

ring that shows he connects squarely, even when the effort is fruitless.

Maybe Leach, Needham, Corriden or all of the others mentioned will be tinned, but we can't see Phelan as anything but a Cub next season. Played regularly he would increase his batting average.

Dope on the Cubs may simmer on the Hot Stove during President Murphy's trip to Ireland, but it will not come to a boil. The grand mogul of the West Side says Manager Evers



Fielder Jones.

will not have the power to make trades during his absence.

But John will have the power to make denials of trades that are arranged by the papers, and that will help the poor baseball dopist to some extent.

Reb Russell celebrated his return to that dear Bonham, Tex., by getting licked by the Giants, 4 to 1. He only allowed six hits, but Buck Weaver and Dutch Schafer, the pesky cusses, kicked his game away with boots in the first two innings. Tesreau allowed

the Sox seven hits. Reb was presented with a diamond-studded watch by his neighbors. Russell and his new wife remained in Bonham to spend the winter, the Sox moving on toward the coast with a slim pitching staff of three men.

Scotty Alcock, third baseman of the Indianapolis Federals, has been picked off by the White Sox, and will report in the spring. This may be the beginning of the much-talked-of war between the Federals and the other two major leagues.

It is certain such raids will not be passed over by the Feds with impunity if they have a large enough bank account to retaliate. And they claim they are stout in the financial department.

If such a war does come it will mean big salaries for some players for a time. The majors will forage among the Feds, and the latter will hold out tempting offers to big league stars. The latter will not get the increases from their own bosses. None of the men at present in organized baseball will be given salary boosts. They will be threatened with expulsion and the blacklist if they flirt with the Feds.

But the players of the new league will be snared with big offers, even if they are not wanted by the majors. The idea will be to weaken the Federal by securing its best players.

All of which will do the fan no good. He will not get any better ball or any cheaper prices at the gate. Neither will the players benefit in the end, because it stands to reason that in a protracted war the combined power of organized baseball can defeat the aspirations of any newcomer.

When the American insurged and broke through the National guard conditions were different. Then there was only the one major league and baseball had not become such a big money maker for its backers. The magnates were not so rich and not so well fortified to repulse an assault on their territory.