the German command had decided to resort to open warfare. It is certain that the military situation, after more than fifteen days of operations, is one of extreme disappointment to the German command."

Admiral Peary III.
Washington, April 13.—Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, retired, Arctic explorer, is recovering at his home here from a blood transfusion operation, which he underwent for pernicious anemia.

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I TELL YOU MUTT, THERE AIN'T NO USE OF YOU WAITING FOR JEFF. HE'S OUT LOOKING FOR THE DUTCHMAN'S MULE THAT STRAYED AWAY LAST WEEK.

WASTING YOUR TIME LOOKING FOR A LOST MULE, EH? YOU'RE A FINE PIECE OF CHEESE

I DIDN'T WASTE A MINUTE, MUTT. THE DUTCHMAN JUST SLIPPED ME TEN BUCKS FOR FINDING THE MULE

YOU FOUND THE MULE? DID SOMEONE TIP YOU OFF WHERE HE WAS?

NO! IT WAS AS EASY AS PIE! I KNEW THE MULE STRAYED AWAY SO I USED MY BRAINS—

I FIGURED OUT WHERE I'D GO IF I WAS A MULE, AND I WENT AND SURE ENOUGH THE MULE WAS THERE.

HEE HAW!