

NATIONAL COMMISSION

The work of the National Commission in supervising the great World's Series games was, as usual, done with efficiency and despatch. The host of persons who wanted World's Series tickets and failed to get them were but sharing a well-nigh universal misfortune. The demand for tickets at these games is always far in excess of the supply. It is at least comforting to note that no partiality was shown in the distribution of these tickets, that the press, the owners, the players and various interested people were all universally curtailed in their demands, and that those who were disappointed in their claims for tickets were confined to no single rank or station. We were personal witness to the claim upon President Herrmann by his own manager, Charlie Herzog, for admission to the first game at Philadelphia—admission which Mr. Herrmann was unable to give. Eventually, Herzog was given the place reserved for a newspaper man who failed to show up, but on direct claim he was as helpless as the rest.

Scandal over ticket speculation is unavoidable where so many admissions are granted, and where so great a demand exists for these admissions. It is inevitable that some tickets should find their way into the hands of speculators. No known method of preventing the practice, at least on a small scale, exists. That there was any collusion between the commission or owners in this respect is not to be considered for a moment. If there were dishonesty in the management of these great games, it would not display itself in a petty spirit, extorting pennies, where the great prize was allowed to go by default, in the limiting of the games played to four. If any proof of the honesty of baseball were needed it received a most conclusive demonstration there.

Not only are the World's Series contests held under the auspices and person-

al supervision of the National Commission, but various other important city series, of scarcely inferior interest, also tax the time and add to the cares of this much burdened commission. There is a tremendous amount of detail devolving upon the successful handling of such important events as the inter-club series at Chicago, for instance, where the crowds are nearly, if not quite, as great as at the World's Series games themselves. And it is all the more to the credit of this Commission, which has seen its work multiplied ten-fold during the past decade, that so few well-founded criticisms may be directed against its showing.

The money handled by the Commission and its authorized agents runs every fall into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The ability to satisfy, at least in a measure, all the varied interests which are clamoring for recognition at this time would do credit to a diplomatic corps. And it speaks in the highest terms of the efficiency of this select committee to say that in addition to conducting a varied legislative function, involving scores of leagues and thousands of individuals, passing on complicated questions and intricate points of law and equity, it is called upon in addition to successfully administrate a business involving so huge a fortune with so little error or dissatisfaction.

An interesting decision by the Commission recovered for player Thomas Eagan, of San Antonio club, four days' salary due him from that club. According to the finding, the Commission directs the latter club "to forthwith settle with the player through Secretary Farrell's office."

As in many other cases, the Commission is here seen safe-guarding the interests of the players, against the owners, where the latter have acted unjustly toward their employees.