No, it Just Couldn't Be Real ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ Drawn for The Bee by Swinnerton

Judgments

HOW comical chubby Charley Murphy appears with his threat of the Federal league against the background of the national commission's complete capitulation to the Players' fraternity. Wonder if chubby Charles still tries to fool any major league players with that funny talk about enjoining them from signing Federal contracts? And Garry Herrmann, another star comedian on the national stage, who, though chairman of the high court of base ball, is not even permitted a free hand in the management of his own team, what does he think by now? Has he any more "warnings" to those players in "organized" base ball about going over to the outlaws?

It did not take the national commission long to conclude its answer to the Players' fraternity. It looked back over its left shoulder and beheld the hovering presence of the Federal league ghost and and turned with a complete concession to the Federalists. It is easy to see a point when it sticks you in the eye. The Federal league clinched its start when it signed Joe Tinker. As even the Sporting News, the official organ of "organized" base ball, says:

When Joe Tinker affixed his signature to the Federal league contract he brought the men behind base ball face to face with a condition fraught with significance, if not direful possibilities.

Yes, that is putting it very mildly. The Players' fraternity, of course, wielded a helpful influence for the Federals, but the august and ominous presence of the Federals cinched the fight for the fraternity.

All of which suggests this: What merit was there in the commission's resistance of the players' fraternal demands, anyway, if the commission, under stress of compulsion, finds it so easy now to make a wholesale concession? And why didn't the commission have the good sense a year ago to take similar action? The fact is, as the deans of "organized" base ball know, their attitude toward the players has not only been intolerable, but untenable, and all this magpie chatter about defending their contracts in civil court probably will come to naught. Why hasn't the American league joined the Nationals in this fight? Simply because, as original outlaws, the Americans knew there was neither merit nor effectiveness in the position of "organized" base ball, and that the Federals were the product of the natural process of the game and all efforts at resistance must inevitably prove futile. Ban Johnson, Comiskey, Connie Mack and such men, had too much gumption to waste time and prestige kicking against the pricks of legitimate progress.

Too much stress has been put on the term, "organized base ball." What is organized base ball, after all? It falls out, from the meek and sweeping concessions of its high court, to be but an arbitrary banding together of a few capitalists on the old and mistaken theory that "might makes right," and everything is O. K. so long as you can get away from it. Or, in the language of John T. McCutcheon, as he once described the Harriman method of running the railroads of the country: "First, be sure you have a good lawyer, then go ahead till somebody stops you." And we haven't a doubt that public sentiment is strongly back of the Federal league and the Players' fraternity that have, though not acting in concert, stopped this avaricious monopoly, organized base ball. Organization to be enduring must rest upon a principle of mutual interest, and we fear that has not been the case with "organized base ball," which has long been a one-sided proposition, giving the magnates too much of the long end of the bargain. Its contracts never have been defended in court, doubtless for the good and sufficient reason that organized base ball knew they would not stand the test.

Now, many are asking the question, will the Federals, after fully established, go into the organized company? We, of course, do not know. All we have as a basis of opinion is that other outlaw leagues have followed such a course, and yet that is no infallible rule by which to go. At all events, the Federals are likely to run along independently for a year or two. They have only one thing to do to get the patronage needed to succeed, and that is to play good base ball. If they do that the fans won't care whether they play under "organized" or disorganized auspices. And even if their article of ball should not come up to the highest standard this first year of their aggressiveness, they are likely to have good patronage, for the country is eager for a chance to wallop the old guard, especially the National league, and then, besides, old stars and favorites, such as Tinker, Brown and Stovall, in the new roles, will tend to attract many. Back of all this, people like a new thing, base ball or what not.

President Tener of the National league is doing what would be expected of him in the interest of his own organization, but there is nothing very formidable or convincing in his official statement with reference to the Federals. So far as signing players already under contract with other leagues, President J. A. Gilmore of the Federals says he will not condone it and that if any such player is signed by a Federal league club he will veto it, as all contracts must be approved by him. That is pretty good for an "outlaw." It is to the credit and honor of those National and American league players already signed by their own clubs that they voluntarily rejected offers from the Federals. It goes to prove what has often been said of the high character of modern ball players.

The Federals may fail, but up to date they have an immense amount of popular sentiment to help them to succeed. And their success thus far must be charged largely to the old majors' avarice and purblindness, together with natural progress and development.

Waiting for the Spring Days

By F. S. HUNTER.

It was the sporting editor
And he stoppeth one of three,
Dick and Dave go unmolested,
But I'a, he stoppeth he.

"Pa," quoth the sporting scribe,
"It's news I want from thee,
I'm broke and need the pittance
The boss doth pay to me.

"I traveled the path of every street,
The news it cometh not,
For every one is reticent
About your coming lot.

"Who are the players you will have
When buds come in the spring,
Will Kane still clout, and Schipke shout?
What will the season bring?

"The same old park, the same old bark
Of the peanut venders' song,
The same outfield, the same hit yield,
Or is the dope sheet out wrong?

"Will War-Horse Johnny hold the reins?
Or will you get some other scout?
A quince, a lemon or piece of pie,
Or skate who's gone the route?

"Do us a favor; is your behavior
Just what it ought to be?
Will it be new team (see Bill's face beam),
Or will we remain at sea?

"It must be done, don't stay the fun,
Are we to start spring riot?
For we hate to think, as we eat and drink,
News still is on the quiet.

"We eager are to know, dear Pa,
Just what you intend to do,
So have a heart, sling us your dart,
And let the dope come through."

Last week the Irving Park Country club turned a fancy ball room into a gymnasium. All of which goes to prove the contention that tango and wrestling are synonymous.

August Herrmann warns the Federal leaguers to keep off the grass. It's an awful thing to be compelled to cut a choice melon with an outsider.

Where, by the way auto polo is regarded as a sport and a pastime. Nice little town, Wichita.

Jack Holland is endeavoring to get Wichita ejected from the Western circuit. Let's see, where is Wichita? Oh, yes, in Kansas.

Merely as a reminder to those skeptics who assert that the Feds are lacking in kale, be it known that all teams will train in the south this spring. If the Feds haven't money, they must be long on credit and in this day of grace credit is every bit as good as the coin.

Now that Charlie Herzog is sure of the job in Cincinnati when the bell clangs next spring, it becomes a matter of conjecture as to who will be his successor.

Twenty-seven conventions are listed for Omaha next year. It's your guess as to which will attract the most attention. Which one? The base ball convention? That makes it unanimous.

Herrmann says organized base ball will take strenuous measures to protect its interests, which are being jeopardized by the Feds. The consensus of opinion seems to be that the measures will have to be strenuous.

Routine at the Smoke House.

First we have a little card game,
Next we have a little spat,
Then we have a little argument,
Then we try to find our hat.

It is announced that Chet Dudley will return to Nebraska next year to assist Stiehm in the coaching. Not giving away any secrets, but it doesn't make such a terrible lot of difference who coaches or who assists just as long as Towle, Chamberlain, Corey, Rutherford, Halligan et al, return to don the moleskins.

It has been definitely settled that Harvard and Michigan are to play at Cambridge next year and at Ann Arbor the following year. Au revoir, Mr. Walter Camp, au revoir.

There once was a manager fellow,
He'd sit up in front and he'd bellow,
"If the price is so high
On Tinker and Ty,
What makes Fielschman so yellow?"

All big league managers, especially C. Webb Murphy, are in favor of fighting the Feds, even though it may cost money. Murphy will furnish the noise while the rest furnish the coin.

Comiskey thinks enough of the Federal league to grab Timmerman, the youthful twirler who pitched a no-hit game and several one and two-hit games last year.

Bring on the spring, Mr. Welsh, bring on the spring.

GOTCH TO RETURN TO MAT

Manager Admits Champion Could Be Coaxed Back Into Game.

WOULD MEET YOUNG CROP

Lure of the Arena is Overpowering and Urging Him to Take on Some of the Present Heavyweights.

CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—Frank Gotch, world's wrestling champion, who practically has been in retirement for two years, will come back to the mat in an endeavor to pin every wrestler in the game that he has not met, according to persistent rumors that will not down. The champion has been doing strenuous road work for several weeks, it is said, and soon will start a campaign to clean out the present crop of heavyweight aspirants to his title.

Emil Klank, Gotch's manager, just admitted that Gotch had started doing road work. He also said he was confident the champion could be coaxed back to the mat to boost the game and test his ability to beat the present crop of heavyweights.

"Frank told me several months ago that he had finished with wrestling," said Klank, "but that old lure of the arena often comes stealing over him, and I am not surprised to learn the big fellow has staged road work. I know him like a book, and I have always felt confident that Gotch never could stay in retirement and see fellows like Tom Jenkins going after his title.

"Gotch is in good shape right now, but you can take it from me that he never will go into battle with the best in the game unless he is trained to the minute. It always has been Gotch's policy to train faithfully for matches where his title was at stake. He will never go into a big bout at this stage of his career without knowing that he is in the best possible condition.

"Another thing about Gotch, if I can influence him to come back, is he must bar those wrestlers he has met and defeated decisively. The public is not interested in seeing boxers and wrestlers keep meeting indefinitely, and, besides, Gotch is getting older, and it takes more time now for him to train for a hard bout. He is in a position to dictate terms, and I see no reason why he should go out and meet fellows he has already beaten in decisive fashion."

Klank did not say that he had influenced the world's champion to make a positive declaration, but intimated strongly that Gotch would come back and engage in five or six battles before he retires definitely. His prospective opponents probably will be all the heavyweights in the limelight whom he has not met.

Harry Welch Leads in Batting of the Storz Triumph Team

The official averages of the Storz Triumphs base ball team for the season of 1913 have just been compiled by Scorer Kalman and, as in the past, the batting honors were carried away by Pa Rourke's former outfielder, Harry Welch, with an average of .381.

The only other members of the team to top the coveted .300 mark were Lawler and Creighton, the former with an average of .310 and the latter with a percentage of .305. As a whole the averages are exceptionally good when the class of pitchers whom they faced is considered.

Such slabmen as Donaldson and Mendez, of the All-Nations; Norman and Alexander, of the Chicago Union Giants, and Crawford, of the Leland Giants, are capable of worrying the best of batsmen and of the thirty-one games played, these remarkable twirlers took part in fourteen.

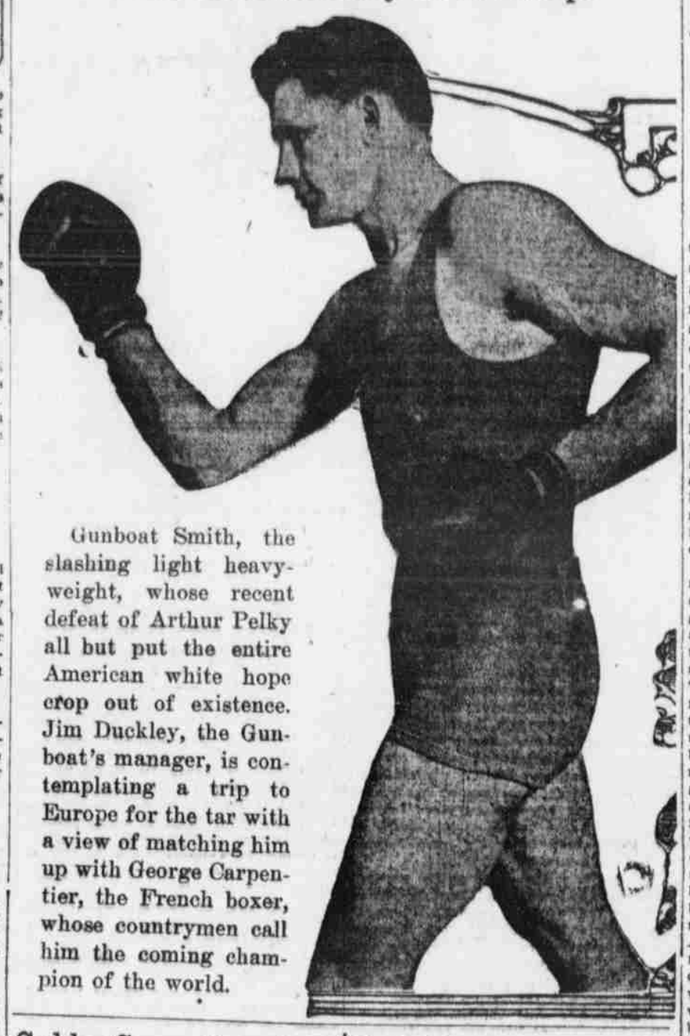
The percentage of games won fell far below that of the season of 1912, due to the unusually strong attractions booked by Manager Bradford in an effort to give the loyal followers of the brewers the best base ball to be obtained in semi-professional ranks.

Of the thirty-one games played, the Triumphs won eighteen, lost ten and tied three, four defeats being by a margin of one run only.

Individual performances (five games and over):

	G.	AB.	H.	PO.	A.	E.	BA.	FA.
Creighton, c.	18	59	18	153	19	6	.305	.966
Hachten, c.	24	78	11	122	14	5	.142	.965
Olson, p.	11	65	17	7	29	0	.262	1.000
Alderman, p.	11	24	4	3	21	3	.166	.889
Kelley, p.	8	23	3	1	17	0	.130	1.000
Drummy, 1b.	26	91	16	202	9	17	.176	.925
Graham, 2b.	31	122	34	87	80	13	.287	.928
Burkee, 3b.	31	118	34	45	65	12	.293	.902
Baugh'ty, ss.	23	80	16	29	37	23	.200	.742
Gilham, lf.ss.	12	43	9	10	7	11	.209	.607
Lawler, lf.	19	84	26	33	3	4	.310	.900
Falconer, cf.	26	105	27	46	10	3	.247	.948
Welch, rf.	30	105	40	56	8	3	.381	.956
Prucha, lf.	6	19	7	4	0	0	.368	1.000

Gunboat Smith May Go to Europe



Gunboat Smith, the slashing light heavyweight, whose recent defeat of Arthur Pelky all but put the entire American white hope crop out of existence. Jim Duckley, the Gunboat's manager, is contemplating a trip to Europe for the tar with a view of matching him up with George Carpentier, the French boxer, whose countrymen call him the coming champion of the world.

Gabby Cravath and Harry Hooper Among Patriotic Ball Men

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Gabby Cravath of the Phillies and Harry Hooper of the Red Sox, it would seem, are the most patriotic athletes in the major leagues. The two suburbanites were the only pastimers in the fast set last season who observed both Memorial and Independence days by slamming out homers. On the basis of the returns the American league would appear to be a greater observer of the republic's two big summer holidays than the National league.

Hooper produced two four-baggers in the games with the Nationals on May 30 and one circuit clout in the afternoon contest with the Athletics on July 4. On Memorial day the Bostonian showed his patriotic spirit at the earliest possible moment, for in the morning he opened on Bob Groom with a homer and in the afternoon he repeated the stunt at Walter Johnson's expense, this time allowing Ray Collins a 1 to 0 triumph over the Idaho phenom. On Independence day Hooper again selected the first game in which to hit for the circuit, Eddie Plank of the White Elephants being the man who furnished the Bostonian with the ball just to his liking.

Cravath touched Art Fromme of the Giants for a four-bagger at the Polo grounds on May 30 and rapped for the full distance against Dick Rudolph of the Braves at Broad and Huntingdon streets on July 4, Gabby's Independence day homer being made while he was acting as a sub hitter.

A real Yankee Doodle boy is George Mullin, former Tiger and recent applicant for pardon from the National commission. George was born on July 4, 1889, and on July 4, 1912, he pitched a no-hit game against the Browns.

Jack Warhop of the Yankees was born on Independence day, while Rube Oldring of the Athletics was born on Decoration day. So was Amos Rusie, who was the Walter Johnson of his time in all things except habits.

Uni of Washington Orders New Racers

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 10.—The University of Washington navy has ordered two sixty-two-foot eight-oared racing shells for the use of the 1914 varsity crew. The shells, which will be ready in March, are to be built for a crew averaging 170 pounds, and the builders predict that one of the two will finish first in the intercollegiate regatta on the Hudson next June.

Ryan in Role of Prophet.

A Portland paper quotes outfielder Buddy Ryan of the Naps as saying that the Athletics will win the pennant again next season. He points out that Mack has a wonderful batch of young twirlers coming in next year to assist Bender and Plank. Buddy picks Washington to finish second, Cleveland third and either Chicago or New York fourth.

Golf Championship Tournaments Create Rivalry Among Clubs

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Now that the golf championship tournaments have developed into important international contests there is a tremendous rivalry among the clubs for the privilege of staging the events. There is hardly a greens committee in the country that is not generously and eagerly asking for the honor of having their bunkers, hazards, fairways and greens trampled and cut up by the seekers after golfing fame and the attendant galleries.

The west is very much disturbed over the intentions of the United States Golf association in the matter of assigning dates. According to a recent ruling of the national organization, open applications are no longer in order. Instead a committee will select three clubs for each championship event and these will be placed before the delegates at the annual meeting this month, the delegates then to make their selection.

So far this committee has made no report, and it is therefore impossible at this time for the clubs to decide for what course they will vote for the different events.

The Homewood club of Flossmoor, Ill., has expressed a desire to stage the 1914 open tournament and should stand a pretty good chance of getting it if allowed to compete in an open field, as the tournament was held in the east this year.

The Kent Country club of Grand Rapids, Mich., and the Interlaken Country club of Minneapolis also want to get one or the other of the tournaments.

McKeen Remembers Old Sox as Wonder

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 10.—Ed McKeen, once the shortstop of the old Cleveland team, was in harness when Sockalexis, the Indian, who died the other day, joined the team. He tells of it as follows:

"Old Sox was a wonder when he joined us in '97," declared Ed. "His coming to our club was one of the greatest sensations of the time. I can't recall any ball player of recent years, with the possible exception of Joe Jackson, who attracted as much universal attention on his arrival as Old Sox.

"It has been stated that he came to our club from Holy Cross. If my memory serves me right he was fired out of Holy Cross, went to Notre Dame and there Patsy Tebeau discovered him.

"He was a remarkable hitter, a man of remarkable speed and a fair outfielder. Why, he attracted so much attention that when we went east many of the big eastern papers took pictures of him in every possible position. Some even photographed his legs, ankles and feet to demonstrate perfect muscles for running purposes.

"But poor Old Sox was a wild bird—one of those which you'd say now I have him and now I haven't."

CUTLER AND YAMADA MEET

Jack Doyle Gets Pair Together for Billiard Match.

WILL TEST OUT A NEW GAME

Besides Furnishing Amusement in an Otherwise Dull Season, Game Will Determine the 14.1 Balkline.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Seizing opportunity, as Bill Shakespeare confidently advised, as it flitted by, Jack Doyle is going to take advantage of the tournament which will be held here in the spring to establish a champion in the new class and introduce 14.1 balkline billiards to the local fans. He has arranged a match between Koji Yamada, sensational Japanese billiardist, and Albert G. Cutler, the Boston cue expert, at this style, which will be staged at his Forty-second street academy January 12 to 18, inclusive. This will be the first time that 14.1 balkline has ever been attempted and the match should excite interest among the followers of the game as well as the experts.

This match will not only bridge over a rather drab season in billiards, but will serve to test the efficiency of the new game and give the experts a definite idea as to whether 14.1 balkline will be practical to supplant the 18.2 game as the standard for championships in the future. The 18.2 balkline has been the standard for several years, not because it was entirely satisfactory, but chiefly because nothing better had been suggested. But billiard authorities have been seeking modifications which would make the game more interesting to audiences and at the same time require the same skill from the players. Because of the development of the line nurse and the anchor nurse 18.2 balkline billiards has lost much of its appeal to spectators. Experts like Hoppe and Sutton, by getting the balls in proper position, can tick off long runs without doing any spectacular work. Although their efforts can be appreciated from a strictly scientific standpoint, they do not provide an interesting game to watch. In order to offset the monotony which so often prevails in this game 18.1 balkline was introduced, but this style proved to be the other extreme. With only one shot in the 18-inch balk the players were forced to resort to cushion shots and the play was so entirely open that good runs were cut down and the game was robbed of much of its spectacular element.

It is the opinion of billiard experts that 14.1 will be a happy medium which will prevent the monotonous ticking off of high runs and at the same time will provide plenty of spectacular play. They figure that this will be the result, because with only one shot in balk and the rule providing for seven-inch anchor zones the play will be considerably livelier, and with smaller balks the entirely open game will not be necessary. The size of the balks will also provide a larger space in the center of the table, where balk rules do not prevail.

With two leading players as the principals this match should be a good test of the new style. Both Yamada and Cutler have started practice, and are not only perfecting themselves for this match, but also for the tournament in April at the Hotel Astor, in which both will take part.

The match will be for 2,500 points, to be played off in blocks of 500 each day. There will be two sessions daily, 300 points each afternoon and 300 each evening.

Advises Yale to Take Up Bob Cook Stroke

ITHACA, N. Y., Jan. 10.—That Yale should regain some of its former prestige in aquatics if it goes back to the Bob Cook stroke is the opinion of Charles E. Courtney, Cornell's rowing coach, who says that in the old days the Bob Cook stroke rowed by Yale was a good one, and that Yale won many victories with it. He thinks that in Armstrong, Giannini and Nickalls Yale has a trio of capable instructors who should do big things for the Blue crews.

Courtney, however, ridiculed the claims made at New Haven that he, Courtney, got some of his ideas for the Cornell stroke from Cook, or that any of the Cook rowing principles are incorporated in the Cornell stroke.

LEAD-OFF MAN IMPORTANT

First Player Up to Bat Often Decides the Whole Game.

GET ON BASE IS THE THING

When that Much Has Been Accomplished It Puts Fresh Vigor Into the Muscles of the Team In.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The lead-off man on a big league ball club plays a most important part in the game. His ability to "get on" whether on a hit or pass often has helped to win more than one game. Last season, strange to say, not a .300 hitter led off for any of the sixteen major league clubs, but there were several lead-off men who were more valuable to their clubs than heavy stickers and these were players who managed to get on the bases more often than the heavy sluggers.

In 1913 the St. Louis clubs claimed the best lead-off men. They were Miller Huggins of the Cardinals and Bert Shotton of the Browns. Huggin's value as first man at bat was apparent because of the fact that he drew ninety-two bases on balls. But Shotton was even more valuable as he walked 102 times during the season. Eddie Murphy of the Athletics, however, was the leader of them all. He strolled only sixty-eight times, but hit for .286. Bush of Detroit, another man of small stature also was valuable, drawing eighty passes.

Fritz Maisel, the Yankees' third sacker, proved to be a good man to lead off for the Yankees, for in fifty-one games he made forty-eight hits and accepted thirty-six gifts. Moeller of Washington walked seventy-two times, but he struck out more times than any other player in the American league. Hooper of the Red Sox and Weaver of the White Sox were only fair. The former hit for .289 and took sixty-three passes, while the latter hit .272 and walked sixty-one times. Neither Johnson nor Liebold of the Naps distinguished himself.

Next to Huggins, Tommy Leach of the Cubs, was about the best leader-off the National league had as the veteran averaged a hit to a game and drew seventy-four passes. Bob Bescher, proved an excellent waiter, walking ninety-four times, and also batted well. Little Maranville of the Braves drew sixty-eight passes; almost averaging a hit to a game in addition. None of the other National league lead-off men, Snodgrass, Burns, Dolan, Byrne and Moran made much of a showing.

Hemphill to Come Back—Perhaps.

Charley Hemphill is going to make another attempt to get back in the big show. The Cleveland boy, who is spending the winter in the Forest City, has announced his intention of seeking a berth in the outfield of the Chicago White Sox for next season. Charley believes he has an excellent chance of landing one of the positions and he will take the matter up with Owner Comiskey and Manager Callahan upon their arrival home from their round-the-world trip in March.

Groundkeeper Makes Hit.

Henry Fabian, the New York club's ground keeper, imported from St. Louis, has gone to his home in the Mound City, where he will remain until February 1, when he will go to Marlin Springs to put Emerson park in shape for the spring practice of the Giants. Fabian has established himself with the New York club for the manner in which he changed the base ball diamond into a first-class gridiron for the army and navy game.

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