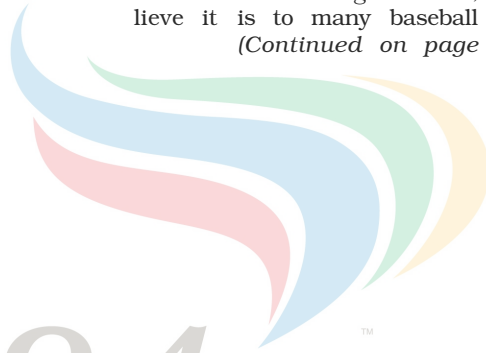


A LAST WORD ON RECENT
UNWARRANTED CRITICISMS
OF THE BALL PLAYERS'
FRATERNITY

IN this issue we publish a statement of the Baseball Players' Fraternity, an organization of recent birth, composed of baseball players from the National and American leagues, setting forth its purposes and the reasons for its existence.

We agree with many newspaper comments that the article is a clear and logical statement of conditions as seen from the viewpoint of the players and made without heat or passion. It is therefore a matter of much regret to us, as we believe it is to many baseball magnates,

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that certain publications should censure unfairly and with very apparent preconceived prejudice a movement which up to the present time has made no false steps nor unreasonable claims.

This is unquestionably the age of organization; even the critics of this movement are themselves strongly entrenched in an organization known as the "Baseball Writers' Association of America," formed for the same purposes as is the Players' Fraternity; namely, the betterment of business conditions. To concede the players' right to organize, and then to attempt by innuendo and by attributing to the movement motives which it has given no evidence of entertaining, is, to our mind, an extremely underhand way of dealing with the situation. We cannot believe, from our personal acquaintance with many of the club owners, that they as a body endorse these methods, for they must realize that any unfair tactics employed against the players, who are ostensibly at least seeking the betterment of the game, can react only to the injury of organized baseball.

We have an extensive acquaintance among players and are not by any means willing to concede that they are irresponsible or that they follow a leader "blindly like sheep." We have met many of these young men who are far above the average in intelligence and education, some of whom are even now conducting successful business outside of baseball, and we therefore hesitate to go as far as some of our contemporaries and assign them to the intellectual dump heap. It is a difficult matter for us to believe that three hundred led by such men as John Henry, Richard Egan, Ira Thomas, Johnny Evers, G. H. White, Christopher Mathewson, William Sweeney, William Carrigan, Ed Sweeney, Jake Daubert, Miller Huggins, D. B. Pratt, John Miller and Tyrus Cobb have gone into this movement impulsively or without well fixed ideas of the need of such an organization and of the purposes which it hopes to accomplish.

The method of organizing and the ability for leadership of those who have been chosen to promote the movement are matters of purely private concern to the players, and fair dealing and even common decency demand that accusation

of ulterior motives of which no evidence is produced be dispensed with. To use a criticism of any movement as an outlet for one's own personal animus, does not only stultify the cause the writer seeks to uphold, but debauches the profession of journalism.

We are frank to say that we have been impelled, after reading carefully the players' statement, in the interest of sportsmanship and fair dealing, to oppose the unwarranted and misleading criticisms that have appeared. Doubtless there are many others who have experienced the same revulsion of feeling, and, as we are now and always have been upholders of organized baseball, we wish to go on record as saying that we do not believe the rank and file of club-owners endorse any such ill-advised method of dealing with the situation.



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