

BALL FIELD ROWDYISM

DRASTIC MEASURES ADOPTED BY NATIONAL LEAGUE MAGNATES

In Extreme Cases a Penalty of Expulsion for Life Provided by the Code—Tribunal of Three to Carry Out the New Rules of the League.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 1.—The base ball magnates of the National League were tried on the important session of last night, and it was long after 10 o'clock, the hour set for convening, when they came together. Very little business was transacted at the morning session. It pertained to telegraph and railroad matters. The telegraph question was settled by allowing each club to do business with which ever telegraph company it chooses. The railroad question, not having closed arrangements with the companies for rates, was continued in office indefinitely.

The afternoon session the doors were thrown open to newspaper men, who were given an opportunity to listen to the report of the committee, appointed last year to investigate means for doing away with rowdyism on the ball field. John T. Brush, chairman of the committee, presented the report, which included communications from base ball magnates, umpires, members of the press and others interested in the national game. These communications showed the necessity of adopting some measure to do away with the evil. All of the club representatives present spoke in favor of such action, but differed as to the details.

On motion of President James A. Hart, of Chicago, the press representatives present were asked to express their opinion on this subject. They were unanimously in favor of some action looking toward the doing away of rowdyism and vulgarity.

As the unanimous views of the committee, Chairman Brush submitted a measure for the suppression of obscene, indecent and vulgar language upon a ball field by players engaged in playing a game of ball during the championship season. A vote was taken on the measure, and it was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Robinson, of Cleveland, explained that whatever opposition he had shown to such legislation had been for the purpose of bringing out an expression of opinion. In the absence of President Freedman, of New York, his vote was cast by A. H. Soden, of Boston.

Stringent Rules.

In pursuance of this measure of reform and to carry into effect its intent, twenty-three regulations of some length are appended, in substance as follows:

The measure provides that the regulations shall be explained to and read by all players and employees in the league, who shall be obliged to sign a copy of the purpose of showing this legislation had been brought to their attention.

It is provided that no player or person, whether player, manager, umpire, club official or any other person, shall be permitted to utter or write or cause to be written or printed any obscene, indecent or vulgar language during the playing of a game by a player or employee of a national league club of which they have personal knowledge.

All charges of offense under this measure shall be submitted to the president of the league under oath within forty-eight hours of its alleged occurrence, the manager shall immediately furnish a copy of the same to the accused for his defense with the written notice of suspension, if any.

Five days, after the receipt thereof by the accused, he shall be allowed the one charged with the offense, for transmitting to the president of the league, under oath, of the charges and the evidence thereon, which shall be submitted by the president to a tribunal of three judges selected by this league, to be called the "court of discipline," who shall have absolute authority to acquit or convict upon the evidence submitted according to the rules adopted for its government and from which there shall be no appeal except to the board of directors.

When a case is thus submitted to said board, the president of the tribunal shall call the members of the board, and the accused, taking into account the nature and gravity of the offense, its importance in affecting the welfare of the national game, the provocation for its commission and such other circumstances as may be established by the evidence, and shall render and he shall report in writing his opinion and finding in the premises, and if the offense be proved he shall have the penalty that in his judgment should be imposed, and forward the same, together with his opinion and conclusions and all the papers, to his associate nearest the territory, who shall attach his opinion and conclusions and judgments and forward the same to the remaining member of the tribunal, who shall forward his opinion, conclusion and judgment to the president of the league, who shall return the papers and opinions, and the members of the board shall carry into effect the judgment of said board or a majority thereof by suspending or expelling a player or club for the period determined by the tribunal or a majority, or acquit him, as the case may be.

In Case of Division. When the members of the tribunal or a majority thereof do not agree upon a judgment, the president of the league shall select some one of the opinions as the one to be followed, provided it be not the extreme penalty, and he shall have the authority to enforce the same.

The penalties for using obscene, indecent or vulgar language within the meaning of this measure shall be as follows: If within the discretion of the tribunal, and may be suspension for days, for months, for the unexpired season, for a year, or for life, according to the conditions, circumstances and nature of the offense, it being the sentiment of the tribunal that this law that unwarranted, unprovoked and brutal use of vulgarity to a spectator or within the presence of spectators and within the hearing of ladies, should be a debarment for ever from service with his club or any other club member of the league or subject to its jurisdiction.

The extreme penalty imposed in this measure is "life expulsion," that is, the unanimous approval of the three members of the tribunal, and provided also, before imposing such a penalty, the accused shall be notified that he can defend in person and by counsel, if he elects, in which event the president of the tribunal shall call a meeting of said board at some city to be selected by him, most convenient to the members and the accused.

That justice may be done and no wrong committed it shall be competent for either party to a case submitted to the tribunal to show, under oath, the character and standing of those who make the charges and give evidence, and before the "life expulsion" can be imposed the accused may, if he elects, have the opportunity of cross-examining the witnesses against him by deposition.

There shall be no appeal from a decision by the tribunal, for a majority, for the hearing or a reopening of a case, except

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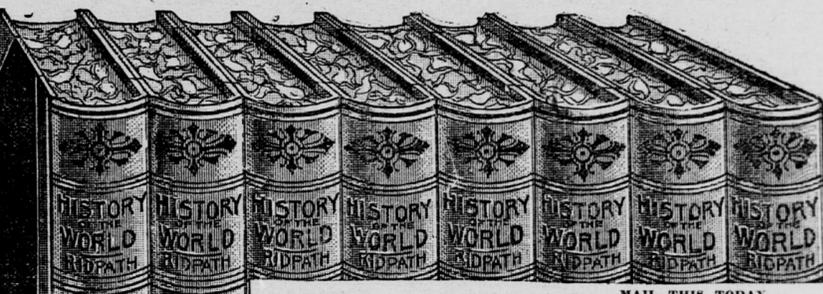
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John Bull's Interests Paramount, but Not Exclusive—Russia Advances in Corea—Descent on Hai-Nan—War Cloud in the East Again Looming Up.

LONDON, March 1.—Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett having brought up the Chinese question and the advance of Russia in the house today, Mr. Curzon, after some debate, said that British interests in China were "paramount, but not exclusive."

The British nation, he continued, would not be justified in regarding legitimate competitors with jealousy, but ought rather to "use all efforts to keep in an age of competition what was won in an age of monopoly." They could foresee that China would be confronted by greater dangers in the future than she has been in the past. Great Britain's policy was to prevent the disruption and to oppose the alienation of Chinese territory, and it was not likely that Great Britain would regard with satisfaction the attempts of others in the direction of such disruption and alienation.

PEKIN, March 1.—The Anglo-German loan contracts were signed yesterday. The interest was fixed at 4 1/2 per cent, redeemable in forty-five years. The contract price is 85 cents. The final Kiao-Chou treaty is not yet signed.

LONDON, March 2.—The correspondent of the Daily News at Nagasaki, Japan, hears that Russia has purchased a portion of Deer Island, near Corea.

LONDON, March 1.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Singapore says a Saigon newspaper asserts that the French gunboat Lion will proceed to Hai-Nan on March 10, taking troops for occupation.

LONDON, March 2.—The Constantinople correspondent of the Daily Mail says: Bulgaria's attitude concerning the Macedonian troubles is causing great anxiety at the Turkish court. It is believed at the palace that Russia is backing Bulgaria, and rumors of impending war with Russia and Bulgaria are in circulation. An extraordinary ministerial council was summoned today (Tuesday).

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