

OUR LETTER BOX

A Department Devoted Exclusively to the Fans and Their Ideas and Suggestions on the National Game

The following department is set apart solely for the discussion by our readers of any baseball topic which appeals to them. While we cannot find space for all the letters which come to us in the course of the day's mail, we shall be glad to print a few representative letters each month. It is our earnest wish that the friends of baseball may take advantage of this opportunity to express their views on their favorite game.

BALTIMORE.

MR. F. C. LANE,

EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR.—As a Jewish resident of Baltimore, I feel called upon to resent a few remarks which, to my surprise, were published by you in a recent edition of your magazine. The communication was sent you by my illustrious fellow Marylander, Mr. M. A. Bealle, of that large, moral, prosperous and free-spending way-station—Relay.

I feel that I should not lower the dignity of Baltimore by taking issue with so ignorant and bigoted a man as Mr. Bealle, but I just could not see our city abused in such a manner by men even of his stripe, whose opinions are valued at about zero by decent thinking men. My mental picture of Mr. Bealle is that of a man who is too lazy to be even a "score-board" fan, too cheap to pay to see a game, and, as a whole—too darned "ornery" to live. I imagine that he can be found sunning himself, half reeling and half sitting on the grass, somewhere near a FREE baseball game in the close vicinity of Relay.

Returning to earth, Baltimore supported a half crippled second-class club for several years, giving up its best players as soon as they were developed and receiving its raps regularly from organized ball. Jack Dunn himself said that he has no complaint to make of his treatment while here. Can you blame us for deserting his team for one that is far superior to it and which as yet has not given us any dirty deals?

Possibly Mr. Bealle is not aware of the fact that Baltimore gave the Federal League the largest crowd that it ever had at any one game—30,000 at the opening game of the 1914 season. I paid for a reserved seat—wonder if Mr. Bealle did? (more likely he was peeping

through a knot-hole in the fence). Baltimore also was one of the few teams that broke even or better, which is "going some" for the first season.

In the second place, Baltimore is not "run by Jews," as claimed by my illustrious contemporary. To my recollection, there is now not one person of the Jewish faith holding an elective public office in Baltimore; and the only Jewish people in office are those appointed to honorary office by reason of some valuable public service.

In conclusion, I would like to advise Mr. Bealle to use his efforts toward reforming his own vicinity. He would do good work if he could change the point of view of certain wife-beaters and murderers of Relay and leave Baltimore's business to Baltimore people.

Yours truly,

ALBERT H. SAMUEL.

Baltimore, Md.

GENTLEMEN:—If you do not care to publish this letter, kindly return it to me, so that I may use it at some future time. A. H. S.

EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR.—I have been a reader of your magazine for some time, and think it's the best magazine ever printed. In fact, it's the only one I read from cover to cover, and enjoy every word of it.

I particularly enjoyed the "Walter Johnson" and "Boston Braves" issues. They were splendid, and I'm sure all of us were glad to know more about the champions and their interests outside of baseball. Am very anxious for the "Braves" to have a successful season. Some people don't think they were really and truly champions. I admire George Stallings and John Evers very much, and think Joe Connolly is a wonderful player.

Would like to see the Federal League succeed. I always have thought it would be a benefit to the players of baseball in general, and now I know it would—since reading Edward Reulbach's case.

Am so glad your magazine deals fairly with the Feds. "Why Not Now," the article in the April issue, is great. Why not devote a number to Grover Alexander? He's really a wonderful player and deserves more credit than he has ever received. I am an ardent admirer of his, and would like to know more about him. But probably I don't know, most men think women know *nothing* about baseball.

Wishing the BASEBALL MAGAZINE the best of luck, I am

Yours truly,

A FANNETTE.

MR. F. C. LANE,

DEAR SIR.—I have just been reading in your June issue the article by John H. Prentiss. How baseball should be changed.

What we fans want is more excitement. We do not want to sit back and hear the umpire's gruff voice yell "strike three," we want to see more batting, more fielding and more base running.

And I also think that changing the size of the ball would help out a good bit.

Yours very truly,

RUSS. W. HAINES.

ST. ALBANS, VERMONT.

MR. F. C. LANE,

70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

DEAR SIR.—In your May issue is contained the story of Mr. Edward Reulbach, which, to say the least, is great. We, up here in Vermont, perhaps are better acquainted with Mr. Reulbach (known as Sheldon) than the majority of people around the country, for the reason that he started playing the national game with what was known as the "Northern New York League" several years ago. Good old "Punch" Daly, who is now located in Montpelier, Vermont, I believe was responsible for getting him up here, and since his departure to the majors the fans throughout this part of the country have always watched the box score whenever Mr. Reulbach worked to see how he came out. Surely he got one rank deal at the hands of the Brooklyn Club, and while we do not wish Brooklyn any hard luck, we certainly trust that she does not finish in the first section, and that Mr. Edward Reulbach is able to place the Newark Feds right at the top of that league.

Yours very truly,

"A ROYAL ROOTER."

SALEM, OREGON.

THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

NEW YORK CITY.

DEAR SIR.—It seems to me that fans are so excited over some young American League pitchers that they are overlooking one Wolfgang, of the White Sox. Up till August 11th

of last season he had been used only to finish games. On that date, however, he pitched his first full game, shutting out Cleveland 2 to 0. On the team's last trip East he scored two victories over Walter Johnson. However, in the second both he and Johnson finished the game only. On September 5th, he again shut out Cleveland, giving but three hits. He took part in but 24 games, however, as his real worth was not discovered soon enough to give him a chance to participate in any more. In his 119 1/3 IP., his average in ER. was 1.89. Bressler's was 1.76 and Shore's was 1.90. Wolfgang ought to work a great deal this coming season.

Am very much pleased to see that you are giving the Federal League more attention. The league is surely deserving of it.

Yours truly,

REGINALD P. BROWN.

MARSHFIELD, OREGON.

MR. F. C. LANE.

DEAR SIR.—Just a few words for the letter box dept. The letter from a Baltimore fan, in which he describes his home as being a cheap town, was a big laugh in this town. We all read the baseball magazine and pass it around. The first time I got hold of your magazine I got it by mistake. I asked for a baseball guide, and the hick dealer gave me your book, but I don't regret it, as I am getting every number now.

That letter signed Fan, from Salem, Ore., was not so bad for a so-called score-board fan. I suppose that party wouldn't see every game in the A. or Nat. League if given the opportunity.

Don't know much about the Federal League, but am pretty sure a man who can run a billion-dollar bread factory knows where to invest his money, also a tightwad like Fielder Jones, who was in these parts last year, isn't hooking up with any cemeteries. We understand he owns 50% St. Louis F. L. stock.

With best wishes,

HARRY WAGNER.

EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR.—On page 96 in your May number appears a "Trap Shooting Conundrum" which, according to my way of thinking, is not so difficult to solve. According to my figures it would make no difference whether the target is thrown from the rear of the train or whether thrown from the pilot or whether it is thrown straight to either side. It would be the same as shooting from the ground, or, as you would at an ordinary shoot. Assuming that the target travels 80 yards in two seconds, it would travel past a given point at the rate of 81 miles, 4,320 feet, per hour. Then, if the target is thrown from rear of train, you would simply deduct the 30 miles per hour that the train is running, which makes the velocity of the target 51 miles, 4,320 feet, per hour, and would give you the same time to get the bird as if you were shooting from a stationary trap. If the tar-

get is thrown from front of train the target would pass a given point at 111 miles, 4,320 feet, per hour, but you would be following the target at 30 miles per hour, which again gives you the same shot as above, providing, of course, that the day is calm. This would be like shooting at a target with a rifle at, say, 50 yards, both traveling in same direction at exactly the same speed, would you aim ahead of the target? Not me, I would aim on the bullseye as near as I could. If you were going faster than the target you would aim back of it, and if it is traveling faster than you, you would aim ahead of it, would you not? *I am a constant reader of your valuable magazine and would like to see a few other opinions on the above.*

Yours truly,

ALBERT VOGEL.

Biggs, Oregon.

HONOLULU, HAWAII, APRIL 26, 1915.
BASEBALL MAGAZINE, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

DEAR SIR.—I have been a consistent reader of your magazine for the past five years, and consider it the best publication of its kind ever printed. It is indeed a magazine that every baseball fan should have on his reading table.

Enclosed you will find a clip of newspaper about a baseball game in Texas, between the Chinese University of Hawaii and Baylor baseball team of Texas.

Hope you will publish this game in your worthy magazine.

I am as ever,

J. L.

Apau Kau, pitcher of the near All-Chinese ball team now on the mainland broke into the limelight in Texas recently as a no-hit and no-run pitcher. Following is an account of the game he pitched, clipped from the *Waco Morning Star* of April 7:

"Apau Kau, of the Chinese University of Honolulu, yesterday afternoon pitched a perfect game against Baylor, allowing not a single hit, walking nobody, hitting not a man and allowing not a Bear to reach first base. Behind him his teammates played errorless ball, and put four runs across as a reward for his wonderful pitching. It sometimes happens that a pitcher will get through a game without allowing a hit, but the records are particularly short of perfect baseball, and that is what the clever young American citizen of Chinese descent played yesterday. Incidentally, Kau struck out 20 Baylor batsmen.

Baylor made three errors, any one of which was to some extent excusable. The bunch really showed up excellently, and the class of ball they put up will win more than a fair percentage of games. But they were stacked against such pitching as is seldom seen in college, or even in professional class.. Apau Kau is manager of the Chinese team. He has a great spit ball, and he often fakes it to good advantage. His fast one has a hop that would cause envy on the part of Walter Johnson, and his dry curves are equally as good. Besides all this, he has wonderful con-

trol and uses his head like a veteran major leaguer.

It was not until the seventh inning that Kau started really working for a no-hit game. Up to that time he had paid little attention to anything beyond keeping the bases clear, if possible. In the third, fourth and fifth innings he struck out eight consecutive men, and when Mendenhall broke this string with a grounder to second base Kau said nothing more about any kind of a record. When the seventh was gone through he announced that he would try to keep men off the bases for a no-hit game.

He was perfectly cool, showing little signs of any strain, although he was undoubtedly anxious to get a no-hit game. In the ninth Coach Mosley sent in three pinch hitters. With Miller at the bat, the last man of the game, Kau appeared slightly anxious. Miller tried hard to hit. With the count two and two on the batter, Kau sent a slow hook up to the plate, which Miller rolled easily to T. Moriyama at second, for the last out of the game. It is an unwritten law in professional baseball that when a pitcher has a no-hit game up to the last man to bat, that the batter make no attempt to hit the ball if the opposing team has as many as two runs."

F. C. LANE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR :—I was especially pleased when I read the article in the May baseball magazine about the "Most Unfortunate Man in Baseball." I am located out in the uncut some three thousand miles away from the place where Merkle's famous error was made. The fans here being mostly of the book-taught variety cannot understand how I have consistently refused to speak of Fred Merkle in the manner common with sport scribes throughout the country.

It was my good fortune to have known Fred Merkle before he played baseball. We attended school together and carried papers together. In high school he was the cleverest man in his class. I believe he had more brains per square inch than any normal man I ever met.

He was a natural athlete. It seemed as easy for him to be a star in any branch of sport that he undertook as it was to recite his German lessons—which was considerable easy.

I believe that he was 16 years old when he was ready to graduate from high school. But old Herr Fisher, the German prof., didn't like Fred very well. Fred never was known to study his German lesson, but always could recite and translate better than any one else in the class. The fact was that Fred knew more about German than Herr Fischer himself and the Herr Professor knew it. So he flunked Fred just before graduation time. Fred applied for a chance to take the "flunkers' exams" in German and Herr Fisher was asked to prepare a special exam, which he did. Fred was the only man to take it and it was not a very easy one.

Fred graduated with the class all right. Mr. Fisher never would tell the mark that Fred got, but some one on the inside investigated later and found that "the Most Unfortunate Man in Baseball" was graded one hundred per cent. by Herr Fisher, the man who had prepared the especially difficult paper. I might also mention that Fred Merkle got his first baseball training under the man who is credited with having pitched the first no hit, no run game in organized baseball—Dr. Lee Richmond. Dr. Richmond was teaching mathematics in the Toledo High School when Fred first tried out for the team.

It isn't very often that I take my typewriter in hand and address a "letter to the editor," but after reading that article I couldn't help horning in with a "them's my sentiments too."

Yours truly,
 JOE F. PRICE,
 Sporting Editor,
Morning Albertan
 Calgary, Alberta,
 Canada.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. MAY 5, 1915.
 EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:—You will, no doubt, be interested in hearing that a former reader of your magazine, now a resident in the far interior of China, has written to me, asking if it would be possible to secure the copy or copies of the magazine containing the report of the World's Series Championship games played last fall. Knowing as you do that the Catholic clergy are generally very enthusiastic supporters of the National game, you will not be surprised to learn that the party interested is a Franciscan Missionary, now working in the Province of Hunan, Rev. Father Juniper Doolin, O. F. M. I would be very glad if we could send him the magazine he desires and, if you can furnish same, beg that you kindly forward it to me with bill.

Sincerely yours,
 CHARLES PHILLIPS.

MR. F. C LANE.

DEAR SIR :—I note that Mr. Phelon is partial in dealing with the Federal League. I see no reason why there shouldn't be a third Major league; it would reform baseball and do it more good than bad.

How about a "Special Issue on the Federal League," or "Benny Kauff" and some other "Fed" stars. There are as many stars in the Federal League as in the other two major leagues.

You have had nothing about "Hans" Lobert for a long time. "Honus" is the greatest third baseman in the game now, as Baker left the game; so the records show, and your

All-American pick. Lobert showed the real "stuff," though spiked in one of the Boston games, he gamely played it out and also started the Philly tenet. In the July number, let us see something about "Honus and the "Feds." and nothing but "real baseball."

Thanking you for your valuable space in the letter box, and wishing you and your magazine the best of luck, I remain,

Yours very truly,
 STANLEY L. HORKA.

EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:—I am a close follower of baseball and take great interest in reading the Letter Box of your magazine. I herewith present twenty-one players, the National League limit, and all Cub players of the present time listed on Bresnahan's Chicago Cubs:

- ZaBel
- SaieR
- LavEender
- KniSley
- ZimmermaN
- WilliAms
- Hartgrave
- McLArry
- PhelaN
- Schultz
- PierCe
- VaugHn
- StandrIge
- Cheney
- Adams
- Good
- COorriden
- ArCher
- HUmphries
- Bresnahan
- FiSher

Yours truly,
 A CUB FAN.

TEXAS CITY, TEXAS.

LETTER BOX, BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

The question has arisen among a crowd of fans here as to whether the players in the major leagues can place a ball with any accuracy when batting.

Some contend that the players are coached to place hits and that they can do so about fifty per cent. of the time when so signalled to do so. The others say that it is impossible to do so with any accuracy and that hits placed in safe territory are so placed luckily.

If you would kindly enlighten us on this point we would greatly appreciate your information.

Thanking you in advance for a reply at your earliest convenience, I remain,

Yours respectfully,
 C. M. HESS

All that a batter can hope to do is to hit either to the left or right of the diamond or outfield. Sam Crawford once told us that he "placed" about one hit a season, which is a good average.

