

The Washington Times

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FRANK A. MUNSEY

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 4, 1910.

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The Times....45,339 The Star.....42,861*

*Last day estimated.

ANOTHER MODIFICATION OF FOOTBALL RULES.

What it is hoped will prove to be six long steps toward safe and sane football have been taken by the national rules committee, which has just adjourned after a long and conscientious debate on the fine points of the rah-rah game.

Five years ago, when the rules were radically modified the last time, we all breathed a sigh of relief. At last, we said, sanity and reason are to prevail in football.

With both these extremes in mind the reformers have this time sought to strike the happy medium that will save the game, but do away with most of the danger.

The six reforms are: The restriction (to the point of probable abolition) of the "forward pass"; the reduction of the distance to be gained from ten to eight yards; the prohibition of teammates pulling or pushing the man carrying the ball; the division of the full time of play into quarters instead of halves; the prohibition of the "flying tackle," and the elimination of the rule preventing the first man who receives the ball from the center-rush advancing it unless he runs out five yards from the point where ball was snapped.

The evil in the forward pass was found to develop when the defensive team drew players away from the immediate rear of the line into the back field for the purpose of preventing the maneuver of their opponents. Into the line thus weakened the offensive team would hurl itself, instead of making the forward pass, with the result that one linesman would take the impact of perhaps eight or ten opponents. Many of the fatalities last fall occurred in just such a play.

Under the new forward pass rule the team with the ball is prohibited passing the ball beyond the line of scrimmage, and it is expected this will result in the practical abandonment of the play, except for strategic purposes, as it would be of no advantage to pass the ball from the center rush to a back and then throw it only to a point on a line with its original position.

The rule forbidding the pulling or pushing forward of the player with the ball by his teammates should do much to make the game safer. In the past there have been many accidents traceable to this practice. There's a question, however, whether this rule will not give the defense too great an advantage by leaving the man with the ball too much alone in his fight to go ahead.

The rule dividing the game into quarters instead of halves is an excellent one, and should have been adopted years ago. The strain on the players will not be so great, and coaches and trainers will be able to keep closer watch of each man.

The flying tackle rule will have to be tried out. It provides that the tackler must be on his feet when he grasps the man with the ball. This will surely give an advantage to the offense, and whether it will reduce the hazard of play remains to be seen. It is not at all improbable that some other and equally dangerous method of stopping the player will be developed, in which event this rule can hardly be considered a reform in the right direction.

It is expected the sixth change, concerning the quarterback, will encourage open end runs, which will be a desirable reform. It will probably result in the four backs lining up parallel to the line of scrimmage and in the passage of the ball from the center

to the man who is to advance it. This causes the defense to play its tackles and guards closer in the offense, and this will make play more open and less dangerous, as it will discourage line bucking.

On the whole, the changes in the rules should lessen the danger of the game to a point where it will be safer and at the same time will retain those qualities which call for strength, pluck, and brains. Football is too worthy an institution to be destroyed. It must, however, be so modified in form that it will not be a menace to the future usefulness as citizens of those who play it.

MR. ADAMS FIGHTS VOLUNTEER OFFICERS' RETIREMENT

Charles Francis Adams, of Washington and Boston, a gentleman who has a deserved reputation for possessing fighting qualities, has come out in a letter against the volunteer officers' retirement bill which is now pending before Congress and has been before that body for a number of years.

Mr. Adams was a colonel and brevet brigadier general of volunteers in the civil war, and he is therefore entitled to a hearing on the subject, though what he says will undoubtedly bring down on his head a storm of controversy. He is extremely vigorous in denouncing the proposed legislation.

Mr. Adams' letter is written to Colonel Livermore, of Boston. His first argument against the bill is that the position of ex-volunteer officers is in no respect, so far as retirement is concerned, on the same footing as those who devoted their whole active lives to the military service of the country, and "who took none of the chances of betterment which civil life so freely offered."

Mr. Adams points to the liberality of the existing pension laws, and holds that men who served as officers, who in the war "received far higher pay, larger emoluments, and greater privileges than the rank and file," are not entitled to more liberal allowances now. He protests against the bill so forcefully as to declare that he "cannot but regard it as little short of an affront to every high-minded volunteer officer who held a commission in the great war."

NEW YORK AND AMATEUR BALL GAMES ON SUNDAY.

A bill has passed the New York Assembly permitting amateur baseball games to be played in that State on Sunday between 3:30 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon. The bill was passed after a stirring fight, Speaker Wadsworth, a once famous first-baseman for Yale, carrying it over by a rousing speech. Mr. Wadsworth said, among other things:

If I were a workman living in the city of New York and had a boy from sixteen to twenty-five years of age, I would rather have him sitting on the benches on Sunday afternoon, shouting himself hoarse at a circus catch in the outfield than loafing on the street corners. I would rather know that he was trying to stretch a three-bagger into a home-run than sitting in the back room of a saloon. I believe in that case he would be a better boy and a healthier boy, who would grow up a better Christian citizen.

Sunday observance is largely a matter of public opinion. People are generally broadminded enough to know whether a technical breach of a law is productive of evil. When it is not, there is generally found a disposition to let well enough alone. There are undoubtedly cities and towns in which permission to play innocent games on Sunday afternoon not only actually prevents idleness, lawlessness, and crime, but adds largely to the contentment, the health, and the general comfort of a large number of persons. With its tremendous congestion of people of every race under the sun, New York would seem to be fortunate if it can persuade its young men to engage in anything so innocent as a ball game on Sunday afternoon, and if it can get some of those who are certain to be doing something more prejudicial to morals to go and look on.

SYSTEMATIZED BEAUTY IN NATIONAL CAPITAL.

The action of the Senate in amending and passing the House bill creating a fine arts commission and the aroused interest in the work of the Washington Society of Fine Arts give promise that we are about to enter upon an era of sane, systematic, and artistic beautification of the National Capital. A great deal has been done toward this end in the past seven or eight years, but a great deal remains to be done. That we are building upon a sensible and substantial foundation seems assured, and should be a source of much gratification, not only to the residents of Washington, but to all the people of the nation.

terms of the Senate bill, is to be clothed with authority "to advise upon the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the public squares, streets, and parks, and upon the selection of models for statues, fountains, and monuments erected under authority of the United States, and upon the selection of artists for the execution of the same." The commission is also directed to advise generally upon all questions of art when called upon to do so by the President or by any committee of Congress.

It is unfortunately true that many of the statues, fountains, and monuments of the District were erected without much regard for any comprehensive artistic effect. Washington has a great many statues, for instance, but a large number of them bring smiles to the lips of intelligent visitors, because of their execution or location. It is to prevent future mistakes in the character of the statues, fountains, and monuments themselves and in their location that the fine arts commission is proposed.

Washingtonians especially are interested in making this the most beautiful city in the country, but their ambition is shared by every citizen of the United States. The whole country is proud of Washington and would like to see it the finest city in the world. The fine arts commission and the new local spirit should do much toward making this ambition a realized fact.

The records will be frightfully incomplete unless the Reno enumerators were authorized to interrogate residents as to their past, present, and prospective names.

Even though the census enumerators missed him, there is reason to believe Colonel Roosevelt will not be among those who are not counted as American citizens.

If Theodore Junior's course included instruction in beating as well as making carpets he may find later that the last year has been well spent.

New York's striking bakers, who demand shorter hours, put themselves in the peculiar position of wanting more dough for making less bread.

The fact that the comet's tail grows longer as its tail grows shorter, merely illustrates the difference between astrology and journalism.

If the insurgents and Democrats go much further they're liable to make the Speakership what it was intended to be in the first place.

It is to be hoped that in his book on bread baking Secretary Wilson has included the recipe for the kind that no other used to make.

These increased freight rates sort of dampen the enthusiasm of the ultimate consumer over the recent increase in railroad wages.

The Kern case shows that the office does sometimes seek the man, but it remains to be seen whether it really catches him.

It will be noted that Mr. Roosevelt did not charge any windmills, either literally or figuratively, while in Holland.

Albany, Pittsburg, and Chicago are reported neck and neck in the bribery Marathon.

Perhaps the Marrin people got their quotations by wireless.

INDIANS REPRESENT WEALTHIEST NATION

Delegation of Osage Blanket Tribe to Appear Before Congress.

A delegation of picturesque Osage Blanket Indians arrived in Washington today from Pawshuska, Okla.

They are here to fight before a Congressional committee the application of several alleged Indians for enrollment as members of the tribe. These rolls were closed in 1887, and it now takes an act of Congress to authorize the entry of new members.

The desirability of entering the Osage tribe is understood, when it is remembered that it is the richest nation in the world. The per capita wealth being between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

HAS FAMILY OF HUNDRED. GALVESTON, Tex., May 4.—Because he feared that death was near, Evaristo Madero, a multi-millionaire, of Monterrey, Mex., who is living in San Antonio, Tex., decided he would have all the members of his family come on to see him. When the reunion took place he found that his children, grand children, and great-grandchildren numbered 105. Mr. Madero has fourteen sons and daughters.

What's on the Program Tonight in Washington

Meeting of Washington Society of the Fine Arts to consider "The Betterment of Washington," Continental Memorial Hall, 8 p. m.

Eighteenth anniversary celebration of Henry Wilson Post, G. A. R., Stanley Hall, Soldiers' Home, 7:30 p. m.

Theaters. National—Aborn Opera Company, 8:15 p. m.

Belasco—Spring Musical Festival, 8:20 p. m.

Columbia—"Brewster's Millions," 8:15 p. m.

Chase's—Follie vaudeville, 8:15 p. m.

Casino—Continous vaudeville. Academy—"East Lynne," 8:15 p. m.

Gaiety—"Bon Tom," 8:15 p. m.

Lyceum—"Cole and Johnson," 8:15 p. m.

Majestic—Motion pictures and vaudeville, 7 to 11 p. m.

Masonic Auditorium—Motion pictures, 7:30 to 10:30 p. m.

In the Mail Bag

The Times will accept for publication in its Mail Bag column, short, vigorous letters on questions of public interest. It cannot undertake to publish letters exceeding 250 words, and reserves the right rigidly to condense communications which are of greater length. Letters should be written on one side of the paper only, and must contain the name and address of the writer, but these will not be published if request to that effect is made.

No Kick Coming.

To the Editor of The Washington Times: I have read with a great deal of interest the letter of "A Questioner" on the high cost of living, and the answer to same by one who calls himself "A Sufferer." Mr. "A Sufferer" takes us back a period of ten years, and we would conclude by the tone of his letter that he was a Government employe, or too young at that time to work for a living, and hence did not know the purchasing power of a dollar. He makes the statement that the purchasing power of the laborer's dollar is not so great as in 1898. We will admit this to be true in some articles, but my friend, Mr. "A Sufferer," overlooks the fact that the laborer has many more dollars today than ten years ago or in 1898. I will venture the assertion that all skilled laborers' wages have increased since 1898 100 per cent, and that he makes the time now that he did then, hence I make the assertion that every intelligent man outside of the Government service makes \$4 today where he only made \$1 in 1898.

Mr. "A Sufferer" states that Mr. "A Questioner" must belong to some trust or he would not ask the question in such a way as that if he felt the increased cost of living as the laboring man does he would change his mind. I wish to state that I do not belong to any trust and that I have no income except only what I work for day by day with my two hands, and with the present scale of wages and the present cost of living I can support my family and bank as much money per year as I could in 1898.

He states that his wife could put as much in her basket in 1898 or ten years ago for \$2.50 as now for \$5. Well, that proves to my mind that Mr. "A Sufferer" does not know what the purchasing power of a dollar is. I am afraid he is one of that class that, when he or his wife or even his children, go with a basket to the market or the store that they have a little book in their hand instead of the cash to buy with. No wonder, my friend, that it cost \$5 to fill a \$2.50 basket. Be a little more independent; throw that little book of yours in the fire, take your cash to the store and instead of calling for 30 cents worth call for a pound and see that you get a pound, and that you are only charged market prices for same. I for one have no kick coming about the cost of living with the present wages.

CONTENDED.

Clubmen To Play Navy Officers.

A baseball game between the officers of the North Atlantic fleet and the Metropolitan and Chevy Chase club teams is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for the benefit of the Children's Hospital. The game is to be played at the National Ball Park, and fashionable society will turn out in force for the event. The Engineer Band, from the Washington Barracks, will play throughout the afternoon.

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Mrs. Taft Is Expected to Return To White House This Afternoon

Visit to Bryn Mawr Included in Week-End Trip.

Capt. W. H. H. Sutherland Congratulated on Promotion.

Justice Lurton Honor Guest at Dinner.

Mr. Justice Lurton was the guest in honor of whom Alfred Pembroke Thon entertained a party at dinner last evening at the White Willard. The table was set in the red room, and it was adorned with clusters of Richmond and Killarney roses. Branches of spring blossoms adorned the room.

The guests were: Mr. Justice Lurton, Mr. Justice White, Mr. Justice McKenna, Mr. Justice Holmes, The Attorney General, The Solicitor General, Senator Aldrich, Senator Martin, Senator Percie, Senator Frank O. Briggs, Representative Dwight, Representative Glass, Representative Dwigth, Representative Clark, Rear Admiral Cass, Henry W. Anderson, of Richmond; Dr. J. C. Boyd, A. C. Brantson, of Virginia, George E. Hamilton, J. M. Culp, Caruthers W. Erving, of Tennessee, Charles J. Faulkner, Dr. M. I. Finney, of Baltimore, W. W. Fuller, of New York, John K. Graves, Lincoln Green, Frank W. Gravathay, Alexander Hamilton, of Virginia, George E. Hamilton, Col. W. A. Henderson, Walter D. Hines, of New York, Judge Alexander Humphrey, of Kentucky, Eppa Hunton, Jr., of Virginia, Judge Martin A. Knapp, Judge James Kirsh, Judge Hamilton McWhorter, of Georgia, Judge J. R. Easley, of Virginia, Claudian B. Northrop, Thomas Nelson Page, Roosevelt Page, of Virginia, Judge R. R. Eustace, of North Carolina, Judge J. C. Pritchard, of North Carolina.

Henry B. Spencer, Hannis Taylor, Alfred P. Thom, of Virginia, Dr. C. W. Thom, of Baltimore, William Taylor Thom, J. S. B. Thompson, of Georgia, Walter E. Trumstall, of Virginia, W. H. White, H. T. Wickham, I. Williams, Glasgow, Jr., of Philadelphia, Dr. Samuel B. Ward, of New York, Dr. John Vertrees, of Tennessee, Dr. H. Cooke, of Virginia, and Dr. G. W. Johnston, of Virginia.

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