

### BASEBALL RULES MAY BE REVISED

#### Many Important Matters Face Moguls at Their Mid-Winter Confab.

New York, Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—Revision of the rules governing the great outdoor sport of Americans and a general overhauling of the game were contemplated when officials of the National League of Baseball Clubs met in annual convention here today. There were no rioting crowds to urge the moguls to come into action, nor did the swart of the ball on glove or bat resound on the battlefield, but there seemed to be a promise of fireworks before the meeting was adjourned.

The owners and managers professed fatigue over the annual holiday epidemic and efforts were expected to be arranged to change things that, when a star player goes off in a corner and points to the sky for more pennies, it will be possible to give him a good spanking and make him go to it. There was under consideration a new contract, under which players would be signed for twelve months instead of the playing season.

John Heydler, the National League president, said he would propose the fixing of a limit on the prices to be paid for minor league clubs for players to be sent to major leagues. Other officials of the league officials said they favored such a proposal, because they were of the opinion that the high prices demanded by the minors were causing dissatisfaction and were a menace to a continuance of the drafting rules.

#### MAY O. K. BARNSTORMING.

Some of the owners declared they would propose elimination of the rule governing world series players from barnstorming, the clause that ousted George Herman Ruth, Robert Meusel and William Pierey to be deprived of their world's series money and to be engaged for about six weeks of the 1922 playing season. Other officials asserted their desire for a rule that would curb the use of pinch hitters. The present arrangement regarding players on the reserve list and players

out on optional agreement also was slated for argument. The major leagues are at present permitted to carry forty men on the reserve list and eight on optional agreements. They want the limit raised, respectively, to 50 and 12. President Toole, of the International League, said yesterday that his league would have no objection to such increases, but it would like to see the big fellows try to keep measurably near, at least to the limits designated.

There will be some talk, it was said, about reduction of admission prices, but some of the visceracs declared that the owners knew that fans would pay what they asked and that they didn't expect any reduction, except perhaps for world's series games.

The International League failed to clear up its arguments in yesterday's session and was to meet again today. President Toole said there were "several important matters" to settle. The league yesterday voted to refrain from any discussion of the present draft system during the life of the rule, seven years the term of office of Commissioner Landis.

#### MAJORS ARE FEARED.

Mr. Toole, President Hekey, of the

American Associations, and President McCarthy, of the Coast League, will confer with the majors Thursday regarding the rule having to do with the invasion of minor league territory by a major league. The minors, it was said, are worried about the standing rule and have fears that the National League is casting longing eyes at Toronto and maybe another city in their territory.

Miller Huggins announced today that he expected to manage the Yankees again next season and said he would talk with Colonel Huston and Ruppert sometime during the day.

Huggins denied any knowledge of the reported deal with Detroit involving Veach and Elmke, of Detroit, and Johnny Mitchell, the Yankee infielder. Other folks said, however, that the deal actually was in the making and that there would be a conflict about it soon. Huggins said he had no intention of trading Roger Peckinpaugh for Rice or Judge, of Washington.

"We could use Rice and Judge, too, for that matter," he added, "but not at the expense of Peck."

Brooklyn's bosses were reported to be talking trades and cash with Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. The Pirates were said to be willing to part with Whitted and Schmidt in exchange for Wheat and Myers. Schmidt, one of the league's best backstops, has asked to be traded and the Superbas are known to be in the market for a catcher. However, they may consider Wheat too valuable.

### RUTH'S DEFIANCE PROVES COSTLY

#### Landis' Decision Cripples the Yankees and May Cost Them a Fortune.

BY SID MERCER.

International News Staff Correspondent. New York, Dec. 12.—Babe Ruth's open defiance of Judge Landis, high commissioner of baseball, will cost the New York club at least \$100,000 if indeed, it does not remove the colorful Bambino from the sale of organized baseball entirely and render him a dead asset to the Yankees.

Judge Landis has given the answer to the oft-repeated query: "Is Ruth bigger than baseball?" and it was a reply that is not likely to be modified by a plea of extenuating circumstances. By suspending Ruth, Bob Meusel and Bill Pierey until May 20, 1922, and fining them their shares of the world's series prize money, which are being held in escrow, Judge Landis tossed a bombshell into the American League. While the severity of the punishment was not unexpected, the verdict carries harsh provisions that were not anticipated.

Ruth's employers were prepared to stand a heavy financial loss, but had hoped in some way to have the sentence modified so that the home-run king could train with the Yankees next Spring and then keep in condition until his suspension was lifted.

#### WILL BABE STAND 'HITCHED'?

By outlawing the Babe entirely until late in May, Judge Landis probably will drive him into an alliance with independent promoters and thus prematurely end a great career. Ruth has many offers and it will require great tact and persuasion on the part of the Yankee colonels to keep him "hitched" until he can free himself in the manner suggested by the official verdict.

Ruth's ill-advised barnstorming tour last Fall netted him less than \$5,000. The interest on this, as charged by Judge Landis, can easily amount to 10 times the principal.

Aside from what Ruth is worth as a box office attraction on a Spring training trip and the first month of a championship season, the strong possibility of his quitting organized baseball abruptly now looms up. Babe can undoubtedly make big money on independent bookings next season, but after that he may not do so well. Home-run records off bush pitchers do not greatly interest baseball fans.

Once Ruth breaks away, he will be done as a Yankee. He will soon be 28 years old and he is getting heavy. He might trade on his reputation in a third major league if he could find promoters to start one. However, the costly Federal League failure is still fresh in the memories of the promoters and money is tight now.

#### HALTS RECORD MAKING.

In any event Ruth is not going to be the heroic figure he was in 1920 and last season. If he quits he will be a total loss to the club, and if he sticks, but does not go into training until late

in May, he may not regain his form until midsummer. And with a month sliced off his season, he has practically no chance to equal or even approach his home-run records of the past two seasons. To the loss incurred by Ruth's suspension must be added the expense of securing two new outfielders with which to start the next championship season. The chances of the Yankees repeating as champions under these circumstances are anything but bright. Failure then, with no Ruth to draw the crowds, and no world's series to top the season, could easily run the Yankee losses up to a half million dollars.

more one considers the Landis decision the tougher it gets.

### TURNER DEFEATED BOSTON WRESTLER

Joe Turner, game wrestler from the Nation's Capital, is now even with Joe Shinkus, one of the Boston wrestling highlights, after his sensational victory over the big Bostonian at the auditorium Monday night. Turner took two in three falls after a fine exhibition of the Grecian art as ever seen on the local mat.

Shinkus defeated the mighty Turner two in three falls in a match here last week and now the boards are even. Turner having three falls and Shinkus the same number.

Turner registered the first fall Monday night after 23 1/2 minutes of fierce battling. His successful hold was a double hammer lock and body weight.

Shinkus came back strong for the second fall and after 29 minutes had Turner gazing toward the big iron rafters. Shinkus used a head lock with such force that he turned Turner's head into a merry-go-round. In his dizzy spell Turner tackled Referee Barnes. He got straight, however, when Barnes gave him a facing lecture.

The deciding fall was Turner's in 34 minutes. This fall was the sensational end of a sensational match. The big Bostonian, who had been using the deadly headlock concentrated on that hold and made Turner suffer a great deal. Turner's so-called super-human strength reasserted itself and the local favorite won.

Monday's bout was one of the very best ever staged in Charlotte and a large and appreciative audience lined the first floor and the galleries.

### CENTRE REFUSES TO FACE EASTERN TEAM

Danville, Ky., Dec. 12.—Centre College authorities late yesterday sent a telegram to the San Diego Chamber of Commerce refusing permission for the college to play Notre Dame or any other Eastern college or university at San Diego December 26.

"We will not authorize game of football for Centre College at San Diego December 26 with other than a Pacific Coast college or university in good standing, as proposed for game was presented to us as a contest of East vs. West," the telegram said. "Decision final."

### VIRGINIA LEAGUE IS TO DROP TWO CLUBS

Richmond, Va., Dec. 12.—W. B. Bradley, president of the Virginia League, announced yesterday that a meeting of the league directors will be held in Norfolk next Saturday night to decide what cities will compose the league next year. It is reported that North Carolina towns may be dropped and an all-Virginia League formed. All clubs expecting to be in the league next season will be required to put up a bond of \$5,000 each at the Norfolk meeting.

Rocky Mount, Dec. 12.—The Virginia Baseball League in 1922 will probably be a six-team circuit, according to W. B. Moye, of this city, vice-president of the league. Mr. Moye said today that Tarboro, which took over the Peters-

burg franchise last season, had rendered its option and would not be in the league next season. The owners of the Suffolk club, he said, had disposed of virtually all of its players and have indicated that these would be in the league in 1922.

#### HALL CAPTAINS VIRGINIA.

Charlottesville, Va., Dec. 12.—Thomas Sellman Hall of Lohair, Mass., was named captain of the Virginia football team for the 1922 season. He is in his third year at the University.

#### DOWNEY STOPS LITTLETON.

New Orleans, Dec. 12.—Laurie Downey, of Cleveland, Ohio, last night stopped Happy Littleton, of New Orleans, in the fifth round of a scheduled ten-round bout. The men are middleweights.

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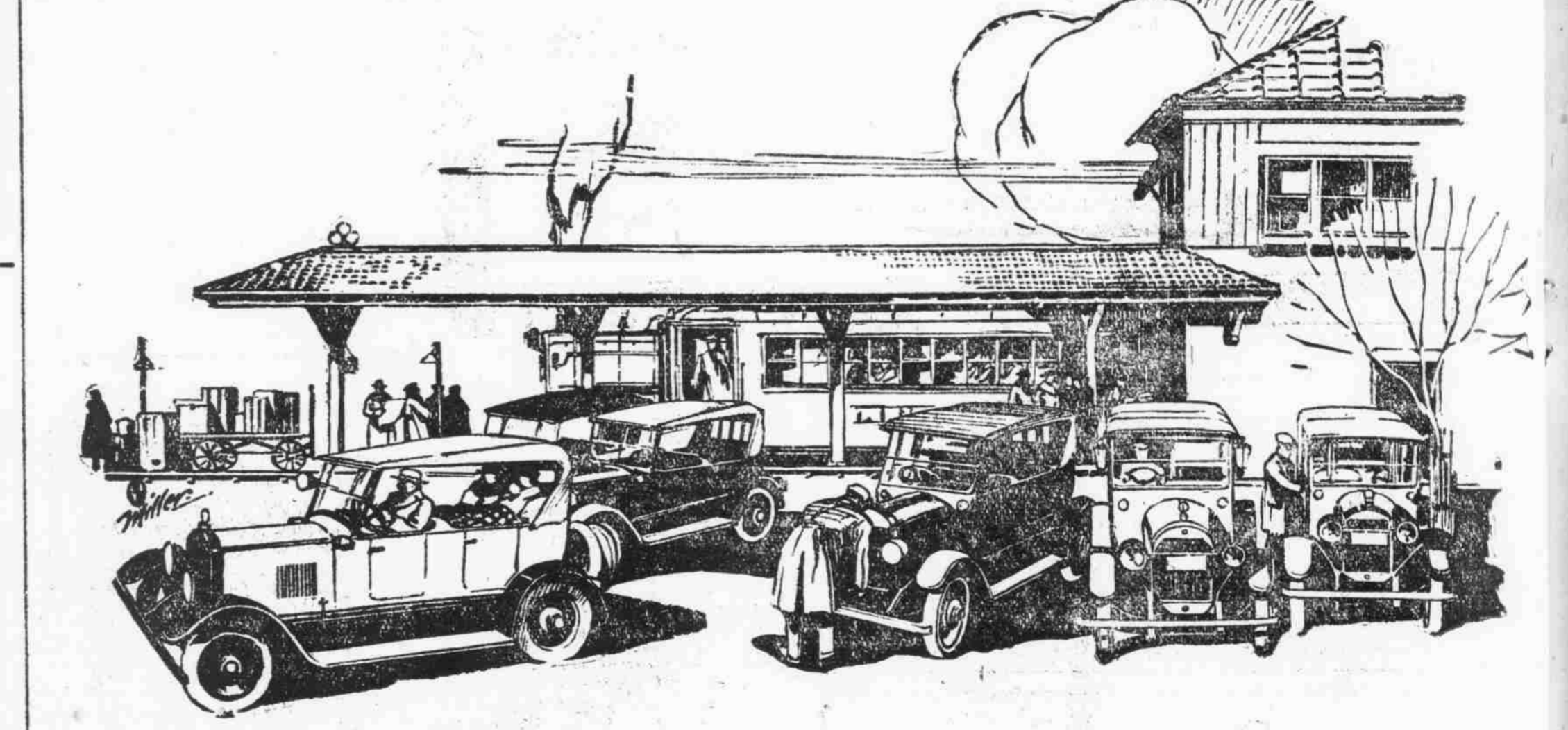
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