INTENTIONAL PASS IS SEVERELY CRITICISED BY BASE BALL FANS

Instances Cited of Where Speaker Was Deprived of Chances to Star Because of Fear to Let Him Hit.

BY BILLY EVANS.

The sale of Tris Speaker by the Boston club to Cleveland was one of the biggest affairs ever pulled off in base ball. Boston fans fumed at the loss of their favorite and Cleveland enthused at the coming of so great a star. With the passing of Larry Lajoie Cleveland fans had no big star to give them a run for their money, regardless of the outcome of the game. It seemed certain Speaker was to fill the long-felt want.

It turned out to be a master move from every angle. Speaker did everything the Cleveland fans expected him to do. He made the Indians a pennant contender. To make Boston fans forget his loss the Red Sox put forth their very best front; won the American League pennant and also the world series. The team could have done no more with Speaker in the line-up, and, naturally, the Boston fans were satisfied. Speaker made business good for the Cleveland club. The Boston club realized handsomely on his sale, and, in addition, plucked off the big coin of a pennant winner.

For days prior to the opening of the 1916 season Cleveland fans read all kinds of tales about the prowess of Speaker. Stories were printed about his remarkable fielding ability, how a club really had four outfielders and an extra infielder with him in the game. It was figured in the outfield he could cover about twice as much ground as the average fielder, while the fact that he played so close to the infield made it possible for him to take care of many a short fly that would have fallen safe under ordinary conditions. That, of course, supplied the extra infielder end of it.

Batting Ability Widely Heralded.

His batting ability was heralded to the public in many ways, because stories galore in which Speaker had played the leading role with a timely base hit were a matter of record. Cleveland fans eagerly awaited the opening of the season. They wanted to see the great Speaker in action, wanted to see him break up the game with a timely hit, shut off the tying run at the plate with a deadly throw, or save the contest by executing a marvelous catch which no one in the crowd thought possible.

The St. Louis Browns opened the season in Cleveland in 1916.

No manager in base ball follows the game more closely than Fielder Jones. No manager in base ball resorts more to strategy in any form, if he believes such a move will save the day, than Jones. A perusal of the records would in all probability show that Jones led the league in the use of pinch hitters, derricked more pitchers than any other manager and ordered the intentional passing of a dangerous batter much oftener than any other leader in the organization.

It is the intentional pass custom to which I have been working up to, with Speaker playing the leading role.

A friend of mine in Cleveland, who is anything but a base ball fan, read so much about the great Speaker, he decided said Mr. Speaker must be worth seeing. He decided he could give himself a treat by taking in his first big league game, simply because of curiosity, to see if Speaker could really do a few of the many things he was reputed to have done in the past. He took in one of the games of the opening series with St. Louis.

In this particular game it so happened Speaker twice came to the bat in a pinch. Just the spot the fans wanted to see him fill, a spot where a base hit meant a couple of runs, and in all probability the ball game. My friend was glad he had come. He would see if the great Speaker could make a base hit for the mere asking.

Then They Passed Tris.

In each instance Manager Jones rushed out from the dugout, made some mysterious moves, which were readily understood by the catcher and the pitcher, and then hastened back to his place on the bench. The St. Louis pitcher then proceeded to throw four balls wide of the plate. Speaker couldn't have hit any one of them with an oar. Instead of seeing Speaker come through with a crashing hit, he merely saw the player stand foolishly in the batter's box, while the pitcher threw four wide balls, entitling Speaker to first base, but depriving him of a chance to make a hit, the one thing a great many fans had paid real money to see him do, and for which the Cleveland club had paid a fabulous sum to Boston.

Several days after the game in question, I met the man, who had attended his first big league game. I decided to get his honest opinion of major league ball, and Speaker in particular. At the time I did not know he had seen the game in which Speaker had been deprived of his chance to star because Manager Jones ordered his pitchers to walk him. As I recall it, Speaker did nothing unusual in the field that afternoon, so he looked far more like an ordinary player than a million dollar beauty.

"Wonderful player that fellow Speaker," I remarked.

"I suppose so," answered my friend. I was greatly surprised. I expected him to say some very complimentary things about Speaker.

"He sure can hit that ball," was my next comment, "in a pinch he seldom fails. He has made many a pitcher sad by busting up the old ball game."

"Guess everything you say about him is all right, Bill; you ought to know; but you can't prove a thing by me. All I saw him do the other day was walk to the plate, stand around in the box and smile blandly, while the pitcher threw four balls so wide of the plate the catcher had to turn acrobat to keep them from going to the grandstand.

Speaker Given No Chance.

It then occurred to me my friend had seen the game in which Speaker had appeared only a very ordinary player, largely because the opposition absolutely refused to take a chance with him, preferring to cast their lot with the player who followed him in the batting order. It certainly was a most disappointing afternoon for the man in question. He came to see the star perform, the star was willing to do his best, but the rest of the cast refused to give him a chance to say his lines.

The game I have just described is not an unusual one, from the standpoint of the intentional pass. That bit of base ball strategy is resorted to scores of times during the summer, and in a majority of cases with considerable success. It is one of the very unfortunate happenings in base ball. Over no one feature of the game have I heard the fans grumble so much as over the intentional pass.

The article on the intentional pass, with its many features, was inspired by a letter I recently received from J. W. Flood, one of Louisville's foremost fans. I am going to quote a portion of his letter:

"I would greatly appreciate an expression from you on a suggestion which, in my opinion, would make the game much more interesting, popular and pleasing to spectators, as well as to good batters. I refer to elimination from the game of the intentional pass; in fact, I would go even farther and eliminate from the playing code the granting of first base to a batsman on four balls.

"When people go to the game they want to see the recognized batters hit the ball. That is one of the attractions that bring them to the park. It is never pleasing to the spectators to see a good batsman drop his bat and trot down to first base, after receiving a base on balls. No fan ever cheered such a happening. No real fan ever enthused at a game won by having the winning run forced over the plate on a base on balls. Of course, the big question is, how can the base on balls be eliminated from the game?

Would Eliminate the Pass.

"My suggestion is as follows: Allow the strikes to continue as at present; that is three strikes retire the batsman, but pay absolutely no attention to any balls, that do not conform with the ethics of a strike. A catcher can call for such balls at his discretion to break up an attempted steal, the hit-and-run game or the sueeze, but such balls shall have no bearing on the status of the batsman. Under such a system the batsman could only get on base through his hitting ability or a fielding error, and that is as it should be. This rule would, of course, be tough on batters who are known as good waiters, but nobody goes to a game to see waiters, good or bad. The latter were left at the hotel. Baseball fans like hitting and action. I am sure the above suggestion would supply the want."

Mr. Flood's suggestion is a rather radical one. It has considerable merit. Personally, I would relish some change which would do away with the intentional pass. It is a knock to the game from the standpoint of the spectator, and the fan must be catered to in every way possible. The advancing of all runners one base, on an intentional pass, might help to solve the situation by permitting what the intentional pass sought to prevent. It would make it rather hard for the umpire, if it was left to him, to determine whether or not the pass was intentional. It would always be argued pro and con.

Mr. Flood's suggestion to eliminate the base on balls entirely, would, of course, solve the intentional pass, but what effect it would have on the game is problematical. It could only be ascertained by a thorough trial. Most fans like hitting. What do such a class of fans think of Mr. Flood's suggestion? I would be glad to hear from any relative to it.

Perhaps some fan has a solution that will help the grand old game.

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Questions on Base Ball Plays and Players Asked of Umpire Evans—and His Answers

What has become of Catcher Mayer who was with the White Sox for several years? SOX.

Mayer was with the Providence club of the International League last season and caught fine ball. He is to get a trial in the big show again next season, this time with the Boston Red Sox.

Whom do you regard as the most dangerous man in a pinch in the American League? DETROITER.

That is a rather difficult question to answer with any degree of satisfaction. Tris Speaker, Ty Cobb, Duffy Lewis, George Sisler and a number of other stars are most dangerous in a pinch, yet I do know that every American League pitcher breathes more freely when Bobby Veach is out of the way in games they work against the Tigers.

What ailed Pitcher Russell of the Chicago team last season? In 1916 he was a consistent winner, the club's mainstay. C. A. CARSON.

Russell pitched nearly all of last season under discouraging conditions. A growth on his pitching arm tied up his usual free delivery, made pitching a great strain and made it practically impossible for him to use his curve. Russell worked with nothing but a fast ball all year. He intends having the growth removed and doing a comeback. If unsuccessful he says he intends retiring.

Suppose you owned a ball club and was given your choice to pick two pitchers, two catchers, two first basemen and two outfielders, who would you pick? E. B.

Sisler and McInnis would be hard to beat for first base, while Cobb and Speaker are pretty fair outfielders. Walter Johnson would be one good pitcher and Ray Schalk would be the one good catcher. For the other pitcher and other catcher, there are so many crack men in the American League so evenly matched I really don't know whom I would select.

What do you know about Dressen, whom the Tigers secured from St. Paul? Do you think he will win the first base job on the Detroit club? A. J. C.

Personally I don't know a thing about Dressen. However, I do know what American Association players and umpires have told me about him. They say he is a real ball player. That he can do everything a first baseman is supposed to do, and then some. All unite in declaring him a big leaguer. They say it would take a Chase, a McInnis or a Sisler to keep him from playing first base for the Tigers. Gentle spring will answer your query.

Please give the scores of the games Joe Wood took part in in the 1912 world series between Boston and New York. JOHN HOCK.

Wood pitched the first game and won it, 4 to 3, allowing only eight hits and striking out eleven men. Wood pitched the fourth game and won, 3 to 1, allowing nine hits and striking out eight. Wood started the seventh game, but was knocked out of the box in the first inning, New York making six runs and seven hits in that session. In the eighth and final game Bedient pitched seven innings, and retired to permit Henrickson to bat for him, with New York leading. Boston then tied the score, and Wood succeeded Bedient. Boston won out in the tenth, Wood getting the credit; thus he won three games and lost one.

Do you believe Grover Lowdermilk will make good in the American League with the Browns? GEORGE FULLER.

As far as ability is concerned, Lowdermilk has more stuff than 95 per cent of the major league pitchers who are rated as successes. He has marvelous speed and a fast breaking curve. Lowdermilk has always sadly lacked control. That has been his fault. It has kept him from being a star in the majors. In the minors the opposition don't wait him out as they do in the majors, hence his ability to shine in that company. I worked a number of games back of him last fall, and he showed me better control in those few games than ever before. If he has mastered that detail of pitching his success is assured.

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COURSE ARCHITECTS A MODERN PRODUCT

In Making Links Real Test of Skill They Have Improved Character of Golf.

How goes golf in this its twenty-eighth year?

Very well, indeed.

The month of November brought the twenty-eighth year of American golf to a close; for it is from that month, in 1889, that the Scottish game dates its formal importation and implantation here. There are traditions of the game having been played in a small, detached way long before 1889 in the United States, but there was no club organization until the Yonkers (N. Y.) crowd got together, built them a links and went to it in the aforesaid 1889.

Statisticians have during the past year, or just before the war, made inroads on the great army of golfers and called them to service, been using the figures 2,000,000 to indicate the number of persons, of both sexes—and of ages running from nothing to ninety—who had taken up the game of golf in this country. How they arrive at those figures is not exactly known, but the count has never been attacked.

And with the growth of the idea and the skill of the players there has been, also, a wonderful development of golf courses.

Under the auspices of the United States Golf Association, practically all the invitation and district association championship meetings have been staged and turned into Red Cross or similar benefits.

Tournament play has lagged somewhat, but individual day-in-and-day-out golf has suffered but slightly. One thing, however, that has not shown an appreciable falling off in respect to the game has been the laying out of new links, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Not a golfing journal is picked up these days without disclosing this or that new club organized, or this or that old club acquiring additional acreage or improving or enlarging the old course.

Visiting Pros Helped Game.

In the Pacific northwest it has become quite an accepted fact that it was the tour of Harry Vardon and Edward Ray in 1913 that gave a real impetus to improvement in the majority of the golf courses. In other parts of the country that they visited the two English golf masters are similarly credited with having been the means of inducing green committees seeking the light.

In the east and middle west it is a fact that real estate firms and promoters are the biggest factors at present in laying out golf courses. They have realized that there is no quicker way to convert suburban properties into sought-after villa sites than to start a links that will serve as a loadstone.

Here is where the golf course architect comes in. Despite this time of strife, there are such architects earning from $5,000 to $20,000 annually. It is a business that has grown like a gourd and is without parallel in any other country.

In Great Britain many of the famous links of the seashore are the products of nature, and the duty devolving on a golf architect is to remodel and potter with sods and lawn mowers about the parks and inland links for small fees. Even this occupation has vanished since the war, while on the continent the game was too young to demand testing courses.

Pro Invasion Begins.

The early American golf professionals laid out your golf course before breakfast. Nor was there any to dispute their dictums. Willie Dunn, Scotchman, who came to this country from Biarritz, France, in 1894, was the pioneer links architect of the east, while Herbert Tweedy, also a Scotch, but an amateur golfer, was the first to lay them out in the middle west.

In this category might be included Robert Johnstone, the Seattle Golf Club professional, who went to the Pacific coast in 1900, and designed or improved the best known of the courses about San Francisco, such as the Presidio and Ingleside, a work he followed up in the Pacific northwest, where a dozen golf links bear his "autograph."

The coming of Willie Park, British open champion in 1887 and 1889, to this country in 1895 and again in 1896 lent a great authority to what was said about laying out golf links. He was much in demand. Tom Bendelow—still in the game—arrived in Chicago in 1897. He was probably the first who specialized in golf course making, rather than in instructing in the game.

Those first lot of courses looked but little like a real testing link of today. Bunkers run right across the fairway, about the height of the jumps on a steeplechase course, with shallow ditches in front of them, were the regulation hazards of the early golf architects; on long holes there would be one to trap a poor drive; a second for a weak brassie, and, perhaps, a third or else merely the shallow ditch, before the putting greens, to compel a pitched approach.

The monotony of such courses began to pall. This was intensified when the rubber-cored ball came into general use about fifteen years ago. The clubs were forced to make their courses more interesting in respect to hazards and to place the bunkers or traps at longer carries on account of the greater "distance" obtained by the new ball over the old gutta percha or "gutty" ball.

Golf course architecture, a placing of holes and of hazards, with natural conditions availed, became a study. The already celebrated Pine Valley course near Philadelphia is typical of what progress has been made in this direction. As far as possible, old country holes are duplicated—that is, some of the more famous ones—and it is possible to play Pine Valley from the first tee forward or from the eighteenth green back to the first hole.

Improving on Nature.

These architects, once they got to going, where natural conditions were lacking to make the proposed course fit into some particular British or Scotch hole, obtained engineers' exact measurements of the holes to be duplicated and built up fairways and putting greens, undulations, mounds, etc.

Few, very few, of the foreign-born professionals or architects who came over to put a finger in the new pie succeeded in doing anything of impressive character. They seemed to fail to catch the mercurial American spirit, which demanded not only that a St. Andrews, a Sandwich, a Hoylake, a Prestwick or a North Berwick hole be "imported," but that the importation be an improvement on the old country hole.

The golf professionals who also take up course making have had to make a new slate. This has been easy, however, for, playing the game daily, they have caught the trend of events and have seen the necessity of changes and improvements. These embrace some of the foreign-born professionals, but the majority are American born, including several who have been prominent amateurs. Walter J. Travis is a case in point of the last named class.

"I don't mind being a professional," said Walter J. Travis recently. "Championship days are over for me, anyhow, and to me there is far more pleasure in designing a course than there is in playing the game."

"And more profit," the veteran might have added, for he is reputed to earn more than $20,000 annually at the more "pleasurable" occupation.

NOT AFTER MIKE O'NEILL.

Rickey Denies Offering Him Managership of Cardinals.

ST. LOUIS, December 29.—President Branch Rickey of the St. Louis Nationals today denied reports that he had offered the managership of the team to Mike O'Neill, manager of the Syracuse team.

BONUS CLAUSE IS HELD HURTFUL TO BASE BALL

Rewards to Players for Keeping in Condition and Good Work a Slap at Sport.

One reads with a great deal of interest of the modern feature that has crept into base ball contracts, which does not appear in very many contracts covering the relation of employer and employed. The feature in mind is that which promises a bonus to a player if he keeps in condition and does his best.

In every contract between an employer and employe, be the same in industrial pursuits or in following a sport, the presumption ought to be that the employed will give the employer his best services in all circumstances. This implies, too, that the employe will keep himself in as good condition as possible to render his services, and that when he is actively engaged in the pursuit of those services he will do the very best he can.

The writing into a contract of a special clause to cover what by right ought to exist without it is indeed an implication that the employed does not intend in the absence of such a provision to keep himself—in serviceable shape and give to the employer the best of his efforts.

In the development of the base ball business a good many novelties have crept in and a good many features have been permitted which no other business would allow. This bonus, which is in fact a sop to players, is entirely unjustified from any good business point of view. The manager who gives it is foolish, and the man who takes it, in the estimation of a good many people, is one that ought to have it. There are people who think that no man could work for them if he did not intend, in the absence of an agreement to that specific effect, to do his best in all circumstances.

JOE CHOYNSKI TUTORED JACK JOHNSON IN JAIL

Pugilist, Now Ill, Taught Negro Boxer Ring Science While Both Were Locked Up.

Joe Choynski, battling for his life with pneumonia, has one chapter in his life's history that has never received the attention it deserves. An old-time New York boxing enthusiast tells the story in the following manner:

"A few months after the Dan Creedon-Herman Bernan affair Choynski floated down from Chicago to see Galveston, Tex. Jim Hall was there, and they boxed for the edification of the sports. Hall was in a bad way physically and Choynski went very easy with him. Then Choynski was asked to meet a husky dark pusson who had been boxing with all comers for $2 a contest at the Galveston Athletic Club. He looked easy and Choynski consented.

"The fight was harder than Choynski expected. The black was a tough citizen, strong as a bull and with natural ability. Choynski had to watch his p's and q's at various times to escape the powerful negro's well meant efforts to settle the matter with a punch, but, finally, science told and Choynski put one over on the black man's chin and that ended it, or should have, but didn't.

"Instead, Sheriff Henry Thomas stepped in the ring, notified Choynski that he, the black pusson and all concerned were under arrest, and a little later the black boxer and the white boxer were in jail. They remained in jail for a month or two and, to relieve the tedium of the days, Choynski gave boxing lessons to the black he had knocked out.

"When Joe Choynski left jail that negro was a fairly scientific pugilist. What science he ever displayed thereafter may be ascribed to his teacher, for the pupil Joe Choynski taught in jail was the redoubtable Jack Johnson."

SEPARATE SPORT PROBLEM FACED BY EACH COLLEGE

(Continued from First Page.)

ve got rid of a coach to whom we paid $1,000, and we will save about $2,000 in guarantees by abolishing base ball for the current year. In place of this expense on a varsity team we plan to appropriate about $700 for the preparation of an interdepartment league. We have nine departments in the university and a league made up of them should do well. Our other branches of athletics will go on as usual."

Stagg of Chicago:

"Out in the middle west when war was declared many felt much as they have felt at Yale and Harvard—that athletics should be abandoned. Michigan did abolish its sports, but soon saw the error of its way. Many members of the board and faculty at Chicago thought we should drop intercollegiate competition, but I finally persuaded them that such a course would be unwise. After watching results they have decided that we did the best thing. We shall go on with our usual schedule."

No Change at Harvard.

Moore of Harvard:

"I have not one thing to say against intercollegiate athletics, but at Harvard we believe that our ends can best be served by discontinuing them during the war. I personally know that many men would be kept from going into the Army or Navy if regular games were scheduled. Last fall players were continually dropping off our informal eleven and enlisting in some branch of the service. Had we had our usual games with Princeton and Yale those men would not have entered the service and would have stayed in college in order to take part in the games. In that case good men might have been lost to the service. That is one of the reasons why we are not scheduling big games. We had quite a little success with intramural rowing and but not much with intramural foot ball."

Murray of Princeton:

"We did some rowing and a little cross-country running and tried to engage in a little informal and intramural foot ball. We did fairly well with the rowing and running, but the foot ball was more or less of a joke. I may say that conditions at Princeton do not look good for intercollegiate athletics next year."

MAHAN NOT TO BE OFFICER.

Foot Ball Star Satisfied to Remain as Private in Marines.

PHILADELPHIA, December 29.—The report that Eddie Mahan, the former Harvard foot ball player, now a private in the United States Marine Corps, stationed at the League Island navy yard, had received an appointment to an officers' training camp is denied by Mahan. He stated that the statement was news to him and was without foundation. Mahan said he had never applied for or received such an appointment, and, in fact, did not desire one. The former foot ball star stated that he was perfectly satisfied with his present position and was not contemplating any other service.

COMISKEY STAR PLAYER THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER

"Old Roman," Then a Firstsacker, Built Team That Won Four Flags for St. Louis.

To the present generation of fans Charles Comiskey is the old Roman, the owner of the Chicago White Sox, the 1917 world champions, the man who controls the destinies of Ray Schalk and a number of other first-class ball players. In a vague way they know that Comiskey was a great player, and that about lets most of them out.

But there is an order of base ball enthusiasts that remembers Comiskey as the Hal Chase of his day. He is to them not so much the magnate as the first baseman, captain and manager who led St. Louis to four pennants and made the team the fighting terror it once was.

As a first baseman "Commy" was a pioneer. He invented a new style, and although he never led the league in his position, he had an even greater effect on the manner of playing the sack than Chase has ever had. He differed widely from the accepted style of the star first-sacker.

The great ones before him were Dan Brouthers, Dave Orr and Roger Connor. They were giants in size, mere targets at which infielders pegged. They played the sack close, and covered little ground. Comiskey came along and started the fashion of playing deep.

At first he was ridiculed. But in almost no time the fans awoke to the fact that he was covering twice the territory of his predecessors, and that, while he was not a stationary target at which to throw, his infielders got the ball to him just as surely as if he were.

Builds Up Great Team.

By 1881 he had built up a wonderful team. He had a fierce, aggressive infield that could hit, an excellent outfield and his battery staff was unexceptional. Latham, Gleason and Robinson, with Comiskey, formed the infield. Welsh and O'Neal, with one of the pitchers, were the outfield. The twirlers were Foutz and Carruthers, while Bushong was his catching mainstay.

This crew swept through the powerful American Association and won four consecutive pennants. In each of the four pennant-winning years they led in fielding, in all but 1887 in batting. In base running they easily topped the list. Comiskey himself was no mean pilferer, taking sixty-two in 1887 and seventy-seven in 1888. Latham, however, had him faded, stealing 124 in the season of 1888.

Comiskey reckoned only about in the .250 class as a batter, though in 1887 he hit for .334. He was noted as a pinch-hitter, dangerous when men on. He batted himself fourth, just behind Latham, with either Foutz or Carruthers coming fifth.

During the ten years he was with St. Louis he had under him many other stars. Hudson, Silver King, Chamberlin, Jack Stivetts, Breitenstein and even for a little while Clark Griffith.

The first break in his organization came in 1889, when Foutz, Carruthers and Bushong went to Brooklyn. In the next year the brotherhood war blew the team asunder, Comiskey himself revolting, and with Latham, O'Neal and Boyle joining Chicago in the Players' League.

Then Goes to Browns.

The next year he was back in St. Louis, and with Buck McCarty and Boyle of his old team, built up an organization that made a fierce pennant fight, losing to Boston by a narrow margin. The year after that, 1892, saw him at pilot of the Reds, where he had about the same success as every other Cincinnati manager. He stuck with the Reds three years, when he made a start as an owner by buying in on the St. Paul team.

In his first year at St. Paul he played in thirteen games, but this was his swan song as a player. From then on he was a magnate, and his fourteen years' service as a player was finished.

SPORT HEADS OPTIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS FOR 1918

(Continued from First Page.)

tion with them should he learn that Ty Cobb's home town cannot entertain him again. He intimated that he might not be adverse to doubling up with some other major league club if mutually satisfactory arrangements could be made.

Griff is considering booking some spring exhibition games with the Boston Nationals, but it is considered unlikely that any effort will be made to have the Nationals share the Braves' training camp, as Stallings takes his players to Miami, Fla., for conditioning, and Griff is opposed to journeying that far south. In any event the Nationals will not do their spring training in Washington unless compelled to. Griff considers it bad policy for a team to attempt to take its pre-season workout at home, and said yesterday that such a plan would be considered only as a last resort.

In addition to the game to be played at Columbus April 14 exhibitions at Chattanooga on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, with the club representing the Tennessee city in the Southern Association have been arranged for the Nationals, but the Chattanooga dates are subject to change or cancellation in case the local club's spring training itinerary makes it impracticable to fill them.

Base ball leaders seem to be of one mind in believing that government control of the railroads will not interfere with the movement of players next season. While a curtailment of sleeping car service and the elimination in some sections of dining cars is expected, no changes of such a radical nature as to necessitate calling off the spring training trips are looked for. There is some doubt whether clubs will continue to receive the benefit of party rates, but regarding the main question of transporting the players little apprehension exists.

That "the railway proposition will adjust itself" is the belief expressed by President Tener of the National League, who adds:

"I know that no clubs will try to impose on the roads if it is deemed advisable to remove passenger trains. The players, I am sure, have quite enough interest in their professions to suffer whatever inconveniences may arise. As a matter of fact, base ball has been and always will be willing to sacrifice toward the common cause. If star base ball players cannot always have lower berths next summer they will still be much more comfortably lodged than the men in the trenches. I think I can say for the National League that it will submit most humbly to whatever the government thinks is best for the country's welfare.

"There is no use of crossing bridges before we come to them, however. If necessity demands, it would be very easy to revise our schedules from present plans. Until that necessity arises why anticipate?"

PHILS TRADE DODE PASKERT.

Veteran Outfielder Sent to Cubs for "Cy" Williams.

FITCHBURG, Mass., December 29.—Manager Moran of the Philadelphia National League base ball club announced at his home here today that George H. Paskert, Philadelphia centerfielder, had been traded for Cy Williams, centerfielder of the Chicago National League club.

FINDS MANY STAR ATHLETES IN ARMY

Mel Sheppard Discovers Embryo Champions Wearing Khaki at Camp Selby.

Mel Sheppard, the former olympic middle distance champion, who is down in Missouri looking after the athletic work of the 47,000 soldiers stationed at Camp Selby, near Hattiesburg, declares that he could develop a first-class national championship team from the athletic material that he has observed in the various regiments forming his division.

"In all my connection with track and field sports I have never seen a more promising bunch of 'diamonds in the rough' than a number of the men in this division," says Sheppard. "If these men had nothing to do but prepare for athletic events and had the proper facilities, I have no doubt that we'd turn out a whole flock of real champions down here in no time. The athletic events, which were only fairly well patronized by the soldiers at first, are now crowded with the boys, who are anxious to keep fit for the big test. These fellows are going in for the games with a determination that means more than the actual desire to play and excel at it. I believe that four-fifths of the men who are running and playing foot ball at this camp have their ultimate condition for the big game 'over there' in view.

Favors Compulsory Athletics.

"The more I see of army life with its near-compulsion in the matter of sports the firmer I am in the belief that compulsory athletics should be instituted in both schools and colleges throughout the United States, and the sooner the better. All of the men who have come here benefited wonderfully through their life in the open, but of all these the most fit are those who have kicked the foot ball about or run a bit. Participation in sports not only benefits the muscular system, but it develops a spirit of self-reliance and a knack of making snap judgments under fire, which are bound to be of benefit to the soldiers in the fighting that they will see in Europe.

"We have had a continuous string of athletic events here since I arrived. At first I feared that too much athletic work would find the soldiers wearying of it all, because of the rather stiff work they get at drilling and preparing their new trenches. Instead of making the boys stale, I find that athletic competitions tone them up. Officers have told me that their men have not shown a trace of weariness in their work on the days following our big foot ball games and track meets.

"The old saying that there are ten good ball players in the grandstand for every one on the diamond I believe now to be perfectly true," continued Sheppard. "Among the thousands of young men that the draft has brought here there are doubtless who would have made great athletic champions had they tried. In the more or less horseplay athletic events that we hold one can spot here and there a really great athlete who never will wear the laurel, because he has never gone out to try for athletic honors. This is especially true of running. It is a genuine regret to me that I cannot take some of these boys and work them on a good track for a number of months, but my job is not to develop a few world-beaters, but to furnish recreation, if possible, for every one of the 47,000 soldiers in this division.

"I never want to tackle a more self-satisfying job than this one. The work is both strenuous and interesting, and every night when I turn in I feel that I have done just a little to help in the task of making America's National Army fit for the great task that it will soon tackle."

Jo Loomis in the Army.

Jo Loomis, the star all-round athlete of the Chicago Athletic Association, who recently returned from doing Red Cross work in France, has enlisted in the 333d Field Artillery at Rockford, Ill.

Loomis is quoted by western correspondents as saying that in the end the war will act as the biggest sort of a boost for sports, as millions of soldiers, the world over, are getting their recreation through athletic games, and will turn to this sort of business when they go home from the war. Jo says that socker foot ball is the most popular pastime in the British army, but that base ball has made great strides in the estimation of the English.

WILL G. DURFEE RETIRES.

Noted Figure in Harness Racing Sport Quits Game.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 29.—Will G. Durfee has retired from the harness racing sport after years of success on many circuits, according to an announcement today of Clarence J. Berry, for whom Durfee has driven for years. Berry also announced his retirement, coincident with his sale of Esperanza, considered the best trotting mare on the Pacific coast, to A. G. Hunt of Chicago.

Durfee retired, according to Berry, in accordance with his wife's wishes. Berry said he would quit because he did not wish to continue with any driver other than Durfee.

Among Durfee's victories was that in the Kentucky futurity three years ago, when he drove Manrico, a trotter, to first place.

NATIONAL CAPITAL LEAGUE FIVE AS STRONG AS ANY IN DISTRICT

Roy Whitford Believes Certain Club in That Circuit Can Give Star Bowlers of District Real Fight in Match for Title.

Roy Whitford, one of the leading lights in bowling, comes to the front with a suggestion about the possibility of a match between several teams for the city championship and furthermore challenges the statement that the Grand Centrals, Royals and Continentals are the three best quints in town. Whitford says there is a team in the National Capital League capable of giving any of the others a battle and that he believes that team, which modesty forbids him to mention, can whip any other in town.

Whitford thinks so strongly of that team—which we have a very big notion is the Inglesides—that he has addressed a letter to the bowling editor which deals with the subject of the three-cornered match proposed in this column a week ago. Here is the communication from Whitford:

"Your article of last Sunday suggesting a three-cornered match in teams, doubles and singles, between the members of the Royal, Grand Central and Continental duckpin teams, was read by me with a great deal of interest. And if the purpose is to confine this match to District League teams only I hereby accept the proposition on behalf of the Grand Central team. But why leave out the Weston team, which is at present leading the District League, of which the above-mentioned teams are members?

"And why confine such a contest to one league only? There is a team in the National Capital League—modesty forbids my mentioning its name—which is not afraid of any team in town. It is not composed of 'stars,' there is not a Krauss, a Vaeth nor even a Chapin on it, but what it lacks in that respect it adds in spirit, confidence and 'pep.' And in consequence it has only lost six out of thirty-three games this season, has rolled the biggest set of the year, 1,722, and 1,600 sets are the rule, not the exception, with this team.

"Now with all due respect to Charley Wright and his Continentals, and his anchor man, the team to which I refer is a much steadier combination and its anchor man is always 'there' when called upon. In fact, there are several anchor men on that team who would make things interesting for Mr. Wright's man!

"But to return to the triangular match mentioned, it would be a fine thing for the game to pull it off; and I would suggest a committee composed of Mr. Byrd of the Star, chairman; Mr. Krauss of the Royals, Mr. Vaeth of the Grand Centrals and Mr. Wright of the Continentals (also Mr. Pratt of the Westons if that team is given the deserved opportunity to participate), to arrange all the details.

"And, incidentally, it might not be amiss to state here that I consider Mr. Vaeth of the Grand Centrals the best anchor man in any team in Washington, and I think Vaeth and Wolstenholme would hold their own with any two-man team in town!"

Besides the Inglesides there is another team which figures it has a chance to win against the three first mentioned by the writer. That is the Rafterys of the Capital City League. A six-sided match with the Inglesides, Westons, Continentals, Royals, Inglesides and Grand Centrals would be quite a match.

Wonder what Charley Wright, Pop Halley, Johnny Vaeth and others have to say about Roy Whitford's ideas? Also wonder what Harry Krauss and Harry Stanford and Pop Halley and Ray Chapin and Johnny Baum and others think about the belief that Johnny Vaeth and Wolstenholme would hold their own with any two-man team in town?

There is a tie in the Departmental Duckpin League, Navy No. 1 and Navy No. 2, standing on even terms with 39 victories and 6 defeats each. Standing of the teams and averages follow:

Name.	St.	Sp.	HG.	HS.	Ave.	W.	L.	Pct.
Inglesides	45	243	599	1,722	534-1	39	6	.818
Nat. Caps	39	291	564	1,621	516-12	25	8	.758
Columbias	42	217	532	1,524	488-24	19	11	.633
Palace	44	267	543	1,620	506-11	18	15	.545
Potomac Bank	41	239	566	1,611	496-4	16	14	.533
Omos	36	306	576	1,612	508-18	16	17	.485
Maroons	46	269	564	1,590	500-32	15	18	.456
Nationals	29	238	536	1,494	476-25	12	24	.333
Gr. Cen. Pal.	31	214	559	1,607	512-3	9	21	.300
Royals	29	194	521	1,549	496-12	5	28	.152

INDIVIDUAL AVERAGES.

INGLESIDES.

	G.	Pins.	St.	Sp.	HG.	HS.	Ave.
Farrow, jr.	27	2,911	10	58	126	344	107-22
E. Elker	30	3,230	14	58	125	355	107-29
Whitford	25	2,672	10	54	133	371	106-22
Jolliffe	26	2,770	5	61	137	355	106-14
Krieger	27	2,871	12	55	138	361	106-9
Meany	30	3,199	14	57	140	346	105-19

NATIONAL CAPITALS.

	G.	Pins.	St.	Sp.	HG.	HS.	Ave.
Urban	31	3,386	19	59	132	354	109-7
McNickle	27	2,857	9	52	133	352	105-22
De Sio	33	3,486	12	61	128	344	104-4
Pratt	12	1,221	5	19	134	326	101-9
Fookes	6	604	3	8	111	303	100-4
Murtha	24	2,401	5	40	119	323	100-1
Pezzaro	32	3,155	6	52	116	325	98-19

COLUMBIAS.

	G.	Pins.	St.	Sp.	HG.	HS.	Ave.
Daly	18	1,881	8	34	129	349	104-9
W. Davis	30	2,947	16	38	113	312	98-7
Niland	30	2,942	6	43	124	325	98-2
Callan	21	2,059	4	59	129	313	97-2
Brown	27	2,583	5	41	119	308	95-18
Hines	21	2,019	3	30	110	300	95-15

PALACE.

	G.	Pins.	St.	Sp.	HG.	HS.	Ave.
Baum	20	2,114	5	42	126	332	105-16
Harley	12	1,267	4	22	128	335	105-7
Chapin	12	1,276	4	15	127	347	106-4
M. Watson	33	3,381	12	58	147	367	102-15
Armiger	22	2,195	2	39	119	329	99-17
Howser	18	1,786	3	33	124	314	99-14
Williams	27	2,683	10	43	116	321	99-6
Lucas	3	296	1	3	109	296	98-2
George	3	290	0	4	113	290	96-2

POTOMAC BANK.

	G.	Pins.	St.	Sp.	HG.	HS.	Ave.
Haneke	30	3,216	8	76	135	340	107-6
Bogley	27	2,693	10	39	129	335	99-29
E. Freeman	29	2,843	4	43	113	314	98-1
W. Davis	30	2,927	9	44	122	341	97-17
Beall	21	2,020	4	30	111	324	96-6
J. Fre