

# OUR MAIL BOX

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

Camp Meade, Md.

BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

Secretary of War Baker's recent ruling on Professional baseball allows me to make a suggestion in regard to taking care of those players who have spent their entire career in trying to make themselves stars in the big show.

It would not be a bad idea to have some of the best players placed in the various camps on this side the Atlantic also in France and Italy, to give the soldier genuine high class baseball. Have them instruct and organize baseball as it should be played at its best, thus stimulating the game more than it has been in the various cantonments and overseas.

The War Camp Activities could send these men to all the camps and overseas just as the boxing and swimming instructors are already employed.

Since baseball is a more widely played game than either of the above mentioned sports, it appears to the writer, that some steps should be taken to have baseball instructors and no better time will present itself than the present, when so many professional players will be looking for other employment.

By creating these positions, the men who have spent their best years in trying to bring baseball up to its present high plane could give the government more benefit from their efforts, than by playing in the Industrial Leagues. These men are a help to the employees of these concerns, but in the camps, they would be of much greater benefit.

To begin with the soldiers would get instruction from experienced men. This is on a line with other war activities. We have experienced men to teach our soldiers, men who have seen real action at the front.

Then, too, baseball instructors (big league men) are far more valuable than boxing instructors, for this war will be won by team work, by company regiments and divisions all pulling together.

Baseball men use such methods. Rarely has a pennant winning team been made up of individual stars. A winning combination is a collection of individuals taught to act as one.

We have some very capable men as athletic officers—but these men cannot with their military duties to perform, get the best results in the way of playing and organization. Then, too, there aren't enough of these officers with baseball experience. After several months' work in the athletic line at Camp Meade, having represented the Knights of Columbus on the Athletic Council here, I feel in a position to write these facts, from personal observation. Reading good baseball news such as furnished by the *Baseball Magazine* is also of great help.

(Signed) J. HARRIS,

Sec'y K. of C.

Bronx. New York City.

Cape Cod, Mass.

MR. F. C. LANE,

Editor of the *Baseball Magazine*.

Dear Sir: Old Chromo and his Sole Supporter have surely "started something" in the "Mail Box." Personally, I agree with them. There are too many useless "All Star Teams" that occupy precious space, and although it seems to be the fashion just now to assail Old Chromo, I notice he is accomplishing his mission in a rather surprising style.

McGraw, in my opinion, is a very good manager—quite out of the ordinary run; but do you not think that if he should curb his "Irish" a trifle, he would have less knockers and more supporters?

As an enthusiastic "backer" of the Red Sox, I take great pleasure in the game fight they are now putting up, in spite of the obstacles that have confronted them, "Babe" Ruth and Harry Hooper are certainly enjoying a wonderful year. Although Ruth's temperament is not everything that could be desired, his heavy bat and all round playing ability cover a multitude of sins. Furthermore, all "geniuses" are permitted to be temperamental!

Lester Beesley's letter, in the June number of THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE, was very interesting, although I do not agree with one rather broad statement of his. For instance, he says: "I think he (referring to Sisler) should be the model of all ball players who have any ambition whatever." Why Sisler, who is a comparatively young player, instead of some older star, who has proved his greatness in long years of playing?

Speaker in my opinion is the greatest outfielder in the game. It seems too bad that he is having an unfortunate batting slump this year.

Wishing THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE the best of success, which it most certainly deserves, I am

Respectfully yours,  
"1919."

Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

MR. F. C. LANE,

I have just received my August issue of THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE and enjoyed several good articles that it contained. I would like very much to see some good story about the Boston Red Sox in a coming issue of your Magazine, as I think the Red Sox should be the "talked of" team of the Major Leagues if a hard-working, game, never quitting bunch of ball players counts for anything. It seems to me, that judging from the news regarding the Red Sox in THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE alone, one would think that the Sox were a second division club, and that they were playing about five hundred percentage ball, instead of leading the League as they have done since the opening of the season, and at the same time doing it under the difficulties which they have been forced to overcome. I believe in giving publicity to the team and players that deserve it.

The Red Sox started the present season with at least half of their players in the service, including a number of stars, and a few have entered the service since the beginning of the season. Of course this is nothing more than the other clubs have done, but none of them have given the men to the service that the Red Sox have. It is true that they got some real stars from the Athletics, but they did not have enough material. However they started the season at the same pace they always start it, with a patched-up line-up, two or three recruits playing regularly, men not playing in their accustomed places, etc. and they have played the whole season to date with pitchers and catchers in the outfield, outfielders in the infield and so on. The records will show that the Red Sox have made more runs and rallies when they needed them, in the ninth inning than any other team in the League.

Babe Ruth is certainly the star of the season, considering the fact that he is a pitcher, and his bat has won many games for the Sox that otherwise would have been lost. But Ruth is a great pitcher also, and I believe his playing regularly will eventually injure his pitching ability. I don't believe Barrow would ever have put Ruth in the regular line-up if he had had enough outfielders at all, because Barrow like every other manager, knows the value of a pitcher like Ruth. But he had to put some pitcher or catcher out there to make a line-up, and of course he selected the one he thought would deliver.

I think Carl Mays has proven himself to be the best pitcher in the League. Not a lot of fancy, three hit, two-game pitching, but just regular, steady, pitching. I think his average for the season is about five hits per game, and he has pitched and won more games than any other pitcher in either league.

I think that if a few of the contributors to the "Mail Box" would stop a moment and consider what the "Mail Box" is for, and what kind of a Magazine THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE is, they would stop so much of the useless and foolish criticism that they are pouring forth upon each other.

Yours truly,  
E. M. STOCKARD.

Bronx, New York City.

BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

Sir: Why do they all say that the New York Nationals are a flivver, and that the Pesky Cubs are putting it all over them, when they have lost only Alec the Great in the draft? Don't people who criticize make allowances for the inroads the draft has made in the Giants? If the club had Barnes who won six straight, Benton the hero of a world series Tesreau, Kauff, and Shupp in form, the New York Nationals would run away with the Cubs and the whole league, world series and all. Why should Mitchell be given so much credit. When a team wins a pennant with his most formidable contenders crippled is there any honor in it? And yet it seems that they (the Cubs) are given credit for beating the crack New York team when only two or three men of the original 26 straighters are on the team.

If McGraw is not given the credit due him then the public is truly fickle. And who can influence the public. The sport writers. Talking about writers, Fullerton ought to be thrown out of the press box. Always a rabid New York knocker he has shown himself in his true colors by awarding the pennant to Chicago six weeks before the season is over. And even now



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when the poor Giants are five and one-half games behind I will go down on record as saying that the Giants will win the pennant.

McGraw should be the idol of the N. Y. fans. All interested in baseball without any prejudice should and will say so. Use your fine magazine as propaganda for the cause of the Giants who are making the gamest fight of baseball history.

Now to answer the critic blockhead who says that he admires McGraw but does not see why he traded different players who are now playing great ball, Merkle is the only one who can claim any credit and as for Rudolph when he was released he was a true lemon. So was Shore. Giving ten runs in one inning is enough excuse for a manager to release a player.

A PRESENT SUBSCRIBER.

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#### TRADE NOTE.

The Baseball Magazine has just received copies of Draper-Maynard's new fall and winter catalog of their athletic goods. Also a copy of the 1918 and 1919 D. & M. Official booklet of football and basketball rules. This book contains also Soccer football laws, Volley ball rules and the Marquis of Queensberry rules. This booklet is pocket size, and the D. & M. people will send it upon request, and there is no charge for it. Every follower of sports should have this little 40 page booklet.

The war is fast making this country more of an athletic country than ever before, and after the war sports and athletics of all kinds are going to enjoy the greatest popularity in the history of the country. The D. & M. people supply the wants of every form of athletics, both is the amateur ranks and in the army and navy.

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