

MOVE ON FOOT TO FORM WINTER LEAGUE IN CUBA

Baseball Is as Popular in Little Island as in This Country.

BY E. W. DICKERSON.

A MOVEMENT is said to be on foot to form a winter major league in Cuba to furnish employment for several months for major and leading minor league players during the off season of the baseball leagues of the United States. The Cubans are even more enthusiastic over baseball than Americans and wager on the games as heavily as Americans do on horse races. It is as much the national game of the cozy little island as this country. The daily papers of Havana carry tabulated scores of the major league games of America, and special stories

daily of the doings of the several Cuban players in the two major leagues. Those papers are represented at world's series play each year by their sporting editors.

There are dozens of Cuban players of major league caliber, but who are not allowed to play because of the color line being drawn. The Cuban negro is a little different featured than his African brother. He is not quite as thick lipped as the African, but he is so black that it is hard to make a visible mark on him with a hunk of soot. There are dozens of negro players in America who might be major league stars but for the color line—among them, Bill Pettus, once quite prominent as a heavy-weight boxer as well as a baseball player. The late Frank Selee, a major league manager for twenty years, said that he did not believe the game ever knew a greater backstop than Pettus, who was then catching at Albuquerque, N. M. Once when the Pueblo club of the Western league was about to go on the rocks a boxing match was arranged for the club's benefit. Pettus volunteered his services gratis to box Jim Flynn ten rounds, and the club was saved for the town thru the receipts of the show. Pettus showed his versatility by giving Flynn the hardest kind of a fight. How many white boxers do you think could be found who would go thru ten rounds without payment for their services for such a cause against a tough fellow like Jim Flynn was at that time?

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