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CANADA BETTER BASEBALL LAND THAN EVER WHEN WAR IS OVER

Joe Page Sees Revival of Interest and Predicts Big Future

(By Joe Page.)

Baseball, the game of the American public, has had its ups and down for the last three score or more of years. History tells us, however, that during the great American Civil war baseball was the one and only game that both the soldiers of the north and south enjoyed behind the battle lines, when they had leisure from the sterner duties of the battlefield. It is also chronicled of those trying days that the game of baseball was so much in favor with both the soldiers in the blue and the grey that at the conclusion of the war in the sixties, it needed but very little effort on the part of enthusiastic promoters to form up professional independent teams, which for the following few years—or before organized ball became an institution in 1876—was anything but a paying proposition, although the salary and expense of any one team of this period could have easily been covered by the salary of any one of a number of the present-day stars. The reason for this was, in a great measure, due not alone to the small admission fee charged, but the tremendous railway jumps (for they were tremendous in those days) together with the hotel bills and other incidental expenses which easily ate up the gate receipts and in addition considerable of the coin of the enthusiastic sportsmen who backed and followed their favorite team.

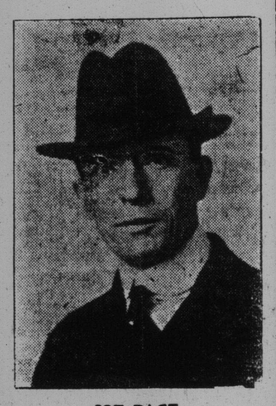
While baseball leagues were in existence a short time before 1876 it was not until the latter year, that the sportsmanship and efforts of those who had been in control of the game began to show results.

Then and Now

And, Dear Baseball Reader, if you could (and many of you can) look through a knot-hole in '76 at the old Chicago White Stocking park at 23rd and Butterfield street, with me, and travel through those forty years and witness the 1916 world series games at Braves' field, Boston, from the press box, have there been results obtained? Imagine the old White Stocking park, with their little wooden grandstand and bleachers. All told they would probably not seat more than 1,000 people at the outside with a population at this time of not more than 300,000. The fans were, in proportion, just as enthusiastic if not more so than at the present time.

Following the fortunes of the Chicago team, we find them in the '80's over at the Congress street grounds with the population of the city more than then doubled. We find the new grounds about four times the size of the older grounds and frequently find them packed, especially when Old Hoss Radburn was to pitch for Providence, when the latter was the opposition team.

Those days were wild ones. Times without number fans would lay for the players, who in those days dressed for the game at the hotel, until they came from the club house and carry their favorite for blocks and just as likely



JOE PAGE.

lay for the umpire or visiting team if things did not suit them the next day. A machine gun had nothing on the steady and continuous streams of rock fire our fans of the '80's could let loose.

Passing over the Union League days of '84 and the Brotherhood days of '90, we next find our old White Stockings on the west side in a home that would swallow the seating capacity of both the previous grounds and then add another eight or ten thousand on top of that. In the meantime Chicago had tripled in population and the Cubs, no longer White Stockings, were frequently playing before 10,000 or more fans.

Enter Comiskey

Within the following two years the American League was formed and the noblest Roman of them all, Charles A. Comiskey, was in command of the White Sox in Chicago. Since his advent there, Chicago at this writing has a population of 2,500,000 or more. The White Sox park can seat all that the 23rd street, Congress street and west side grounds could and at least another 10,000. The grounds of the National League are now stationed on the North side, where the late Federal League played. Their reputed capacity is 18,000, which report says they intend to increase by 6,000 in the coming year. The writer merely cites Chicago and its baseball prosperity together with the advance in population because of his better familiarity with that city's early baseball history. The same story and present situation in baseball applies to every city in the Ma League circuit, proportionately to their growth in population.

In Canada

The writer's mind in penning this was on how far baseball in Canada would follow in the footsteps of the development of Canada.

A little more than a quarter of a century ago what baseball there was in Canada was confined to a few—and very few—cities and towns in the province of Ontario and, with one or two exceptions, it was a week or fortnight between games. At this period the same might be said of St. John, N.B., and Halifax, N.S.

From Ottawa to the Pacific Ocean it was nil. It was only in the last decade that when the emigration tide began to flow Canada's way the game began to show life in the west. What caused it? To the writer's mind it is very simple of explanation. With the ever-increasing flow of the American farmer and his family to the Canadian west and the thousands of emigrants of all European nations going to the west through our eastern portals, what was more natural then, than the small sons of the transplanted American farmer should impregnate the baseball seed and at the same time the English language into the sons of the emigrant from the far east. The stronger will and the stronger mind of the youthful American, together with the simplicity of the game, were added factors that were bound to bear baseball fruit, equally fast as the American farmer sowed the seed that brought forth all that was best in the senior emigrant folks from Europe.

These same European emigrants—father and son—who a few years back were a pitiable lot to look at in the great majority of cases, are today in a great measure the life, sinew and success of our western Canada in business, farming and athletic sport.

This was, thanks in the first place to Canada's open and broad-minded legislation; secondly, to the sound, healthy and practical policies of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. When the late Sir William Van Horne, then president of the company, paved the way for the emigrant family to get settled on his own piece of land; and later Lord Shaughnessy, who has not only had irrigated thousands of acres of land, but has made it possible for emigrants of all nations coming to the great west not only to acquire land, but, in addition dwelling, farm implements, stock and money if necessary on terms that cannot but be satisfactory to all who desire it.

Thirdly, to the pioneer Canadian and American farmers and sons who not only showed the ignorant emigrant the latest and best methods of farming, but educated him in the language that was to become the one best bet for him; while at the same time the youngsters were teaching the emigrant offspring the mysteries of the baseball game.

The result of this has been what? With less than eight million population in Canada at the beginning of 1913, what was the baseball situation in Canada?

From Sydney to Vancouver, Canada could boast of having the following leagues: Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Maine, Eastern Township, Toronto and Montreal in International, Quebec Provincial, Canadian, Ontario, Niagara, Northern, Western Canada, Northwestern. Of these twelve professional leagues, the International, New Brunswick-Maine, Canadian League, Northern League, Western Canada League and Northwestern League, were members of organized ball. At the same time cities like Toronto and Montreal have more than 1,000 uniformed clubs, and other cities in proportion to population.

Thus, with less than one-fifth of the population that the United States had in 1880, Canada has made a far better showing than the States did in their first twenty years of progress in the game, say from 1860 to 1880.

The point of the writer is, if the baseball game received its first start in real favor by reason of the Union and Confederate soldiers taking such a liking for it, then, really the game must be in its swaddling clothes so far as Canada is concerned. Why? Ever since the present war started, it has been one continual cry from the soldier boys at the front: "Send us baseball outfits." It is quite safe to say that not fewer than $200,000 have been spent in sending outfits to the boys in the trenches and that they are used we all know by story after story we read of the games played and the still incessant cry for more baseball outfits. The question is: When the remainder of the gallant four to five hundred thousand Canadians come tramping home again accompanied within a very short time after by ten times that number and get back to business—the farm, the railroad or the thousand and one business lines they fit in—what effect do you think the playing of the game will have on the soldier and his companions who played it near the field of battle? Where the players played with death far more frequently than possibly they played ball. The writer feels that every soldier that comes marching home will not only have a good word to say for the game, but the great majority will be so strong for it that they will not only enthuse their friends to go to games, but will induce local business men in every town large or small to look at baseball as a means not only of sport but of publicity and business. As a consequence it should be an easy proposition to make in the next few years, not only a major Canadian league, but fully as many leagues in organized ball as there are in the United States. Time and time alone will tell.

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PREDICTS RACING WILL BE KILLED IN CANADA

New York, Nov. 30—Big profits from the Pari Mutual system are not confined to the State of Maryland, says the Evening Sun. Machine betting has become a craze in Canada, where racing has become a commercialized sport. In Montreal and vicinity, for instance, seven race tracks were operated this year. Three were mile tracks, and the others were half a mile in circumference. It is planned to build still another track near Montreal for the purpose of holding races at night. From the first of May until the last of October Montreal has continuous racing. At the mile tracks six or seven events are decided daily, while nine or ten are run at the half-mile merry-go-rounds. Mutuel betting is the enticement, and the track-owners are rolling in wealth. How long Montreal can stand the gaff remains to be seen. Eight one-mile tracks are operated in Ontario, three at Toronto, three at Windsor, one at Hamilton, and one at Fort Erie.

Two more race courses probably will be built near Toronto before the next season. All of these tracks draw the bulk of their patronage from Toronto, Detroit and Buffalo. They put on seven or eight races each day, and betting is conducted on a tremendous scale. At Windsor, recently, the machines handled $400,000 in one afternoon. The track's rake-off in commissions and 'breakage' amounted to 8 per cent, which yielded $22,000 from the mutuels. So great is the desire for business that hundreds of free tickets are issued daily by the track managers.

The admission to the half-mile courses is fifty cents, which further indicates the avarice of the Canadian turf promoters. In time, it is predicted racing in Canada will be killed, either by legislation or because the public will become bankrupt.

USE THE WANT AD. WAY

SPORT NEWS OF THE DAY HOME AND ABROAD

BASEBALL

Rucker Will Act As Scout.

Upon his return to New York, President Charles H. Ebbetts of the Brooklyn Nationals, announced that he had submitted an amendment to the National League to increase its player limit from twenty-one to twenty-two players. The amendment will come up for consideration at the league's annual meeting in New York on Dec. 12.

Ebbetts also announced the purchase of Infielder Adams and Outfielder Miller from the Winnipeg club. The Brooklyn club has released the following players outright:

G. Napoleon Rucker; under optional agreement: Pitchers Colwell and Goodbred and Outfielder Miller to Oakland; with privilege to recall at end of 1917 season; Infielder Keller to Denver and Outfielder Nixon to Beaumont.

Rucker, for years one of the leading left-handed pitchers, will be employed to scout for the Brooklyn club in the American Association, Southern Association, South Atlantic League, North Carolina League, Texas League, Georgia-Alabama League and Dixie League.

TURF.

Eighty-five Enter List.

New York, Dec. 2—One of the notable world's records for the harness turf made during the past racing season is the number of trotters that entered the 2.10 list, the total being eighty-five, according to the latest reports from the Pacific Coast. This is exactly eleven more than entered the fast list in 1915, which was then the second high-water mark for one season in the history of harness racing, the best previous record being seventy-seven in 1914.

One or more additions to the record list is still expected as the result of mile track racing just closed at Phoenix, Ariz., and also late breeders record meetings that might be held on the Coast. Aside from the number of new fast record trotters, the average speed for the total is also the fastest on record, there being no less than thirty with marks of 2.08 or faster, and twenty-one that bear records from 2.97 1-4 up to the fastest in the list, 2.08 1-4, the mark of Mabel Trask, the season's biggest money winning trotter.

BOWLING.

Season's Record.

The Nationals won three of the four points in the bowling match with the Specials Saturday night. Incidentally a new five-man string was made for the season by the Nationals—534. The scoring of the game follows

Specials.				Total.
Mitchell	91	90	114	295
Dunham	78	71	89	238
McBeath	81	104	71	256
White	95	86	85	266
Wilson	99	97	94	290
	444	448	453	1345

Nationals.				Total.
Belyea	126	87	123	336
Gilmour	98	82	97	267
Cosgrove	85	95	115	295
Howard	81	85	99	265
McKean	94	83	110	287
	484	432	534	1450

FOOTBALL.

Old Country Soccer.

London, Dec. 2—The following are the results of the principal English and Scottish soccer games decided today:

English League—Lancashire Section.

Burnley, 2; Bolton, 2.
Bury, 1; Blackburn Rovers, 0.
Liverpool, 2; Everton, 1.
Manchester United, 1; Rochdale, 1.
Oldham, 1; Blackpool, 1.
Preston North End, 2; Burslemport, 1.
Stockport County, 0; Manchester City, 0.
Stoke, 2; Southport Central, 1.

Midland Section.

Barnsley, 3; Bradford City, 0.
Birmingham, 4; Notts County, 0.
Bradford, 3; Rotherham County, 1.
Hull City, 2; Grimsby Town, 0.
Leeds City, 2; Sheffield United, 0.
Lincoln City, 1; Chesterfield Town, 2.
Notts Forest, 2; Leicester Fosse, 0
Sheffield, 0; Huddersfield Town, 0.

London Combination.

Clapton Orient, 1; Watford, 1.
Tottenham Hotspur, 4; Arsenal, 1.
Westham United, 2; Luten Town, 0.
Crystal Palace, 1; Chelsea, 1.
Fulham, 0; Milwall, 1.
Queens Park Rangers, 1; Portsmouth, 7.

Southampton, 3; Brentford, 1.

Scottish League.

Ayr, 0; Patrick, 0.
Clyde, 1; Airdrie, 1.
Dundee, 0; Third Lanark, 1.
Queens, 0; Kilmarnock, 1.
Hamilton, 1; St. Mirren, 1.
Morton, 1; Hibernian, 1.
Raith Rovers, 1; Celtic, 4.
Aberdeen, 0; Motherwell, 1.
Hearts, 0; Dumbarton, 1.
Rangers, 3; Falkirk, 3.

Champion Point Scorer.

Washington, Dec. 2—Johnny Gilroy, Georgetown left half back, has clinched his title as 1916 champion point scorer. By scoring three touchdowns and five goals after touchdowns against George Washington yesterday, he brought his total up to 188 for the season.

SAYS LES DARCEY NOT ON WAY TO AMERICA

Western Boxer Says Ring Marvel Has Done Much for Patriotic Causes—Is Taking a Rest

Vancouver, Nov. 30.—Still another story has filtered through regarding Les Darcy, crack Australian middleweight fighter. This comes from "Bill" Fagan, well known among Vancouver boxing fans. Fagan is now working on the Canadian-Australian liner Makura, and during the last two years has been fighting and working in different parts of the Commonwealth.

Bill tells this story: He left Sydney, Australia, on October 26, and half an hour before the liner sailed he was talking to the famous Australian. Fagan wanted Darcy to come to America, but Darcy said he would have time to think it over and would let him know on his return trip to Sydney. In the meantime Darcy said he was going home and later he would hike to the country for several months' rest, cutting off all communication with the outside world.

Fagan says the reason Darcy did this is because of the criticism directed at his mother for refusing to allow her son to join the army. A report was spread throughout Australia that Les had enlisted, but this was not true. The public then began to ask why he didn't join up, his mother then coming out with the statement that she refused to allow her son to join up. Much criticism was then directed at Mrs. Darcy, which got Les peeved, and before Fagan left for Vancouver, Darcy told him he would never join the army until they fetched him. Fagan said he would stake his life that Darcy was still in Australia, and would be heard from shortly.

According to Fagan, Darcy is a natural-born fighter, and is a world-beater. There is no man in the world that can beat him, he said yesterday. He is alert, tough and has the stamina, and would have no trouble in disposing of Mike Gibbons and all the other challengers.

Despite the criticism directed against him, Darcy has helped more patriotic causes in Australia than any other man, according to Fagan. He has fought and boxed for Red Cross benefits and all other benefits for the cause, and has placed thousands of pounds in the coffers of these different societies, yet the people of Australia have "turned him down." On his return to Australia this week, Fagan says, he will have no trouble in getting in touch with the Australian marvel, as he is one of his sparring partners and he understands Darcy has left word where he can reach him.

PRES. E. BARROW PLANS POST SEASON SERIES

New York, Nov. 30—President Edward Barrow of the International League, announces here that he will advise his club owners to play only a 112 game league season next year and a post season series of forty-eight games with the American Association, the class A. A. League of the Middle West. Barrow said he already has talked the situation over with the American Association men and they are enthusiastic over such a series.

Barrow will recommend to his club owners that they open the regular season on April 16, and close it on August 9.

In a forty-eight game post season series each International League team would play three games in each American Association city, and vice versa.

If practical, Barrow said, the winner of this post season series would play the champion team of the Pacific Coast League, for the championship of the National Association. Barrow will put his suggestion before his club owners at their annual meeting here December 11.

HARVARD FOOTBALL NETS MORE THAN QUARTER MILLION

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 2—The Harvard 'Varsity Football Team, playing ten games and losing three of them, came out of the 1916 season with a record of having brought approximately $280,000 to the box office.

Harvard divides the net receipts with its big opponents, Yale and Princeton, and gives guarantees to minor elevens.

The phenomenal gate receipts for 1916 are attributable to numerous causes. The Tufts game was a good one, because of its interest to Greater Boston. The Cornell game, coming late in October, made the most money ever recorded for a Harvard-Cornell contest, because the Ithacans beat Harvard last year and were rated as possible champions before they came to Cambridge this season. Princeton drew a record crowd. The Brown game was a big financial success, because the Bruins whipped Yale soundly the Saturday before the Harvard game and the reputation of the Providence eleven made them a strong box office attraction. The Harvard-Yale game drew $158,000.

When all the football expenses of the year are met Harvard will still have a large profit. Most of the other athletic teams at Cambridge, with the exception of baseball and hockey, lost money, and football's profits will have to go to make up the deficits in other sports. The estimated attendance at the ten Harvard games this year is slightly in excess of 200,000, or an average of 20,000 for each game.

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DAVIS' PANATELAS
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Gas Wipes Out Kennel of Pekes

New York, Dec. 2.—American dogdom has lost more than a score of its best Pekinese and one of its most popular fanciers, for Mrs. A. McClure Halley of Sheepshead Bay has announced that her famous Llenrud Kennel of Pekes practically has been wiped out by gas asphyxiation and that never again does she want to look at a dog.

The accident occurred last week while Mrs. Halley was returning from Europe, where she had spent three weeks buying a dozen beauties to add to her fine kennel. Fearing that the kennel was not warm enough for the pets one of the servants installed a gas heating plant in it to keep them warm. The first night the system was tried Mr. Halley was awakened by a bark in the kennel. Believing they were being attacked he hurried to the kenpel and there found the thirty little Pekes lying lifeless. Everything possible was done to resuscitate them, but only Champion Ouena of Llenrud and Pao Lung and four puppies were saved.

Among those asphyxiated was Sadie Weaver, the most famous brood bitch in America. Other noted ones killed were Dum Dum of Llenrud, which needed only one point to wear a crown of champion; Little Miss Dum Dum and Yu Yank of Llenrud.

While the death of each of them greatly shocked Mrs. Halley it was the loss of Sadie Weaver that determined her to forsake the sport she so keenly loved. Sadie was her pet. She needed only three more points to a title, but she had been retired from the bench. Mrs. Halley brought her from England four years ago when she was only 18 months old. She paid $1,000 for her, but has since refused $3,500 for her from Mrs. Kennedy, owner of the famous Nanking Kennel at Streatham Hill, London, from whom she had purchased her. In Mrs. Halley's estimation Sadie was priceless.

"All the money in the world couldn't buy her," said Mrs. Halley last night. "I'm simply disgusted. I don't want to look at a dog again. I treasured those little dogs, especially Sadie, and their deaths cause me great sorrow."

Mrs. Halley added that she intended to sell the four dogs which were saved as well as Nankin Wenti Sun and Wen Fei, which she brought with her from England. Wenti Sun is one of the best Pekes ever bred in England. Wen Fei is a puppy for which Mrs. Halley paid $1,500. In the opinion of Mrs. Kennedy, one of the best judges of Pekes in England, Wen Fei is the best puppy peke in the world.

Besides Wenti Sun and Wen Fei which she brought home with her, Mrs. Halley bought ten other Pekes while abroad, but when asked what she intended to do with those when they arrived she said: "I don't want to see them. If possible I shall sell them on the pier as soon as they are put off the steamer."

A P. E. I. Boxer,

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 3—Recently James J. Corbett made the prediction that Billy Weeks, Canadian middleweight title holder, would be the next 158 lb. world's champion boxer. Corbett persuaded him to box with him in Cincinnati and the ex-champion marvelled at the Canadian's class.

Weeks is a Prince Edward Islander, born at Murray Harbor. James Pendergast, the island's champion heavy weight thrower and all round athlete, who is quite a boxer also, having met Jack (Twin) Sullivan, was the principal second for Weeks, when the latter met Dornian in Seattle several years ago. Pendergast was on his way to Alaska at the time.

Although Dornian was much heavier, and five inches taller than Weeks, the latter had his opponent going from the start, and Dornian's brother interfered to save him from severe punishment. This victory put Weeks at the head of his class in the whole Northwest. He is another Bat Nelson, wades right in, and has an awful "kick" in each hand.

END OF MULBERRY PRECINCT

(New York Times.)

Police Commissioner Woods yesterday issued orders abolishing the old Mulberry street precinct, scene of Blackhand affrays, and murders. The precinct was established in Civil War days. At 8 o'clock tomorrow morning the precinct will be consolidated with the Elizabeth street station, the combined headquarters being at 17 Elizabeth street. The remodeled precinct will run from the old Post Office to Bleeker street, and from Broadway to the Bowery.

The only reason the commissioner advanced for the consolidation was the unsanitary condition of the Mulberry street station at 207 Mulberry street. The building was erected in 1872.

TO GET CONSTANTINOPLE

In an announcement to the Russian Duma on Saturday, Premier Trepoff read a proclamation to the effect that the allied nations had agreed to Russia's right to the straits and Constantinople at the close of the war.

HAD BRONCHIAL ASTHMA

So Badly Man Could Not Lie Down—Cured by Vinol

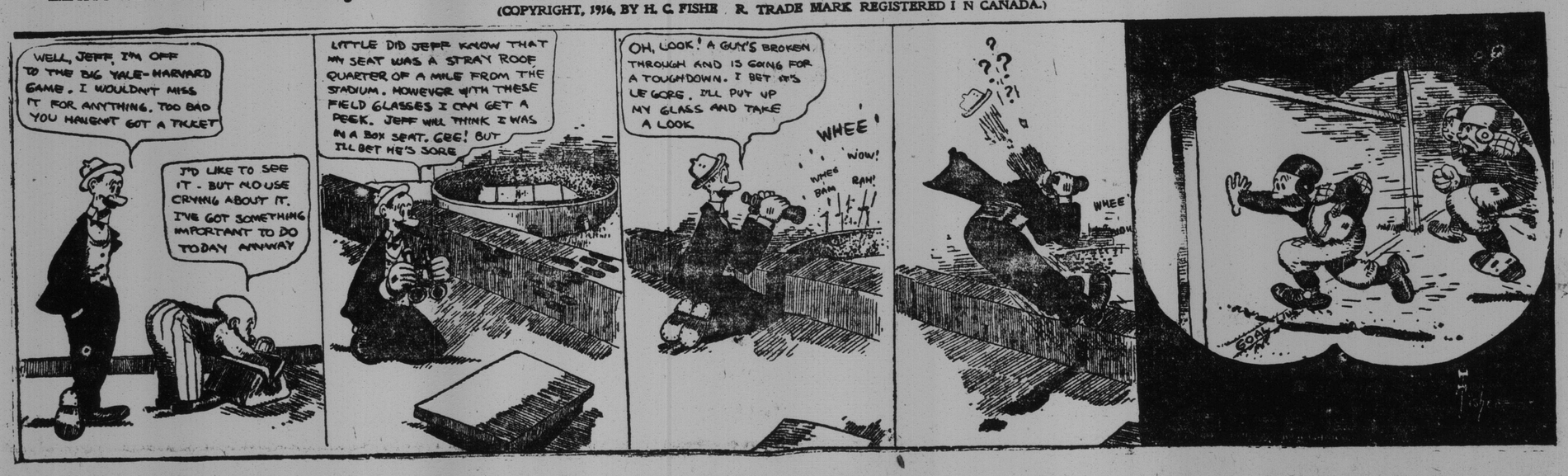
For years and years we have been telling the people of St. John that Vinol is a wonderful remedy for bronchial troubles. Here is positive proof:

Tilden, Ill.—"For five years I suffered from bronchial asthma. In the winter time I was obliged to sit in a Morris chair all night, as I could not lie down, owing to that dreadful choking sensation. I tried nearly every known remedy, but nothing gave me any relief until one day I met the station agent at Willjsville, Ill., and he said he had been a sufferer for years, but had been cured by Vinol. I at once commenced to take it, and the result is my cough is gone, my appetite has improved and I can lie down and sleep all night, and my experience leads me to believe that Vinol is a certain remedy for bronchial asthma." John H. Condell, Tilden, Ill.

The reason that cough syrups fail in such cases is because they are palliative only, while Vinol removes the cause, being a constitutional remedy in which are combined beef and cod liver peptones, iron and manganese peptonates and glycerophosphates. It strengthens and revitalizes the entire system and assists nature to expel the disease.

The Ross Drug Co., Limited, Wasson's Drug Store, St. John, N.B. T. H. Wilson, Fairville, N.B. Also the best druggists in all New Brunswick towns.

Mutt and Jeff—Certainly Jeff Was in the Big Game

By "Bud" Fisher

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