

Big League Stories
By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN
VII.—A RAIN CHECK
From "The Ten Thousand Dollar Arm
and Other Tales of the Big League"
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He didn't prove anything on us," argued Red Lynch hopefully, as he settled down in the smoker of the night express. "Of course not," snarled Jake Hartwell. "He didn't have to. I tell you we're in Dutch, and all because you made a sucker play and met the man you were doing business with out on a street corner for every one to see. Oh, you're a smart guy! You couldn't have waited for that money for a day or so?" Red refused to have his argument sidetracked. "But if he doesn't prove it," he demanded, "how is he going to keep us out of organized baseball? Tell me that!" "Huh!" snorted the indignant Hartwell. "You talk like a man that wants him to prove it! I tell you that we're up against the same thing as a black-list, and Flannery can queer us in any league in the country. If we get say he'll put in his testimony before the commission, and there we are. Gee! I wish we'd punched Levine in the nose the first time he talked business."

Joe Flannery, the manager of the Keatsville Baseball club in the T. D. league, was no analyst, but when he learned that Sam Levine and a few others of his sort were openly making a strong book on each day's game at start-up odds, the little manager flinched out on a quiet tour of investigation.

Joe hired a private detective and inside of three days word came that Levine was covering every cent of the local wagers at even money on a certain Tuesday's game. The visiting club was a notoriously weak one and the Keatsville team should have been a strong favorite. This in itself was enough to warrant suspicion.

Red Lynch worked on Tuesday with his battery mate Jake Hartwell. In the fifth inning Hartwell threw a short burst into right field, Lynch walked two men in succession and the next man up hit an absolutely straight ball to the center field fence for a home run.

Again in the seventh inning Lynch, whose control was proverbial, walked one man, hit another and on the double steal Hartwell heaved the ball over the second baseman's head into center and another run came in. Joe Flannery made a note of these things, kept his own counsel and redoubled his interest in Sam Levine's operations.

For several days no suspicious circumstance was reported. Levine seemed to be booking on a percentage basis. Then, on the night of the ninth day, with a tail-end team in town to open a series, the bookmaker again offered even money on the visitors. Flannery

of you tries to shove his nose back into organized baseball I'll pull this testicle on you."

Here Joe tapped a fat envelope which lay on the desk in front of him. That envelope contained blank contracts for next season, but the bluff worked well. "Here's what money is coming to you. Now, beat it!"

Some of the Keatsville players may have suspected the truth, but pride in the team held them silent, and Red Lynch and Jake Hartwell were whirled away to new fields, quarreling as they went. They had received \$100 apiece for the last bit of business, and they felt, too late, that they had sold out their athletic birthrights for a song, and a pretty poor song at that.

A stranger in Tucson, Ariz., would have no trouble in locating the sporting center of that sporty little southwestern city. It was a billiard parlor on the main street, recognized as the official "hangout" for baseball players, boxers and other professional gentlemen.

The particular stranger which we have in mind made a few casual acquaintances, and, quite naturally, Patzy Delaney, the manager of the Tucson Eagles, came by the information that there was a new player in town.

Patzy sought out the stranger and asked a few questions. "They tell me you've played baseball," said he. "Some."

"What position?" "Behind the bat mostly," said the stranger, "but I can play first or the outfield."

"Huh! Hit any?" "Oh, about two ninety in the semipro leagues around St. Louis."

"Come on out to the park tomorrow afternoon," suggested Delaney. "Needless to state, there was nothing at all the matter with the way 'George White of St. Louis' shaped up. His throwing to the bases was nothing less than a revelation, and he 'got the ball away' with a snap that kept the second baseman and the shortstop up on their toes all the while. Even Jack Gibbs, the regular catcher, admitted that White was the best 'pegger' he had ever seen."

In the batting practice Lew Kelly, the Eagles' mainstay in the box, went out on the slab under instructions to "put something on the ball" for the stranger. Lew obeyed orders, but the boy White fell on his wide, roundhouse curve and spattered it to all corners of the lot was discouraging, to say the least.

"He's a bear, Pat," said the discomfited Kelly. "Did you see the way he murdered that drop ball of mine?" "You bet!" said the manager cheerfully.

White asked for the verdict a few minutes later. "How about it?" he said carelessly. "Think you can use me?" "Use you? I can use you! Two games a week. The players split the money sixty and forty after the management takes out 25 per cent of the gross."

"Uh-huh!" said White, without enthusiasm. "And how much does this cut usually run?" "Never less than \$25, and sometimes as much as \$40," said Delaney, fully expecting to see White's eyes light up at the news.

"Not good enough," said White coldly. "I'll tell you what I'll do. Make it a guarantee of \$50 a week and you're on."

"I'll try you for a week," Delaney said.

This was on a Tuesday. Each afternoon some of the players went to the park for practice, and, as in every town, the embryo diamond stars turned out to assist them. On Thursday six members of the Tucson team were laudably warming up on the field, when a lanky, red-headed young man climbed down out of the bleachers where he had been sitting in solitary judgment. The red-headed stranger removed his coat, vest, collar and tie, and, borrowing a glove from a small boy, took a place in line with the other performers.

"Who's the bricktop?" asked White. "Looks to me like a pitcher."

Patzy scrutinized the newcomer. "You can search me," he said. "Some tramp ball player, I guess. The woods are full of 'em."

"Well," said White, after some time spent in watching the stranger, "I don't know about his being a tramp, Pat, but take it from me he sure is one pippin of a pitcher."

"Is that so?" said the manager, beginning to show some interest. "I hadn't noticed it."

"Well, I have," announced White positively. "Why-e-w! What do you know about that speed? Talk about a smoke ball! Tell you what I'll do. I'll get him to pitch some to me and we'll turn him loose on these fellows in the

batting practice. You understand, I haven't seen Lew Kelly in a game yet and I don't know how good he really is, but I've seen him warm up and, believe me, this redhead has got more than Kelly ever saw!"

"Try him out," said Delaney eagerly. "Try him out. If we had another good pitcher now we'd be loaded for bear."

White loafed over and spoke to the lanky stranger. "Come on, kid!" he whispered. "The manager's over by the stand. He wants to see how you work against hitters. Give him some of that Class A stuff."

The redhead went into the box, whirled over a few preliminary balls and Delaney sent his Eagles up with instructions to tear the cover off the ball.

Dutch Schmidt, Tucson's famous home run hitter, almost broke his back reaching after a fadeaway drop. House McGhee, the fighting shortstop, "swung like a garden gate" and Kid Peters, Moose Jones and Smiling Kelly did no better. The redhead made them look foolish with a dazzling succession of fast balls, slow balls, curve balls and a jumping in-shoot, which hummed as it cut the inside corner of the plate. The Eagles were wounded in their vanity, but Patzy Delaney was the happy man.

"Can he pitch?" snorted the catcher. "Why, say, that sorrel top has got half these big leaguers' chests! He's a wonder, I tell you. Grab him!"

So the sorrel top was grabbed. He said that his name was Eli Bates and he came from Eugene, Ore., where he had pitched ball "a little."

On Sunday morning the Biabe Grizzlies came whooping into Tucson for a two game series. The Grizzlies were a chesty aggregation, which had been making life a burden for the Phoenix Terrers, the Prescott Grays and the Canaan Coyotes.

The Eagles had always been easy plucking for the Biabe club, and the sporting men who journeyed with the team offered to bet 2 to 1 on the game in which Moreno would pitch, or 8 to 10 that the Grizzlies would win both games. Pete Moreno, a Mexican, was their star pitcher, with a season's record of eleven victories and a single defeat.

"Better get you some of that 2 to 1," said White to Delaney. "I've taken \$50 worth myself. This 'Oregon baby' will eat 'em alive!"

Lew Kelly pitched on Saturday and was properly and painfully lambasted by the Grizzlies. The only bright spot was the work of the new catcher. He threw out the first three men who started to steal second base, caught one man napping off first and another off third and made three long hits out of four times at bat. After the fourth inning the Grizzlies hugged the bases and waited for the safe hits. George White of St. Louis had them "glued to the sacks," as the morning paper expressed it.

But on Sunday the "Oregon baby" was called upon to face the invincible Moreno, and, as White had prophesied, he ate them alive. Just as a sample of what he could do if really pressed, Eli Bates of Eugene struck out the first four men who faced him and sent the entire Grizzly lineup back to the bench sore from swinging at his deceptive curves. Some of them drew foul, which White cared for; others hit weakly down the infield and were tossed out at first base. In about seven minutes Tucson was aware that the red-headed recruit "had something," and the betting odds switched to even money.

Pete Moreno held his own until the sixth inning, when White smashed out a long triple, and the redhead followed him with a vicious line drive between Moreno's shoulder and ear. White scored, and the Mexican pitcher blew up with a loud report. Before he recovered Dutch Schmidt whaled the ball over the left field fence, and three runs won the game.

In no time at all the Eagles, once a team feared by none, became the terror of the Arizona circuit. The betting switched until Tucson men fought for a chance to bet 2 to 1 on Bates whenever he pitched. Patzy Delaney took his club on a tour, and it won eight games out of ten, Eli Bates scoring six shut outs.

One night shortly after the Eagles returned home Oily Tom Blake, a gambler reported to be worth well into five figures, received a call from George White. George sparred very cleverly for an opening, found it and unfolded a plan which caused Oily Tom to set out some very aged liquor and open a box of cigars. Then he listened intently for twenty minutes, nodding from time to time.

"It's the softest thing you ever saw," urged White. "They'll give any kind of odds you want to name, because this pitcher hasn't lost a game and never even had to pitch his best against these clubs. To make it all the better these Eagles can't hit Moreno with a bed slat. That Mexican's a mighty good pitcher. And if we don't get any runs off him it'll be the easiest thing in the world to slough the game to Biabe. Say something happens to this Bates and he gives a couple of bases on balls and I cut in with a wild heave over a baseman's head—there goes your old ball game, eh? Why, it's as safe as a government bond. With the amount of money they're betting now you ought to be able to clean up eight or ten thousand."

"Yes," said Blake thoughtfully. "But what security do I get for my money? How do I know that you ain't going to cross me instead of everybody else in town?"

White fished out a roll of bills. "Put that in with what you bet," he said. "That's Bates' money and mine—\$500. Think we'd double cross our own bats?"



Charles S. Whitman, the famous New York District Attorney, who is a candidate for Governor of New York.

Brief News of the Week

English suffragettes staged one of the most dramatic acts of their campaign when they exploded a bomb in Westminster Abbey.

San Francisco's population is 518,365, according to the new city directory. The gain in the past year is estimated at 12,738.

A series of tornadoes swept through South Dakota and caused considerable damage to farm buildings. Heavy rains fell in some sections.

The strike of the 10,000 employees of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing company has spread to the Union Switch & Signal company, says a report from Pittsburgh.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs, in convention at Chicago, went on record as favoring votes for women.

The National Association of Mexican war veterans met for its annual reunion at Chillicothe, O., less than a dozen members being in attendance. The parade was led by a man 90 years old.

The total number of Americans who have registered at the Brazilian legation at Mexico City and declared their intention to remain in Mexico at their own risk is 1271. Only 300 of these persons live outside the capital.

A woman prohibitionist, who wants to get married, has been informed by the secretary of state of California that she must run in the final election for the legislature under the same name she used in the primaries.

Four state banks in Chicago, with aggregate deposits of \$6,411,977, and reported cash means of \$1,424,692, were taken charge of by the state banking department, which closed the bank doors and began examination of the banks' affairs.

With the avowed intent to defeat Senator Smoot for re-election the democratic and progressive state conventions, held separately in Salt Lake, combined on a state ticket, nominating James H. Moyle, of Salt Lake, democrat, for the senate; Frank B. Stephens, of Salt Lake, democrat, for supreme court justice; James H. Mays of Salt Lake, progressive, and Lewis Larson, of Manti, progressive, for representatives.

People in the News

Harry Thaw has been granted permission to go from New Hampshire to Pittsburgh to testify regarding litigation affecting the estate of his father.

Thomas Lawson, the financier of Boston, Mass., will spend the entire summer in Oregon.

Judge Ben Lindsey of Denver caused a sensation by accusing Major J. Broughton of making false statements regarding the battle at Ludlow, during the miners' strike.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, suffragette leader, was arrested in London as she was preparing to lead a small army of her followers in a march on the parliament house.

The present business depression is due largely to a state of mind, according to a statement issued by Frank A. Vanderbilt, at a meeting of the New York Bankers' association.

General Villa has notified the state department at Washington that the property left by William Benton, British subject, who was killed in Mexico, would be protected in the interests of the widow.

Vice President Marshall scored the practice of usurious profits in an address before the University of Maine. Changed public opinion should be the aim of young men who assume to take leadership, he said.

Marshall Cushing, editor of How, a magazine representing the big manufacturers, denied the existence of a plan to boycott newspapers by withholding advertising from those who opposed their interests.

BUTTE RIOTERS FOR TIME CONTROL CITY
Attempt is Made to Lynch Two Special Deputies and Intimidate Newspapers.

Butte, Mont.—An attempt to lynch two special deputy sheriffs, efforts to throttle the newspapers, intimidation of the fire department of the city and general rioting featured the Sunday disturbance brought about by the schism in the Miners' Union, which became wide Saturday during the celebration of the organization's 34th anniversary, and was capped by the dynamiting of the homes of two officials of the union.

Early in the afternoon a crowd took two prisoners from the jail; later took possession of an aerial fire truck, which was moved through the street by the city authorities in an effort to disperse the crowds, and threats to lynch Special Deputies Owen Cribben and Martin Harkins, failed to materialize only when police, with drawn guns, rescued the two men and backed down an alley with them.

A delegation visited the three newspaper offices and demanded that no further mention be made derogatory to the I. W. W. and that the words "mob" and "rioters" not appear in any newspaper story.

The riots were caused by long-standing ill-feeling between the regulars of the 9000 members of the Western Federation of Miners here and the insurgents, mostly members of the I. W. W. The members with sentiments in favor of the I. W. W. objected to heavy assessments levied against them by the Western Federation of Miners international officers and local officials as strike benefits for the Michigan copper mine strikers.

Washington—Governor Stewart, of Montana, telegraphed President Wilson asking that federal troops be held in readiness to restore order in the Butte copper mine districts in event of further rioting.

MEXICAN ARMISTICE ASKED
Notify Carranza Must Cease Warfare Before Can Participate.

Niagara Falls, Ont.—The three South American mediators formally advised General Carranza by telegraph they would not admit his representatives to the conference here unless an armistice was declared and internal as well as international phases of the Mexican problem accepted as the scope of mediation.

This action followed the receipt of a note from Rafael Zubaran, special representative of Carranza in Washington, announcing the appointment of Fernando Iglesias Calderon, Luis Cabrera and Jose Vasconcelos as constitutional delegates to the mediation at which, according to the view of the constitutional chief, "it is sought to settle the international conflict which has arisen between the United States and the Mexican republic."

ORDER RESTORED IN ITALY BY SOLDIERS

Rome.—With the occupation of the disaffected provinces by the military forces, order is rapidly being restored and it is expected that within a day or two the district of Romagna, comprising the provinces of Bologna, Ferrara, Ravenna and Forlì will have resumed normal conditions.

An outstanding feature in the general strike situation was the proclamation of an Italian republic by the people of several towns bordering on the Adriatic, in northeastern Italy.

In some towns like Fabriano and Rimini scenes similar to those of the French revolution were enacted. The inhabitants, misled by reports issued from the headquarters of the anarchist committee at Ancona, an important seaport on the Adriatic, to the effect that a revolutionary movement had been successful in overthrowing the monarchy, proclaimed a republic and substituted for the national flag the black banner of the Peasants' League.

Hillside Court Upholds Suffrage.

Springfield, Ill.—Illinois women suffrage act, which permitted women in this state to vote for offices created by statute and on propositions presented to the electorate, was declared valid in a decision by the state supreme court.

Northwest Postmasters Named.

Washington.—The president nominated the following to be postmasters: Washington—S. S. Moritz, Dayton; Arthur A. Barnes, Pasco; Helen R. Whitney, Wapato; James M. G. Wilson, Waterville; Idaho—William T. Roberts, Bellevue.

Emil Seidel Nominated as Senator.

Milwaukee, Wis.—Emil Seidel, ex-mayor of Milwaukee, was nominated by the Social Democratic party of Wisconsin for United States senator.



Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice President during the last Cleveland administration, who died in Chicago of old age.

EX-VICE-PRESIDENT DEAD
Adlai E. Stevenson Passes Away at The Age of 78.

Chicago.—Adlai E. Stevenson, former vice president of the United States, died here at the Presbyterian hospital. His death was due to general debility and old age.

Adlai Ewing Stevenson had a long and honorable public career. He was vice president from 1893 to 1897, under President Grover Cleveland. In 1899 he again was nominated by the democratic party for vice president and ran with William J. Bryan, the party's candidate for president, but was defeated. He served as a member of the 44th and 46th congresses. From 1885 to 1889 he served as First Assistant Postmaster General under President Cleveland.

Fatal Storm in Paris.

Paris.—Eleven persons are believed to have been killed, an unknown number injured and heavy damage to property resulted from a thunder and rain storm of phenomenal violence which raged over Paris for three hours. Several streets caved in, engulfing passers-by, and immense pits replace some of the finest boulevards in the city.

Idaho Bankers Not Convicted.

Nampa, Idaho.—After 36 hours' deliberation, the jury in the case of the state against J. A. Givens and C. E. Lore, ex-Nampa bankers, was unable to agree on a verdict and was discharged by the court.

Free Text Books Voted Down.

Portland.—The free text-book measure was voted down by a majority of almost 12 to 1 in the school election and Dr. Alan Welch Smith was elected school director by an enormous majority.

MOUNT LASSEN IN VIOLENT ERUPTION

Redding, Cal.—Fire, smoke, steam, volcanic ashes, rocks and deadly gases belched, not only from the crater which opened up near the summit of Mount Lassen May 30, but also from two new craters that burst open more than a mile from the first of the new craters, and the first known toll is one dying, one injured and two de-mented.

The outbreak of Mount Lassen is extremely volcanic in nature, and the peak becomes the newest active volcano in the world.

Lance Graham was fatally hurt by falling rocks. His head was battered and he was found half covered by ashes and cinders.

Rocks hurtled from the spouting volcano and broke the arm and gashed the face of George Tipple, a lumber-jack, and left him demented.

George Goodwin, who left Manzanita Lake at 8 o'clock in the morning, was within a half mile of the crater when the eruption occurred, and he also is demented as a result.

Other members of the party near the mountain at the time, report that the top of the mountain has been blown off, and ashes, rock and cinders cover territory two miles from the peak.

Theodore III is Born.

New York.—Theodore Roosevelt III, first grandson of Colonel Roosevelt to bear the family name, was born at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

THE MARKETS

Portland.

Wheat—Club, 86c; bluestem, 89c; red Russian, 86c.

Hay—Timothy, \$14; alfalfa, \$13.

Butter—Creamery, 27c.

Eggs—Ranch, 21c.

Seattle.

Wheat—Bluestem, 89c; club, 86c; red Russian, 86c.

Hay—Timothy, \$17 per ton; alfalfa, \$14 per ton.

Butter—Creamery, 26c.

Eggs—24c.

MANY MEASURES FOR VOTERS OF OREGON

Taxation Proposals Are Held to Be of Far-Reaching Importance to the State.

Salem.—That the electorate of the state will have nearly the same number of proposed bills and constitutional amendments to wrestle with at the November election as it had at the last general election is indicated by the number referred by the last general assembly and those filed with the secretary of state for approval as to form. The general assembly referred eight amendments and three bills and 16 other amendments and 10 measures to be initiated have been filed with the secretary of state.

Nearly all measures suggested, discussed and "rumored" have been filed and, July 2 being the last day for filing completed petitions, it is not likely there will be many more.

The measures probably of the most far-reaching importance to be determined at the coming election relate to taxation. The \$1500 tax exemption constitutional amendment is certain to go on the ballot, for the petitions for it have been completed.

This measure provides that every person be exempt from tax on \$1500 of the total assessed value of his dwelling, household furniture, livestock, machinery, orchard, vines, bushes, shrubs, nursery stock, merchandise, buildings and other improvements, in and under his lands made by clearing, ditching and draining.

A constitutional amendment creating the office of lieutenant-governor is referred by the legislative assembly. Officers of the State Grange, State Federation of Labor, People's Power League, Farmers' Union, Farmers' Society of Equity and the Proportional Representation Bureau have filed a constitutional amendment to abolish the state senate. The amendment is in all respects self-executing and if approved shall be immediately operative.

With all the agitation for abolition of state boards and commissions, only three measures have been filed looking to this end.

Jonathan Bourne, Jr., ex-United States senator, offers a measure to "prohibit the giving or promising of any valuable consideration to induce another to circulate or secure signatures to any petition for the initiative, referendum or recall, or for placing any name on any official ballot, and to provide penalties for violation thereof."

The Socialist party of Oregon has a constitutional amendment which would establish a department of industry and public works to be under the control of the state labor commissioner. Its function would be to establish industries, systems of transportation, distributing stations and public works for the employment of unemployed persons and for the sale and distribution of their products.

The money for operating the department would be derived from a tax upon the estates of dead persons appraised at \$50,000 or more and from appropriations that may be made for the purpose. The tax on estates shall not be less than 10 per cent; and may be graduated above that percentage by law.

Typhoid Germs For Militia.

Eugene.—Six tubes of typhoid germs, prepared for inoculation purposes, have been received by Colonel Creed Hammond of the Oregon Coast artillery corps for use among the members of the two militia companies in Eugene. The men will be treated in small groups after working hours.

Dry Flour Saves His Life.

Pendleton.—His life saved by the prompt application of dry flour to an ugly cut in his throat, William Furler, a farmhand, is in a Heppner hospital recovering from the effects of an automobile accident which happened on the Sand Hollow road between this city and Heppner.

Mrs. Potts' Body Sought By Ghouls.

Canyon City.—While attempting to steal the body of Mrs. Charles E. Potts from the local cemetery, four men, three of whom are associated with the defense of Potts, now on trial for the murder of his wife, were arrested.

Shifting Wind Saves Town.

Bandon.—Three blocks in the heart of the business section were destroyed by fire here. A shifting wind was all that saved the entire town from destruction. The loss is estimated at \$300,000.

Peach Crop Is Promising.

Cottage Grove.—The peach crop in this section promises to be unusually large this season. While this crop is usually the most susceptible to frosts, and there were several late frosts this year that caused some injury to cherries and berries, peaches seem to have escaped entirely.