CHEMICAL WARFARE NO SLACKER'S JOB

REAL WORK FOR BASEBALL MEN IF THEY MAKE GOOD.

Their Duties Call for Qualities That Include Managerial Ability as Well as Real Leadership of Men.

APPOINTMENT of several of baseball's most prominent figures to commissions in the chemical warfare service makes it probable that fans in future will be particularly interested in that branch of the war. It is the branch of our military activity which demands an eye for an eye from the Hun—for it was Germany, it will be remembered, that introduced the ineffable use of poison gas. If in a boxing match one conscienceless contender conceals a horseshoe in his glove it is probably best to pay him in kind. Words cannot overcome the laws of physics or biology. A list of officers shows that from now on the activities of the Chemical Warfare Service in France will be closely followed by sport fans.

Tyrus Raymond Cobb, the Georgia Peach, and Chris Mathewson, the greatest of all Giants, are captains in the service, and they are but two of the nationally known athletes who have been gathered into this unit, for aside from the baseball notables various stars of the gridiron and other athletic fields have been recruited for the service.

Percy Haughton, Harvard's famous football coach and until recently president of the Boston Braves, is a Major in this service, and so is Branch Rickey, University of Michigan ex-baseball coach, ex-manager of the St. Louis Browns and president of the St. Louis Cardinals.

All of these men will go into the lines to fight, for there is no hint of "swivel chair" luxury in the offensive and defensive branches of this service, and these are the ends with which the non-chemists, such as Rickey, Cobb, Mathewson, et al., will be identified. They will go to school in France, and school will be conducted right up in front, where big guns constantly roar and the fighting is real.

Completing their courses they will become staff officers, and their actual work of fending off gas attacks and planning chemical onslaughts will begin.

Work Calls for Leadership.

It is work primarily that calls for a capacity for lively leadership and strategic ingenuity. Gas attacks are influenced largely by meteorological conditions and may be a valuable cog in the general scheme for attack. This unit throws up smoke screens, which timed perfectly with artillery barrage, enable troops to advance as perfectly concealed as the human mind has yet devised.

But it will be very much up to Branch Rickey, Tyrus Cobb, Christy Mathewson and others to pick the weak spot in the enemy's defensive, and having preached and practiced this in an athletic sense over a number of years, these men are deemed to be potentially valuable gas experts.

Offensively and defensively they must be on the alert, offensively to surprise and defensively to guard against that quality, and thus it is reasonable to believe that in no time at all there will be spirited rivalry between Captains Mathewson and Cobb, or Majors Haughton and Rickey, with the set objective of both boiling the Hun in his own oil and preventing him from finding the weak spot in the captain or the major's batting order.

The same spirit that made them strive on the baseball field and the gridiron, the strategy, the quick decision in an emergency and the determination to win, all will count in the game of matching the German's deviltry with "fire meet fire." The Hun started it and he is to be shown who will be there at the finish, and former baseball men hope to be in it when the bell rings.

No Soft Berths for Them.

General William L. Sibert, chief of the gas service of the Army, declared recently that the baseball experts were not commissioned because they were identified with the great summer sport, but instead they were selected because of their talents for leadership and because their physical condition and athletic prowess are such as to make them ideal officers for service with gas troops in the field.

It was explained that commanding officers of gas troops are required to give careful attention to the men in their command, to see that gas masks are worn and other preventative measures are taken against enemy fumes. Alertness is a prerequisite to the ideal gas officer, and the training baseball men receive on fields was considered useful in equipping gas troop commanders with the presence of mind needed in leading gas troops or commanding organizations in a defensive way against gas attacks.

An interesting article on what is demanded of men in the chemical warfare service and the conditions they must meet and contend with recently appeared in a New York scientific publication under the signature of Professor Robert Ward of Harvard.

Must Study Many Things.

The influence of weather conditions on gas attacks, Professor Ward says, are particularly noteworthy. He goes on:

"It is worth nothing that the Germans are now using gases in four ways. First, gas-clouds, which depend on a favorable wind; secondly, projectors, which also depend on the wind; thirdly, long-range artillery gas-shells; and fourthly, hand-grenades. The direction and velocity of the wind enter as critical factors in the first two cases. In connection with gas-attacks of the first sort a good deal of information is now available. We know that the German 'gas' regiments' contain a considerable number of trained meteorological observers who watch the current weather conditions.

"While the gas goes with the wind, it is clear that topography plays a part in its diffusion, which is best in a flat country and poorest in a broken country. A recent writer, Maj. S. J. Auld, has told us that the outline of the trench-system and the angle which the wind is blowing are carefully correlated in order that the gas shall not be driven back into any part of the German trenches. A factor of safety is determined for the angle between the wind direct on and the line of the trenches. Ordinary gas-attacks are not made when the wind direction is within about 45 degrees of any trench within gassing distance.

"Further details as to the most favorable wind velocity have been forthcoming. If the wind is too strong the gas is dispersed or moves too fast. If the wind is too light it takes the gas too long to cross No Man's Land. Very light winds are also more likely to change their direction than stronger winds, and may blow the gas back into the German lines. The best winds blow between four and 12 miles an hour. A wind of eight miles carries the gas-cloud about twice as fast as a man moves away who retreats rapidly. It is perfectly clear that the German meteorologists have made very careful study of wind and weather before launching such gas attacks, and their success, in a large majority of cases, shows how well their weather forecasts were made."

It can be gathered from this that our former baseball heroes have been selected for jobs that will permit full exercise of their talents.

SHUTOUT HONORS GO TO BOSTON RED SOX

CUBS BEAT THEM WHEN IT COMES TO PERCENTAGE.

Though Often Using Whitewash New World Champs Also Had to Take Like Medicine Many Times.

THE Boston Red Sox, "tight" team that they were, led the American League in scoring shutout victories over their opponents, but they also were shutout oftener than several other teams, and though Barrow's pitchers beat the world—Walter Johnson's team included—in putting over whitewashes on opponents, they did not rank as high in the Shutout League as did their World's Series rivals the Cubs. While the Cubs shutout opposing teams but 23 times, as compared to 26 shutouts achieved by the Red Sox, the Cubs were shutout by opponents but nine times, while in 13 games the Red Sox were blanked.

Washington, of course, ranked high in shutting out opponents, as would be expected with Walter Johnson having a good year, but it is real news to discover that the New York Giants, with a crippled pitching staff, scored as many shutouts in their league as the Griffmen did in theirs. The Giants, also, were the hardest team in either league to blank, but a half dozen whitewashes being handed McGraw's team all year.

Shutout Games Won and Lost.

Here is the record of games won and lost by shutouts in the 1918 season in the American and National Leagues:

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

	Boston	Cleveland	Washington	New York	St. Louis	Chicago	Detroit	Philadelphia	Won	Percentage
Boston	..	6	1	1	3	6	5	4	26	.667
Cleveland	2	..	2	1	0	0	0	0	5	.238
Washington	3	3	..	0	1	4	3	4	18	.545
New York	0	0	2	..	2	1	2	1	8	.533
St. Louis	1	1	3	1	..	1	0	1	8	.533
Chicago	2	1	2	1	1	..	1	1	9	.391
Detroit	0	1	3	2	0	1	..	1	8	.421
Philadelp'a	5	4	2	1	0	1	0	..	13	.520
Lost	13	16	15	7	7	14	11	12	95	

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

	Chicago	New York	Cincinnati	Pittsburg	Brooklyn	Philadelphia	Boston	St. Louis	Won	Percentage
Chicago	..	2	3	3	1	6	2	0	23	.719
New York	2	..	0	2	5	3	3	3	18	.750
Cincinnati	3	1	..	1	3	2	2	2	14	.560
Pittsburg	1	1	2	..	0	1	2	3	10	.385
Brooklyn	2	2	2	3	..	3	1	3	16	.552
Philadelp'a	0	0	1	2	2	..	3	1	9	.360
Boston	1	0	3	4	2	0	..	3	13	.433
St. Louis	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	..	3	.188
Lost	9	6	11	16	13	16	14	21	106	

Vaughn Really Looks Best.

Individual honors for pitching shutout games in the major leagues the past season may be said to be somewhat in dispute, with Jim Vaughn of the Cubs having a shade the best of it. Vaughn pitched eight shutout games on his own account, and he shared in another shutout in which credit for the victory went to George Tyler. That was in the game of September 1, in which Manager Mitchell gave both his star southpaws a work out preliminary to the World's Series.

Walter Johnson pitched eight shutouts in the American League. Carl Mays equaled his mark, but Johnson really shows best because he had to go extra innings to make his record of eight. In the National George Tyler, it given credit for the shutout in which he collaborated with Vaughn, should be allowed a record of eight shutouts, but how are you going to credit one shutout game to two pitchers?

When it comes to being beaten by the shutout route, which means you haven't a chance to win, Eddie Cicotte is the leading victim. In seven of the games he pitched for the White Sox his team failed to score a run. The Griffmen failed to score in six games for Johnson and in six games Stanley Covaleskie pitched the Cleveland Indians failed to score.

In the National Burleigh Grimes ranks second in shutouts pitched with seven to his credit. Pol Perritt pitched six shutout games for the Giants. The St. Louis Cardinals won but three games all season in which they shut out opponents. Packard, Sherdell and Doak were the pitchers in these three games.

The Cleveland Indians won but five shutout games all season. Morton won one of them, Covaleskie two and Bagby two.

GAME OF GRENADE CHUCKING

It's Something That Former Ball Players Should Excel At.

According to a story coming from France, a new game, and one considered in the quite essential class, has been evolved over there, Jack Eller, former New York policeman-athlete being credited as the originator. It's something like accurate throwing stunts at a baseball field day, but the ever present hand grenade is used instead of a baseball.

Here's the story of the new game: At a camp not long ago Eller saw a hand grenade squad getting in its daily practice. He tried to throw a grenade, and learned that it wasn't as easy as it looked. He had an idea, let him tell it:

"The boys are always wanting something different. Here's a chance, says I for me to give 'em something different, and also help Uncle Sam. So I asked some of the experts to show me how good they are. From them I get a distance which will be about right to shoot at, and sketch out my scheme.

"I allow, first, a run of 15 yards—same as in the javelin throw, you know. At 125 feet away from the middle of the line I make the apex of a triangle which has a 60-foot base. This base is 250 feet from the foul line. A nice little throw, that?

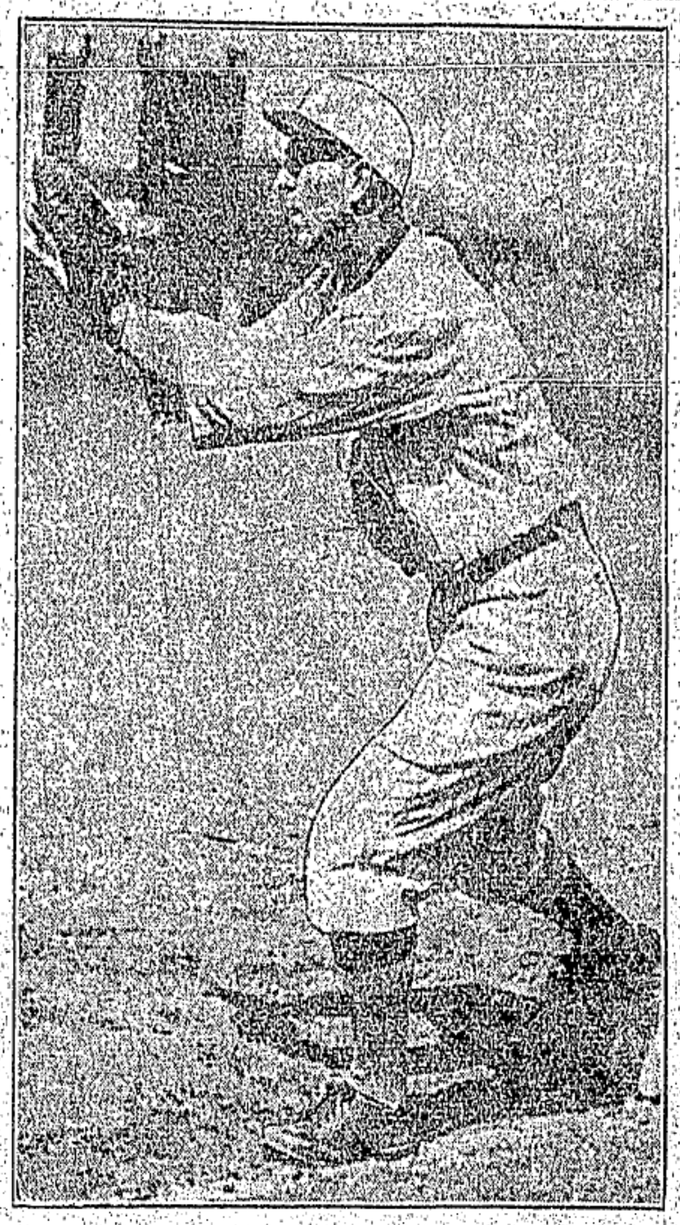
"The idea is to get the 15-yard run and throw the grenade so it will land within the triangle. The nearer the base line the grenade hits the better the throw. Get me? Just borrow a grenade anywhere and throw it.

"The idea is for both accuracy and distance. The old way of throwing a grenade was to stand behind a piece of canvas higher than your head and let it go over it toward a bullseye marked on the ground. You couldn't see the target. That was for when the fighting was in the trenches.

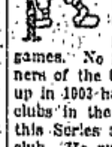
"But our men are going in pretty strong for open warfare. So they've got to chuck the grenades a whole lot like you chuck a baseball. They can see what they're aiming at in most cases. Therefore, this little game of mine is coming in handy for practice.

"The boys like it, and the officers are keen for it. I always get lots of competition in the events—both American and French—when there's a meet on at a mixed camp. The French are mighty clever in the throw, but can take it from me, it won't be long before our soldiers are the world's star hand grenade chuckers."

HOLDS TWO SERIES RECORDS



FIRST BASEMAN FRED MERKLE



FRED MERKLE may be no World's Series star, but he holds two records for the Big games at that. One is for playing on three different teams, the other for taking part in most World's Series games. No player since the pennant winners of the two major leagues first hooked up in 1903 had played with more than two clubs in the annual baseball classic, until this Series showed Merkle with his third club. He was with the Giants during the big games of 1911-12-13, was traded to the Robins in time to get into the 1916 Series, and finally turned up with the Cubs.

The second record for Merkle was made when Red Sox and Cubs carried the 1918 Series into six games and he beat out Eddie Collins' record of having taken part in 26 World's Series games by going into 27. Collins reached this mark in the final battle of the 1917 set between the White Sox and Giants, thereby displacing the mark set up by Jack Barry in 1915 when he played in his twenty-fifth game. Barry would have gone far beyond this figure in 1916, but an injured hand kept him out of the Series between the Red Sox and the Robins.

The Cubs' first sucker took part in all six games played by the Giants in 1911 and in all the eight games played by the Giants in the 1912 series. In the first game of the 1913 Series between the Giants and Muckmen he turned an ankle at second base and he was out of the second game of this Series, but he got back in the third, fourth and fifth games. In 1916 Merkle took part in three contests between the Robins and Red Sox, running his total up to 21 games. He reached Collins' mark by playing in five World's Series battles this year and topped it in the final 1918 game.

Players who have been in Series with two different clubs are numerous. In the 1918 Series were Deal, Paskert, Killefer, Tyler, Mann and Merkle of the Cubs, who had played in past Series with other clubs. On the Red Sox roster were Schang, McInnis, Strunk and Bush. In last year's Series were Collins and Murphy of the White Sox, who had played in previous Series with the Muckmen, and Lew McCarty of the Giants, who had figured in the Brooklyn receipts the year before, though he did not belong to the club when the Series was played. McCarty was traded for Merkle a short time before the Robins clinched the pennant in 1916.

Ira Thomas figured in one Series with the Tigers and later shared in the receipts of four Series with the Muckmen, though he did not get into the later games. Bobby Byrne was with the Phillies in 1915. Pennock, Barry, Walsh and Wyckoff all were with the Muckmen in their pennant winning years, and later figured in the division of World's Series money with the Red Sox. Whitted and Dugey were with the Braves in 1914, and were traded in the winter to the Phillies, this club winning the pennant in 1915.

Johnny Evers played in three Series with the Cubs and figured in the money of another, though an injured ankle kept him out of the games. Later he was with the Braves, being a prominent factor in the success of that club in 1914. Josh Devore was with the Giants during their championship days and turned up with the Braves in 1914. Pat Moran figured in the World's Series division first with the Chicago Cubs and later as manager of the Phillies.

Jack Coombs is one player who has been with pennant winners of different leagues. He was connected with the Mackmen during their successes between 1910 and 1914, and he was with the Robins in the 1916 Series.

Catcher Bill Killefer not only has been with two pennant winning teams, but he has the distinction of having a brother who shared in a World's Series. Wade Killefer being with the Detroit Tigers in 1908. In that same year Jerry Downs also was with the Tigers and this year the man who succeeded him as manager of the San Francisco team, last summer, Charley Pick, was in the Series with the Cubs.

In three years in which they have won pennants and World's Series the Red Sox have had a player named Thomas on their team. It has been noted, also, that a Thomas (Ira) usually figured when the Athletics were winning the honors, so that Thomas seems to be a lucky name for World's Series teams, even more so than Murphy or Collins.

Smarter Ball, No Opportunities Overlooked, Win for Red Sox

BY CLARENCE ROWLAND

THIS World's Series cuts a precedent of recent years. Not in six seasons have the contending teams been so evenly matched. The Red Sox won the championship from the Cubs in an hard a fought series as has ever been seen. All the games the Cubs lost were by one run and the losers actually outhit the victors, 37 to 32.

The old question of superiority of the two major leagues naturally comes up for discussion following this hard fought series. Possibly it may not be fair to compare the leagues, taking the World Series representatives as examples, owing to war conditions, yet it must be admitted that the American League club played a smarter brand of ball and never overlooked an opportunity to take advantage of the slightest break in its favor.

While it must be admitted that the breaks of the game favored the winning club, it was clear that the Boston players made their own breaks in the four games they won.

The heady work of the Boston pitchers and catchers in nipping runners off the paths took away from the Cubs many opportunities to win. Four Chicago men were caught off base in the series. Flack was caught twice and Mann and Peck once each. In no World's Series in my recollection has this ever occurred before.

Hollocher One Who Didn't Think.

This lack of thinking on the bases and plays like that of Hollocher's when he run with his head down and was doubled off second on a fly ball not only took away opportunities to win but did a lot to dishearten the Cubs.

In maneuvering his players to overcome these mental lapses Mitchell showed great skill. He did not make a false step in the Series. The work of his pitchers clearly showed to every one that his judgment was correct in sticking to southpaw hurling all the way.

A comparison of catchers comes up in every World's Series. The National League was represented in the series by Killefer, generally considered the class of its backstops. It was figured before the series that the Cubs had the edge in this department. To the contrary, the work of Schang and Agnew in handling their pitchers was on a par with that of Killefer and the throwing to bases, particularly that of Agnew, excelled that of the National League catcher. To Schang go the real catching honors.

His fielding was perfect and he led all other batsmen in the series.

Whiteman Winds Up a Hero.

George Whiteman figured the weakest man on the Red Sox in point of defense before the first game, emerged the hero of the series. He wound up his steady all round work in an spectacular manner as possibly has ever been seen in these post season games. His hard hit drive in the third inning handcuffed Max Flack, sending in the only two runs scored by the Boston Club. These runs were all they needed to clinch the series and proclaim them world's champions.

It is noteworthy that Whiteman, who critics had figured would lose ball games by his loose fielding, upset all the advanced dope by his work in left field. He brought his playing to a spectacular close by his wonderful diving catch of a low line drive which caused him to turn a complete front somersault. This wonderful catch was made on Barber, who started the eighth inning for the Cubs, taking Deal's place at bat.

The Cubs continued the way they started, showing left-handed pitching, and the fans were again treated to a classy exhibition. Tyler was a bit wild, but kept his hits well scattered and if Flack had not allowed himself to become careless in his fielding of Whiteman's line drive and had held on to that ball he would not have been scored on in the seven innings he worked. Flack acted as if he expected to make a throw after catching the ball, which was unnecessary, as there were two out at the time.

The box score is somewhat deceptive on the game, as there was only one clean hit off Tyler. The other four were of the scratch variety. Mays, on the other hand, was very fortunate. He was hard hit, but the Cubs, as in previous games, threw away chances by being picked off the bases, costly breaks in the game. The nipping of Mann off first in the fourth inning materially weakened the Cubs' chance of scoring three or more runs. This was the only inning in which the Cubs had a chance with Mays. It was Carl's bad inning. He passed one man and hit another. Flack opened the round with a base hit. The bases would have been loaded when Merkle's single came had Mann not been caught off first.

In that event the score would have been tied up on this drive. The fielding in the final game of Thomas and Deal around third base was of a spectacular sort. Both third sackers made wonderful stops and throws on very difficult chances.

From a fan's point of view this World's Series has been an interesting one. The Red Sox played the best ball and deserve the title of world's champions.

While the series proved the contending clubs were fairly evenly matched, the Red Sox's superiority was shown in the crisis. Boston won the series because its players took advantage of the breaks of the game which favored them all the way through.

RED SOX WERE GOOD FOUR TO TWO WAGER

THAT'S WHAT RESULT OF WORLD'S SERIES SHOWS.

Deciding that Point, Rice Goes On to Pay Respects to Bandility of Diamond Heroes Engaged.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Sept. 10.—When the Boston Americans won four out of six games from the Chicago Nationals in the World's Series of 1918 there was not a doubt but that the better team won by just that much. No fluke marred the Red Sox's victory. They had the edge on the Cubs in every department, and it would be mere whining for even the most ardent National League fan to claim that the victory was not merited. True, a little break in the luck would have given the Cubs every game in a set in which the Cubs lost four by one run per game. But, if ever there was a Series in which the old adage that "a winner always gets the breaks" was true. It was this way, and the winner deserved them.

Analysis of the scores shows that the Cubs lost one game on an error by Phil Douglas, and another—the last—on a muff by Max Flack. The Red Sox made one error—that a harmless muff by Whiteman in the fourth inning of the second game—and there you are. The Cubs were guilty of fatal errors and the Sox were not, which makes a heap of difference.

Further analysis of the scores show that in three of the games the Red Sox scored crucial runs as the result of passes by Vaughn and Tyler, and in another they scored a run on Whiteman being hit by a pitched ball. The Red Sox pitchers were wild, in some instances more so than those of the Cubs, but the Cubs could not group hits off the Sox pitchers in conjunction with the passes, except in two games, and two were not enough to land the long end of the purse in a Series that went six games.

We expressed the opinion, on the preliminary dope, that the Series was an even bet, pay your money and take your choice. Later we verged around to giving the Cubs a wee shade in the figuring. We were a poor prophet, but have no kick coming. The Cubs gave National League rooters a great run for their money, and it will be a poor specimen of a fan who will berate the Cubs for being beaten. They did the best they knew how, and it was a darned good best at that.

A Blast for the Players.

That near-strike of the World's Series teams when they arrived in Boston for the second half of the Series was the most pitiful exhibition of demoralizing selfishness in all the annals of sport. Optimism is our middle name most of the time, but this time we can not see how the professional ball players will be able to live down for many years the thoroughly reprehensible and disgraceful action of the Red Sox and Cubs in trying to deprive the second, third and fourth place teams of the major leagues of their just share of the World's Series receipts, as agreed upon by the National Commission last winter.

When the Giants started the season with a rush by winning 16 out of 19 games and appeared sure pennant winners, with the prospects equally strong that the Cubs would finish second, did the Cubs let out a whine about how the dear Giants would be robbed of just deserts in the World's Series in order to provide a purse for them—the Cubs—in the big divvy? Nary a whimper did the Cubs emit until the fortunes of war, military and baseball, put the Giants on the toboggan, and it became clear that the Cubs were about to win a pennant.

As the Series advanced and the players saw the receipts for the first three games away below previous years, they suddenly conceived the idea that they were to be the victims of a horrid outrage perpetrated by the brutal magnates for the benefit of the other first division teams. Then came the abortive strike and its lasting blot upon the professional pastime.

We have seen many a last-minute shake down attempted, frequently with success, by low class pugs and crooked wrestlers, but never did we expect to see the day when major league baseballers, fretful about money lost to them because their fellow Americans were fighting a regular he-war in France, would descend to such a trick.

And the Devil Take the Tailenders.

We would have risked the watchful eyes of the 10,000 female volunteer cops which are nowadays so busily prying into the affairs of their neighbors in New York, and have bet 10 to 1 that major leaguers would have been above any such despicable procedure. Our argument would have been based upon the fact that up to two years ago the Baseball Players' Fraternity had been abroad in the land for five or six years, working on the lovely principle of "all for one and one for all," so its agitators said. How could such high-minded athletes descend to threaten a strike in the World's Series because they were called upon to share the purse with other first division teams? That is what we would have asked, with an air of triumph—and would have bet and lost.

The funny angle to the situation was that the players of the two teams had absolutely spoiled any chance they might have had of making good with their strike bluff when they had previously shaken down the Chicago and Boston owners for salaries from September 2, the day on which the regular season closed, to September 15. The success of that shake down, or holdup, left them not a leg to stand upon.

It must be remembered that the ball player's contract says nothing about the World's Series. He undertakes to play baseball wherever told for so much per month, and the club undertakes to make good on the salary. What the players get out of the World's Series is an absolutely free gratis bonus. They have not understood that in recent years, but have presumed that they had a contractural, legal right to the coin in the Series. Their understanding was dead wrong. The promise by the magnates to the players of a share in the Series is purely voluntary, given without any reciprocal, legal consideration whatever on the part of the players to make it binding. The player promises nothing, and gives nothing but his services, for which he is already under contract.

Salary All They Had Coming.

If the two teams this year had not had their contracts extended to September 15 on their own hold-up demand, the National Commission, representing the owners, might have been under a legal, as well as a moral and sporting, obligation to meet the expectations on which the players entered the Series, said expectation being at least $2,000 to every winning athlete and $1,400 to every loser. But, the players forced an extention of their contracts for regular, seasonal services to cover the period of the Series. The minute they did that they were legally bound to play where and when told for the salary specified, and not for a share of the Series receipts.

If a strike before the first game in Boston—the fourth game of the Series—had been carried through the National Commission could have returned to the Boston fans their money and could have split every cent of the three Chicago games among the Commission, the two clubs and the war charities which had been promised ten per cent. It would not have been legally, morally or sportively liable to a sou markee to any player in those three games.

The club owners seem to have been slow to tumble to the unconscious advantage they gained when they stood for the two weeks' salary holdup, but it is a cinch that John E. Bruce, secretary of the National Commission, and one of the ablest lawyers in the country, grasped at once how the players had overreached themselves to a point where they had not a weapon with which to fight for further concessions. Mr. Bruce probably stiffened the backbone of the Commission, which surprised the baseball public and gratified every decent fan by refusing to budge an inch.

Furthermore, if the strike had gone through, the owners could not only have refused to pay the players a lead nickel for their share of the Series receipts, but they could also have refused to pay the salary due from the day of the strike to September 15. The very utmost the players could have gained by sticking to a strike was salary from September 3 to the day when they failed to play ball as ordered, which would have been about a week.

If the whole proceedings had not been such a vicious blow to the business out of which 10,000 or more people make more or less of a good living in normal times, and which represents thousands of dollars of honestly invested capital, to say nothing of the country's good name, this spectacle of the players completely spoiling a second holdup by their complete success in the first, would be the funniest chapter in the history of sport since the angel brought into play his supernatural power and crippled Jacob at the break of day, which was away back even before the era when a foul was out on the first bounce.

THOMAS S. RICE.

BASEBALL A GAME OF BLUFF.

English Writer Gives His Conception of Our National Sport.

An interesting insight into the English conception of baseball is given in an article in the London Field, which says in part:

"Americans have never taken kindly to cricket, which they regard as much too slow a game for their temperament, and their humorous writers are never tired of describing in a most good natured way the little failings and peculiarities of our national game. Curiously enough, Englishmen also think that baseball is too slow a game for their temperament, and although probably very few of them could give a good reason for this idea the actual cause is not far to seek.

"Baseball is admittedly a game of bluff, and the most audacious and ingenious bluff of all is to give the title of 'inning' to what is nothing more or less than an over.

It will seem almost incredible to English cricketers, but it is a fact, as attested in the Daily Mail in an analysis of the July 4 game by an American baseball journalist that although in the course of the game something like 250 balls were thrown—a matter of 40-odd overs at cricket—the safe hits numbered only eight, two by the Army and six by the Navy. A few other hits were made, which were so poor that they got a man out, and a few others in the nature of cricket snicks or "corner strokes" were of no advantage to the batter, since they were behind the boundary line.

"The snick or corner stroke is undoubtedly the most spectacular hit in baseball; indeed, it is practically the only spectacular stroke, except the hit out of the ground, which occurs once in a blue moon.

"It seems a very great pity that this corner stroke is merely thrown away in baseball. In making the stroke the batsman slogs as usual with a horizontal bat, and getting just under the ball sends it at a very great pace to a tremendous height behind him, and sometimes to a considerable distance."

BOSTON VOTES VET WHITEMAN A HERO

GEORGE WHITEMAN, who doesn't dare tell when and where he began playing baseball for fear he will tip off his age—but he was a confirmed minor league for close on to 16 years—gets a large vote as the Boston hero-man. Here is something of his performance in the Series of 1918:

In the first game, which was won by the Red Sox, 1 to 0, Whiteman helped drive in that solitary tally. In the second battle it was his triple that saved the Sox from a shutout.

In the third game, after being hit by a pitched ball, he scored one of Boston's runs, allowing his club to win, 2 to 1. In the same game he made a sectacular catch of a drive by Paskert, cutting off one run, if not two.

A base on balls that he drew in the fourth game helped Boston defeat Chicago, 3 to 2, as he scored ahead of Ruth's triple. He distinguished himself Tuesday in a losing game by cutting off two runs, throwing out one runner at second and another at the plate.

In the final game he smote the liner to right field that was muffed by Flack that gave Boston its only runs, and it was Whiteman who made the most spectacular catch of the Series, one that robbed the batsman of a triple, took the heart out of the Cubs, and made them easy victims the rest of the route.

It was in the eighth inning. With the score 2 to 1 and his back against the wall, Fred Mitchell threw his reserves into the fray. Outfielder Barber hit for Deal. He hit a sharp liner over Scott's head toward left center. Whiteman charged across from where he had been standing. There did not appear to be a chance for him to catch the drive and the Cubs danced in glee.

Just as the ball was about to strike the ground, Whiteman made a dive, took the ball not more than three inches from the grass, plunged head first, turned a complete sommersault and came up standing with the leather gripped in both hands. A moment later, he was forced to retire with a strained neck, sustained in his acrobatic stunt.

He got the big hand he deserved as he left the playing field.

WOOD SEASON'S REAL SURPRISE

Smokey Joe Deserves Honor as Best Comeback in Baseball.

There have been sensations galore in the major leagues this season, including the comeback of Fred Merkle, the quick development of Shortstop Hollocher by the Cubs, Pitcher Perry by the Macks, Outfielder Southworth by the Pirates and several other young stars by other teams, but the real outstanding feature of the year appears to be the comeback of Joe Wood, of the Cleveland Americans, thinks one of the game's commentators and he goes on to say:

Wood today is one of the most valuable ball players in the country, but a few years ago it was freely charged that the owners of the Cleveland team were crazy to trade players to Boston for Wood, a man who had been a star pitcher for the Red Sox, but who had thrown out his arm and rendered himself useless as a hurler.

Wood was looked upon as the greatest pitcher in baseball in 1912 when a member of the Red Sox, but he pitched his arm off, helping the Sox win the pennant and World's Series that year. In 1913 he was fairly good and the same was true of him in 1914. In 1915 he was of little use to the Sox and in 1916 he was used in a trade with Cleveland.

Wood failed as a pitcher for the Indians, but this season he came to the front as one of the smartest and most versatile ball players in the major leagues, as well as one of the best hitters. He was used in the outfield, on first base and on second base by the Indians this year and handled himself like a star in each of these positions. Not only has he done well on the defense, but his hitting has been a feature of his work.

HERE'S MORE CHEER BY CHEERY PHELON

SEES TWO MAJOR CIRCUITS, WITH TWO GAMES A WEEK.

Military Authorities, He Hears, Approve of a Plan to Give Populace Some Sort of Diversion During War.

CINCINNATI, O., Sept. 16.—The tumult and the shouting have died away. The clans have scattered, and the fun is over—over for awhile. For my part, I do not think the game will lie dead for any such length of time as the pessimists imagine. I believe it is sure to come back in the spring, although along new lines. Most sensible and satisfactory plans I have seen in many days is one that has been devised, taken to Washington, and given quiet approval by Army and Navy officers, congressmen, and high authorities in general.

This plan calls for major league ball in the spring; plenty of baseball, and yet so conducted as not to interfere with the draft or the work or fight rule. Two leagues, one Eastern, one Western; the jumps short and easily made—in some cases by trolley; a game every Saturday, a double-header every Sunday—and Sunday ball in the Eastern cities—with one or two twilight games each week.

In this fashion, each league could have a schedule of 112 games on the season—and that would be plenty. There could also be an elastic list of players, each club using such, Army and Navy stars as might be stationed in each city, or home on furlough. Salaries to be small—inasmuch as every player, aside from the sailors and soldiers, would be doing his 36 hours of work in something essential.

With this plan of Saturday, Sunday and twilight games, there would be absolutely no interference with the draft or with the work or fight rulings; yet there would be plenty of major league baseball, and plenty of funds left over to be devoted to war funds or to charities.

Circuits Are All Laid Out.

The Eastern circuit, as I understand it, will have two clubs in New York, two in Philadelphia, one each in Boston, Brooklyn, Washington and Baltimore. In the Western circuit will be two Chicago teams, and clubs in St. Louis, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, and Indianapolis. The parks are there; the players will be glad to go in under these conditions, and the magnates will do their best, just to keep the game going.

A dream, perhaps? Possibly—but steps have been taken to make the dream a reality, and there will be some vigorous campaigning this fall and through the winter.

One thing that may actually add to the interest if this project goes through: The clubs will be largely localized, made up of men who live in or near each city. That will be necessary, if the players are to fulfill the regulations of the work or fight law. The present reserve lists would have to be set aside for the duration of the war and each city permitted to engage its resident players. Under such a plan, the Reds wouldn't fare badly, as they would have Ed Roush, Heinie Groh, Lee Magee, Miller Huggins, Slim Sallee, Walter Mayer, and quite a flock of other high class players for the foundation of the club.

Cincinnati Backed the Cubs.

Cincinnati fans were bitten some in the wallet on the World's Series. The Cubs looked the logical winners, and they lost some little currency. Neither is any one yet convinced that the better ball club won—not when that ball club only hit .184 on the whole Series. The luckier ball club won—that's a cinch—and the strange luck that always seems to follow the American League was never absent for a minute. Only one Cub had chunks and slathers of bull luck, and that was Charley Pick. He is credited with seven hits in six games, a batting average of .388—and six of his seven hits were lucky flops that just dodged some infielder.

The divvy must have been a heart-breaker. Imagine it—$1,108 to each winner! That's tough pickings. It's toughest of all on the players' estimable wives. Long before every Series, Mrs. Player always spends her husband's share of the coin. She has it all planned out, just what she is going to do with that fat and easy money. There's the new victrola, and the new silverware, and the new rug for the sitting room, and that lovely set of furs, and five new hats, and so many things for the baby.

After she has ribbed up all these things, she may buy a necktie or pair of cuff links for her husband, if he is lucky. Anyway, she has it all spent—and what a jolt it must have been to get those skimpy checks when this series ended. You can't make women understand those things, either. I will bet much money that this was a good sample of the conversation in several Red Sox homes when Mr. Player came across with that $1,108.

"What's this? Chicken feed? Well, where's the money? Now, don't tell me that I know better. No, I don't believe it for a minute. I'm going to call up Mr. Frazee, and ask him about it. Yes, yes, I want Mr. Frazee. Hello, hello. Is this Mr. Frazee? Oh, Mr Frazee, how much money did my husband really get for his share? What's that? $1,108? I don't believe it. I know all you men stick together—I might have known you and he had it all fixed up what to tell me!"

And how would you like to be a Cub, and bring Mrs. Cub that skinny little $574?

Well, Let Them Study.

Little news has been received from Mathewson since he departed for the war. Neither have Branch Rickey and Ty Cobb done much correspond'ng. They must be deeply involved in study'ng their gas and chemical duties, and have no time to write.

Speaking of writing: What a blest relief not to see a flock of "signed stories" (faked 100 per cent) in the press box this time! It didn't really seem like a World's Series when we gazed around and saw none of the star players sitting in majesty, grinning vacuously at the field, while their faithful attendants wrote the stories. I'm again with Joe Vila, heart and soul. Of course, there is one reason why many baseball writers knocked the game—their bosses told them to. Their objects, on many papers, have never loved the game, and played it up because their readers insisted on it; when the crash came, the chiefs hopped the baseball scribes and forced them to roast the game.

In many other cases, the knockers knocked because they had some dim, distorted idea that it was patriotic to abuse the past'me, and might make them stand better with the general public and the authorities if they did so. Best answer possible to both kinds of knockers will be the return of the game in full swing next year, even under the changed methods that I have outlined.

The Reds are scattered, far and extremely silent. They have gone to their various homes, and plunged into whatever vocations could be counted as essential, so that the only ones now visible are those living in Cincinnati. Ed Roush, a sterling farmer, comes in now and then, and is eagerly waiting the publication of the official batting averages. Till these are out, there is no way to decide whether Roush or Wheat is the league leader.

W. A. PHELON.