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In the World of Sport

BASEBALL BRIEFS

Sam Bohne, an infielder, has been bought by the St. Paul Club of the American Association from the St. Louis Nationals.

Earl Blackburn, a catcher, was sold by the Boston Nationals today to the Chicago Nationals. He was a member of the local club last year, but was farmed out to the Providence club. Blackburn goes to Chicago on waivers.

The Cleveland Americans will not have a captain this season, Lee Fohl, manager of the club, will act in the dual capacity as captain and manager. "The idea of a captain is a joke, to my way of thinking," Fohl explained. "The captain of a ball team has no more power than a manager on the bench, providing the manager is in uniform, and I'll be out there every day."

Hamilton promoters contemplate the organization of a semi-professional team in that city. It is proposed to play on Saturdays and holidays with semi-professional teams from across the international boundary.

If John McGraw is going to get \$50,000 a year, then anybody buying a ball club is demented. He should try to become a capitalist. Yet McGraw is worth every penny of \$50,000. Name any other manager clever enough to draw \$25,000 to \$50,000 out of his club's treasury every year to buy seasoned stars after his costly rookie investments fail.

CORNWALL WILL STICK.

Factory Town Will Again Have Team in N.L.U.

A Cornwall despatch says—With reference to the rumor emanating from Ottawa that the Cornwall Lacrosse Club is going to drop out of the N.L.U. this year or until after the war, officers of the club know nothing of such an intention. Cornwall has been in the lacrosse game for many years, sticking to it when others failed, and it seems scarcely credible that a heave should occur at this stage. This town has been known for a decade as "the Nursery of Lacrosse" and has produced some of the best players in the game, for it is a well-known fact that Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto teams, which have landed the pennant, have had Cornwall boys on their line-up.

Expects to Go to Sweden.

Eugene Brousseau, of Montreal, the amateur boxing champion of America at 158 lbs., has hopes that he may be sent to the boxing championships to be held in Sweden this year. Secretary Rubien, of the Amateur Athletic Union of America, is to select three men to send, and Brousseau thinks he has a claim upon one of the three places. "This," Brousseau says, "was one of the inducements held out in Boston to enter the championships. If there are three men selected, I think Murphy, of Kansas City, who has won an American championship two years in succession, and myself, who have won one, two years in succession ought to get the first chance, and John Gaddi, of New York, the heavy-weight champion, ought to be the third man." Brousseau has clippings from the Boston papers in which it is said that his actions as a boxer were more like those of a regular professional than the actions of any of the other entrants in the tournaments.

Looks For Close Race.

John K. Tener, president of the National League, says: "We anticipate a tremendously successful season for baseball this year. There is only one thing, the declaration of war that will detract from the game's popularity. "We look forward to the National League race being as sensational and close as it was in 1915 and 1916. While I am not unconscious of the fact that the Giants look to be an exceptionally strong combination, offensively and defensively, I cannot believe they will make a runaway race of it. Even though the twirling corps should perform in superior manner from the start I do not believe anything of that sort is likely."

UNION RULES FOR BASEBALL PLAYERS.

- 1. Strenuous competition must be abolished and players must play to a standard.
- 2. One base hit in a game is allowed; if another is made the guilty player is to be fined \$25.
- 3. If the offence is repeated, the player shall be suspended.
- 4. The stealing of bases is allowed, but only on condition that an upright posture be maintained, sliding on the ground being undignified and dangerous; also it soils the clothes.
- 5. All players playing like positions shall receive like salaries. To give any one more salary than other position brothers playing a like position is contrary to the principles of unionism, and leads to a competition unworthy of brothers.
- 6. No new players, or apprentices, shall be allowed except when some of the brothers wish to retire from the game; and no player shall be dismissed except by vote of the union.
- N.B.—The magnates, however, are allowed to pay the salaries.

Ontario Jockey Club News.

The Ontario Jockey Club's liberality with the horsemen is shown by the announcement that for the coming spring meeting at Woodbine, May 19th to 26th, the lowest value of any overnight purse will be \$500 added, while no stake event will be for less than \$2,000. Like the King's Plate, the Toronto Cup is increased this year, and has now \$7,000 added.

There will be a steeplechase run each day of the meeting, while the Woodbine Steeplechase handicaps, with \$1,000 added, distance two miles, will be run on May 19th, the opening day.

There will be seven races daily, the entrance money in all cases going to the winner. In all races for horses foaled in Canada five per cent. of the first money will be paid to the Canadian Racing Association for the account of the breeder of the winner.

300 Hitters.

The number of 300 hitters in the major leagues has decreased to such an extent that some day the baseball rule makers will attempt to curb the effectiveness of the pitchers. Last year the men who batted in the 300 class were Holke, Chase, McCarty, Daubert, Hinchman, Hornsby, Wheat and Robertson of the National League; also Speaker, Cobb, Jackson, Spencer, Ruml, Strunk, E. Collins, Gardner, Veach, Sieler and Felsch of the American League. Will this number be further reduced this year? If so, there will be a general demand for more batting.

Jeers Affect Wagner.

Should it follow that Honus Wagner, one of the greatest ball players of all time, persists in his determination to retire from the pastime, the jeers of certain disloyal and unthinking fans will have been responsible. Wagner loves baseball and there is no disposition on his part to quarrel with President Barney Dreyfuss of Pittsburgh over the matter of salary. But there does rankle the bitter remembrance that after many years of faithful and meritorious service, he was jeered and hooted in his home city because of certain shortcomings on his part.

Second Sacker Released.

Steve Yerkes, second baseman with the Chicago Nationals, was released yesterday to the Indianapolis club of the American Association. Yerkes, a former Pittsburgh player, is under a Federal League contract calling for \$6,500 a year. His release is taken to mean that Larry Doyle will be in condition to play second.

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TO BE LIVELY RACE IN THE AMERICAN

Czar Ban Expects Bang-up Finish—Mack Has a Chance.

"In the history of the American League there was never a year when the organization was so well equipped for a championship race. A few days ago I received a letter from Connie Mack, in which he gave me the assurance that he had a vastly improved team over the club of last year, and one that was sure to prove a factor in the championship contest. If we can accept this declaration, then there are eight contenders well balanced for a gruelling fight this season.

"Every one will concede that Chicago, Boston, New York and Detroit are bound to be prime favorites. The Cleveland club has been greatly strengthened, a claim is attested by the fact that Morton shows this early in the spring all the strength he developed in the beginning of last season. Joe Wood claims his right arm has been well restored, so with Coleskie Bagby and Klieper in support, Cleveland is sure to have a formidable staff of pitchers.

"Many wise baseball men contended last fall that New York would have carried off the prize had it not been for the innumerable accidents that put some of its best players out of commission during the summer. The St. Louis club, under the leadership of Jones, must be reckoned with. Had the Browns started their tremendous drive a bit earlier in the season, the pennant might have gone to the organization representing the spirit of the Senators, under the guidance of that wise and skilled manager, Clark Griffith.

"War may place an indelible mark upon our patronage, but it cannot stamp out a contest that is sure to be seen, thorough and exciting from the tap of the bell until the finish in October."

GIANTS A STRONG CHOICE.

Six to Five Favorites—Take Your Pick in American.

A tour of four places in New York where big bets are made on baseball disclosed the fact that the Giants are 6 to 5 favorites for winning the National League pennant, and ardent followers of the club are showing signs of worry. Never in diamond history has a low-priced favorite carried off the honors. There is a belief that such a responsibility is too much for a team to carry, and Giant fans are anxious.

Just the same, Arnold Rothstein has made a bet of \$1,000 on McGraw's club, for which he got 7 to 5. Since then the price has shortened. John Staley, a big bettor of Pittsburgh, wired Jack Doyle for prices the other day, adding the information that the best that could be got in Pittsburgh was 6 to 5. He said that thousands of dollars had been laid at that place.

Most of the big betting in baseball is done at Pittsburgh and New York, and it might be of interest to note the prices laid against the other clubs. You can get 3 to 1 against any other team in the National League. For teams like the Reds, the Pirates and the Cardinals you can practically write your own price.

In the American League there is no favorite. Yanks, Red Sox, White Sox and Tigers are all 2 to 1, and you can have your pick. The gambling element believes none of these four clubs has a chance.

Ray of Hope For Baseball.

Every cloud, it is said, has its silver lining. The lining in this case seemingly belongs to the baseball magnates, for if college competitions of all sorts are abolished, because of the war, as is probable, the sport lover, perforce, will be obliged to turn to baseball.

This is not saying, however, that baseball will be benefited by war. Quite the contrary is true. Baseball will suffer like everything else, once hostilities grow serious.

Toronto Wants Lacrosse.

Charlie Querrie writes in the Toronto News: According to a despatch from Montreal, the application of the Tecumseh Lacrosse Club for a franchise in the National Lacrosse Union will be turned down at the annual meeting which takes place this coming Saturday. The matter of expenses seems to be the trouble, but surely the clubs in the East could stand one trip to the city if it is a real lacrosse circuit.

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