

## Oh, What's the Use! Mutt Never Was a Dog Catcher

By "Bud" Fisher



## The Men Who Will Fight For the World's Championship

BY SLOANE GORDON

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FRED MERKLE, FIRST BASEMAN OF THE GIANTS, AND THE MAN WHO DID TOUCH SECOND

New York, Sept. 21.—Fred Merkle is the first baseman of the Giants, but more generally known as the man who put second base on the map by neglecting to touch it under certain rather pressing circumstances. Not nearly so much general attention had been paid to second base up to this time, which was on September 23, 1900, to be accurate, otherwise known as "Merkle Day."

This is one of the few anniversaries on which Charles Ebbets of Brooklyn and Flatbush, does not dedicate something and play a double header. Probably, if Merkle lives to be a hundred years old and passes along the street tottering on his cane at that advanced age, some one in the crowd is going to shout:

"Don't forget to touch second!"

The oversight occurred five years ago, and Fred has never gone to the ball since without at least one spectator, who carries a voice similar in pitch and penetrating qualities to the Emperor's whistle, urging Merkle not to overlook the necessity of touching second base. It has probably been the most touched thing in the world since 1908, except an actor's millionaire friend.

But let us get away from this slight baseball informality of Merkle's and see how he homed into the big league.

Merkle, like every representative of the Big Town on the Giants, neglected to be born in New York, but first saw the light of day (newspaper expression) out on the kerosene circuit in Watertown, Wis. This is where the one night stand actors, who know that Broadway exists only by reputation, find fault with the single hotel, but really rejoice over the bill because they can get a room at a price that fits their salary. It takes some hotel to fit the salary if you know what I mean.

Fred began to play semi-professional ball in his neighborhood at an early age, which means that the exponent takes money sometimes and sometimes not, according to size of the gate.

Fred got along pretty well at it, and in 1906, appeared with the independent team of Ohio and Indiana. Later along in the same year, Merkle joined the Tecumseh club of the Southern Michigan League and made a name for himself as a catcher in under the big tent, and McGraw sent him south. Brothers to look him over to see if there was any truth in what he heard.

Brothers reported that Merkle looked good to him, and McGraw, following his usual custom of buying what he wanted by the simple process of offering more money than anybody else, out-

bid several other big league clubs and brought Fred to New York for \$25,000, a high sum to pay for a man in a league of average players.

Merkle had started out in baseball as a pitcher, but got over that soon after joining Tecumseh because the batters in that neighborhood convinced him he had missed his position. He played first base with Tecumseh. McGraw tried him at several positions when he joined the Giants, after giving him a few months on the bench in which to observe big league methods and styles, as is McGraw's custom.

You can take it from McGraw that Fred is one of the smartest players in baseball in spite of the fact that the fans dearly delight to yell "Bonthead" at him. Neither did the "Little Corporal" ever blame Fred for his omission in the matter of second base.

"The smartest man on my club would probably have done the same thing, as it was customary then," said McGraw afterwards.

The "Little Corporal" stuck steadfastly to Merkle as he has to so many of his men whom the fans have routed, and made a ball player of him.

"I admire his nerve for coming back after that heart-breaking experience as a pitcher," remarked McGraw only the other day.

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After an address of welcome had been delivered by the chairman, R. E. Coupe, an interesting musical programme, varied by two speeches, was gone through. Refreshments were served and the entertainment closed with the singing of the National Anthem. The programme was as follows: Song, B. Gath; recitation, Roy Harding; vocal solo, H. C. Marley; duet, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Palmer; address, M. D. Brown; piano solo, Mrs. George Maxwell; lull, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. W. Griffiths; song, C. Calvert; address, H. E. Codner, deputy grand master; solo, Miss M. Thorne.

A large and enthusiastic attendance had assembled for the function, and much interest was shown in the speeches of Mr. Codner, who dwelt on the growing numerical strength of the order, and of M. D. Brown, who confined his remarks chiefly to a review of the prosperity of the local branch.

Verdict in Eagle Case.

The jury investigating the death of Ernest Eagle, who was drowned in the St. John river, on the evening of Aug. 10, has returned the following verdict: "We, the jury empaneled to inquire into the death of Ernest Eagle, find that the said Ernest Eagle came to his death by drowning at or near Cedar Point, on Sunday evening, Aug. 10. The same drowning, caused by the colliding of a motor boat navigated by Frederick Smith, with the said Ernest Eagle, was caused by the boat navigated by Charles Connell, being on the wrong side, according to the rules of the road. And we, the jury of the inquest, do strongly recommend that some law should be placed upon the statute books, governing the overcrowding and carrying of passengers on small boats."

## R. D. ISAACS FACES CHARGE OF FORGERY

Trial Opened Yesterday Before Circuit Court—Witnesses Tell of Dealings With the Prisoner—Jury Kept Together

The trial of Richard D. Isaacs, charged with uttering a forged document in the land title office, Alberta, knowing it to be forged, was begun yesterday afternoon in the court house before Judge White, Attorney-General Grimmer appeared to conduct the prosecution, and J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., assisted him, representing the Alberta authorities. J. A. Barry appeared for the prisoner. The court sat until nearly 10 o'clock last evening and then adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

It was announced from the bench that owing to the seriousness of the offence and the extent of the maximum penalty, which is life imprisonment, the jury would have to remain together until the case was finished.

On adjourning they went to the prisoner's cell. When Isaacs was brought into court he was placed in the dock, which, previous to yesterday, had not been used for nearly three years. After the charge was read over to him, Mr. Baxter explained to the jury the facts of the case and the nature of the alleged forgery, which explanation involved the system of land registration in the province of Alberta. He said that the Alberta authorities have gone to a great deal of expense to have Isaacs brought back to British territory to stand trial in the case, and that the western real estate business in the city might not be placed in jeopardy.

Yesterday's Evidence.

The first witness called was Andrew Myles, one of the complainants, who said that his dealings with the prisoner, so far as negotiations for the purchase of property were concerned, began on March 4, 1912. He and Albert McArthur, another complainant, and F. W. Campbell, a witness who lives in McArthur's store in Main street, where they agreed to purchase a block of land in Edmonton, Alberta, from the prisoner.

Previous to this time, however, Isaacs made reference to some land he owned in this township, and said that he could dispose of it, at a reasonably, perhaps for \$80 or \$90 a lot. A plan was produced in court and the witness identified it as one which he had loaned to Isaacs, and on which Isaacs marked off certain parts of land in Edmonton. Witness also identified a blue print, as one which Isaacs showed him of the township of Edson, Alberta, and at the request of the crown attorney, witness marked off the lots which he and the others agreed to purchase. It was agreed to pay \$600 for block 37, consisting of two lots.

The witness went on to tell of the receipt of the alleged certificate of title for his part of the block, which he said he had loaned to Isaacs, and which he asked Isaacs to return.

He received a letter from Isaacs in Montreal, he said, assuring him that the matter would be attended to, and at the same time the prisoner pictured the witness' purchase as "a rowdy specu-

lation." Later on May 14, 1912, Isaacs sent a letter from Edson, witness said, saying that the matter had been attended to and that "Mr. Smith, the registrar," had inserted the section required.

Mr. Baxter read to the jury the contents of the two certificates of title which the witness received in connection with two different purchases. Both were signed by "M. A. Smith, A. D. E., registrar."

The witness continued and told of meeting Isaacs at McArthur's again on June 24, 1912. He discussed the proposition about the land. The next day, he said, Isaacs produced a letter, purported to be from A. Y. Blain, registrar of North Alberta, at Edmonton. In this letter there was assurance for the purchase of the two certificates of title which the witness received in connection with two different purchases. Both were signed by "M. A. Smith, A. D. E., registrar."

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graph was a true representation of the original.

"Cameras don't usually lie," replied the witness.

The copy made by Mr. Myles and the photograph were compared and the witness decided they corresponded exactly in wording.

Here Mr. Baxter spoke of an order he had given to the prisoner's counsel to produce the original document, which was admitted by Mr. Barry.

As it was getting late the jury grew restless. They were assured by the court, however, that owing to the extent of the maximum penalty attached to such an offence as that alleged, the jury would have to remain together until the case had finished. He said he regretted to have to do this, but under the law there was no other course left open to him. He therefore instructed the sheriff to look after the lodging of the jurors overnight.

Mr. Myles was brought back to the stand. Mr. Baxter admitted into evidence the photographic reproduction of the letter which Isaacs said he had received from Blain, and also the signature of the letter which the witness himself received from A. Y. Blain, for the purpose of comparing the two signatures. Mr. Barry objected to the latter signature being accepted into the evidence, on the ground that the witness was not sure that the signature to his letter was positively placed there by A. Y. Blain.

Identifies Signature.

George P. O. Fenwick, solicitor to the attorney-general of Alberta, was called to the stand. From his dealings with land registration affairs, he said, he was perfectly familiar with A. Y. Blain's signature. He said that he was positive that the signature of A. Y. Blain on Myles' letter was legitimate. Mr. Barry

again protested an objection, saying the witness was not familiar enough with Blain's writing to judge.

Mr. Baxter said it made little difference as Mr. Blain himself would probably arrive in the city today to testify and he would give the necessary evidence, and state positively whether or not he had signed the alleged forged document.

About 6:45 o'clock the court adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning. The jury went to the Park Hotel. In the evening they went together to the Imperial Theatre.

The Jury.

The jury consists of Clarence F. Nis on, George O. Dickson, Alexander Corbett, Edward J. Cronin, Albert E. Genloway, Walter S. Knowles, Edward Walsh, Charles Olive, Robert S. Ritchie, Henry R. Coleman, Percy W. Wetmore and George K. Burton.

NOT A SCORE OF AMATEUR AVIATORS IN UNITED STATES

Washington, Sept. 24.—In the event of war it is doubtful whether a score of men could be found in civil life in this country who could be utilized by the army in aeroplane work, in the opinion of Brig. Gen. George S. Scriven, chief signal officer, in charge of the Army Aviation Corps.

In calling attention to what he considers a critical situation, Gen. Scriven declared today that the number of civilians who have heretofore undertaken to fly heavier-than-air machines for pleasure, sport or money-making is fast diminishing. "The army must look itself and to the men of the organic militia," he said, "to supply a reason's number of officers and men for military aviation in case of necessity."

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## WOULD MAKE SOLDIERS WORK AS COWBOYS

Chicago, Sept. 23.—It is the duty of the United States to stock its government lands in the west with cattle, put the army, especially the cavalry, to work as cowboys to handle the animals, supply the packers with this beef at cost, so that the price will be lowered to the people, and a threatened meat famine due in six or eight years averted in the opinion of A. M. Dubin, of New York, a delegate to the American Meat Packers Association, who today declared that only by some drastic action could the meat shortage be prevented.

"My suggestion is perfectly simple," said Mr. Dubin. "The government lands in the west could be made into great pastures, where countless cattle could be raised to relieve the present high cost of meat, and avert the famine that surely is coming otherwise."

"Unless some action is taken there will be no meat on the tables of American workmen in the next decade. The government has no higher obligation than to relieve this situation, which is every day becoming more serious. The land so stocked could supply the army with meat first, then the rest could be sent to the packers at cost and the consumer could get it with the mere price of dressing. The lower price would be astonishing."

The American housewife was taken to task for wasting meat. A fourth part of all the meat killed for the table is wasted. Poor families refuse to be content with chuck and round steaks, despite the fact that these cuts can be made delicious by correct cooking, and the great American family of meat-eaters fails to practice proper economy in its meat diet, said John T. Russell, president of the Master Butchers' Association of America. He added, the housewife must do her part if the high prices

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