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In the World of Sport

CONNIE MACK MYSTERY TO BASEBALL MOGULS

Can't Figure Out Why He Smashed His Great Athletic Machine.

The recent statement of Connie Mack that he intended to show all holdouts, with the exception of Amos Strunk, to keep right on holding out has taken the goat of rival club owners and chased right down to spring training with it.

Mack is said to have declared that for their statements the complaining players will be traded or sold to other clubs.

Club owners in the same circuit with Mack and in the National League are completely at a loss to understand what part of a baseball team he still has.

Joe Bush and Wally Schang are said to be two of the men who have refused to sign contracts at the figures offered. With these two remnants of the once powerful Mackian machine gone, Mack would have more trouble than ever in keeping out of the cellar.

It is a safe assertion that whenever Mack does decide to place these players on the auction block the bidding will be fast and furious, and it is another safe bet that Schang and Bush will figure in some fine baseball for other baseball clubs if they escape from the organization that has succeeded the old Athletics.

Rival club owners in the American League have been a bit disgruntled over Mack's method making a baseball team. They have played to hand out in nearly every city in the country. If he starts now to wreck what he has left there will be still further expressions of annoyance.

Mack gets the benefit of good baseball teams and then sends in return a college baseball nine to play a high-class major league outfit. His team is just beginning to show effect of long association with major league baseball and it would appear extremely unwise to defy the public by breaking off the two arms that have done so much to hold what respect the Athletics formerly commanded.

"BIG ALEX." REFUSES

To Compromise at \$10,000 and Threatens to Quit.

Grover Cleveland Alexander, star pitcher of the Philadelphia Nationals, yesterday declined an offer of \$10,000 a year from William F. Baker, President of the club. Some time ago Alexander returned his contract, which was said to have called for a yearly salary of \$8,000, unsigned. He demands \$15,000, and declared that if his terms were not met he would quit baseball.

Alexander said he has no intention of modifying his demands. "Unless Mr. Baker changes his mind," he declared, "there will be no agreement. Things stand the same as they did before the meeting and perhaps a little worse."

Still Talking About It. Representatives of Jess Willard, champion heavyweight, and Fred Fulton expect to meet in Chicago to discuss articles of agreement for a ten-round fight. It is said the articles have been drawn up, and that if an agreement is reached the fight will take place in New York city late in March or early in April.

Wild's Best Opponent Wounded. Young Dando, the North of England flyweight champion, has been wounded in action. Dando was wounded while fighting in the north of France. He is reputed to have given Jimmy Wilde, the world's flyweight champion, some of the hardest battles the latter has ever encountered.

Girl After Record. Miss Audrey Griffin, aged 15, will attempt to break the existing Canadian record for the 100 yard dash for lady swimmers at Victoria, B.C., on Saturday, Feb. 24. The present record is 1:36 3-5 for the distance, and is held by Miss Madge Griffin, who made it in Victoria some time ago.

Veach Signs With Detroit. Announcement was made yesterday by President Navin of the Detroit American League baseball club that Robert Veach, left fielder of the team, had signed a 1917 contract and would leave for the training camp at Waxahachie, Texas, March 10th.

SPORTING NOTES.

Captain Charley Herzog of the Giants, who is spending a vacation in Florida before, going to the training camp at Marlin, Texas, has taken up aviation, and has made several flights. On one of his aerial trips Herzog went up 2,500 feet.

The death of the Fraternity strike leaves only one obstacle in the path of harmony. This is the suit of the backers of the Federal League club of Baltimore against the "trust" for \$300,000 damages. This hearing will take place in Philadelphia before a jury late next month.

Weeghman of the Cubs is anxious to land three players, Grover Cleveland Alexander of the Philadelphia, and Tyler and Evers of the Braves. Of course, there are others like Walter Johnson, who would suit Charley, but right now he would be content with these three!

The Highlanders have signed a big catcher named Julian Olson of Pensacola, Fla. He will report to Ray Donovan at Macon, Ga., next Sunday. Bob Gilkes, who sent the sensational Al Walters to the Highlanders, had been on this fellow's trail for almost a year. Gilkes thinks Olson quite as bright a prospect as was Walters a year ago. No catcher needs a higher recommendation.

Boston Journal.—Baseball owes more to the good sense and to the honest mind of that supposed firebrand and alleged roughneck, John J. McGraw, than it owes to bolsterous Bin or to John Kalsomine Tener. The Fraternity had gotten itself into a bad hole, and no mistake, but it was still in a position to be ugly and to do damage if forced to the wall and goaded by the magnates. McGraw's tactful intervention helped a whole lot. "Blessed are the peace makers."

THE MAJOR LEAGUERS ARE STARTING SOUTH

The Chicago Cubs Have Already Left for Pasadena, California.

The first major league team to make a break for its spring training will be the Cubs, who left Chicago by special train on Wednesday for Pasadena, Cal. Next Monday the vanguard of the New York Yankees will be off for Macon, Ga. Most of the teams, however, will not enter training until March 1st, and two or three not until a week after that date. The National League rule is that teams may not begin training earlier than 45 days previous to the season opening, which is set for April 11th this year. There is no limit in the American League on training operations.

Training camps selected by major league clubs for this year follow: American League—New York at Macon, Ga.; Philadelphia at Jacksonville, Fla.; Boston at Hot Springs, Arkansas; Washington at Augusta, Ga.; Detroit at Waxahachie, Tex.; Chicago at Mineral Wells, Tex.; St. Louis at Palestine, Tex.; Cleveland at New Orleans, La.

National League—New York at Marlin, Tex.; Brooklyn at Hot Springs, Ark.; Boston at Miami, Fla.; Philadelphia at St. Petersburg, Fla.; Chicago at Pasadena, Cal.; St. Louis at Hot Wells, Tex.; Cincinnati at Shreveport, La.; Pittsburgh at Columbus, Ga.

Two of the major league teams—one in each league—will be led to camp this spring by new managers. Jack Barry having succeeded Bill Carrigan at Boston in the American and Fred Mitchell succeeding Joe Tanker at Chicago in the National. Here is the list of 1917 managers in the major leagues:

American League—Chicago, Clarence H. Rowland; Boston, John F. Barry; New York, William A. Donovan; Detroit, Hugh Jennings; Washington, Clark Griffith; Cleveland, Lee Fohl; Philadelphia, Connie Mack; St. Louis, Fielder Jones. National League—Chicago, Fred Mitchell; Boston, George Stallings; New York, John McGraw; Pittsburgh, James J. Callahan; Cincinnati, Christy Mathewson; Brooklyn, Wilbert Robinson; Philadelphia, Patrick Moran; St. Louis, Miller Huggins.

SIX HUNDRED BOXERS ENLIST IN AUSTRALIA

Stadiums Used for Recruiting —Boxers Build Convalescent Homes.

The latest boxing news from Snowy Baker, the Australian promoter, contains the news that Matty Smith, an American lightweight, has decided to enlist in the European war and cast his lot with the Allies. Smith applied for a place in the Australian Air Corps, but after passing in everything else was rejected because he was not a naturalized British subject.

Jack Coyne, another American boxer performing in Australia, also attempted to enlist for war service, but, he, too, was turned down for the same reason. Both boxers are expected to make another attempt after engaging in several bouts for which they have contracted.

Incidentally recruiting for war service is still progressing in sporting circles in the land of the kangaroo, particularly in the boxing game, which 600 recruits have already been secured. Most of the men now filling ring engagements are married men with families, or boys below the military age and size.

A plan is now under way by those identified with boxing to combine with various other sports in an effort to obtain great numbers of enlistments in the course of the next few months. To this end Snowy Baker has given over his stadiums in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to recruiting committees for the purpose of holding rallying meetings.

Returned soldiers, who are living at French's Forest, just outside of Sydney, where voluntary workers have erected a number of houses for invalid soldiers, have demanded that one of the houses built by American and Australian boxers and named Darcy Villa be changed to Cestus.

THE INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE WAS FORMED

It was on Feb. 20th, 1877, that the International Association, the daddy of the smaller baseball leagues, was formed at a meeting held in Pittsburgh. The circuit was composed of the Alleghenys of Pittsburgh, the Buckeyes of Columbus, the Live Oaks of Lynn, Manchester, N.H., Rochester, N.Y., and two Canadian clubs, the Tecumsehs of London and the Maple Leafs of Guelph. It fell to the lot of the London club to win the championship, so the first minor league pennant was hoisted in Canada. The International made pretensions of being on a par with the National League, and formed alliances with clubs in several other cities than those represented in its circuit, but from the present viewpoint it was strictly a minor league. The International was enlarged to twelve clubs in its second year—Guelph, Columbus and Lynn retiring, while Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica, Binghamton, Springfield, Lowell and Hartford were added. Buffalo won the pennant in 1878. The name was changed to National Association in 1879, the dropping out of London making "International" a misnomer. Albany won the pennant, the other clubs being Utica, Springfield, Worcester, Manchester, Holyoke, New Bedford and Washington. That year witnessed the launching of another minor league, the North-Western comprising clubs in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska.

THE SOLDIERS' BASEBALL OUTFIT.

Over in England there is a baseball league, the players in which are wounded Canadian soldiers. The teams from several hospitals participate in the league, and it is expected to resume operations about the first of May. It is under the endorsement and patronage of Lady Drummond, John G. Lee, secretary of the league, is in Montreal, endeavoring to raise \$1,500 to purchase the outfits. Montreal sportsmen are asked to contribute this amount.

There are over 19,000 members of the various Canadian expeditionary forces in hospitals throughout the United Kingdom, and the baseball league is a big thing to these men.

DEVIL IN A MAGNETE.

Arthur Devlin, former third baseman of the Giants, last season with Rochester, has signed to manage the Norfolk team of the Virginia League. At one time he bossed Oakland of the coast circuit.

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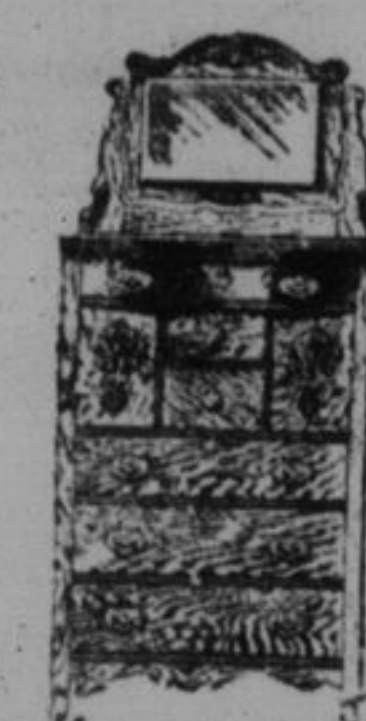
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