JACK DEMPSEY YEAR'S BEST BATTLER

Jack Stopped Best in the Business During Year That Has Just Closed.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—When the history of 1918 in pugilism is written, fans will turn blank page after blank page where in other years the type had to be small to chronicle the performances of the knights of the padded mitt. No new champions were made. It was a year for more serious activity, a 12 months in which this country was in the grip of a world war.

The boxers, like the athletes in other sports, threw their strength into the war, which accounts for a year sparse in fistic performances. Every champion, with the exception of one, was engaged in some branch of service, while others of lesser prominence followed the lead of the title holders. Most champions found the task of instructing the soldiers and sailors enough to keep them busy without seeking bouts for the coin. The only champion not in any branch of the service was Jess Willard, heavyweight champion.

The biggest of champions did not appear in the padded ring. He tried to engage in one battle, but found public sentiment opposed the plan. He might have fought Fred Fulton had not this matter of commercialism in wartime stood out too strongly to be swallowed. So Willard did not climb through the ropes.

By while Willard was idle another young heavyweight was advancing by leaps and bounds toward the championship goal. This fighter, and he is that in every sense of the word, was Jack Dempsey. Dempsey's occupation in wartime was work in the shipyards of Philadelphia, and this job permitted him to battle not alone for himself, but in many patriotic shows throughout the country, which greatly helped the soldiers' and sailors' funds.

Only Thriller of Quiet Year.

Dempsey was the only "thriller" of the quiet boxing year. He showed everything in the fistic business that needs to be known. He met every fighter that could be pulled into the ring with him and nearly every one of them he knocked out in the first round. The Rochester, Minn., Behemoth, the man who sought to battle Willard for the title, was induced to meet him in a bout scheduled for eight rounds with eight-ounce gloves at Harrison, N. J., on the afternoon of July 4. With the gong Dempsey dashed at Fulton and landed three punches. With the third Fulton sank to the canvas, knocked dead to the world. It was a 23-seconds knockout. That jigtime finish was a huge surprise, for Fulton was the betting favorite.

Dempsey found just one man he was unable to knock out. That was Billy Miske, of St. Paul. He fought him 10 rounds and was a winner at St. Paul. He fought him a second time at Philadelphia over the six-round route and once more Miske stuck the limit. Miske was able to do that for the simple reason that he boxed cleverly and on the defensive from the first gong to the last. He didn't fight to win; he boxed to stick the limit.

Levinsky Takes the Count.

Another accomplishment of Dempsey during the year was the knockout of a man who never had been handed the sleeping potion. That was Battling Levinsky. The punch that ended that bout went over in the third round at Philadelphia.

Some of the other champions who were engaged as boxing instructors at army or navy camps or who were in the ranks, managed to get into a scrap or two, but these bouts were of little consequence. Benny Leonard and Johnny Kilbane were army boxing instructors, while Pete Herman was in the navy.

It will be noticed that Jimmy Wilde, the wonderful little British flyweight, has been accorded the honor of titleholder. There are no flyweights in this country classy enough to even toss a glove at Wilde, and his performances across the water have established him as the British champion. Being British champion makes him champion of the world, for America and other countries haven't a scrapper of merit in this division.

Tourney Big Event.

One of the biggest events of the year was the interallied tournament in London, in which the British boxers defeated the American team on points. Some of the greatest American professional boxers who were in the army or navy competed, among them Harry Greb, Eddie McGoorty, Pal Moore, Richie Mitchell, Cal Delaney and others, while the star of the Britishers was Jimmy Wilde. The British won the tournament because the army, navy and air forces were combined, while the American army and navy representatives fought as separate units. America won something like 18 of 28 bouts. Wilde showed his class by meeting Bantamweight Pal Moore, a topnotcher, and was only slightly outpointed.

The future of boxing seems an assured success with the government sanctioning the sport among soldiers and sailors in wartime. Illinois and other states may pass bills legalizing the ring game.

SHUFFLIN' PHIL TO BE ON HAND

Douglas Determined to Resume Baseball.

Phil Douglas, pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, who has been wintering in a munitions factory in Birmingham, has written Vice-President Bill Veeck, of the club, telling him that the work of making munitions is slacking up and asking Veeck if he can't land him a job in Chicago for the remainder of the winter, so that he will be right on hand for the spring training trip.

"I missed the trip to California last spring," wrote Douglas, "and I regretted it, because I believed it kept me from getting in the best of shape. The attack of appendicitis I had in the winter, of course, left me in a weakened condition, but I have recovered and my strength has come back wonderfully. The fever to get out has hit me hard and I want to come to Chicago to work until the team goes away. I am coming North even if I do not succeed in getting a position. It is my determination to be where I am one of the first to get on the train for Pasadena. I did not do much work in the world's series last fall, but you can bet I am not going to be kept out of the next one."

GREAT LAKES GOBS FOOTBALL CHAMPS

Defeat Mare Island Marines in Great Game.

PASADENA, Cal., Jan. 2.—The Great Lakes naval training station football team yesterday won the right to claim the service championship of the United States by defeating, 17 to 0, a team representing the Mare Island marines. Both teams had gone through long seasons undefeated until today, having won elimination contests in the East and West, respectively.

The game, a feature of the annual Rose tournament, was played at tournament park before 22,000 persons.

The weather was ideal.

PINKIE MITCHELL WINS.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 2.—"Pinkie" Mitchell, brother of Richie Mitchell, the well-known lightweight, yesterday afternoon scored a knockout over Otto Wallace, of Milwaukee, in the ninth round of a ten-round boxing bout.

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We buy or loan money on Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps.
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for 30 years at the same old stand.
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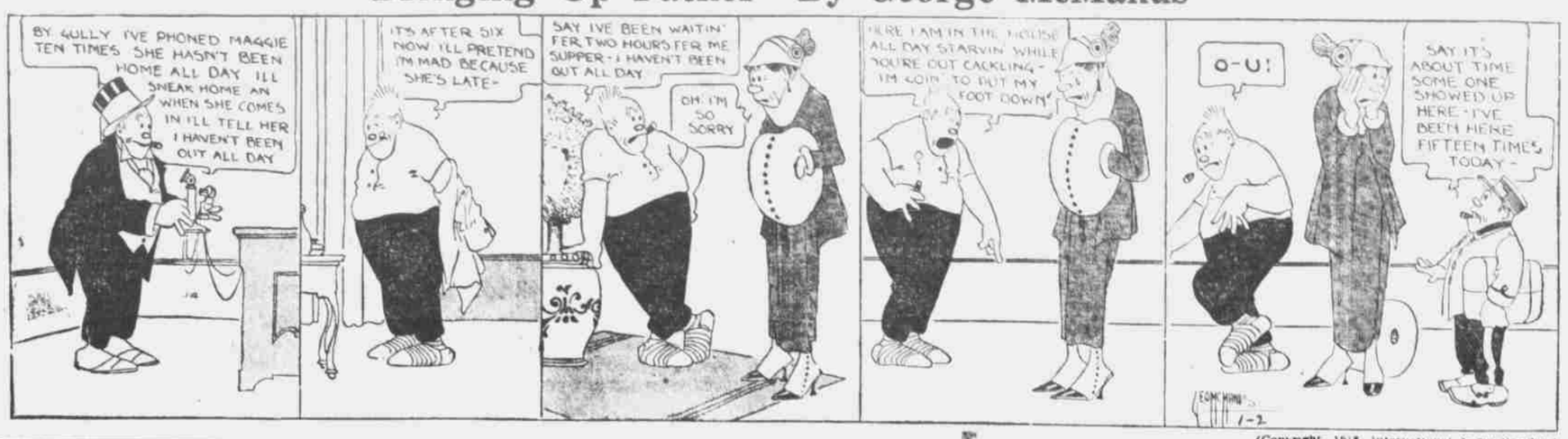
Bringing Up Father—By George McManus



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SPORT CARNIVAL AT "Y" NEW YEAR'S

Excellent Program Put on and Good Crowds Attend.

A big New Year sporting program featured the first day of 1919 at the Y. M. C. A.

In a hot basketball game the Y. W. C. A. defeated Central High by the score of 11 to 16. The score at the end of the first half was 10 to 4 for Central, but the "Y" girls came back strong and put over seven points necessary to win. The lineup:

Central High.	Position.	Y. W. C. A.
Lottie Barnett	Forward	E. Edmiston
Rylma Feilt	Forward	Mary M'Callum
Romona Jamison	Jumping center	Rab McCallum
Ruth Davis (c)	Side center	D. Gallor
Karolyn Leigh	Guard	H. Holsey
Verdi Dardell	Guard	Mary Davis (c)

George Lemmon shaded Bob Love in a fast three-round boxing match. Salo, a Finn, who wrestles under the name of Young Zbyszko, had no opponents, but he exhibited several wrestling holds.

The two Y. M. C. A. basketball teams clashed, the first team winning by the score of 25 to 10. The Y. M. C. A. high school class romped on Cordova high school by the count of 33 to 2. The lineup:

Cordova.	Position.	Y. M. C. A.
Allen	Forward	Schrock
Parrott	Forward	Barnes
Field	Center	Ward
Huston	Guard	Geiselman
Carter	Guard	Fisher

FOSTER S. C. COACH.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 2.—Dixon Foster, now serving as a seaman in the navy, was signed yesterday for three years as coach of the football, baseball and basketball teams at the University of South Carolina. Foster coached the freshmen team at Carolina in 1916 and was head coach in all major sports 1917 and through the spring of 1918, when he enlisted in the navy.

HEYDLER OFF ON LEAGUE BUSINESS

Says There Will Be No Election of Chairman.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—John A. Heydler, president of the National league, left yesterday for Chicago, where he will hold a conference with leading stockholders of the Chicago National league club today.

Heydler then will attend the joint schedule committee meeting of National and American leagues at French Lick Springs, Ind., on Jan. 3, 4 and 5. On Jan. 6 Heydler will represent the National league at the annual meeting of the national commission in Cincinnati. He will then visit St. Louis to talk over internal affairs with the officers of the club before returning to New York for the joint conference of the two major leagues on Jan. 16.

Heydler said in view of the attitude of the National league in favor of a "one-man" national commission, there is to be no re-election of a chairman of the national commission at the Cincinnati meeting.

BENNY LEONARD WINS.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Benny Leonard, the lightweight champion, defeated Paul Doyle, New York, in a slow six-round bout here yesterday. Jeff Smith, boxing instructor at Camp Dix, knocked out Billy Kramer, Milwaukee, in the third round.

Other bouts at the New Year's boxing matinees resulted:

Jimmy McHale, Philadelphia, defeated Paul Sampson, Brooklyn; Bartley Madden, New York, beat Larry Williams, Philadelphia; Ralph Brady, Syracuse, N. Y., had the better of the bout with Denny Whalen, Philadelphia.

The bout between Jack Thompson, Missouri, and Jeff Clark, Atlantic City, was stopped in the sixth round because Clark would not make a fight.

Mike Finn Will Lose Out As Manager of Lookouts

Sam Strang, Who Has Taken Over Chattanooga Team, Will Be Whole Works.

By Bob Pigue.

And so it is written as the good year 1919 is ushered in that Sir Miguel Finn, dean of Southern league managers, is again in the ranks of the unemployed.

Mike has been earning his livelihood as manager of the Chattanooga Lookouts, and Mike is a good manager in all that the term implies, but Mike's good managing failed to yield returns at the gate, and as the club has changed hands, Mike loses out in the transaction.

Sammy Strang is taking charge of the Lookout club. Strang is a veteran ball player and lays claim to knowing a little about the grand old pastime himself. Naturally he will want to manage the club. And then he will want to cut down expenses as much as possible, which will be the main reason why Sir Miguel Finn will be given the pink slip. While Mike is what is called a cheap man—requiring an unusually small salary for his worth to a team—he will not be required by the Chattanoogans, as Strang will be the entire club head, lock, stock and barrel, a sort of Charley Frank, who presidents, secretaries and manages the Atlanta Crackers.

Mike Has Had Many Jobs.

Finn has had more managerial jobs in the Southern than anybody who ever had any connection with the league. Mike has managed practically every team the Dixie major ever had. Memphis included, and while he is all there when it comes to managing a ball club, somehow something always happens which results in Mike getting the gate. Just about the time Finn gets lined up and begins to feel comfortable, along comes something to dislodge him from his siesta and to start him looking for another job.

Mike is on the schedule committee of the Southern league along with Chris Haury, of Nashville, and Charley Colsson, of Mobile, and regardless of the small skimption of his being let out as Chattanooga manager, Mike will work with his two associates in providing the very necessary calendar of games. Mike is a schedule maker second to none in this or any other league, for he knows the territory of the Sunland major better than anybody else, he being familiar with every square mile included in the Southern. He is entirely familiar with the mileage and expenses, the jumps, etc., of the Southern, and when it comes to making a schedule, the palm has to be awarded to Finn.

Mike was in charge or the Chattanooga Lookouts last season, and he had the club up in the race all the way until the selective draft and enlistment of his players soon had his club groggy. Mike knows baseball and while he is a little slow in injecting baseball knowledge into his players, he manages to get results when he is afforded any kind of talent. Mike is popular among Southern league players and magnates and fans, and they all hope that some place will be found for "By T'under," as it would be a distinct loss to the league if Finn is lost.

Is an A-1 Scout.

When Mike last lost out he landed a job as scout for the Detroit Tigers, for Finn is no mean judge of baseball flesh. He knows a comer when he sees one, and he can pick out a lemon on his first appearance. He knows a flash from a real ball player, and during his scouting days he was one of the best in the business, having sent many good men to the big show. Mike has had two or three offers from major league clubs to scout for them since he has been back in the Southern this time, but his love for the Sunland major is so great that he is anxious to remain here as long as possible, only leaving when there is no room for him in the circuit he loves so well.

MIKE FINN.

Finn is a great Irishman, popular with everybody, and one of the real princes of the Southern league.

DOWNEY AND LEWIS STALL

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 2.—Bryan Downey, Columbus, welterweight, and Ted Lewis, New York, went 15 rounds even in a rather uninteresting bout here yesterday afternoon. Both men left the ring as good as they entered it. Apparently at no phase of the game did either boxer have an advantage.

WILL LANE TURN FOR CONNIE MACK?

Tall Tutor Believes Team Will Be in Hunt Next Year.

Connie Mack, the shrewd leader of the Athletics is chuckling over his chances of developing a real baseball team next year, as he looks over the prospective field of players who will return to the team, writes Francis Richter in the Philadelphia Press.

Looking them over, as he did, Connie had a smile and admitted that things didn't look so worse at that. With so many of his young stars returning from the service of Uncle Sam, the tail leader can now start to build in earnest and will not have the draft calling away his players. He will be able to rest content when he retires at nights next summer and don't have to be afraid of what the next morning will do in the way of breaking up some department of the team.

The pitching staff will look good, there is no doubt about that. With Perry coming back to resume his wonderful work where he left off last year, Connie will have almost as good a nucleus as if he had an Alexander, and with a stronger supporting cast things will be a whole lot different.

Perry will have some pals to take up the burden of the heaving peak whenever he wants to take a day off, for Selbold, Geary and Noyes, three youngsters who looked as though they had easily won permanent jobs, will return from the service, while Mayes, Jing Johnson and Naylor, who also showed, will rejoin the club.

Connie admitted that he was surprised at he report of Tilly Walker's retirement and seemed greatly disappointed, for Walker's slugging would have been a big help to the team, but he still has a fast trio of regulars in Jamieson, Acosta and Kopp, while the return of Dugan, Dykes and Burns from the army and navy, and Larry Gardner from Y. M. C. A. service, will remake the infield. Taken all in all, Connie seems to have good reason to smile.

Tom Cowler was stopped the last five men he has met. Now he wants a crack at Jack Dempsey. Evidently Tom feels the need of a short nap.

GERMANY'S ACTION ON DOBRUDJA TO BLAME FOR BREAK

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Jan. 2. (Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—One of the principal causes which contributed toward the rupture of Bulgaria with Germany, was the treatment by the latter of the Dobrudja question, which robbed Bulgaria of the prestige of attaining her national aspirations and the tendency of Germany to favor Turkey's claim in the restitution of the strip of territory in Thrace, which the Turks under German pressure, had ceded to Bulgaria in September, 1915, as the price of Bulgaria's cooperation in the war.

When German diplomacy, early in September of this year, realized that Bulgaria was bent on withdrawing from the war, a serious attempt was made to conciliate the Bulgarian government by abandonment of the condominium established in the Northern Dobrudja and a protocol to this effect was signed in Berlin between the central allies. It was then hoped that this concession would induce Bulgaria to continue the war but it proved to be without success.

The feeling produced both in Berlin and Vienna by this development can be readily imagined. The former Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Baron Burian, in a conversation with M. Fochett, the Bulgarian minister in Vienna, was moved to wrathful indignation and described M. Malinoff, the Bulgarian premier, as a traitor.

There is much irritation in Bulgaria over the Dobrudja question. The Bulgarian government, which, in its several conversations with the German Austrian ministers at Sofia declared itself content to reserve the question of the Dobrudja settlement by the peace congress, maintains the same attitude today. The government hopes that the fact that Bulgaria was the first state to withdraw from the war, and thus hasten the conclusion of a general peace, will not be overlooked.

The scarcity of foodstuffs in Bulgaria constitutes a serious problem for the government, and if supplies are not soon forthcoming, there is a great danger of a famine. One cause of this dearth of supplies was the wholesale and systematic draining of the country's resources by the Germans, who, instead of reinforcing the Macedonian front, garrisoned the interior of Bulgaria with the sole object of collecting the produce of the country for dispatch to Germany. When the present government put an end to this exportation, the Germans resorted to the ruse of posting parcels through their own field post, and thus practically every German soldier became an exporter. The Bulgarian government was powerless to prevent the practice.

1919

By Lieut. Grantland Rice, Third Army, A. E. F.

No flash from the resting guns,
No rifle lights the plain;
No clotted crimson river runs
From Flanders to Lorraine;
The white year dawns above the hosts
Beyond the last red flare,
Save for ten million drifting ghosts,
Who neither know nor care.

How quiet now the lost trench seems,
How still across the fold,
Where lately through our broken dreams
The mighty thunder rolled;
Where through our restless, shaken sleep
We heard the big shells sing,
Or saw at dawn the long blue lap
To take its final fling.

Can it be that at last the red
Has brought its final lash?
Where no more out the bloody sod
A bayonet shall flash?
Or can some white dawn know at last
The final charge is through,
With flames of war forever past
Where life and love are due?

Can it be down the world we may
Wake up at last to know
The soft, white dawn of some lost day
We dreamed of long ago?
Where with the ghostly shadows blown
Beyond the last grim fight,
Soft arms once more shall hold their own
Across the silent night?

Today no storming vanguard leaps
To leave its share of slain,
At dawn no rolling thunder sweeps
From Flanders to Lorraine;
The white year breaks against the sky
Beyond the last red flare,
Save where ten million ghosts drift by
Who neither know nor care.

25 Skeletons, Bag, Tobacco, Pails, In Arizona Mystery

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 2.—Only 20 miles from Phoenix an Arizona man, Joseph Yberri, in exploring three caves on the edge of a gulch, came upon the traces of an old conflict, whose cause and date are still a mystery to the community.

Observing that one of the caves was protected by a breastwork of stone and timber, he entered and discovered among scattered saddles, spurs and cartridge shells, eight skeletons.

Seventeen more were found in the other caves, but there was no clew to show how these men had perished. A sack of tobacco was there, and empty flour bags, coffee cups and pails which bore labels indicating that they were in the market no longer ago than 1903. A Mexican herb, such as the Papago Indians carry, was found.

TELLS HORRORS OF FLIGHT FROM TURK BUTCHERS

Syrian Merchant Flees Tabriz, Leaving $100,000 Worth of Rugs and Makes Perilous Trip to San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 2.—Leaving behind in Tabriz, Persia, $100,000 worth of Persian rugs, fleeing with his wife and five children from Tiflis to Russian Caucasus to Baku, with Turkish mobs stopping the train and seeking Armenians and Syrians that they might torture and destroy them, Abia-Eat O. Samuel, a Christian Syrian merchant, reached San Francisco with his family, having crossed Siberia.

For 22 hours his wife and children were too frightened to eat. Thirty times the train was stopped and howling mobs of from 300 to 500 frenzied Turks surrounded the train demanding their victims.

Hundreds of Armenians were massacred in this section. That Samuel and his family arrived safely at Baku was due to the efforts of the American consul, who placed them on a Mohammed compulsion train.

Hiding from the mobs in one corner of the car, not daring even to lift their heads, with the train attendants assuring the infuriated people that no Armenians or Syrians were aboard, after 22 hours they reached the great oil center, where they took passage on a steamer for a Russian port on the Caspian sea, from whence they made their way to the trans-Siberian railway.

After a trip in which they were on the train for more than 20 days they reached Vladivostok.

Eyes Gouged Out.

On the day before he left Tiflis, Samuel states, seven Armenians who were attempting to reach Baku over the railroad had their eyes gouged out, their arms cut off, and their bodies were thrown into a trench by the side of the railroad tracks.

All the way along the route between Tiflis and Baku bodies of slain Armenians and Syrians were seen. These people had been killed by the Turks on the trains and their bodies thrown off as the cars sped along.

"It took 19 days to go a distance of 650 miles by train from Erivan to Tiflis," said Samuel. "It was a journey fraught with danger. For long stretches the opposing troops, the Russians and Turks, had their trenches on either side of the railroad track and the railroad ran between the fighting forces. It was a railroad in 'No Man's land.'

"I left my stock of rugs with the American consul in Tiflis, but I do not know if they are still there. Tiflis has been sacked, the people have been murdered. I was a merchant in Urumiah, where I was born. My city has been completely wiped out, the inhabitants massacred.

"One day while I was there a great airplane came over the city. For a time the people feared that it was sent by the enemy to destroy their city. Then, through a telescope it was seen that the British flag was flying from it and the people took courage. When it landed it carried ammunition and the pilot brought word that a great army of Turks was marching on the city. That was on July 8.

People Flee Before Turks.

"The people, unable to cope with this great force, fled and eventually the Turks arrived in the Urumiah district and destroyed 260 villages and killed more than 200,000 of my people. My country is devastated, the people have been ruined, and there is great suffering among those that are left.

"The cruelties which I have seen with my own eyes are too terrible to relate. Men and women killed after being tortured, 10,000 slaughtered in the Mount Ararat section, and everywhere the people in fear and poverty. I was indeed fortunate to get away with my wife and children.

"It was through the influence of the American consul, Gordon Paddock, that we were placed on the train and given protection. Otherwise we would have all been killed.

"I know of the terrible suffering of the Armenian and Syrian people. I know that the people of this country will send them food and relief. I am sure of it. The heart of the American people is large. There are hundreds of thousands over there in Persia, Mesopotamia, Palestine and other sections that are starving. They must have help. Everything they had is gone, family, homes, farms. They are industrious, law-abiding people. They have my pity."

YANKS AMPLY FIXED WITH BOOKS IN RUSSIA

LONDON, Jan. 2.—There will be plenty of reading matter for the American soldiers isolated in Northern Russia this winter, frozen in for seven months as far as winter transportation is concerned. The American Young Men's Christian association has dispatched 9,336 general books, 1,200 reference books, 10,445 text books, 19,782 magazines and newspapers, 800 Testaments, 250 Bibles, 11,500 pictures, and numerous other adjuncts called for.

THE SPORTING SPOTLIGHT BY Bob Pigue

The Southern league's radical reforms are being watched by other minor circuits all over the country, and if they pan out, it is a cinch that the season of 1920 will see the whole minor fraternity following the lead set by the Dixie major.

The plan of having seven ball players on each club beneath the class of the league, is especially of interest to the other minors, who have been having a hard time handling the problem of taking care of the young ball player.

And then the matter of shifting players after they have been on a team three years, one of the most radical reforms the Southern has ever adopted, is especially of interest to the other minors. It is certain that if these reforms work out all right for the Southern, the whole minor league caboodle will turn around and follow in the footsteps of the Dixie major.

* * *

Jack Dempsey lands knockouts on everybody but John the Barber. The tonsorial artist breaks all records for persistency, saying nothing of his nerve in fooling around a buzz saw, like Dempsey.

* * *

WHAT PAL WANTS.

"All I want of Pete Herman is that he make 118 pounds ringside, and I'm ready for him."

Thus spake Pal Moore, the bantam king, of his foremost rival, Pete Herman, who is sporting the bantamweight crown, which Pal figures belongs to him.

Pal will meet Pete anywhere, and says he would prefer Baltimore or some Eastern city, as New Orleans is Herman's home, and Pal would be likely to have a hard time getting all that was coming to him. But if Pete will agree to fight nowhere except in New Orleans, Pal says he'll fight him there, and the quickest way of arranging the mill is too slow.

"I'll fight him all the way from one round to a hundred," says Pal.

* * *

Speaking of Pal, Jack Dempsey, the heavyweight terror, tells this one on the Memphis bantam:

Jack says one night Pal went on the warpath and hiked into Nate Lewis' pool emporium.

Dashing up to Nate, Pal gave vent to his feelings in this wise: "Trot out that Joe Burman guy and have your Charley White in reserve. I'm going to clean out this joint."

Tommy Walsh had to exhaust his supply of honeyed phrases to change Pal's plans for attack.

* * *

Why not offer Mike Finn the job as city manager, now that he will not be with the Lookouts next season?

* * *

Jimmy Archer, one of the greatest catchers baseball ever knew, says he is through, which marks the passing of one of the strongest pillars in the entire baseball structure. Archer was a credit to baseball and retires with the honor and respect of everybody connected with the national game.

"By, Jim, take keer yo'se'f.

* * *

WELL, LISTEN TO THIS.

Jess Willard is awake, boys. The big camoufleur actually says he wants to meet Jack Dempsey, and when Walter Monahan said he wanted to meet Dempsey first, Jess told Walt to save Jack for him, and to not let any second rater brush Jack off.

Hold down while we spill Jess' line of talk, which came directly through his hat:

"Save him for me. Men like Dempsey were especially made for me. If the public wants the bout, some promoter will quickly get the inspiration and we can soon talk business. The Fulton 23-seconds victory was more or less of a fluke. It is not likely Dempsey could repeat if given 18 rounds. So tell the people north to save Dempsey for me. Don't let some second rater brush him off."

* * *

This all listens good, but the nigger in the woodpile is that Jess has ignored challenge after challenge from Dempsey and while Dempsey has been saved for Jess he has had no chance to meet the champion.

Willard has been waiting for somebody to stop Dempsey so he can say Jack is not worthy to meet him, but Dempsey has shown his class and Willard will have to meet him soon or forfeit the title, which he should have done long ago.

* * *

HOW GOOD IS JACK?

Jack Dempsey believes he is one of the greatest heavyweights of all time. By way of discovering if there is anyone in the whole of these United States who can lick him, Dempsey plans to make a tour like John L. Sullivan and meet all comers, challenging everybody in every town and guaranteeing to stop them.

All home-town products who have their lives insured and are ready to take a kick on the jaw will be accommodated.

Jack believes he is good enough to meet and defeat all comers and takes this means of convincing those few who remain who are of the opinion that he isn't the champion of the universe.

* * *

Willie Meehan, who won a decision over Dempsey some time ago in a four-round go, was a flash in the well-known pan, for Willie met Fred Fulton a little later and the plasterer, who was knocked out by Dempsey in 23 seconds, whaled Meehan all over the ring.

So that fly in Dempsey's ointment has been removed.

* * *

MANAGERS EXEMPT.

Managers in the Southern are exempt from the rule of a player who has been on a club for three successive years being released.

All of the old boys who have had their jobs for years are glad that this provision was made, for they will not be obliged to get out and dig up another soft berth like the ones they now enjoy.

DEALS MAKE YANKEES' PITCHING STAFF FORMIDABLE ONE IN A. L.

Above, left to right: Dutch Leonard, George Mogridge, Pete Schneider and Bob Shawkey. Below: Thormahlen, at left, and Ernie Shore.

The Yankees now loom up as a team to be feared in the 1919 American league race. That's the way it looks now to Gotham fans.

Recent deals have given the team a formidable appearing pitching staff. Look it over. Dutch Leonard, Shore, Shawkey, Thormahlen, Mogridge and Schneider head the list. Shore and Leonard were obtained, with Duffy Lewis, in the deal with the Red Sox. Pete Schneider was obtained from the Cincinnati Reds.

Frank Baker now says he'll retire. But Frank has made that assertion before. If he changes his mind and comes back Miller Huggins will have for his infield, Pipp, Pratt, Baker, Peckinbaugh and Ward. The outfield will include Lewis, Bodie, Lamar, Vick and Camp. Ruel and Hannah are booked to do the catching.

Of course future trades may alter the roster.

Sport Shrapnel

An odd bit of war sport news has come from France. Jean Vermeulen, French long-distance runner, gave his services to his country in the war. His arm was paralyzed by a bullet and it was believed the injury would end his career as a runner. But he recovered entirely and has been establishing new French records for 2,500 and 3,000 meters.

* * *

Jim Corbett has fallen for the shekels of the movies. The one-time heavyweight champion will forsake the stage to appear in a photo-play under the direction of the Universal. For the last six months Corbett has been appearing in a winter garden musical comedy, which he will desert after Jan. 1. He will work in California.

* * *

Scout Bob Connery is responsible for landing two navy prospects for the Yankees. They are Johnny Jones, a shortstop, and George Halas, an outfielder, and they played ball at the Great Lakes naval training station. Jones was looked over by Miller Huggins when he was manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, but was only a kid then. He is said to have ripened since and to be a real prospect now.

* * *

"If the national commission removes the draft from class AA leagues the action will, to all intents and purposes, make them major leagues," says a Buffalo writer. Here we have again the proposition of making a league a "major" by edict, just as the old Federal proclaimed itself to be. Think of it, a "major" league with clubs in Binghamton or Syracuse or Toledo! Or maybe Omaha or St. Joe!

* * *

President Navin, of the Detroit club advances a reason for the failure of the minor leagues to prosper. Prior to the launching of the defunct Federal league Mr. Navin says that the minors received an average of $250,000 a year from the majors for playing talent. The war with the Feds resulted in a gradual retrenchment, from which the majors had not recovered when the great world conflict began to be felt in this country. In view of the majors' agreement to pay more than $500,000 for the elimination of the Feds, the minors have found it hard to exist with their chief source of revenue reduced to a minimum.

* * *

Ensign Ernest Shore, U. S. N., former star pitcher of the Boston Red Sox and recently traded to the New York Yankees, has this to say:

"I am a free agent, according to the laws of baseball. I am willing to play with New York, but the terms will have to be fixed with me. I left the Red Sox in 1917 to join the navy. To be reserved in 1918 I should have received a contract before the end of March that year. I received no contract, nor have I heard anything at all from the club. I naturally consider myself a free agent."

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