

EDITORIAL COMMENT

ONE hundred and forty-two years ago an English monarch, George III by name, through his policy of short-sighted tyranny, drove his loyal colonists in America to revolt from his despotic rule. The document which announced their independence to the world was drawn up on July Fourth, an ever memorable date in American history.

A descendant of that ancient monarch now occupies the English throne. Like his predecessor, his name, too, is George, the fifth of his royal house. How will that monarch treat the date which saw the fairest province in the British Empire torn from the mother country?

One hundred and forty-two years bring many changes. Those one-time colonists, grown to a mighty people, now stand shoulder to shoulder with the subjects of the present English sovereign in the most stupendous conflict the world has ever seen. And King George has announced his intention of celebrating July Fourth by attending a baseball game. By this deference to America's national sport he seeks to express the friendly ties which now unite the two great nations of the English race, long torn asunder.

The passing days record some curious events on the war mused calendar. But history shows no stranger thing than a monarch joining in the universal celebration of the greatest disaster which ever befell the dynasty, of which he himself is member.

Here's to King George, the most recent and the most illustrious convert to the ranks of fandom! May the game he graces with his presence be replete with sensational plays, a close, hard-fought contest, dear to the American heart. And may the team he roots for win!!!

THE passing of Fielder Jones will be a distinct loss to baseball. True, his later experiences as a major league manager were crowned with no such success as his earlier ventures, but his capacity as a manager has been established beyond cavil.

Jones was a strict disciplinarian, a fiery and brilliant campaign director, a master of baseball strategy. As a man he was somewhat irritable, intensely secretive; but beneath his well-marked exterior of reserve and craft, essentially just, sound in his judgments, respected, if not liked, by his associates and subordinates.

The manager who fights his way to the top in the major leagues is usually the man who has his fortune still to make, or has become hardened to adversity by years in the service.

Jones, on the other hand, re-entered the arena after several seasons passed in other pursuits. He found himself grown somewhat rusty toward conditions with which he had to familiarize himself anew. And since he was a wealthy man in a moderate way, and did not have to endure the many worries incident to his new job we are not surprised that he left it abruptly when his other business interests required his attention.

Though his later days as manager were somewhat clouded with disaster Jones can retire in the comforting knowledge that his act was a voluntary one. He can carry with him the memory of one eventful day in October, 1906, when he found himself the hero of the baseball world, the man who had performed a modern miracle, who had downed the Cubs—the most powerful team in recent history—in one of the most sensational world's series ever played.

Few men in baseball ever gain the success which Jones has won. Perhaps he acts not unwisely in stepping aside at this time, to allow some less famous manager the chance to win that fame which in his own case would be superfluous.

"BASEBALL has been criticised in some quarters for the way it has responded to the war call," said Jake Rupert, Pres. of the Yankees in a recent interview. "But I can't think off hand of any other industry that has done more. The percentage of players who have enlisted would match the quota from any other industry to my knowledge, and these players have made more of a sacrifice than most young men are called upon to make. A ball-player has only a few years to devote to his profession. The average young man can make up for lost time after he returns, but no one can ever give back to the ball-player for his career on the diamond the time which he spent in the trenches.

"And you haven't heard the owners kicking about the loss of players either. But its a genuine loss just the same, let me tell you. What has an owner anyway, except a franchise which is a part interest in a business, a ball park maybe, and contracts with a number of players. When one of these players leaves, the owner has to spend thousands of dollars to find someone to take his place. The owner has really lost a part of his business equivalent to thousands of dollars. But you haven't heard him making complaints. On the other hand baseball men every where, so far as I know, have co-operated by every means in their power with the successful prosecution of the war. They have subscribed liberally for Liberty Bonds and so have the players. They have contributed to the Red Cross in large amounts, and so have the players. They have admitted soldiers and sailors to the games free of charge, played exhibition games for charitable purposes, and so on. I am not saying they have done any more than they should have done. That isn't the point. Everybody ought to do all he can afford to do in these times. I am merely stating, as a fact, that organized baseball has done its bit as well as, if not better than any other industry of similar size I know of. Why then, should it be criticised? For professional baseball is an industry an industry contributing its share in the form of taxes to the government, co-operating with the government everywhere to the limit of its facilities.

"And baseball is a necessity admitted to be such by all well informed persons. The soldiers want it and so do the sailors. Ever see the soldiers or sailors at a big league game? Do they take any interest in proceedings? Why, when a play comes up that they like you can hear them a mile.

"I think baseball has done its bit in a very creditable way up to date. I think that baseball, instead of being given a black eye, ought to have a pat on the back. And I am not speaking for selfish reasons either. Baseball is merely a side line to me, a hobby if you want to call it so. I am in the game because I like it not because I expect to make a fortune out of it. But I honestly can't see where baseball has failed in any of its obligations or has neglected to do its bit in good, liberal measure."