

# INDUSTRIAL CLUB INROADS FELT BY ORGANIZED BALL

## Professional Base Ball Suffering as Industrial Leagues Lure Players—Betting Evil Grows.

**BY I. E. SANBORN.**

One of the serious after effects of the world war on professional base ball is the growth of the so-called industrial leagues, and their reduction of the visible supply of talent available for teams operating under organized base ball.

The number of ball players who went into shipyards and other essential establishments during the late unpleasantness gave the promoters of big business a new idea. Shipyard teams playing in shipyard leagues gave the employees healthful and attractive amusement and proved particularly valuable in keeping workers satisfied in factories located in smaller places where amusements were few.

That idea took root and is responsible for a lot of the present difficulty owners of professional clubs have in keeping their players. The minor leagues are having most of the trouble at present. The few men who have quit major league ranks to play with factory or industrial teams were not of great value to their teams.

**Chick Gandil Is Missed.**

A notable exception is Chick Gandil of the White Sox, whose loss is felt, but his case was not altogether a matter of salary. Gandil admitted he was going to the Idaho Independent league for less money than he was offered by Comiskey, but he would have to work only four months to get it, instead of six, and the cost of living is not as high in Idaho as in Chicago.

Generally speaking, the players who jump to the "outlaws" do so for better salaries, and at present the promoters of industry have not seen fit to offer inducements that are tempting to any except embryonic major league players and minor leaguers. It is only a matter of time, however, before the factories will be picking off big league stars, unless some way is found to prevent it.

**What Puzzles the Fans.**

It may puzzle some folks to understand how a factory or a small town can afford to pay more money for a player to engage in only two games a week than the professional league promoters can pay him for playing six or seven days a week. The answer is that the backers of organized league teams operate for a profit and must take in enough money to pay the expenses, while the industrial leagues and independent teams are operated frankly at a loss.

The factory owner charges the cost of maintaining a ball team to his welfare account, just as he does his risk, room, cafeteria, or other matters, to improve the morale of his employees.

Sometimes the backer of a team in an independent league which is not connected with industries does so to boost his town, or because he loves base ball.

Sometimes the cost of maintaining a team in a small city is offset by gambling. I asked one of these promoters how he could afford to pay the players as much as he did for only two games a week, and he confessed there was a deficit of over \$40,000 between the gate receipts and the cost of his team last year. "But," he added cheerfully, "I made more than that betting on my team."

**How Betting Evil Grows.**

The fans of the bigger cities perhaps do not realize the intensity of the civic pride felt by the fans of smaller cities and towns in their base ball teams. They want a team that can beat a rival city but they want one that can win a bunch of kale from the denizens of said rival ballfield.

The amount of betting on a game between teams representing Jonesville and Smithburg, for instance, sometimes reaches astounding figures in the aggregate. And the losers immediately set out to get a return match and to hire enough good players to win back their bets.

The gambling craze created by the war is not confined to the congested parts of the world, but its germs have invaded even the remotest regions. Its effect on base ball cannot help being injurious, because there is nothing to prevent the enthusiasts of Jonesville from slipping Smithburg's star pitcher a wad of bills to reduce his effectiveness, and then betting several times that bribe on a sure thing. Nor is there anything to keep Smithburg from bribing Jonesville players to lay down; nor yet is there anything to prevent the bribed player from double-crossing the gamblers.

**Drastic Measures Called For.**

It is a pretty serious proposition and the men who have fortunes invested in plants operating under organized base ball have started none too early to curb the growth of an evil that may reduce professional base ball to the present status of "the sport of kings." Drastic methods are necessary, and the loss of a few thousand patrons temporarily should not deter the owners.

**Five Players to Be Given Releases for Gambling.**

New York, May 22.—Unconditional release of at least five players in the National league under suspicion as gamblers will be handed out next week. The men will be released when their places can be filled.

Plans for fighting Magee's law suit against the Cubs were made at the same meeting. The league officials heard the owners' side of the case and promised to co-operate with the Cubs in the defense. Some interesting disclosures are promised.

Cobb, the Detroit star who has led the major leagues in batting many times, did not reach the batting average of .200 until the third week of the season this year.

Georges Carpentier proves he isn't Irish by not being overpersuaded with his challenges to J. Dempsey.

# INDOOR SPORTS



## IS "BABE" RUTH WORTH \$137,500 TO YANKEE CLUB?

### After Nearly Two Months of Experiment the Two Colonels Think He Is Worth the Price Paid.

Is Babe Ruth worth the fabulous sum the Yankees paid for him? The Colonels Ruppert and Huston, general owners of the New York Americans, claim that he is. And they ought to know.

According to the best available information the latest coming from none other than Harry Frazee, who made the sale—the Yankee Colonels parted with \$137,500 for the big slugger.

**May-Get Bonus.**

There are a lot of people who don't believe there is that much money in a circulation. Yet the "dope" on the sale of Ruth comes straight from the brine barrel, and the owners of the Yanks must go still deeper for Ruth before the season ends, for to the purchase price, must be added his salary of \$20,000 and perhaps a bonus on top of that, if he succeeds in breaking the home-run record.

So Ruth stands the owners of the Yankees 160,000 cold smackers this year, and they are optimistic enough over their investment to believe that he will pay for himself at the turnstiles—at least the difference between his purchase price and the top figure valuation of other leading stars of today, which, according to past deals, is between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Figuring that \$60,000 is a reasonable price for the very best little base ball stars, we'll deduct that amount from Ruth's purchase price which leaves \$77,500. We will not even figure his salary in this instance, for it must be remembered that other stars draw fancy salaries, too.

In order to live up to the expectations of the Yankee Colonels, then, Ruth must draw at least \$77,500 to the turnstiles this season on the strength of his popularity alone. Figuring the average admission per capita at 75 cents, the big slugger will have to do some lusty hammering of the horsehide if he does what is expected, for at "six bits" a throw, he must attract 103,500 fans to the Yankee ball games around the circuit in order to make up that 77 odd thousand beans.

Looks like an almost impossible thing for any single ball player to be able to do doesn't it? But wait!

**Was Slow Starting.**

Early in the season the Big Babe did not hit well. He did not get started right until the White Sox first invaded New York. A month after the season opened, in the early days of the season the weather was none too clement, but even then, before Ruth started to hammer the ball, many of the fans traveled to the polo grounds just to see Ruth.

After Ruth started to slam the pellet the Yanks "packed 'em in." Fifteen, 16, even as high as 17,000 fans were attracted to the Yankee

## Hughey Jennings Tells Some Base Ball Stories

### Detroit Manager Attends Banquet of the Little Congress in Washington When Detroit Tigers Come To Washington for Series.

When the annual banquet of the Little Congress took place recently in Washington, Hughey Jennings and Jack Coombs were invited by the toastmaster. The Detroit Tigers had just arrived in Washington to play the Senators a four-game series.

**Hughey Gives Talk.**

Jennings was called on for a talk. John Shanahan, secretary to Congressman Jeffers, attended the banquet and gave the following account of Jennings' behavior:

Hughey Jennings and his Detroit Tigers happened to be in Washington the night of the banquet and Jennings and Jack Coombs dropped in on invitation of the toastmaster. Jennings, in a brief speech, told a few good yarns. He said that, when starting his ball career in Ohio, he considered himself a good catcher but knew he was a weak hitter.

"I was just in the tryout stage and knew I had to come through. On this day, I had been to bat three times and had failed to get on. So the manager said, 'Say, kid, let's see you land on one this time.' I zipped my bat and advanced to the plate. 'Zing! One strike. Zing! Two strikes. My head was in a whirl. I gritted my teeth, and when the next one came, I fringed it for a curve, and stepped into it. It wasn't. It was a scorching in-shoot and it caught me right in the forehead. I went down for the count, but finally got to my feet and shambled toward first.

"As I was half way down the base line a fan yelled, 'That's the boy, Hughey. That's puttin' the wood to it!'

Here's another one of Jennings'. "Tim Hurst was one of the best umpires in the business. He was fair and took a pride in pleasing the players. But, if you crossed him, Tim would rule with a rod of iron. One day Bill Donovan was in the box for Detroit and he was in fine

week-day games, and it is not stretching a point to assert that, after he started hitting, Ruth was the big attraction. In a crowd of 17,000 fans it is safe enough to figure that Ruth attracted at least 5,000. At a recent Sunday game the Yankees and Indians drew 38,600, a new attendance record.

Figuring that the Yankees will be able to make a pretty stiff fight for honors in the American league race all season, and remembering that they will play a total of 154 games at home and on the road before the season ends, it appears that Ruth, if he keeps up his wonderful hitting, will prove himself as good a buy as the Colonels Ruppert and Huston expected.

The fact that the Yankees will have to hunt a new home after this year has nothing to do with Ruth's value to the New York Americans. He will draw patronage in any park as long as he continues to star. And he hasn't shown the slightest sign of growing weak with the willow.

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## \$100,000 Worth of Firearms in Grand American Handicap

It is estimated that the annual Grand American Handicap shoot at Cleveland, August 23, will see at least 712,500 shots fired during the week's competition. A total of 12 traps are to be used. It will cost for shells along \$35,625, and the entrance fees will foot up \$95,000.

Every gun, shell and powder company will be represented. The total value of the guns will be possibly \$100,000.

## New Club at Louisville To Hold Boxing Contests

Southern A. C. of Louisville, with a capital stock of \$40,000, divided into 100 shares, has filed articles of incorporation. It is the first club to seek a charter to conduct boxing matches under the law recently enacted by the Kentucky legislature which becomes effective June 17.

## 1,533 Michigan Students Take Part in Sports

Michigan has 1,533 students participating in nine varieties of intramural sports, according to recent statistics, as follows: Rugby football, 644; basket ball, 550; golf, 50; hockey, 80; swimming, 35; tennis, 91; Rugby, 23; soccer, 11, and cross country running, 49.

Manager "Gavvy" Cravath of the Phillies doesn't deliver every time he goes in to pinch hit for his team, but when he does connect with the old apple he just about puts the game on ice.

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## Orvie Overall Wants Pat Moran to Win Again This Year

Orvie Overall, once known to base ball as a pitcher with control, although now retired and engaged in ranching at Visalia, wants Cincinnati to win the league pennant in the National league race this year, and the reason he wants to see the Reds on top is because Pat Moran, manager of the Reds, gave Orvie his first lessons in control and helped him make a name in major league base ball.

This is the way Overall recounts the story: When he first broke into the game in the big-time circuit he was wild—very wild—and then Moran took him under his wing. Out behind the grandstand he would hold his glove in position and say, "Hit it here," and then move it and repeat, "Hit it here," and finally

Overall began to find that he could hit it.

Overall was bothered also with getting too anxious and throwing his arm away. And then Moran instilled into the young pitcher the idea of taking his time and making every ball thrown go where he wanted it.

**Records Easy for Ross.**

Norman Ross established 21 world's records swimming in Australia.



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