



The Barge Lifts.

Bernard Hugh in The Bystander.

play this season will be higher than it was last season. Many players found places in the major leagues last season who were merely taken on to fill the

emergency when the regulars were called to the colors.

Baseball in the colleges, schools, and even down to the teams in the back lots

is more likely than any other sport to arouse new interest and gain new disciples. On the street and in the restaurants one may already hear men talking

about the coming baseball season. It has become, to many New Yorkers, the topic of conversation second best to the weather.

Shall We Deport the Interned Aliens?

Representative Burnett's Bill in Congress Is Enlisting Strong Support, but Has Aroused Opposition, Including Senator Hardwick's

WHAT is to become of thousands of alien enemies now in internment camps of the country? At the conclusion of peace, are they to be liberated and left free to remain in the United States, or are they to be expelled? And are they to be deported to Germany and Austria, whence they came, or merely sent over the frontiers and then left alone?

These are questions which will come before Congress soon. A bill has been introduced, by request of the Department of Justice, providing that the Secretary of Labor may deport such interned aliens as he sees fit. The Immigration Committees of both the Senate and the House must first pass upon the measure. At present there is no law to regulate these aliens when they are released. John Lord O'Brian, Special Assistant to the Attorney General for war work, has summed up the situation thus:

"If there is no legislation enacted to deport these people, or to send them out of the country, we have no power to hold them, and they will be turned loose upon the community. They most certainly cannot be reached by the present immigration laws, for they are practically all outside those statutes."

Already, however, some opposition to the proposed law is developing in Congress. Senator Hardwick of Georgia, Chairman of the Immigration Committee, says:

"If I retain my present frame of mind I shall certainly not vote for any law giving one man the power to determine who should be deported. This might be done in wartime. But in peacetime, no! I would consent to a law allowing a trial by jury of these people. But I could not consent to giving this power to one man. This is not Russia!"

The Department of Justice, in answer to Mr. Hardwick's advocacy of jury trial,

says the interned aliens cannot be tried by jury, because at the time they were placed in the camp no laws existed whereunder they could be tried, and that, therefore, they cannot now be brought before a jury. As a matter of fact, hundreds of men, and some women, too, were tried, and are now in Federal prisons at Atlanta and Leavenworth and McNeill's Island, and these were included in the aliens taken into custody after the United States entered the war.

Senator Hardwick may be against the legislation stimulated by the Department of Justice, but the head of the House Immigration Committee, Representative Burnett of Alabama, certainly is not, for he introduced the bill about to be considered. He takes the stand of the Department of Justice that the majority of the interned aliens are dangerous and should be deported. He believes that the measure will pass his committee successfully. The bill provides that all aliens deemed by the Secretary of Labor to be "undesirable residents" of the country because they have been interned under the war statutes are liable to deportation, as well as aliens who during the war have been convicted of offenses against the Government. The fact of internment or conviction is defined by the bill as prima facie evidence that the aliens are "undesirable," and the decision of the Secretary of Labor is to be final.

By far the greater majority of the interned Germans and Austrians are at Fort Oglethorpe, near Chattanooga, and Fort Douglas, near Salt Lake City. There was another great internment camp at Hot Springs, N. C., but this has been abandoned. A few of the aliens are detained at Ellis Island, N. Y.; San Francisco, and New Orleans. But they are kept there only temporarily.

For war reasons, the Department of

Justice has been scrupulously careful not to reveal the exact number of persons interned. The department has held that this would be an indication to the Central Empires of what inroads this country's Secret Service had made in uncovering the ramifications of foreign spy systems. However, estimates from reliable sources place the total number at some 5,000, including the hundreds of alien seamen. The sailors, who include both merchant seamen and naval officers and crews, are placed at between 2,000 and 3,000, and the guess is made that the interned civilians number perhaps 2,500.

All kinds of reasons actuated the internment of the Germans and Austrians. Many were arrested at the entry of this country into the war, a large number of them before they could do any damage whatever. These were German agents or spies, and the Department of Justice, which had long had them under surveillance, drew its net tightly and quickly. Internment was, for the most part, a preventive instead of a cure. As already said, if a man had committed a crime and if any law existed whereby he could be punished, he was tried by a court of law. The required law, however, did not exist in all cases. Many acts lay entirely outside the Federal law as then framed. Aliens likely to become sources of danger were simply seized. Some who were placed in the internment camps went there because they had violated Presidential regulations promulgated during the war. Professional trouble makers and propagandists were gathered in by the score. Naturally, from the very variety of the reasons impelling internment, there is a wide scope in the degree of culpability among the aliens. In rare instances persons were interned for their own protection, some at their own request, others because the department considered it wise. Few of these are regarded as dangerous. But the department believes that the greater number of the persons now behind the wire fences should be sent out of the country. The majority

are regarded as having been "distinctly dangerous during the war."

The list of persons interned is not a public document, but from time to time the identity of those placed in the camps has become known. Adolph Pavenstadt, Carl Heynen, and Hugo Schmidt are three financial representatives of the Germans. So is Felix Sommerfeld, once Villa's Chief of Secret Service. Dr. Muck, the musical director, and another conductor, Kuhnhardt of the Cincinnati Orchestra, are interned. Max Breitling, Carl Bertling, an active propagandist, and Federico Stallforth, who is even now testing internment on the ground that he is a Mexican citizen, are three others. Stallforth was an intimate of Rintelen, the spy and agent for blowing up British ships. Otto Wolpert, commander of a German liner, and Commodore Ruser of the Vaterland; Harry Salaman, a New York banker; Paul Koenig, credited with being the paymaster of the German Secret Service; Max Lucke and Count Mongelas, German journalists and propagandists, are all behind the fences. And there are Rudolph Otto, a former Consul at Jamaica; Karl Neumond, a New York and New Orleans merchant; H. A. Seeborn of a great chemical company now taken over by the Alien Property Custodian; Adelbert Fisher, Enno Bode, Alfonso Fontheim, and W. von Nostedt.

The question whether the alien enemies should be placed upon ships and deported to their own countries, or whether they should be simply ejected from this country, will have much bearing upon the debate when the legislation comes up.

It is believed that well-nigh all the men and women in the camps wish to remain here, and if they are once landed inside Germany or Austria their attempts to return to the United States will be much more difficult. The legislation will not affect the naval officers and crews, for they are prisoners of war. They include the forty-four men and five officers of the U-58, which was sunk by the destroyer Fanning on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, and the officers of the Prince Eitel Friedrich and the cruiser Geyer, whose officers blew her up in the Pacific.