

Big League Stories

By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN

IV.—THE PHANTOM LEAGUE

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

Copyright, 1912, by Small, Maynard & Company

ROBERT DAVIS FRISBEE, Pop Frisbee for short, was a big league scout.

For the benefit of those who may not know the exact status of the baseball scout we will lay a finger on a few of the conditions which created this particular branch of the sporting service.

A long time ago baseball was a recreation. Then it grew into a commercial experiment, broadened into a paying proposition and is now, in point of money invested, interests staked and popular following, the greatest outdoor amusement enterprise in the world.

When baseball began to pay the managers set about securing performers who would draw money at the box office—that is to say, players who could win games. The game itself developed along scientific lines, and the big league came next, with its ever increasing demand for new blood.

The big league is an unfeeling sort of an octopus. This player who struggles to the top holds his job just so long as he can play his position a little bit better than any other man whom the management can find, and the management is everlastingly on the lookout for that other man. That is where the scout comes into play. His job is to find the boys who are to be the stars of tomorrow.

Pop Frisbee was a good scout. Between his teens and his thirties he had been a ball player and a team captain, famous in the minors. His inability to hit high class pitching had condemned him to spend his active days just outside major league organizations, but he was a marvelous fielding first baseman and had a knack for developing raw material in a short space of time.

When Frisbee started to take on weight and could no longer "spear" the ball throws at first he began to look about him for a permanent position of some sort, and Timothy Cahill at that time managing the Wanderers from the bench, employed Frisbee as a scout. Cahill had once played second base under Frisbee, and he had respect for Pop's judgment of a yearling.

Frisbee went about his work silently. He never hunted ball players with a brass band or a torchlight procession, and he kept his mouth shut. Once during his first year he had opened his heart to a friend, and it had cost him a wonderful right handed pitcher in a timber league in Michigan. That taught Pop a lesson. He kept his own counsel, covered his trail

Be patient, for the story begins—begins with Johnny Meegan sitting in front of an adobe house in the hamlet of San Miguel, county of Rio Arriba, state of New Mexico.

In most of the little towns of New Mexico, far away from the main lines of the railroad, there are men from east of the Mississippi. Some of them live in that high, dry atmosphere because they find the fog end of life sweet to them. There are others who, as they say, have "taken it in time." These expect to get well and return some day to God's country. That phrase is as old as the garden of Eden, and it was invented when Adam looked back over his shoulder and caught the flash of the sword at the boundaries. God's country is never the land in which one lives, but the land to which one cannot return. Thus to Johnny Meegan "God's country" meant Chicago, to Billy Kilbourne it meant Boston, to Fred Parks it meant Shastock, Pa., and to Jefferson Davis Johnson "God's country" meant Baltimore.

The Chicago sporting writers gave Johnny Meegan a farewell banquet and a loving cup to take with him when he went away, and they drank his health with a choke in their throats, for they did not expect to see him again. Sentence had been pronounced upon him by a specialist of international reputation after the star baseball reporter had coughed all winter.

"There is a chance," said the specialist. "Try New Mexico or Arizona." "Never let it be said that I quit while there was a chance," said Johnny Meegan. "I'm on my way, doc." Johnny had seen the local specialist at Albuquerque, who had given him hope and good advice. Open air had been recommended, and Johnny had made a long, rambling trip with a mustang and a pack horse. San Miguel had been at the end of that journey. That was because of Billy Kilbourne.

Billy was existing in San Miguel with more comfort than he had been able to find elsewhere. Billy was only twenty-five, but he had lived his life in a tremendous hurry and crowded so many things into it that it had been New Mexico or heaven, and Billy took no chances. He mourned for Boston and the Maine woods and nearly wept with joy at meeting some one who could give him an expert opinion upon the probable strength of the Boston Nationals. Kilbourne's people were quite wealthy, and he had turned an adobe house into a very comfortable affair. The furniture had been bought in Denver and freighted from Chama at the foot of the Cumbres pass.

"You'll stay here with me for awhile," said Billy. "Nothing happens by chance, you know. You were sent here to cheer me up. Just think of a regular big league baseball writer dropping in out of the clouds! It's too good to be true. Now, how is this young Hawley going to do in the outfield? And why did they let the cat to Homer Kennedy?"

So Johnny Meegan stayed on at San Miguel, filling his lungs with the clean, dry air and his stomach with the excellent nourishment furnished by Jefferson Davis Johnson, who had once been Kilbourne's valet, but through love was now his cook.

Besides Kilbourne and Meegan, there was Fred Parks, a wandering printer, who had reached the end of his earthly pilgrimage at San Miguel. Parks had a small general supply store and managed to make a living mainly through the large orders which Kilbourne gave him. There was also Antonio, a young Jacarilla, who had been to Carlisle, and sometimes liked to remember that he had played center field with the fastest ball team that that school ever produced. Antonio was interesting. He took Kilbourne and Meegan on long rides through the reservation, and Kilbourne remembered that he was making a collection of Indian blankets. It gave him a slender interest in life.

One evening Meegan, Kilbourne and Parks were sitting in front of the Hotel Touraine, as Kilbourne persisted in naming his house. He said it had a homelike sound. They had exhausted seven-up, cinch and dominoes, and Meegan had been recounting some of his newspaper experiences. "Gosh," said Johnny, "I wish we had a paper here!" Kilbourne laughed until he coughed. "Man, alive!" he panted. "What for?"

"Oh, laugh if you want to," said he. "A fellow tried it once. He must have been nutty. He died. I found his whole plant put away in the back room of the store when I bought out Moreno. The Mexican took the works for a small debt—an old 'army' press, some type, ink."

"Where is that stuff now?" demanded Kilbourne.

"Oh, it's down there yet," said Parks easily. "I never bothered with it, and there ain't any market for junk closer than Durango."

Kilbourne looked at Meegan, and together they looked at Parks.

"Right here, on this very spot," said Kilbourne impressively, "we found, create, institute, organize, and incorporate the San Miguel Messenger. I speak to be owner and publisher because all any owner ever has to do is furnish the money. That lets him out."

"Me for the editorial department!" said Meegan. "And I'll show these folks around here what a real sporting page looks like, believe me!"

"That being the case," said Parks solemnly, "I'll print the case. You ain't got a thing on me. I'm a game as you are. And as much of a blamed fool," he added softly.

Pop Frisbee had several good friends among the newspaper men, and whenever he was in Chicago he made it a point to drop in on Charlie Hough. Charlie was an old timer and had a record which reached back to the days of the Brotherhood. Pop had known him for nearly twenty years.

The big league pennant races were drawing to a close when Pop dropped into Chicago on his way west. While he did not mention the fact, he was beggled for Albuquerque. By slow stages he intended to reach the principal city of New Mexico in time for the great annual baseball tournament which takes place in the fall after the close of the big league season. This tournament is the great attraction of the state fair, and the cities of the southwest often hire the best pitchers in the country to represent them in the annual struggle for glory and the \$1,000 purse. Pop Frisbee never missed that Albuquerque tournament, for there he knew he would find the flower of the southwestern diamonds.

Charlie Hough was glad to see Pop and chatted with him for several minutes. Then he was called to the managing editor's office and left Pop alone beside the roll top desk.

A pile of papers lay upon the top of the desk, and Pop ran through them, glancing at the sporting pages. Halfway down the pile he came upon a stranger—the San Miguel Messenger. It was a queer looking sheet, and when Pop saw that it was published in San Miguel, Rio Arriba county, N. M., he slipped it into his pocket. There might be some news of the coming tournament.

That night at his hotel Pop remembered the Messenger and drew it forth. It was not much of a newspaper, as it contained only four small sheets, and under the title line appeared a peculiar motto:

Vim, vinegar and vitriol; trifles not regarded legal tender.

Pop glanced at the front page. Leading the paper was an amazing news item:

We regret that we must once more call public attention to the habits of our esteemed fellow townsman, Senator Juan de la Cruz. Juan was over at Tony's again last night, bathing his vitals in liquid to-morrow. After he was pretty thoroughly potted he proceeded up Tin delan boulevard and reached his bungalow, where he was greeted by the charming and popular Senora de la Cruz, the beautiful and talented society matron and leader of San Miguel's Four Hundred. In the excess of his alcoholic exuberance, the ebullience of his spirits, Senora de la Cruz settled right haymaker upon the delicate smeller of his queen consort. Senora de la Cruz did not quit under punishment. She immediately retaliated by hitting Senor de la Cruz over the eyes with a copper kettle. Senor de la Cruz took the long count and is around town this morning with his lampshade trimmed eyes.

We have frequently deplored the prevalence of such occurrences in our best circles, and it would seem that alcoholic excesses are undermining the foundations of our social fabric. The fundamental principles of our social structure are threatened.

We intended to print in this number a great blank verse poem entitled "The Demon Rum," but our staff poet sought his inspiration in the subject of his lofty lines and found so much inspiration that he is now confined in the battle until such time as he ceases to see herds of red, white and blue elephants, pink mice and other peculiar animals.

This gem appeared under the heading "Bokked!"

On the same page there was another startling item:

APACHE UPRISING! It was rumored that upon Wednesday last there was an uprising among the Jacarillas. This we wish to deny in the strongest terms. We were on the inside of the insurrection, so to speak, or at least, we had some dope on the inside of the uprising, and we now explain the whole and affair.

Our late printer's devil, whom we christened Sockalaxia P. Bender, better known as Man-Who-Lays-Down-on-His-Job-and-Refuses-to-Get-Up-Again, was an aged Apache of the Jacarilla tribe. He came to be the second cousin of Henry Clay Garimmo, formerly a citizen of prominence in these parts and well known in Washington. After the late Bender had concealed about a half gallon of booze in the middle of Lafayette boulevard placed the wrong construction upon his actions. The uprising was a personal affair and entirely internal. The internet yesterday was private.

Pop Frisbee read these items with a corrugated brow.



D. Emilio Rabasa, one of President Huerta's representatives at the mediation conference at Niagara Falls.

MOVIES SHOWN AT CHURCH

Innovations to Meet the Needs of Members, Explains Chairman. Seattle, Wash.—Moving pictures, whistling solos and services without a minister were witnessed in a Baptist church here Sunday night.

The Temple Baptist church entered upon an experimental stage in the effort to make the institution fit its surroundings and reach the people in its neighborhood. The church auditorium at Third and Cedar streets was comfortably filled, with an attendance of nearly 200.

Frank Moran, of the church board, was chairman of the evening. He opened the services with a few words explanatory of the purpose of the church in making its new departure.

"I hope," Mr. Moran said, "that no one here is expecting anything sensational. That is not the purpose of the church. There will be no dancing or anything of that sort here. We are trying merely to make this church fit into its surroundings and to make it serve the people it should serve."

J. P. Morgan Denies Father Hid Facts. New York.—J. P. Morgan in a statement characterized as untrue the testimony of Charles S. Mellen, former head of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, before the interstate commerce commission in Washington that J. Pierpont Morgan concealed from Mr. Mellen facts regarding the New Haven road, which Mr. Mellen should have known.

PATRICK CALHOUN IS ACCUSED OF LOOTING

San Francisco.—Patrick Calhoun, ex-president of the United Railroads of San Francisco, was accused by the railroad commission of "looting" that corporation of \$1,000,000 and being forced to give for that amount a promissory note for an equal sum, made payable one day after date, which his successor, Jesse W. Lillenthal, credited on the company's books with a value of \$1.

The Calhoun deal, which was put through apparently with an idea of adding the finances of the Solano Irrigated Farms, Inc., a land scheme in which Calhoun was heavily interested, came to the attention of the commission through an application for authority to borrow money to add to the railroad's rolling stock.

Cleveland.—Mr. Calhoun denied the statement that he had applied funds of the railway company to his own purposes.

"Dry" Orator Says He Knows Captors. St. Louis.—Rev. Louis R. Patmont, the prohibitionist advocate who said he was kidnapped from Westville, Ill., on March 31, and found in an abandoned house near Columbia, Ill., Saturday, asserted here he knew the ones responsible for his detention. He left for Danville, Ill., where the grand jury now in session will take up the investigation of his story.

THE MARKETS

Portland. Wheat—Club, 86c; bluestem, 89c; red Russian, 85c. Hay—Timothy, \$16; alfalfa, \$13. Butter—Creamery, 27c. Eggs—Ranch, 21c.

Seattle. Wheat—Bluestem, 89c; club, 86c; red Russian, 85c. Hay—Timothy, \$17 per ton; alfalfa, \$14 per ton. Butter—Creamery, 26c. Eggs—24c.

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

President Insists on Passing Anti-Trust Legislation at Present Session.

Washington.—President Wilson will be satisfied with nothing less than the passage through both houses of congress, at the present session, of the anti-trust legislation recently agreed on. This was made clear by officials close to the administration. His attitude was made known in answer to suggestions that some leaders at the capital believed it would be sufficient to pass the anti-trust bills in the house and only agree on a time for a vote next session in the senate.

The house of representatives, in an effort to rush through the second of the administration's anti-trust measures, began night sessions this week and the senate is also endeavoring to speed up legislation to insure an adjournment in July.

Congress leaders admitted however, that if the senate undertook to put through anti-trust legislation of a comprehensive nature adjournment could hardly be taken until late in the fall.

Take Indictment to Save Morgan. A dramatic climax marked the close of the sensational testimony of Chas. S. Mellen, ex-president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, before the interstate commerce commission.

With evidence of deep emotion Mr. Mellen asserted the late J. Pierpont Morgan was cognizant of the Grand Trunk negotiations for which Mr. Mellen himself was criminally indicted for violation of the Sherman anti-trust act, and that he took the indictment that belonged to Morgan, as he believed it would have killed the aged financier to be indicted.

Absolute monopoly of transportation under government regulation and control was suggested by Mr. Mellen as the solution of the American railroad problem.

Majority of 10 for Repeal Predicted. Democratic leaders in the senate are confident the Panama canal tolls exemption repeal bill and the arbitration amendments will be disposed of this week. Senator Kern, leader of the majority, said a vote would be taken May 28 or shortly afterward; and added that the repeal bill would be passed by a majority of at least 10.

Opponents of repeal are not inclined to doubt that the bill will pass, but the vote on the many amendments offered to modify its meaning will be watched with interest by senators on both sides. The administration is said to center its support on the amendment proposed by Senator Simmons, declaring that the United States waives no right over the Panama canal.

Parcel Post for Selling Truck. Postmaster Otto Praeger, of Washington, has sent out to the patrons of the Washington office an advertising poster, containing the names of 150 truck farmers, fruit and poultry growers, home fruit and vegetable canners, and producers of smoked hams and bacon, who desire to serve Washington consumers direct by the parcel post.

On the reverse of the poster are illustrations of a parcel post delivery truck and of a basket, in which a Washington consumer has received a sausage from a Pennsylvania farmer during the past winter, together with testimonials from 14 patrons of the Washington office recommending the parcel post for efficiency and economy in the shipment of produce.

Producers from 12 states, including New Jersey and Mississippi, offer to sell their product direct to Washington consumers.

National Capital Brevities. The senate adopted an amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill proposed by Senator Johnson, appropriating \$100,000 for potato quarantine inspection.

Creation of an aviation section of the army as part of the signal corps, is planned by a bill that has passed the house. The measure has the approval of the war department.

Copy of the proposed peace treaty between the United States and Norway has been received at Washington. Secretary Bryan and the minister of Norway will sign it when the draft has been made.

A bill putting telephone and telegraph companies and pipelines under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission was introduced in the house by Representative Reilly, of Wisconsin.

President Wilson appointed a committee to arrange for the formal opening of the Panama canal June 1. Its members are Colonel Goethals, chairman; Richard Metcalf, vice chairman; Colonel Harry Hodges, surgeon general; Colonel Roussseau and Colonel William Sibert.

JOSEPH W. FOLK



Joseph W. Folk, counsel of the interstate commerce commission, who is probing the financial affairs of the New Haven railroad.

Brief News of the Week

The constitutionalists are in full possession of Saltillo, Mexico.

Of interest to the entire world is the consistory which the pope will hold in Rome this week for the creation of 12 new cardinals.

Within the next two weeks 600 men will be laid off at the Ford automobile plant at Detroit, Mich., because of the dullness at this season.

Lodi, Cal., has a new law which compels saloonkeepers to post in their places of business lists containing the names of all habitual drunkards of the city.

Stiff taffeta skirts with four tiers are all the rage in the east. Big ear bangles and "kiss-me-quick" curls are also in vogue among women.

Only American pilots who have masters' papers for the Great Lakes or ocean-going vessels will be allowed to take vessels through the Panama canal.

The San Francisco chamber of commerce held a referendum vote on the liquor issue, the result being that the drys received 41 votes and the wets 1187.

Granting of the Saturday half-holiday as a means of a stricter observance of the Sabbath was urged in the report of the committee on Sabbath observance made to the general assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States at Chicago.

Ohio housewives now are assured of getting just what they pay for. The state agricultural commission has begun enforcement of the law requiring that all packages of food must be marked with accurate net weights.

Another attempt of the government to separate the ownership of railroads from industrial concerns met with failure when the supreme court held that "tap line" railways, serving lumber camps owned by the same interests, were entitled to share with the trunk lines in through rates. The interstate commerce commission had held this division of the rate was in effect a rebate.

People in the News

Former United States Senator James B. Foraker has announced his candidacy for the senate from Ohio, on the republican ticket.

United States Senator Bradley from Kentucky, died at Washington after a lingering illness, aggravated by a fall.

A serious revolt faces the new Prince William of Albania. Governor Essad Pasha resigned, and heading more than five thousand men, is defying the ruler.

The wife of District Attorney Whitman of New York rode in an aeroplane, the machine attaining a height of 1000 feet, with Ralph M. Brown as the pilot.

The queen mother at Rome was host to the American women delegates to the quinquennial session of the international council of women held there.

George Russell, a Boston bartender, claims he is rightful heir to the throne of Slam, asserting that he will raise a rebellion to regain the crown which was left by the death in prison of his grandfather.

Charles Becker for the second time was convicted by a jury for the Rosenthal murder, which nearly two years ago awoke New York to a realization of corruption in the police department and opened a new era of police reform.

Definite word reached the state department that Vice-Consul Silliman, arrested at Saltillo and long sought for, had arrived safely at Mexico City, accompanied by the British Vice-Consul at Saltillo, Mr. MacMillan.

Ewing Watterson, son of Colonel Henry Watterson, appeared before the county judge at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and asked for his release from Matamoras state hospital for the criminal insane. He is being held for shooting a man.

IRELAND HOME RULE BILL IS NOW A LAW

House of Commons Decides Long Fight by a Majority of 77 Votes.

London.—Home rule for Ireland became assured when the house of commons, by a majority of 77, passed the Irish home rule bill for its third and last reading. The vote was 351 to 274, and the measure becomes law in a month whether it is sanctioned by the house of lords or not.

The struggle, dating back to 1870, came to an end suddenly, the Unionists refusing to debate the bill without further information as to the attitude of the government toward the proposed amendment to the measure. The principal provisions in the Irish home rule bill are:

A senate of 40 members, a house of commons of 164 members.

Irish parliament cannot legislate on peace or war, navy, army, foreign relations, coinage or legal tender.

The Irish parliament takes over the constabulary at the end of six years and may demand the control of old age pensions and national insurance, giving one year's notice.

The imperial government is to collect the taxes and pay these to the Irish government with certain additional sums. The Irish parliament may, under certain conditions, add to the taxes.

Ireland runs her postoffice. The number of Irish members in the imperial parliament is reduced to 42. Religion is strictly safeguarded.

The imperial government retains an absolute veto power.

CONFIRM BALKAN CRUELITIES

Atrocities Called Unparalleled by Carnegie Peace Commission.

New York.—Results of an exhaustive investigation into the conditions in the Balkans during and following the wars of 1912 and 1913 were made public by the Balkan commission of inquiry of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In this indictment brought by the commission against all the contending forces, no one of the Balkan nations is spared. Atrocities committed upon the non-combatant Moslems in Macedonia surpassed in many instances the crimes committed by the race from which the Christian nations were supposed to have received their education in the refinements of cruelty.

The barbarous acts and inhuman reprisals performed by Bulgarians, Serbians and Greeks against each other would be incredible if they were not supported by unquestionable evidence.

Roosevelt Visits Washington.

Washington.—Colonel Roosevelt returned to Washington Tuesday on one of the few visits he has made since he left the white house.

The primary object of the colonel's trip is to deliver a lecture before the National Geographical society on his South American explorations, but Washingtonians who mix in politics were interested in the conference held with the progressive leaders in congress.

IDAHO GUARD HALTS ATTEMPTED OUTBREAK

Boise, Idaho.—One prisoner is dead and two wounded as a result of an attempted wholesale delivery at the Idaho state penitentiary Saturday. U. G. Berup, serving a life sentence for murder, committed at Pocatello, died two hours after the attempt was made. C. A. Allers, a prisoner from Shoshone county, serving an indeterminate sentence for forgery, will lose an arm, which was shattered by a bullet from one of the guns of the prison guards. Lyman Jones, serving a sentence of from 10 to 40 years for murder in Fremont county, was slightly wounded.

The break for liberty was made while half of the guards on the prison wall were at lunch. The prisoners put up a bench to the wall where No. 3 guard usually stood, but which was unprotected. The men were able to make the top of the wall.

Mediators Leave Much to Mexico. Niagara Falls, Ont.—Smooth progress toward a common agreement on all phases of the Mexican problem is being made by the mediators and the American and Mexican delegates. The mediators have taken the position that they are essentially counselors and not dictators. They will not suggest names for the provisional presidency, nor recommend any form of government. From the Mexican delegates themselves must originate proposals concerning the internal affairs of their country.



He Was a Marvelous Fielding First Baseman.

[Poised by Ball of the Red Sox.]

where he could and when on the scent was as secretive as a detective. Competition was stiff, and all the clubs were wondering where Frisbee "dog up his live ones."

Pop Frisbee has another job now. He is an inspector for a public service corporation. Into his work he puts no enthusiasm, and out of it he gets no pleasure. His salary check is smaller, too, and it may be that he notices the increased cost of living.

His judgment of a ball player is every bit as keen as it was ten years ago, and he still retains the qualities of a scout. Then why is he an inspector? Because he was laughed out of baseball-guyed out of the business to which he gave the best years of his life. He was the victim of a practical joke which was certainly never aimed at Robert Davis Frisbee.

Continued on Page Four.