

JOHNSON SIGNS WITH NATIONALS FOR 3 SEASONS

Pitcher Jumps Back to Organized Ball After Flop to Federals.

OUTLAWS WILL FIGHT

Meets Griffith in Kansas City and Accepts \$12,000 a Year Contract.

MAY GET BONUS ON THE SIDE

Pitcher Issues Statement, Declaring He's Sorry He Signed with Tinker. Griff to Confer with Comiskey.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 19.—After signing Walter Johnson to a three-year contract tonight, Manager Clark Griffith left for Chicago, where he will arrive at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning, and will hold a conference with Charley Comiskey, of the White Sox, the nature of which he refused to divulge.

Before leaving Griffith made a statement regarding the signing of Johnson.

Option Binding Says Griffith.

"I consider Walter too good a boy to go into a league that is not substantial," he said. "I showed him that our option on his services is binding, and he readily agreed to sign. He gets the same salary he got before, and is perfectly willing to return to us."

"The Federal League will not last, and I think after our conference he is satisfied of that fact."

"Johnson knew that we would break his contract with the Federal League, and that if he jumped to that organization he ran the risk of never playing with organized baseball again. Organized baseball will not tolerate contract jumpers."

"The Federal League got him to go into their league just as they induced Killifer to jump, but he sees, as Killifer did, the error of the move. Johnson is satisfied with his new contract, and will be with the Washington club."

Federals Will Fight.

"I have no doubt that the Federals will try to fight this thing out in the courts, but we are prepared to meet them in the legal battle for the services of the greatest pitcher in baseball. We have a right to his services, and it will be proven."

"We have agreed to pay Johnson his salary, and he will not lose a cent even if he is prevented from playing by any court procedure."

May Not Lose Anything.

Although Griffith says that Johnson is to get but \$12,000 a year, it is reported that the pitcher told a friend here that he will not lose a cent by returning to the Washington club, which would tend to indicate there might be a side agreement for a little more money.

When Griffith and two lawyers came here today, they sent Mrs. Johnson on a shopping tour and held an all-day conference with Walter. Mrs. Johnson called her husband over the phone several times but was not allowed to talk to him until the contract was signed and Walter was again a member of the Nationals.

Optional Agreement Binding.

"I am perfectly satisfied with my contract," said Johnson. "I am satisfied that I was held by an optional agreement, and that my contract with the Federals might have been broken. In that event I might have been kept out of the game for a time."

"After a conference with Manager Griffith and legal authorities, I am convinced that the option in my contract with the Washington club was binding and I am going to remain with the Washington club and fulfill my agreement and at the terms offered by the club."

Will Retain \$6,000 to Tinker.

"Joe" Tinker, manager of the Chicago Federals, met Johnson three weeks ago, in Coffeyville, Kan., and signed him for two years, his contract calling for \$17,500 a season.

Tinker also gave the pitcher \$6,000 advance money, which the Kansas will return to the Chicago club.

ITALY TO RAISE FUND FOR WAR PREPARATION

King Authorizes National Loan of \$200,000,000—"War Party" Gains Long-fought Point.

Rome, Dec. 19.—King Victor Emmanuel today issued a decree authorizing a national loan of 1,000,000,000 francs (approximately \$200,000,000).

Promulgation of this decree marks the culmination of the fight for funds to carry out the program of military preparation for which the "war party" of Italy has been striving and which resulted recently in the disruption of the cabinet and its subsequent reorganization with a personnel which eliminated the opponents of further expenditures for military purposes. It means that with the floating of the loan Italy will be confronted by no financial obstacle if it seeks to enter the war.

Barron Holmes Travelogue, Allied Powers, Tonight, 8:30 Columbia. 25c to 45c. Adv.

TO DODGE TAX, JOHN D. REPUDIATES CLEVELAND

Asks Court to Prevent County from Collecting Levy on \$311,040.337.

Claims Gotham as Home.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 19.—John D. Rockefeller today denied Cleveland as his home in a petition filed in the United States District Court asking an injunction against County Treasurer O'Brien to restrain him from collecting taxes on \$311,040.337. Rockefeller declares he is a resident of New York State; that he maintains a permanent residence there and "performs all the functions of a citizen of that State."

He specifically says that he votes in New York. Rockefeller says he ceased to be a resident of Ohio and of Cleveland in 1885. Up to April of that year, the oil king says, he maintained a permanent home at Erie and Case avenues (now East Forty-third street).

In that year, he says, he moved to New York, and since has made New York his legal home.

Rockefeller describes his Forest Hill estate as a "place where he maintains a summer home and which he occasionally visits."

'UNWRITTEN LAW' WINS FOR CLEARY

Jury Clears Him of Murder of Son-in-law After Six Hours.

PRISONER NEAR COLLAPSE

Girl's Sacrifice Saves Father and Decision Establishes Right of Man to Kill for Daughter's Honor.

New City, Dec. 19.—William V. Cleary was found not guilty of the murder of Eugene Newman, his son-in-law, by a jury in Justice Morschauser's court tonight.

The verdict was a clean cut triumph for the "unwritten law." It justified Anna Cleary Newman's sacrifice of her own honor and the memory of her husband, it established, in this country, at least, the right of a father to kill in defense of his daughter's honor.

It took just six hours, almost to the minute, for the twelve men to decide in favor of Cleary. Departing from the courtroom with the judge's injunction that they must not be swayed by sentiment ringing in their ears, the Jurymen began their balloting at a few minutes after 3 o'clock. They filed back into court at six minutes past 9.

There had not been a moment of the intervening time when the Jurymen had been able to free their minds from two pictures presented before them in court last night. One was the view of a little girl, slender and shrinking and hardly out of short dresses, baring on the witness stand the story of her shame.

The other was the spectacle of her father, a giant of a man, sitting in the same chair and gulping down his sobs as he told of the violation of his home by "the only sorrow that is worse than death." And of the total wreck of his mentality, following the disclosure of his daughter's betrayal and culminating in the killing of her betrayer.

Wife Near Collapse.

They accepted as gospel truth, apparently, Cleary's earnest declaration that when he shot Eugene Newman he did not know the boy had made what amends he could by marrying Anna. They believed him when he said that the new-born to him by Dr. Schultz had brought the world crashing about his ears, until all was chaos in his mind. And they agreed with the contention of the defense that, with the death of Anna Cleary's conductor the fog had cleared from her father's brain, leaving him shaken with remorse, perhaps, but again as sane as ever.

Justice Morschauser took his place on the bench, and Cleary was sent for, after the jury had announced that it wished to report. The defendant came in through the little door at the back of the court, accompanied by his wife, and brother, Ambrose Cleary.

Mrs. Cleary's eyes were red with weeping and she shook as if with ague. Cleary also was trembling visibly.

Ambrose Cleary patted Mrs. Cleary on the shoulder, but she began to weep and he led her from the room. As the door swung behind her she uttered a wailing cry, and had to be assisted to the sheriff's room downstairs.

The jury filed in. Their faces were devoid of expression, and as he faced them, practically alone, Cleary turned pale.

"Gentlemen, have you agreed upon your verdict?" asked the white-haired old clerk.

"We have," answered several in unison.

"Who speaks for you?"

"I do," answered Frank Heddy, juror No. 1.

"What is your verdict?"

"Not guilty."

Cleary almost lost his footing. He staggered as if from a blow. But he rallied immediately, and after shaking hands limply with his lawyers, walked unsteadily over to the jury box and wrung each man's hand.

"Thank you, gentlemen," he said. "We will all go away in a day or two," said Cleary. "Probably to the tropics for a few months. Then I shall take up my life again. I am still town clerk of Haverstraw, you know."

SUBCOMMITTEE VOTES TO REJECT SIDMONS' NAME

Will Report Findings Monday Against Candidate for Local Bench.

MAY BE OVERRULED

Letter Offering to Secure Pardon for Convict Years Ago Is Cause.

WHITE HOUSE BEHIND HIM

Ralston, Who Was Siddons' Law Partner, Says Missive to Prisoner Was Written by Himself.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

An unfavorable report on the nomination of District Commissioner Frederick L. Siddons to be associate Justice of the District Supreme Court was recommended by a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday.

The report and recommendation will be made to the full committee Monday, and will be signed by at least three members of the subcommittee, comprising Senators Culbertson, chairman, and Nelson and Walsh, Democrats, and Nelson and Clarke, of Wyoming, Republicans.

Action came at the conclusion of an investigation lasting over three days, and final decision left at least one member of the subcommittee ruffled and sore when he emerged from the committee room.

Strictest secrecy was enjoined upon all, pending the report Monday, but the news leaked out late last night.

It is probable that a determined effort will be made at Monday's meeting of the full committee to override the report of the subcommittee.

Result of Letter Written.

The action of the subcommittee was the result of a communication signed by the firm of Ralston & Siddons, of which the nominee was a member, and addressed about ten years ago to an inmate of a Federal penitentiary, offering to procure the address a pardon for \$2,500.

This communication reached the hands of the Department of Justice during the tenure of Attorney General McReynolds. Because of this letter, Mr. McReynolds refused to endorse Commissioner Siddons' candidacy for the local bench, and Judge McCoy was given the first appointment available.

When McCoy was appointed, however, the White House let it be known that Mr. Siddons would be offered the next seat, which was vacated through the resignation of Justice Wright. In the meantime, Attorney General McReynolds had been succeeded by Attorney General Gregory, and the latter, at the suggestion of the President, indorsed Mr. Siddons.

Siddons Held Blameless.

Jackson S. Ralston, who was senior member of the firm when Mr. Siddons was a member, told Attorney General McReynolds and his successor that Mr. Siddons knew nothing of the sending of the letter or the proposal contained therein; that he (Mr. Ralston) had conceived the idea and written the letter on his own initiative, and that Mr. Siddons could in no way be held responsible for it.

Department of Justice officials feel very strongly against the retaining of attorneys in pardon cases, and still more strongly against the soliciting of pardon cases by attorneys, particularly when remuneration for service is contingent upon the success of the plea for pardon.

Was No Organized Effort.

The subcommittee showed marked interest in the papers touching this part of the case. First copies of the Ralston & Siddons letters were obtained from the Department of Justice and later the original was sent for.

A member of the committee said yesterday that there had been no organized effort either to defeat the Siddons nomination or to support it. Whatever the committee did, he said, was upon its own initiative, and the result of its own investigations. It was denied emphatically that the recommendation for the rejection of the nomination had anything to do with the difficulty over New York and Missouri patronage between the Senate and the President.

Mr. Siddons' friends last night were greatly incensed over the reported action of the subcommittee.

FRANK DENIED HABEAS CORPUS

Case Again Goes to U. S. Supreme Court on Appeal.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 19.—Judge Newman today denied the petition of attorneys for Leo M. Frank, convicted murderer of Mary Phagan, for a writ of habeas corpus.

Frank's attorneys immediately presented a written petition for permission to appeal from the decision to the Supreme Court of the United States, which was signed by Judge Newman. This again throws the case into the highest court of the land.

Low Holiday Fares to all Points South.

Tickets now on sale. Six through trains daily. Southern Railway. Ticket offices, 742 14th St., 305 P St., N. W., Phone M. 1212.—Adv.

UTAH MAN PAYS PAGE'S WAY THROUGH COLLEGE

C. S. Barley, of Senate Staff, "Makes Hit" with L. L. Nunn While Latter Watches Body in Action.

Expenses of a four-year course at Cornell University for Clyde S. Barley, a page in the Senate, are to be paid by L. L. Nunn, of the Telluride Tax Company, Utah, because Barley made a "hit" with Nunn while he was watching the work in the Senate yesterday.

Nunn has a "big bank roll," according to his friends, and has built dormitories and other things at Cornell, where he was graduated. A visitor here, Nunn whiffed away time yesterday waiting for action on the water-power bill by watching proceedings in the Senate.

Nunn was attracted by the way Barley attended to his duties, and finally inquired about the lad. He learned that Barley is fourteen years old, a native of Somerset County, Pa., has been a page two years and lives with his mother at 209 B street.

Nunn will present Barley tomorrow morning with a check for an amount large enough to pay all of his expenses through Cornell.

COMMERCIAL FIRE TO END CAREER

Insurance Company, After Long Fight, Decides to Liquidate.

TUTTLE EXPLAINS ACTION

Cost Companies Large Sums and Caused Cancellation of Millions in Insurance.

After a spectacular fight for existence as a national corporation, the Commercial Fire Insurance Company, of this city, has decided to give up the ghost. Officers and directors have decided to petition the District Supreme Court tomorrow for its liquidation, according to a statement last night by President Tuttle.

"An almost continual fight against the Commercial Fire Insurance Company has resulted in so much publicity that it has been almost impossible for the company to obtain the class of business for which it was striving," Mr. Tuttle says in his statement, which reads, in part, as follows:

Quit Storm Center.

"By the aid of its half interest in the Southern Building for \$15,000, the Commercial Fire Insurance Company's capital became impaired, and the officers and directors of the company have decided to petition the court for its voluntary liquidation. The president and the board have signified their desire that the company name as receivers William Frank Thyson, secretary of the company, and James S. Easty-Smith. The Commercial obtained \$16,000 more for its interest in the Southern Building than it had paid, but the price is \$6,000 less than the insurance department of the District of Columbia appraised its share of the property at. The sale was made because of the heavy obligations on the building which will soon mature. President Tuttle, of the Commercial, was authorized to negotiate for the reinsurance of the company's liability, and the Nord Deutsche Insurance Company, of Hamburg, Germany, has assumed its liability as of December 11. The capital stock of the company has a book value of about 30 per cent of its par value."

The storm which brought about the decision to liquidate the company, centered around an investigation of the Commercial and First National companies in December, 1912, and January, 1913. The investigation started over the valuation placed on the Southern Building in the financial statement of the two companies, which had purchased the building jointly. The investigation developed a system of financing and stock selling which came in for the severest censure by the majority report of the investigating committee. Of this investigation Mr. Tuttle says in his statement:

Cost Millions Loss.

"The Congressional investigations cost the companies large sums of money, and the publicity caused the cancellation of millions of dollars of insurance held by the companies." Continuing, the statement says:

"June last there was a sharp fight for control of the First National Fire Insurance Company between Robert J. Wynne, its president, and Robert J. Tuttle, its vice president, the result of which was a victory for Mr. Wynne. In July a fight was made for the control of the Commercial Fire Insurance Company, the result of which was a victory for Mr. Tuttle. This was followed by applications for a receiver of the company on the part of a few of the minority stockholders; these applications were dismissed. An almost continual fight against the Commercial Fire Insurance Company has resulted in so much publicity that it has been almost impossible for the company to obtain the class of business for which it was striving, and the president and board of directors have decided that it will be for the best interests of all concerned to have the company's affairs liquidated in a speedy and economical manner."

ALLIES DIG GERMAN OUT OF TRENCHES IN BELGIUM; DRIVE ON WARSAW HALTED

AUSTRIANS SWEEP CZAR'S HOSTS OUT OF WEST GALICIA

Russians Completely Routed at Limanowa, Vienna Dispatch States.

26,000 PRISONERS TAKEN

Retreating Muscovites Are Pursued Closely by Austro-German Forces.

LINES HOLD IN THE WEST

Next Important Announcement Expected from the Vicinity of Neuport.

Berlin, Dec. 19 (By wireless).—A Vienna dispatch states that on the battlefield of Limanowa the Russians were completely routed. Western Galicia now is clear of hostile forces.

The Austro-Hungarians took 26,000 prisoners and a large quantity of war material.

The Russian losses were enormous. The pursuit is being followed up.

The following announcement was made by the official press bureau today:

"On the west front yesterday the enemy made a series of attacks near Neuport, Bixschote and north of La Sasse. The fighting continues."

"The conservative character of official reports in Friday's announcement that the situation in the vicinity of Neuport is favorable, gives rise to the general expectation that the next news of importance may come from there."

West of Lens, east of Albert and west of Noyon, the enemy's attacks have been repulsed.

Russians in Retreat.

"On the East Prussian frontier a Russian cavalry attack west of Pilkalke was repulsed."

"In Poland the pursuit of the enemy is proceeding."

"In absence of further details from the east the papers print little comment, indeed, while it is announced that the retreating Russians are being followed up, nothing is known of the character of their retirement, or of the pursuit; neither are there any details yet of Gen. von Hindenburg's victory."

"The Austrians appear to have abandoned for a time all operations in Serbia. It appears highly probable that it became for them a question, either of strengthening their forces there or in West Galicia, and they choose the latter as more urgent. The event has fully justified the decision."

"Sofa reports that the Russians, in default of reserves, have been forced to call in recruits of the year 1913."

RUSSIANS REPULSE GERMAN ON VISTULA

Attempts to Pierce Czar's Lines Before Warsaw Meet Failure—Fresh Muscovite Troops Brought Up.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—The following official statement was issued tonight:

"There is no change on the bank of the Vistula. The enemy's attempts to cross to the right bank of the Vistula at Dobrzyn were repelled by our artillery. The enemy was compelled to clear off hurriedly from the island in the middle of the Vistula, the Russians capturing the pontoon at Bzarka, where fighting was in progress."

"The Russians have repelled several German attacks in other regions. On the left bank of the Vistula there have been only outpost fights."

"There has been fighting in Western Galicia on the left bank of the River Dunajic. On the night of the 18th the Russians took 1,900 prisoners."

Heavy re-inforcements rushed to the Poland front and every attempt made by the Germans to pierce the line of defense established west of Warsaw has been repulsed, according to the war office. The heavy losses suffered by the Germans have compelled them to abandon the advance which they attempted along the thirty-six mile line from Kasumplak to Skierniowice, but they maintain their assaults at the Teresin on the Sochaczew-Warsaw railroad line.

Two Air Scouts Burned to Death.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Two military aviators patrolling over Paris plunged to earth and were burned to death in the wreckage of their machines today. They were circling over the city when something went wrong with the machines and they fell on the Boulevard des Capucines.

MEN LIE IN TRENCHES AWAITING UNSEEN ENEMY

Fight Cold, Damp, and Disease for Weeks on End Upon Apparently Unoccupied Fields Without a Shot Being Fired. Historian Paints Gripping Picture of Modern War.

By GUGLIELMO FERRERO.

Battle Line in France, Dec. 18.—After a half hour of automobiling the staff officer accompanying me tapped on the window and ordered the soldier-chauffeur to stop the machine. He beckoned me to get out, and pointing to the panorama, said: "This is the war. We are on the front; the Germans are there, we are one mile from their lines."

I looked around. Nothing was to be seen but the deserted landscape; not a man, not a house. The wide, undulating plains that seemed deserted as far as the eye could see, the wide, gray solitude under the December sky brought back my mind to an American country-side so often admired from an observation car.

When the wind, which wailed in a melancholy manner, dropped momentarily, a deep silence reigned over the plain.

The officer looked at me, smiling, and said:

"People imagine war as a great turmoil of men and arms, and there are moments during which war is really a great tumult, but there are also moments when it is as tranquil as you see. For even now a battle is on here, without rifle or gunshot. It is a battle of patient waiting and suffering in the cold damp in the trenches. Come and see."

No One to Be Seen.

Neither the French nor the Germans were to be seen at that moment, but my guide soon found the French, whose trenches, remarkably concealed, were a few hundred yards from us. The courtesy of the French general enabled me to have a glimpse of the spot at a point in the immense line where this extraordinary war of trenches was being fought.

Loyalty bids me not to abuse the courtesy shown me by relating facts which, although interesting, might be considered military indiscretions. I can, however, tell my impressions of soldiers and this curious form of war fought week after week without a gun being fired.

My guide was right in saying that in the trenches fighting goes on actually, either as a battle of patience or actual firing. Life in trenches is hard, and difficult also. The military administration is doing everything possible to alleviate the suffering.

It is especially hard during the months

when the wind blows cold in Northern France, and the days are short the ingenuity of the soldier and the foresight of the military administration have introduced many comforts. There are amenities in the trenches, but there are two enemies which it is almost impossible to shake—cold and darkness. At 6 o'clock in the afternoon it is night, and few are the means wherewith to illuminate these labyrinthical corridors.

Battle is with Cold.

The obscurity is rendered more dreadful by the cold against which in the trenches human ingenuity fights vainly. Woolen garments, blankets and fur coats, these are the only weapons that can be placed against the cold, and they are always insufficient. Therefore, nights in the trenches are painful especially because sleep is difficult owing to the cold.

However, the soldiers are cheerful, full of confidence and patient. It must be said that the commanding officers do not take advantage of their self-sacrificing spirit. They are often covered and sent to rest and sleep in good beds in nearby villages, but the enthusiasm and self-sacrificing spirit of the men really is marvelous.

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT.

LEE M'CLUNG DIES IN LONDON

Former U. S. Treasurer Was Popular Society Man in This City.

GRADUATED FROM YALE

Held Many Responsible Positions in Railway and Public Life—Was Born in Knoxville, Tenn.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 19.—Lee McCullough, former Treasurer of the United States, died today in a London hospital after an illness of three months, according to a cablegram just received here.

He was a brother of C. H. McCullough of Knoxville, who was with him at the time of his death.

Mr. McCullough was one of the most popular and widely admired young officials of the government in both administrative and social circles of Washington during his tenure of office as Treasurer of the United States under the Taft regime.

He was a prominent club member, an athlete of ability, a well-trained official and a frequenter of local social functions. He was a bachelor.

He was an enthusiastic tennis player, a former captain of the Yale baseball team, and a member of three Washington clubs. He was forty-four years old.

In 1882 and 1883, immediately following his graduation from Yale, he traveled extensively through the United States and Europe. From 1884 to 1888 he was paymaster of the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad Company at St. Paul, and from the latter date until 1901 he was connected with the Southern Railway. During 1901 and 1902 he served as assistant to the second vice president of the Southern at Washington, and during the following two years he was assistant freight manager of the same railroad at Louisville, Ky.

From 1904 to 1909 he was treasurer of Yale University, and on November 1, 1909, he was appointed Treasurer of the United States, holding the position until the latter part of President Taft's administration. His eventual resignation was presented because of trouble with former Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh.

After resigning from the Treasury Department he became connected in an official capacity with Harvard University.

GERMANS DRIVEN OUT OF TRENCHES NEAR LA BASSEE

British, French, and Indians Join in Sweeping Advance.

GAIN SOUTH OF DIXMUDE

Belgian Scouts Press to Within Five Miles of Ostend Without Opposition.

TEUTON ASSAULTS REPULSED

Kaiser's Forces Fight for Elbow Room Along Coast to Escape Fire of English Battleships.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Dec. 19.—While the French and Belgian troops on the lower Yser hold the Germans when they attempted to regain the ground lost in the first rush of the allies' offensive, and French and British forces pushed the invaders back south of Dixmude, the French, British, and Indian contingents were at grips with the enemy today in one of the most terrific struggles of the war in the vicinity of La Bassee and in the region to the east of Arras.

The counter-attack the Germans directed against the French-Belgian line in the region of Steenstraete, to the south of Lombaertsteede, near Neuport, in an effort to obtain elbow room where they might escape from the grip of the British naval guns, was met successfully by the allies, and the Germans were driven back. The Belgian sappers have made the allies' position secure at this point and, further to the north, along the sea-coast Belgian scouting parties have penetrated no less than five miles toward Ostend without encountering the enemy.

Fight in the Marshes.

The North-Kenken, to the south of Dixmude and about a mile to the east of the canal is the theater of sharp fighting. This is on the edge of the inundated district and here both forces have been battling waist deep in the murky half-frozen marshes for two days. Tonight's official statement from the French war office declares the allies have made considerable progress at this point.