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Five Cents

Big League Stories

By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN

L-THE TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR ARM

From "The Ten Thousand Dollar Arm and Other Tales of the Big League"

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WHENEVER a recruit joined the Blue Jays—that famous minor league club which sends so many youngsters to the big league and takes veterans in exchange—the first thing that the recruit was likely to ask was, "Which is him?"

Nobody pretended to misunderstand that question. The players would point out a tall, thin man, with a wrinkled forehead and hair turning gray at the temples, and the recruit would look his fill with reverence and some awe in his eyes. "Him" was none other than the great and only Bruno Smelser, "Bruno of the \$10,000 arm," and our fathers cheered themselves hoarse over him in the late eighties and early nineties.

As the recruit took in each detail of face and figure he would remember that this man was pitching no-bit games away back in the dim and distant past when it was customary for the third baseman to wear a mustache, and the \$10,000 arm was a household phrase before the great pitchers of the present day were out of the kindergarten.

To do the recruits justice, it was not the sight of one of the former great ones of the diamond which moved them so strongly, but the thought that old Bruno was still pitching winning ball—"still getting away with it," as they said.

Bruno Smelser was a left hander. Check over the list of the great south-paws of the past and present, and you will understand why ball players hold the firm belief that every phenomenal left hander is "queer." Without wishing to nick the sensitive feelings of any gentleman who hurls them from the port side, it may be stated that there have been enough peculiar left handers to justify the belief that side-wheelers and loose screws usually go together.

If Bruno had an eccentricity it lay in the almost idolatrous worship which he bestowed upon his \$10,000 arm. If that be an eccentricity then a red fox is eccentric. It was nothing but the extravagant care which Bruno lavished upon his aged wing which made it possible for him to outlast every left hander in the business and all the right handers save one.

Charlie Grubb was the manager and team captain for the Blue Jays, who held his job in spite of the fact that he was always at war with the owner, Dave Bullen. Charlie did not have any particular love for Bruno and would have been glad to rid himself of the veteran, but the only time he mentioned this to Bullen he ran head first into a stone wall. Bullen did not often put his foot down, but when he did there was an end to the argument.

Dressed for public appearance, the old man would cajole some youthful catcher into accompanying him out behind the bleachers, where not a breath of air was stirring. Here he would shed his sweater and pitch for half an hour. If the arm "felt all right" he would work for forty-five minutes, after which he would put on his sweater again and watch the game from the sunny end of the bench.

On the second day the entire process would be repeated, and on the third, if all went well, he would come out from behind the bleachers with a broad grin on his face.

"She's there today, boys," he would say, by which he meant that the \$10,000 arm was ready to earn its salary. By years of practice Bruno had acquired astonishing proficiency in one trick which no pitcher was likely to steal from him. It was especially designed for catching a batter off his guard. Whenever Bruno began studying the ground in front of him Sullivan, his veteran catcher, would know what was coming. The old man would stand in the box, his eyes cast down and his head bent slightly forward. Suddenly and without raising his head to look at the batter he would take his step and deliver his "fast" ball, and nine times out of ten he would split the heart of the plate before the amazed hitter could recover from his surprise.

Another neat trick of the sort required Sullivan's collaboration. Ordinarily foul balls against the grand stand netting were tossed back to the catcher by players from the bench. When Bruno worked Steve Sullivan did his own retrieving. When Steve picked up the ball he would toss it back to Bruno, who would at once step into the box ready to pitch. Sullivan, returning to the plate, would pick up his mask where he had dropped it—always behind the batter and from six to ten feet away from the plate. As Steve picked up the mask he would address some remark to the batter calculated to excite a reply. If the batter turned his head to answer Sullivan would drop the mask and dive

into position, for the turn of the batter's head was Bruno's cue to aim the ball over for a strike.

Charlie Grubb, second baseman with the team for six years and playing manager for four, found his trouble at last. A recruit from the wilds of Wyoming literally elbowed the boss out of his place at second. Charlie had no wish to become a bench manager, and he hung on as long as he could, but he could not conceal the fact that he was no longer hitting in the 275 class, and, to make it worse, his legs were going



He Would Shed His Sweater and Pitch For Half an Hour.

(posed by Eddie Plank, Athletics.)

back on him. McRae, the Wyoming recruit, was not only a sensational infielder, but he could hit like a Delawarean, and he was a streak on the base.

Two or three of the sporting writers started a campaign to drive Grubb to the bench and hammer away at him so viciously that the entire baseball population took up the cry, and when that happens it is the wise man who will step aside as quietly and unostentatiously as possible. Grubb was not wise.

He took to snarling at the reporters, and this was throwing gasoline on the fire. In the end the manager was forced to retreat and McRae got his chance—and made good.

Grubb began to brood over his troubles and fight with Dave Bullen. The manager went so far as to make threats against his persecutors, which crept into the sporting pages of the papers, and this was the situation when the Blue Jays came winging home for the four games which were to close the season. As luck had it, the four games were with the club which was crowding Grubb's men hard for the pennant—the Canaries, so called because it was believed that they had once shown a streak of yellow.

There was nothing yellow about the way the Canaries twittered when they rolled into town, needing three games to win the flag. They modestly announced that they would win all four, and the local fans howled.

Nash led off for the Blue Jays, and the Beau won his game on cannon ball speed. Dud Belcher went in for the second game and sustained a defeat in eleven innings.

On the third day poor Charlie Grubb offered his overladen back to the last straw. The score was a tie at three apiece when the Blue Jays began to hit in the eighth inning—began to hit with one out and Grubb coaching off third base. McRae and "Skeets" Tilford, the two heaviest hitters on the team, were coming up. McRae slammed a fast ball into center field and was off around the bases like a deer. Jimmy McLendon, the Canary center fielder, played the ball off the fence, and when McRae was between second and third the dumbest fan on the bleachers saw Jimmy relay to "Wingo" Jones, back of second base.

"Hold him; hold him!" howled "Piggy" Powell, who was coaching behind first base.

Grubb lost his head completely and signaled McRae to keep on to the plate, and the boy had no choice but to obey the manager. "Wingo" Jones whipped the ball home thirty feet ahead of McRae—as needless a slaughter

as was ever seen on a professional diamond.

Coming from any coacher in the world, the blunder would have been inexcusable; coming from poor Charlie Grubb, it nearly precipitated a riot, and the demonstration swelled tenfold when "Skeets" Tilford drove out the single which should have scored McRae from third. And, if that were not enough, the Canaries banged out the winning run in their half of the ninth. Grubb's error of judgment—picking the kindest name for it—had thrown away a clinch on the pennant, and Heinie Pittman, who had pitched a remarkable game, came near weeping in the clubhouse.

That night 2,000 men and boys waited outside the park, and the police had to escort Grubb to the street car. A sensational evening paper, which had headed the campaign against Grubb, issued a savage attack upon him, in which it was hinted that the manager had thrown the game in order to revenge himself upon the town.

Grubb, whose nerves were in rags, read this article. It was the finishing touch.

The next morning Dave Bullen was called out of his bed to answer the telephone. He was informed that his manager was seriously ill at his hotel. "A nervous breakdown," Mr. Bullen, said the physician. "I have had this man under my care for weeks. The unfortunate occurrence of yesterday undoubtedly hastened matters."

Bullen was at his wits' end. He had no experience in managing a club, and "Piggy" Powell, who had been acting as team captain, was really no more than the mouthpiece through which Grubb had issued orders from the bench. In despair the owner went to the clubhouse. It was 11 o'clock in the morning, yet there was the aged Bruno pottering around in his capacious locker. "You're the man I've been looking for," said Bullen.

"How so?" demanded Bruno, pausing with his hands full of stockings. "I want you to handle the team today," said Bullen. "Grubb is down and out—nervous collapse."

Bruno whistled. "Hard luck!" he said. "Poor old Charlie! And I'm to be the goat. Is that it?"

"You are not!" snapped the owner. "Who else have I got? Who can I put in there to pull us out of this hole? The boys know you, and they respect your judgment. I'll give you all the authority you need. Go in there today and run the team, and if you win this game I'll give you—"

"Cheese!" Cheese!" said Bruno. "You'll give me nothing. What do you think I am, Dave? Now, let me understand this. You put this thing right up to me, do you?"

"I do."

"I'm the boss here?"

"You are."

"Well, then," growled Smelser, "I'll give you everything I've got. Now, you duck out of here, Dave, before the boys begin to drop in. I'll explain the situation to 'em myself. If you tried to do it you'd put 'em all up in the air."

Dave Bullen went away, and Bruno thoughtfully removed his upper garments and began twisting and stretching his arm. As he went through his exercises he shook his head and growled slightly. Then he brought out a new jar of "dope," and the massaging began, and as Bruno stroked the relic of his former greatness he laid his plan of campaign.

Nash must go in to start the game. His speed had beaten the Canaries in the opening game of the series. It might carry him through again. Dud Belcher must be ready to step into the box at a moment's notice. In case they should hit Dud—well, he would cross that bridge when he came to it.

Pittman, having worked the day before, would be out of it. No; it must be Nash, with Belcher in reserve—and after that? Bruno shook his head and knicked his arm thoughtfully.

When the Blue Jays arrived at the clubhouse they found it empty. Bruno was out behind the bleachers pitching to the groundskeeper's fifteen-year-old son. He put in an appearance, explained the situation and issued his orders.

"Nash, you'll start. And, Belcher, I want you warming up right through the game in case anything should happen. If Beau has what he had on Wednesday there won't be anything to it, but I want you to be there ready to hop in."

The Canaries sent in their pet and pride, Whitney Collier, and the Blue Jays fell upon him like a flock of chicken hawks. In the third inning they rattled out a volley of safe hits and piled up four runs. Whitney went to the bench, and Oscar Petersen replaced him in the box. The hitting stopped abruptly.

In the fifth inning the hitting started on the other side of the diamond. The Canaries were gauging Nash's speed and meeting it solidly. With the bases filled, one man in and one out, Bruno flagged the Beau and sent Belcher to the rescue. Luck helped Belcher to get the next two men at the cost of no more than an additional run. Score—Blue Jays, 4; Canaries, 2.

In the sixth the Canaries continued to hit and drove in their third run on three singles. Brilliant fielding cut them off just short of a tied score. Steve Sullivan, who was catching, came back to the bench dripping wet.

"It's the speed, Bruno," he said. "These fellows are hitting speed today. Now, if we only had a man to go in there with a dink ball!"

Smelser moved over and questioned Belcher.

"I pitched my head off to every man in that inning," complained Dud. "and if you think there wasn't anything on the ball ask Steve. They hit it just the same. Why, that 'Wingo' Jones hit

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NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

President Selects Ex-Secretary of State Olney to Head Reserve Board.

Washington.—President Wilson has selected the five men, who, together with the secretary of the treasury, W. G. McAdoo, and the comptroller of the currency, John Skelton Williams, are to compose the federal reserve board.

Richard Olney, of Boston, Mass., former secretary of state under President Cleveland, to be governor of the board.

Paul Moritz Warburg, of New York, member of the banking firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co.

Harry A. Wheeler, of Chicago, vice-president of the Union Trust Company of Chicago, and former president and organizer of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

W. P. G. Harding, of Birmingham, Ala., president of the First National Bank of Birmingham, and one of the leading bankers of the south.

Dr. Adolph Caspar Miller, of San Francisco, now assistant to Secretary Lane of the Interior Department, a member of the faculty of the University of California, who is an economist and authority on finance.

Upon the new board will devolve the task of setting in motion the banking system of the country through the 12 regional reserve banks already selected. They also will constitute the governing board which will regulate the 12 banks and issuance of currency.

Prolonged Session Feared.

Members of the house and senators whose terms are drawing to a close are becoming uneasy over the complications that have arisen in congress threatening to prolong the session indefinitely. The fear is general that little opportunity will be afforded for campaigning this fall. In fact, there are a few senators who begin to fear that the session may drag out through the fall and merge into the regular session in December. This extreme view, however, is not generally held.

It is evident, however, that unless the president is willing to surrender a part of his legislative program, the session will continue well into the late summer or fall.

Trust Program in House Made Up.

The anti-trust legislative program in the house was made up, when the judiciary committee ordered favorably reported its omnibus bill designed to cover the administration recommendations, and Chairman Clayton introduced a resolution proposing one of the most ironclad rules on record to rush the measure through.

The bill is mainly the same as when introduced less than a month ago as a revised combination of separate bills on holding companies, interlocking directorates, etc.

The house rules committee contemplates 16 hours of general debate, five-minute speeches on any item, but restricted in the total to a maximum of four hours—an unusual limitation—the bill then to be voted upon without intervening motions.

Little Change in Labor Section.

The so-called labor section is changed but little. It declares that "nothing in the anti-trust laws shall be construed as forbidding existence and operation of fraternal, labor, consumers, agricultural or horticultural organizations, orders or associations instituted for purposes of mutual help and not having capital stock or conducted for profit, or to forbid or restrain individual members of such organizations from carrying out the legitimate objects thereof."

National Capital Brevities.

Charge d'Affaires O'Shaughnessy and family arrived in Galveston on the tender Yankton.

President Wilson ordered the complete disarmament of all civilians in the Colorado strike districts.

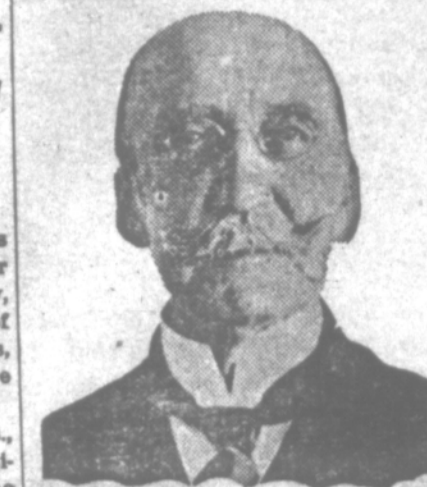
The senate defeated the bill of Senator McCumber providing for federal inspection and grading of grain, and designed to obtain uniformity and classification of grain.

The public building commission, in its report to congress, urges the creation of a federal bureau to have complete charge of the erection of all public buildings in the country. A standard plan suited to meet the needs of the various communities, was recommended.

In anticipation that President Wilson will spend much of the summer in Washington, a large tent has been erected in the flower garden just south of the White House, where it is expected the president will transact much of his business during hot days.

The administration leaders won another point in the fight for repeal of free Panama canal tolls when the senate committee by a vote of 8 to 6 ordered the house bill favoring the repeal clause reported to the senate. The senators urged an additional clause asserting American rights over the canal.

SEÑOR JOSÉ ROJAS



Señor José Rojas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, whose resignation it is believed indicates opposition to the Dictator's policy.

Brief News of the Week

It was announced that Colonel Roosevelt would sail from Para, Brazil on the steamship Alden for New York May 17.

The Duke of Argyll, son-in-law of the late Queen Victoria and former Governor General of Canada, is dead.

Major General Daniel E. Sickles, now 89 years old, is seriously ill at his home in New York.

A hospital for the special treatment of cancer patients will be established in New York. An ample supply of radium will be provided, it is said. A fund of \$1,000,000 is already on hand.

Detective W. J. Burns was attacked at Marietta, Ga., by a man because of the sleuth's activity in the murder case of Leo Frank, sentenced for the murder of Mary Phagan. The sleuth was hit in the face, but he escaped in a hotel.

Great relief was felt at the news from Manila that the Pacific Mail steamer Siberia, reported by wireless to have been in great peril off the coast of Formosa, arrived safe at Manila.

Delegations of women from every part of the country are to engage in a mammoth demonstration in Washington on Saturday for the purpose of calling the attention of congress to the demands of the American women for the right to vote. The leading feature of the demonstration will be a great parade from the White House to the capitol.

THE MEXICAN EMBROGLIO

War department has ordered that Spanish-American war veterans who wish to go to the front will have to enlist with the state militia.

The practice of "sniping" in Vera Cruz has ceased, and the people are gradually returning to their normal occupations.

Aeroplane performed valuable service in doing scout duty at Vera Cruz. The American birdmen ascertained the location of the Mexican outposts. One of the flights was made at night.

The United States navy, it is said, now has its full complement of 51,500 men, as result of the enlistments since the trouble between the United States and Mexico started.

Rebel Commanders Carranza and Villa agreed to remain spectators of the trouble between the United States and Huerta, president of the de facto government in Mexico.

Announcement that Foreign Minister Rojas has resigned from President Huerta's cabinet was taken as confirmation of reports that formidable opposition to the dictator is developing in Mexico City.

Farmers surrounding Vera Cruz have asked Funston to extend his lines as they have found the Americans excellent customers for their products and want to continue supplying them but are harassed by "snipers" except within the zone under American control.

Admiral Fletcher made a personal inspection of the fortress of San Juan De Ula at Vera Cruz. The horrors he found rivalled those of the dark ages. There were 116 prisoners living in indescribable filth and under conditions of the most awful degradation. Many were barely alive. Others were in caverns under the sea. Rats were everywhere. The admiral ordered the place thoroughly cleaned and all the prisoners transferred to light cells.

Colorado Provides for Military Duty.

Denver.—The Colorado legislature will provide a means of meeting the state military indebtedness of approximately \$1,000,000 before a lengthy recess or final adjournment of the special session is taken. This was the consensus of opinion expressed by the house and senate leaders at the conclusion of a long joint executive session at which the subjects contained in the governor's call were discussed.

Carranza Will Not Cease Hostilities.

El Paso, Tex.—General Carranza has formally declined the suggestion of the mediators that he cease hostilities against Huerta pending the outcome of the plan of mediation. His note, sent to Washington, was made public here.

CARRANZA BARRED FROM MEDIATION

Refusal to Agree to Armistice With General Huerta Said to Be Cause.

Washington.—General Carranza and the constitutionalists were practically eliminated from proceedings of the three South American envoys who have undertaken to solve the Mexican problem by diplomacy.

In a telegram to General Carranza the mediators announced that in view of his refusal to agree to an armistice with General Huerta, they withdrew their invitation to him to send a personal representative to participate in the mediation negotiations.

General Carranza had inquired in a note to the envoys what subjects a special representative might be required to discuss, pointing out that if the general problem of pacifying Mexico were to be approached he could not authorize anyone to participate in the negotiations. He reiterated that he would consent to mediation only on the incidents which had brought about a controversy "between the United States and Mexico," holding that he was the constitutionally chosen leader to whom complaint about the insult at Tampico and other offenses originally should have been made.

In view of the unyielding attitude of the constitutionalists it is believed mediation virtually would be limited to the arrest of American marines at Tampico and other offenses which had brought the Huerta government and the United States to the verge of war.

NAVAL FUNERALS FOR DEAD

National Ceremony Planned for Those Fallen in Mexico.

Washington.—Sailors and marines who were killed at the occupation of Vera Cruz will be honored with funeral services of a national character on the arrival of their bodies aboard the United States cruiser Montana at New York.

With all martial pomp and ceremony, the bodies of the dead blue-jackets and marines, killed in Vera Cruz April 21, 22 and 23, will be brought to New York next week. A national requiem there is planned, a memorial service typically American.

The leaden caskets, each enveloped in the Stars and Stripes, will be the biers and shrine at which the country will mourn.

Methodist Bishops Oppose War.

Philadelphia.—The board of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in semi-annual meeting in this city passed a resolution indorsing President Wilson's effort to "avoid a war with the people of Mexico."

MEXICANS ATTACK AMERICAN OUTPOST

Vera Cruz, Mexico.—A considerable force of Mexicans attacked the American outpost at the water plant nine miles out last Saturday morning, according to a wireless message, which asked for aid.

A Mexican force estimated at from 300 to 500 men appeared beyond the waterworks station, and a lieutenant and a non-commissioned officer bearing a white flag advanced and presented a demand for the Americans to surrender within 10 minutes.

The American commander Major Russell's reply was:

"Hurry right back and do not waste any of the time your commanding officer has stipulated."

When Colonel Van Vleet and Colonel Lejeune, with supports, arrived at the waterworks station, Major Russell and his men were not at all hard pressed. The Mexicans had contented themselves with a scattering fire, consisting of pot more than four or five shots, at a range of about 1500 yards. From Major Russell's lines only one shot was fired.

In accordance with Secretary of War Garrison's order, General Funston is in absolute charge here. Civil Governor Kerr and the other civil authorities have retired. The Mexican city council suggested the prohibition of bull fights and the signing of an order to that effect was Kerr's last official act.

Sales of Opium Traced to Mayor.

Baker, Or.—As a result of investigations by Plowden Stott, attorney for the state board of pharmacy, and federal officers, H. L. Mack, druggist and mayor of Huntington, was arrested on a charge of selling opium without a prescription.

Canal To Open Soon.

Panama.—Plans are being matured under the instruction of Governor Goethals to put a Panama railroad steamer through the canal within 10 days.

SENORA HUERTA



Senora Huerta, wife of the Mexican Dictator, whose actions brought his country and the United States to the verge of war.

GENERAL SICKLES IS DEAD

Last of All the Great Gettysburg Leaders Succumb.

New York.—General Daniel E. Sickles died at his home here. His wife was at his bedside at the end. Mrs. Sickles, who had been estranged from her husband for more than a quarter of a century, went to the general's house when she was informed he was dying and took charge of the arrangements for his care. She remained near his side and watched by him until his death.

The final reconciliation was brought about largely through the efforts of their son, Stanton, it is said.

General Daniel Edgar Sickles, who was born in New York City in 1825, was the last of the great commanders who fought the Battle of Gettysburg.

Mitchell's Assault Sentenced.

New York.—Michael C. Mahoney, who on April 17 shot at Mayor Mitchell and wounded Corporation Council Frank L. Polk, was sentenced to Matteawan Asylum.

Suffragists Hold Nation-Wide Fete.

Chicago.—Thousands of women in many of the larger cities throughout the country gave active expression of their desire for the extension of the right to vote by joining in parades, attending mass meetings and by word of mouth seeking to advance the cause of votes for women.

Wilson-McAdoo Wedding Solemnized.

Washington.—Miss Eleanor Randolph Wilson, youngest daughter of the president and Mrs. Wilson, and William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, were married on May 7 in the blue room of the White House.

GREEKS BLAMED FOR BATTLE OF LUDLOW

Denver.—Absolute responsibility for the fatal battle of Ludlow, Monday, April 20, was placed on the Greeks of the strikers' colony at Ludlow by the military board of the Colorado National Guard.

None of the strikers testified at the inquiry, their attorney declining to give any information on the ground that the inquiry was not publicly conducted.

The board found that the "remote" cause of this, as well as all other battles, lies with the coal operators, who established in an American industrial community a numerous class of ignorant, lawless and savage South European peasants. The underlying cause was the presence, near Ludlow, in daily contact, of three discordant elements—strikers, soldiers and mine guards—all armed and fostering an increasing deadly hatred.

The immediate cause of the battle was an attack upon the soldiers by the Greek inhabitants of the tent colony who misinterpreted a movement of troops on a neighboring hill.

Militia or Guards Accused.

Trinidad, Colo.—The fire which destroyed the Ludlow tent colony on the night of April 20, causing the deaths of 13 women and children, was started by militiamen or mine guards, or both, according to the verdict rendered by the coroner's jury.

THE MARKETS

Portland.

Wheat—Club, 90c; bluestem, 85c; red Russian, 89c.

Hay—Timothy, \$16; alfalfa, \$12. Butter—Creamery, 25c. Eggs—Ranch, 19c.

Seattle.

Wheat—Bluestem, 95c; club, 90c; red Russian, 89c.

Hay—Timothy, \$17 per ton; alfalfa, \$14 per ton. Eggs—20c. Butter—Creamery, 24c.