

INDEPENDENCE IS MENACED

Increased Expenses a Peril Which Threatens Many Newspapers

There are over 23,000 newspapers in the United States, and yet there is no other branch of business in regard to which such dense ignorance prevails as to cost and profit of production.

This is a matter which is fast becoming of public concern, for the character of the American press and its future influence as the protector of American liberty depend upon it.

Some extremely important facts bearing upon the cost of publishing newspapers in the city of New York have recently been given in a brief submitted by John Norris on behalf of the publishers. Mr. Norris is an acknowledged expert upon the subject of which he writes, having long been connected with the business departments of leading New York and Philadelphia newspapers. He has made an exhaustive investigation, and his brief is a document of extraordinary significance.

Mr. Norris does not hesitate to say that there is now impending over the daily newspaper press of New York the most serious menace that ever confronted it. This is strong language, and yet his statement of facts seems to warrant it. An additional burden of \$3,000,000 a year in the expense account of sixteen daily newspapers constitutes the menace of which Mr. Norris speaks, but there is a larger menace than that back of these figures, of which account will be given later on. This \$3,000,000 a year of added expense includes \$2,160,000 for white paper, \$600,000 additional for compositors, \$200,000 additional for stereotypers and \$100,000 additional for other labor. Mr. Norris declares that no more than four papers out of sixteen which he represents could make both ends meet upon such terms. He adds that these sixteen papers pay \$1,500,000 a year tribute to organized labor—that is to say, that is the additional cost of a closed shop, the principle of which he accepts, but he now asks how long the newspapers will be able to meet these additional charges upon them. "We are," he says, "approaching that limit where our necessities may force us to stop."

Here are some additional facts picked at random from Mr. Norris' brief: Ninety per cent of all newspaper circulation in New York city is on the one cent basis. The sale of advertising space is also on a declining rate. Since 1895 the earning power per column of most of the New York papers has been reduced. A powerful combination of dry goods merchants has operated to reduce the line charge. This dry goods combination stayed out of the World for seven months, boycotted the Sun at the time of its labor trouble and has been out of the Times for about four years. When the New York World reduced the price of its paper from 2 cents to 1 cent it gained 90,000 circulation in three weeks, but gave up

\$1,000 a day \$312,000 a year, in revenue and added at least \$500 a day to its expenses. That meant a loss of \$450,000 a year in gross revenue. Mr. Norris went on to say that the New York Times is prospering, but that the fact was plainly evident that its profit for a long period would not pay for the additional cost on its new building which was put upon it by the many unions in fights to which the Times was not a party. These fights added \$538,000 to the cost of construction. The Herald is a three cent paper and can afford many extravagances and submit to many exactions, but there are extremes beyond which one cent papers cannot go.

The demands, he declared, are verging upon the point of putting up some newspaper shutters. The New York World pays out \$2,500,000 a year for labor. This is at the rate of \$50,000 a week, and the remarkable fact is stated that there are 1,000 men now on its payroll who receive over \$1,500 a year. The newsdealers make a profit of \$1,500,000 every year from its sale. The smallest share of returns goes to the newspaper capital. Mr. Norris goes on to add that the daily newspaper business is the most precarious venture that can be devised. The most highly prosperous in the city spends more than 80 per cent of its revenue in its operating expenses. While most of the papers show deficits. The newspaper percentage of profit is less than that of any other manufacturing enterprise. For every \$1,000 of increased business gained by at least one paper more than \$1,000 has been paid out to get it. In a period of ten years the New York World's expenses increased 40 per cent, and its earning power decreased fully as much.

Such facts as these are staggering. Unless conditions change they point to very important changes in the character of the newspaper press. The liberty of the press is one of the safeguards of our civilization. It is essential under such a form of government as we possess that the independence of the press should be preserved. Independence is best maintained by the operation of newspapers for profit. Any other method of operation simply means a subsidized press.

Joseph Pulitzer when he learned the cost of cutting down the price of his paper from 2 cents to 1 cent declared, "We prefer power to profit." Either a newspaper is to be conducted for profit or else it becomes dependent upon some rich man like Mr. Hearst for the political opportunity which it affords, or else the newspaper must be subsidized by the great corporations like the Standard Oil Company and become not the independent organ of public opinion, but the subsidized organ of corporation interest. This is the greater menace.—Wall Street Journal.

BASEBALL ACCIDENTS FEW

Amusing Incidents of the National Game Told By a Fan

BY HUGH S. FULLERTON.

As compared to football, baseball is a harmless game. Few of the players suffer serious injuries, and this is a wonder, because on a conservative estimate there are 400 games played in this country every day during the season, and in nearly every game one or two players have narrow escapes, or receive slight injuries.

It would seem that the baseball players are lucky, for there are many cases of broken fingers, spike wounds, bruises from batted balls and hard raps in the head, but the wonder is that there are not more serious injuries. Blood poisoning from leg wounds, where the colored stockings are driven into the legs of the players, is the most dreaded form of accident.

There have been many odd accidents however. Jimmy Connor, who was playing in one of the minor eastern leagues the last time I heard of him, was ruined for major league company by an accident that came near killing him. He was at bat when big Jack Taylor of Philadelphia, sent up a terrific inshoot. Connor thought he had caught the signal for a fast curve, stepped in, and was dropped like a log, the ball striking him squarely in the temple. The injury made him timid at bat for years.

Fred Lake and a big first-baseman

ran together on the Kansas City grounds in 1897 while after a foul fly. Both men were going at top speed and smashed their faces and bodies together, both dropping unconscious to the ground. Neither man ever fully recovered from the collision, although both played afterwards. The strange feature of the accident was that when Lake was carried off the field unconscious and seemingly fatally hurt, the ball still was clutched in his hand.

Hughey Jennings, the old Baltimore star, had an odd accident at Washington once. He was playing short and went tearing across back of third after a foul fly. The field seats there are low and projected in front by a triple row of wires. Jennings made a wild running jump after the ball just as it was falling into the bleachers and got it in one hand. He had leaped instinctively to avoid a collision with the low fence, and he went between the wires and remained suspended there, kicking and struggling but still holding the ball. Beyond a few cuts and scratches he escaped injury.

Perhaps the oddest accident that ever happened on the ball field was on the Baltimore grounds. The outfield fence there was built slanting—that is, there was an upright fence and inside that was a platform slanting from the ground to the top of the fence at an angle of about 60 degrees. Probably it was intended to

put seats there, but it was used for signs.

Willie Keeler, playing in the short right field, used to run up that fence and catch fly balls many times—but one day, in a game against St. Louis, he miscalculated. Jim Clements hit a line drive to right, high over Keeler's head, and the speedy little fellow dashed for the fence and started to run along it after the manner of cyclists riding on a sloping track, going higher and higher. He saw that the ball was going over him and he made a last despairing effort—but could not reach. Then, too late, he tried to save himself, and for an instant went sprinting along the top of the fence—then disappeared.

The crowd sat aghast for an instant, then some of the other players dashed for the fence, but before they reached it Keeler, a little disheveled, climbed up and slid down into the grounds amid a roar of cheers.

Tom Tucker was the victim of an odd accident in Pittsburg once. Back of first base, and just off the foul line, is a gate through which spectators are admitted to the field in case of great crowds and one day a boulder rolled foul and went under that fence, with Tucker in wild pursuit. He tore open the gate, dashed down the alleyway, and got the ball, then started back, but the gate had swung shut and four or five ardent Pittsburg rooters were holding it there. Wagner, who hit the ball, was tearing towards third when Tucker attempted to climb the gate. He reached the top and then the rooters swung the gate open with Tom on top, and held him there until the run scored. Even Tom laughed as he came back up the field, although bruised and scratched.

An odd accident happened one time when the Cincinnati team was playing an exhibition game at Wilmington, O., the town which Charlie Murphy recently made famous. The game was played in the fair grounds, and the backstretch of the half-mile track was cut through a clay hill. During the game Bug Holliday rapped a long drive to right and it went over the bank, and disappeared down the cut, Bug making a home run. The next batter stepped up, the pitcher pitched—and then there was a commotion—the right fielder had disappeared. He was found on the track, with all the wind knocked out of him when he ran over the edge of the high bank in pursuit of Holliday's hit.

Jimmy Conner is the only major league player who ever was bitten by a snake during a game. The game was played by the old Chicago club at Oakland, Md., against a crowd of collegians from the nearby summer resorts. Conner was playing second base, and in the third inning of the game some one rolled an easy bouncer towards him. Just as he stooped to pick up the ball he straightened up, let out a warwhoop, jumped five feet into the air and lighted running, letting the ball go on. Walter Thornton, who was pitching, ran out and killed a two-foot garter snake. Conner always vowed it bit just as he started to field the ball.

One of the games in the recent series of the Cubs with the Giants in Chicago resulted in a list of injuries that reads like the reports of a railroad wreck.

One Seymour, center fielder of the Giants, had his right leg wrenched in a collision with Bill Dahlen. Missed the fly. Taken to hotel in coupe.

Dahlen, Bill—Dazed by the same collision; was able to continue game, and to register kick.

Hoffman (otherwise known as Arte), first base of the Cubs—Caught his spikes in the bag while sliding to second; ankle twisted. Fractured the commandment.

Unknown fan—Hit in the head by foul ball while watching the game from the overflow seats behind the catcher; took the count up to nine, but was able to see light to a finish.

As may be seen, all the injuries are not confined to the players. The innocent spectator sometimes is mixed up with the injured. In a recent Chicago game a man in the grand stand was hit in a queer way. A ball struck a post and shot off at an angle just as if it had hit the cushion of a billiard table. A spectator looking out at the field and not thinking that the foul was anywhere near was surprised by a blow on the back of the head. He turned around, ready to fight, for he seemed to think that some one had hit him. When he found that it was the ball that was responsible, he quitted down.

Notice.

—All members of Coos Tribe No. 33, I. O. R. M., are requested to meet at their wigwam at 9:00 a. m., on Labor Day to participate in the parade on that day. By request of Sachem. H. McLain.

—The Wilson stage will leave Marshfield for Roseburg Monday, Sept. 2.

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WANTED—Ten men to clear land on Plat B, by the acre. L. D. Kinney.

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FOR SALE—Portable bake oven and baking utensils. Address "Business" care Times.

WANTED—Girl bookkeeper for general merchandise store. Address box 209, Marshfield, Ore.

WANTED—An elderly lady to cook for eating club of eight men. Address Box P, North Bend.

WANTED—Good farm and dairy hand. Wages \$40.00 per mo. and board. E. L. Bessey. Phone 208.

WANTED—Two heavy teams to haul piling for Plat B wharf, on contract or six dollars per day. L. D. Kinney.

WANTED—Man and wife or widow woman, no objections to child; or good girl for general house work. Apply Mrs. F. Rogers, Coos River. Phone 207.

FOR SALE—Eight-room house and lot on Mead street, just north of M. E. church. Price, \$1800, cash. J. S. Edmunds, North Bend, or F. L. Sumner, Marshfield, Ore.

WANTED—Anybody having goods to store call at Taylor's Piano House on Broadway, near C. street. Large warehouse just completed. Terms reasonable.

WANTED—By Mrs. J. A. Goodwill, a few summer boarders; parties wishing a day on South Coos river can get dinner. Phone 20x8. Launch Tloga leaves 2:00 a. m. daily.

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