

ROUND THE CAPITAL

Information and Gossip Picked Up Here and There in Washington.

Virtue That Abides in Clean Linen



WASHINGTON.—The nation's capital is sincere in its crusade for cleanliness, and promises to prove herself a worthy example to the other cities of the land. The activities of Dr. W. C. Woodward the past week have centered in the effort to reform the laundry business of the city.

Every person who launders for pay the clothing, sheets, pillow cases, table cloths or similar articles belonging to any other person will be required to register with the health officer.

"What the health department desires," says Dr. Woodward, "is to bring under better control the many homes of the poorer classes in which washing is done for hire to supplement the scant wage of the head of the household. Too often these houses are in an uncleanly condition.

"And there is reason to believe that in many cases, especially in the summer season, when heating water for washing not only diminishes the profit of the operation, but also adds to the discomfort of the household, the water used is not properly heated, and clothing from various sources is passed successively through the same dirty water; and, moreover, that ironing, which, when efficiently done, is a reasonably safe disinfecting process, is not done in the manner best adapted to the accomplishment of that end.

"While the most effective regulation of the business of laundering cannot be brought about until some system of licensing is established, as is proposed in the pending bill, yet it would seem that it may be possible to facilitate the inspection of places where laundering is done by requiring registration at the health office. If they be registered then they can be systematically inspected, at least from time to time, as lunchrooms and other similar places are now being inspected, instead of being visited only occasionally, in the course of the routine work of the department."

Envoys Notorious as "Tightwads"



UNCLE SAM is getting wise on one point and that is that foreign countries like to have him send millionaires as his representatives to their lands there to spend American gold lavishly, but are disposed to be decidedly niggardly when it comes to their representatives spending money in America.

Secretary Root is credited with being about to turn this situation to good account. Mr. Root resents the position of the foreign governments in requiring money qualification of an American ambassador.

Of course what ambassadors and ministers spend here on private enterprises for their governments cannot be reckoned. But their entertainments and general mode of living are an open page. The man who draws the biggest salary in Washington is

James Bryce, who gets \$50,000 annually and an additional \$10,000 a year for contingent expenses. Mr. Bryce has one of the finest mansions which the capital can boast, completely furnished, with an extra fund to pay for any necessary repairs or new equipment. He has linen, silver and glass at the expense of the British exchequer, and even the liveries of his retainers come from the public fund.

Yet with this vast sum at their disposal, few people live more unpretentiously than the British ambassador and Mrs. Bryce. Their social record during the last winter contained fewer events than any of the immediate predecessors. Mrs. Bryce gave about six small afternoon receptions during the season, when tea and small confections were served.

But little more can be placed to the credit of the French ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, second on the list of big salaries. M. Jusserand gets \$42,500 a year, about \$10,000 for extra expenses. The dean of the corps, the Italian ambassador, Baron Mayor Des Planches, is almost out of the social running.

Are Turning from Whisky to Beer



FROM the preliminary report of the commissioner of internal revenue it is apparent that the consumption of whisky and other ardent spirits is on the decrease and that the consumption of beer is increasing. During the fiscal year which ended on June 30, last, \$131,789,242 was paid to the government as revenue on whisky and other spirituous liquors. For the year previous \$147,550,281 was paid, a loss in revenue of \$15,767,038. There was distilled during the year which ended June 30, last, 119,808,402 gallons of distilled spirits, a decrease over the previous year of 14,333,672 gallons.

During the past year 58,747,650 barrels of beer, ale, etc., were made, a

gain of 201,569 over the preceding year. On this beer, ale, etc., the government received as revenue the sum of \$58,747,680, a gain of \$201,569.

The receipts from all sources of internal revenue for the year aggregated \$251,665,950, being a decrease of \$17,998,072 from the receipts for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1907.

Tobacco of all sorts yielded a revenue of \$49,862,754, a loss of \$1,948,315, the figures of the year which ended June 30, 1907, being \$51,811,069. This year cigars contributed a total sum of \$20,714,276; little cigars, \$515,050, and cigarettes, \$4,879,346, and tobacco of other kinds, including chewing and smoking, \$21,846,563.

Oleomargarine paid revenue to the extent of \$954,304, a gain of \$66,663 over the previous year. This represents 79,107,302 pounds consumed.

Renovated butter was a close second to oleomargarine, 50,240,708 pounds being manufactured, upon which \$125,601 revenue was paid.

Would Make Work of Mining Safe



THE great number of mine accidents and the appalling loss of life therefrom has prompted the United States government to invite Great Britain, Germany and Belgium to send their leading experts in such matters to this country to co-operate with the efforts now being made through the United States geological survey to establish an experimental station at Pittsburg and to inaugurate the work there of testing explosives used in coal mining. Congress at its last session appropriated \$150,000 for this purpose, and this sum has been turned over to the survey.

It is said that abroad mine explosives are tested, and those which are deemed standard for the purpose of mining are labeled "permissible."

There is no such condition here, nor has the geological survey the right to impose it. It may, however, endeavor to ascertain the facts by investigation, and then set them forth for the benefit of mine operators and for the information of state legislators.

Last year 3,200 men were killed in the mines and the year before 2,061. The rate for 1906 was 3.34 for every thousand men employed, while for 1907 it was still greater. In four mines alone nearly 500 men were killed since last December—356 in the disaster at Monongah, W. Va., said to be the most appalling, so far as the loss of life is concerned, in the history of mining; 25 more in the disaster at the Darr mine, in Pennsylvania; 32 in the Naomi mine, in Pennsylvania, and 61 in the Yolande mine, in Alabama.

The experts who will come to this country are Capt. Desborough, inspector of explosives under the home office, Great Britain; Herr Meissner, chief of the German mine service, and Victor Watteyne, engineer-in-chief, administration of mines, Belgium.

HIT-AND-RUN GAME IS BROWNS' LONG SUIT

So Says Manager McAleer in Talking of the Success of His St. Louis Team.

With the St. Louis Browns sternly chasing the pennant, with good chances of eventually winding up with the bunting, the question naturally arose as to what change in the style of playing this season brought about this result in contrast to the work of the club last season, when McAleer could only land his team in sixth place. In other words, why is McAleer such a big success this season when he was considered such a failure last year? McAleer himself has not changed so greatly and those who know his system of play realize that there has been no change in his tactics, with possibly the one exception of his taking out pitchers with more frequency. Even here the poor condition of his pitching staff has had much to do with his more frequent changes, and as his twirlers show form he is taking them out with less suddenness, even when they are getting hit pretty hard.

McAleer's own response to a request to explain his success comes mighty near being the correct solution:

"My success this season is directly due to the fact that I have players who can carry out plays when they are ordered and who can think for themselves when they are not," is the way he puts it.

Going further into detail, McAleer considers the hit-and-run play the most dangerous and at the same time the most effective play in baseball, as his greatest single cause for success. Furthermore, this is a logical outcome of his first statement and in line with it. Working the hit-and-run play depends for its success on the co-operation of the batter and runner, and the runner especially must have much faith in the man at bat to make it a success. With a batter up who is game and has a good eye, the play is a fairly safe one and one which practically breaks up a game when it is worked right, the result being to send a base runner around from first to third and put another runner on first. Even if the play only partially succeeds, it advances a man to second base with the penalty of an out for the batter. With a poor base runner and poor batter the outcome is liable to be a double play.

Comparison of the use McAleer has made of the play this season and last shows what he means. This play was signaled for by McAleer many times last season and most of the time with disastrous results. Either the base runner failed to do his part by getting such a start for second base as to cause the shortstop or second baseman to start to cover the bag, this, of course, making the hole for the batter to push the ball through, or the batter failed to hit the ball, and the runner looked bad when he was caught on what looked like an attempted steal. Naturally under such conditions a manager grows timid about using such a play and falls back on less effective but more sure methods of advancing runners and scoring points. This season McAleer is using the play pretty near as often as he desires, and it is proving especially deadly with Jimmy Williams and Hobe Ferris handling the bat.

NOTES OF THE DIAMOND

Some one suggested to Moriarity of the Yankees that he ought to go down in Florida and play this winter. "Not for mine," replied Moriarity. "I know those grounds. When a ball is hit you go down after a grounder and come up with malaria."

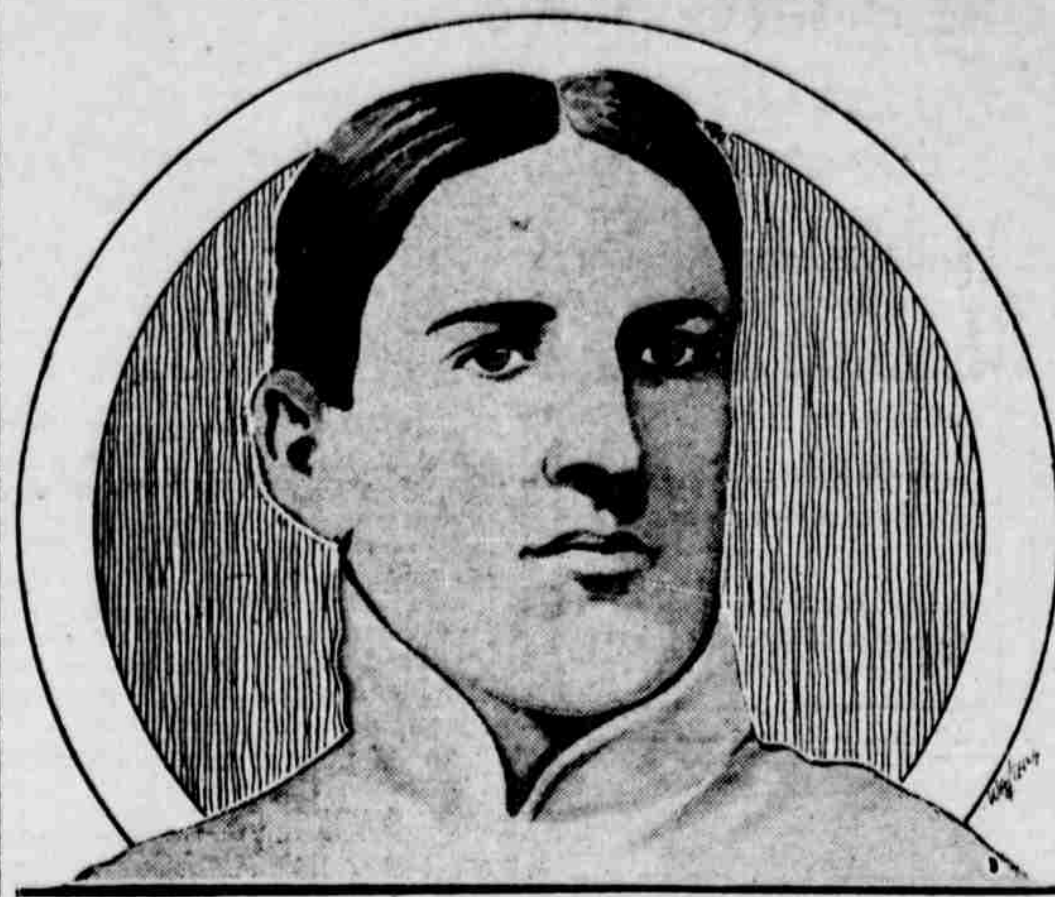
When Detroit played at Philadelphia one of the baseball writers of Philadelphia took Jimmy Dygert to task for falling to stop a hot drive off Sam Crawford's bat. Sam drove the ball right through the box and by the time Oldring had thrown it in Mullin, who had been on second scored. Instead of finding fault with Dygert, the writer should have complimented him for not committing suicide. When Crawford hits a ball far enough to score George Mullin from second base that ball must be traveling some.

Unable to win a game and routed on six different occasions by his opponents, Glen Liebhardt faced the Tigers, expecting his usual dose. But the champs were not a bit hostile and Liebhardt was able to win his first game of the present season. His record there was as follows: Games won, 1; games lost, 6; percentage, .143.

Dr. Erb, famous specialist, examined Terry Turner and found that the ligaments of his shoulder had become stretched from hard throwing. He advised Terry never to play at short again and said he ought not to play ball in any position this year.

A man who never takes himself seriously is not likely to succeed. The trouble with most of us is that we take ourselves seriously at the wrong time.

PREMIER TWIRLING ARTIST



WIZARD VICTOR WILLIS

Willis, of Boston, is of the tall, angular type that seems to give a pitcher such a big advantage over the short and stocky builds. He gets the speed on the ball because of his long swing and he has been a puzzle to the National league batters for many a year.

BOGEY OF BALL PLAYERS' EXISTENCE IS OLD AGE

They All Fear for Livelihood as Years Pile Up, Yet There Are Many Good "Old Boys."

The ball player is peculiar on the age question. No matter how great a game many of them play they fear the signs of age. They dread the time when their arms will get stiff and they will have to give up the sport in which they have spent a life time of pleasure. They dislike the suggestion that they are getting gray or bald because it suggests the time when they shall have to make way for stronger men.

"It makes a hit with me the way some 'colts' pass on their age," says Bill Donovan. "They are like school girls. You could not get some ball players past the age of 23 with a derick. There's more four-flushing on age in the game than there is in any other business. The theatrical profession not barred. It's impossible almost to find a ball player still in active service who has passed the age of 30, if you believe what he says. The most wonderful part of Cy Young is not his pitching record; it's the fact that he is willing to admit he's 41. I'm willing to wager some coin that Cy isn't the only man in the major league who has reached that age. Ten to one they are being written up as colts, just breaking in."

Detroit last year had a colt pitcher who passed as a young fellow. He said he was 25. Nobody had the heart to wake him up to the fact that he was not getting away with it, and so he continued with the bluff. Such an event of a few years ago was "before his time." He had a lot of fun posing as a coy green young thing. After he had left the club to seek new fields of endeavor, it was found that he had a son of 15 years of age. The "colt," as a matter of fact, was 37 years old, and he was just breaking into the majors.

Cy Young has a wonderful record of having worked for 18 or 19 years as a major league pitcher with a percentage of games won well over the .500 mark, but his age is really nothing wonderful, or would not be considered so if the ages of some of the diamond stars still doing business could be truthfully tabulated.

There isn't at the present time one mustache in baseball. It is just an evidence of the general tendency of the ball player to dodge signs of age. The hirsute decorations have a habit of becoming tinged with gray oftentimes and when the ball player gets slow on his feet and does the "stalling" stunt—starting late for a ball and pretending he made a desperate effort to get it—he doesn't want the manager reminded of his age by any such plain evidence as a mustache.

"Big Ed Delehanty always used to be grouchy about his age," says Bill Coughlin. "Whenever any of the boys would pull off the gag about paying 50 cents to see him play when they were children he would always come back at them with:

"Well, straighten up or you'll soon be paying 50 cents to see me again."

McGraw Likes Doyle

Johnny McGraw, the manager of the New York Giants, says that Larry Doyle, the fast youngster, will be the best second sacker in the business in 1909. Says McGraw: "I wouldn't trade Larry even up for Johnny Evers, if the trade were offered. Since his sickness at the beginning of the season Doyle has been getting two and three hits every day. His fielding has been wonderful, his speed helping him pull off plays that any other second sacker would not even attempt."

SOMETIMES PITCHERS SHOOT BALL TOO TRUE

So Says "Long" Tom Hughes in Article on Things That Happen to the Twirler.

BY "LONG" TOM HUGHES.

Do you know that there is such a thing as a pitcher being too true? I haven't hit a batter this year and I am paying the penalty for it in getting beaten in these 1 to 0 and 2 to 1 games I ought to win. I am not in favor of this thing of aiming the ball at a batter's head to drive him away from the plate, but in these days of low scores, when everything almost depends on the man in the box, it sometimes becomes almost imperative.

Let a pitcher once get a reputation for keeping the ball over the heart of the plate and the batters will hear all about it quickly enough. You will see them coming up there like little majors, fairly embracing the plate in the knowledge that they are practically insured against a crack on the head or in the ribs.

Last year I hit two men with the ball. One was Claud Rossman. He had hugged the plate until it became exasperating in the extreme and so I shot one at his cap. He dodged just in time to escape a good headache and the ball hit his shoulder. I didn't want to hit it, but it kept him from making love to the plate for a good long while.

It's all right, this thing of having perfect control, as Cy Young, Addie Joss and a few other pitchers can testify, but once in a while it pays to forget that the batter has any feelings and keep him from choking the plate as he will when he knows he is taking no risk.

I think I could have knocked over a walking stick if it had been stuck in the ground back of the plate the other day. Someway the ball simply obeyed my every command. But just to illustrate how small a thing may turn the tide in a baseball game let me say that I lost that contest by pitching a high fast ball to Liebhardt, when all my reasoning told me I should serve up a curve.

I pitched just one bad ball out of the 175 or 180 balls I had to pitch and it cost me the game.

Perhaps if I had aimed one at Glenn's head and driven him away from the plate I might have won. But that only goes to illustrate what I said at the start that there is such a thing as a pitcher having too good control.

Donlin Stars with Wife

Mike Donlin, the hard-hitter of the New York Giants, makes his debut as an actor with his wife in vaudeville at a New York theater after the close of the baseball season. Donlin and his wife, known theatrically as Mabel Hite, signed contracts with a firm of managers whereby they will get \$20,000 for a ten weeks' engagement. Donlin's theatrical career will make the end of his baseball history. He wants to quit the game while at the height of his popularity, and will go out of the National league in a blaze of glory this season. His theatrical engagements will keep him busy all through the winter and until late in the summer, so that ball playing will be out of the question. Donlin and his wife are very well off. Both have been money-getters, and, although they have lived well and had everything they wanted, they have put a lot of money into Long Island real estate. A season or two together on the stage will make them absolutely independent.

A Word from Josh Wise

I reckon truth is eternal, but our ideas uz t' what is eternal, always chanjin'.