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SPORTING COMMENT

By FREE LANCE

The umpire who robbed us last week is with us this week. Glory be!

We are not sure whether it is O'Laughlin or McLaughlin, but we may be if it keeps on.

We expect to lose 10 per cent from the umpires on the road, but not 50 per cent, says Kane.

Ottawa fans jeered at O'Laughlin when he called a bad strike on Lynam. Must have been pretty bad.

"Can't get 'em over." This is what Ottawa hollered at Chubby Coose on Saturday.

Clemont wondered what was wrong with him after Saturday's game at Ottawa, and with a couple of other players went back to the grounds and measured the distance between the pitchers' box and the plate. It was just three feet longer than it should have been. This is pretty tough for a curve ball pitcher.

Clemont saw his curves breaking before they got to the plate and suspected the trouble.

What do you think about this? Jim Bradley, a well known local ball player got the idea on Saturday that the Red Sox wouldn't draw a baker's dozen for the rest of the year, and made a proposition with another local man to form an independent ball team. Let's see, anyway! Bring on the team, Jimmie!

The Red Sox are not only going to turn over a new leaf, but buy a whole new book.

Kane will be back in the game in a week, and Burrill will be out there to-day.

Don't forget the club has been crippled. A worse fielding outfit never represented Brantford.

Diem, centre fielder, and O'Reilly, pitcher, were released to-day. They former, after ten days' trial was considered just an ordinary ball player and weak against left-hand pitchers.

Manager Kane says that he isn't afraid of anything that he has seen yet. After last week, neither are we. Let them do their worst!

Umpire O'Laughlin once played night field for Guelph, and it was because he got turned down in looking for a job with Brantford that he has soaked the Red Sox a plenty.

Down in Ottawa a policeman was told to remove Amby Kane, but the cop wouldn't. "You have behaved yourself properly, even with provocation," remarked the big cop, "and I won't take you off." We forgot to mention that he was Irish.

When Brantford runs up against Hamilton this week, the supply of the latter's horseshoes should run out.

It is a hard job, end favoring to cheer up a lot of fans who have got peevish by the fact that their pennant hopes were jolted last week in a five straight defeat of the Red Sox. Sometimes if the players whom the fans cheer for, quit as cold as the fans do themselves, a pennant could not be won in a million years. The securing of Lefty Smith from Baltimore should certainly help the fans a little to forget last week. Personally the writer is an optimist on baseball, particularly when a club has 100 games to play, and there is a commercial prospect of a winning club getting every cent in return for that which is expended on it. Combined with the fact that the president of the club thinks the same way, and is willing to spend, at this stage of the race, we have no worry. It would be a commercial sin, a travesty on good nature and a hard blow to everybody, if President Nelson did not realize that a

"LEFTY" SMITH FOR BRANTFORD

He Reports Here To-day and Should Greatly Strengthen Red Sox.

"Forget that stuff," he replied. "This city will have a winner in June at the head of the league, if every player on the present team has to be let go. That's the only thing for Brantford, and we'll have it."

As predicted in these columns last week the presidential boss of the Red Sox has made good and has gone and secured a clean-up pitcher. Lefty Smith is due to report in Brantford to-day. Yes, the same old Lefty who cleaned up the Canadian League in the year 1911 and was grabbed up by big league scouts at the option price at the end of the season. Since Lefty left Brantford he has been pastiming with Jack Dunn's Baltimorean aggregation in the International league. Smith was in the big show all last year and got along fairly well. When he reported to Baltimore this spring, the sporting writers declared that he would be one of the first to stick. His work was revelation.

Now, just what has fallen, whereby the abode of Lefty Smith is changed from Baltimore to Brantford has got us guessing. At any rate we saw a telegram from Smith on Saturday stating that terms were O.K. and that he would report here immediately. Not being content with that, we commenced enquiries why he should be turned loose by Jack Dunn.

In the first place we suspected that Lefty Smith wasn't quite good enough for the International and was, with all that, a wonder for a league like the Canadian. Following his clue to a logical end we discovered that Smith was considered quite good enough to stick in President Barrow's circuit. However, we nailed the clue down a little bit harder.

The second suspicion which came across the horizon was that Jack Dunn of Baltimore was carrying a fine lot of pitchers and he couldn't afford to cut down. Further investigation kept within the Barrow salary limit. Following this up on the dope, we were sustained in what psychologists call the first premises of the proposition. Baltimore has good pitchers and could afford to dispense with Lefty. But that wasn't why Brantford got him.

Having some of the real detective instinct in our make-up but never making arrest without a warrant, we traversed the doings of the Presidential Boss of the Red Sox during the week ending May 17. A reference to our chart and finger print system revealed the fact that Mr. Nelson paid a visit to Toronto on Thursday evening last. It was not at all like a visit of the police to the reserve looking for Jack Bennett, because no brass bands were taken along. However, when we asked Watson to bring the needle, we further discovered the fact that Jack Dunn, his Baltimore aggregation and Lefty Smith were three-day guests of James J. McCaffery at the Island Stadium. Further raising the needle if that were necessary we found that Brantford needed a pitcher and in particular a Lefty Smith.

What got Lefty Smith from Baltimore was not lack of control, but the exercise of a whole lot of control by President Nelson. He fairly put them over the corners for Jack Dunn, and Dunn recognized behind the scenes an Irish potentate called Nelson yielded and handed over Lefty. We don't know and don't pretend to know how much money Smith cost Brantford, but we have an idea that he will mean a whole lot more of the coin of the realm after he gets here than in the transaction which brought him here. In other words we think town baseball crazy he is a good investment. We would likewise say the same of Christy Matheson after we heard Saturday's score.

However, Lefty Smith should prove a big winner in the Canadian. He now the property of the Brantford club. He is as cunning as a fox, and with big show experience should be a clean-up man any time Kane call upon him. It will be worth while watching what Smith does in all the big battles in which he will doubtless be put.

When his spit ball breaks nothing else does as far as the opposing team is concerned. Smith with 18 to his credit still holds the strike record of the league. Besides that, he is a pitcher who can hit. We're glad to see the "Bullet" arrive at such an opportune time.

PITCHERS WERE WILD AND BRANTFORD LOST

Ottawa Won Game Under Wraps—Score Was 11-4

(Special to The Courier)

OTTAWA, May 19.—Ed. Renfer, who hails from Elgin, Ill., where they make watches, worked with a perfect Swiss movement against the Brantford Red Sox Saturday, and though he won his game, 11-4, was going under wraps after the champions had collected ten runs for him, as was advertised. Renfer hooked up with Coose, the youngster, with whom he went the long distance last year. Coose was wild as a March hare in the opening frame, walking four, which combined with a perfect Swiss movement on some inside ball, gave the Senators three runs. Two walks in the third, a hit batsman, Slemm's juicy muff and a single and Renfer's double, sent Coose to the barn and salted the game away for Ottawa.

A big Saturday crowd turned out though it looked threatening during the first three innings, the sun burst out later on, and offered up the best looking baseball atmosphere seen here this year. It suited Slemm's big right-hander, and the way he dispatched Amby Kane's men early in the fray, was a caution, only seventeen men faced him in the first five innings. He included three hits during that time, when Brundage's much talked of fence buster came up for the first time. Renfer sent him back to the bench on four pitched balls, the third strike sweeping over the plate and the Sox slugger swung at it. Ed. mixed up a mystifying slow ball with his smoke and his control was gold sealed.

After Coose was taken out in the third, Clemont was sent in and gave six hits. Brantford was shut out till the seventh, when Renfer cased off and three runs came over on the base on balls and three hits. Manager Shaughnessy had a great day at centre with six put outs, four of which were running catches of long flies. Slemm made a fancy one-handed catch that caught the crowd in the fourth. Tully had his hand split between the third and little finger, knocking down Brundage's drive through short. He got the runner but had to retire, and will be out of the game for a couple of days.

BRANTFORD

A. B. R. H. O. A. Tesch, s..... 4 0 0 1 3 Diela, l..... 4 0 0 0 0 Wagner, 2b..... 5 0 0 1 3 Ivers, rb..... 4 1 2 12 2 Brundage, r.f..... 3 0 2 2 0 Slemm, m..... 4 1 2 4 0 Orcutt, 3b..... 3 1 1 1 0 Lamond, c..... 3 1 0 3 2 Coose, p..... 1 0 1 0 5 Clearmont, p..... 2 0 0 0 0 O'Reilly..... 1 0 0 0 0 Totals..... 34 4 9 24 16

OTTAWA

A. B. R. H. O. A. Harris, 2b..... 4 2 1 2 2 Rowe, r.f..... 3 2 1 0 2 Shaughnessy, m..... 3 0 2 6 0 Dolan, lb..... 4 1 1 8 2 Lage, c..... 3 0 0 5 0 Callahan, lf..... 4 2 1 2 0 Robertson, 3b..... 3 1 1 0 1 Tully, s..... 1 1 1 0 2 Rogers, r..... 3 1 2 1 0 Renfer, p..... 4 1 2 1 2 Totals..... 36 11 11 27 9

R. E.

Brantford..... 000000310—4 9 3
Ottawa..... 3051010—11 11 0
Errors—Wagner, Slemm, Clearmont.

Summary—Two-base hits—Renfer, Callahan and Slemm. Three base hits—Brundage and Slemm. Sacrifices—Slemm, Renfer, Lage, Stolen bases, Shaughnessy, Lage, Callahan, Robertson, Rogers. 2. Bases on balls, off Renfer 3, off Coose 5, Clearmont 2. Struck out by Renfer 4, Coose 1, Clearmont 0. Hits off Coose, 5 in 2-3; Clearmont, 6. Left on bases, Ottawa 10; Brantford 7. Hit by pitcher—Rowe, Robertson, Passed ball, Lage, Wild pitch, Renfer. Time 1:55. Umpire McLaughlin.

Base Ball

To-night

Immediately after the London-Brantford game to-day, the junior ball teams of this city open their season with President Nelson and Manager Kane the opening batteries.

As this is the first year of the young boys having been formed into a league, it is expected that some real fast games will be played, and judging by the enthusiasm shown, they have some real fans who are watching their various practices, and everybody is looking forward to the one big opening on Monday next.

There are six teams entered, and while Brantford fans cannot see the big team play every day, they will have a chance to see the coming stars three times each week in real fast games.

All teams are attiring themselves with natty uniforms, and will certainly help to show that Brantford is a real live ball town.

The opposing teams for the opening game are the Climbers and Orioles, and in their recent exhibition games they showed considerable

speed, so Monday at 6 o'clock sharp will see the start of a battle royal Junior Bal Notes

Game called for 6 o'clock sharp to-night. The Climbers say, watch our smoke. The Orioles say, watch the substitute we have for Brundage's place.

Yes, there is still a chance for Brantford youngsters to start training for the Canadian League.

The Red Sox juniors have four southpaws signed up and rumors are they are trying to buy Ray Collins, but Kane will not consider the price. The Eagles are nesting at Tutela Park ready to make a swoop down on the Red Sox on Tuesday.

The Protest

Sporting Editor Courier: Sir.—We note with some surprise an article in Friday's issue stating that the Beaver have protested the game played with G. S. & M. We cannot imagine what their protest is based on, as we have complied with all league rules. Mr. Dowling, of the Beavers, spoke to a couple of our members, stating that the umpires were inefficient and the grounds poor. Mr. Pat, Crowley was our umpire, he is well enough known in sporting circles to make further statements unnecessary here.

Their umpire we do not know, but we have no complaint to make. But leaving umpires aside, 2 singles and a homer in one inning were enough to win.

Yours truly, J. GRAHAM, G. S. & M Sec'y.

Football

S. O. E. Notes

F. Castle, the S. O. E. manager, is not in bed with typhoid fever as reported, and was able to be present at Saturday's game after his recent illness.

The S. O. E. will play their games at Tutela as scheduled, the reserves having secured Recreation Park for their games.

The Sons made a good start Saturday, scoring in the first two minutes, but could not get another. Harris was greatly missed, and had he been playing it is quite likely the Sons would have had their first win.

FOOTBALL STANDING

L. D. G. E. G. A. P. Dufferin R..... 5 4 1 0 16 5 8 E. M. C..... 3 2 2 1 12 4 7 Holmeville T..... 5 2 1 1 10 6 4 Tutela Park..... 4 2 0 0 6 4 1 Dragons..... 4 2 0 0 5 7 2 St. Andrew's..... 1 2 0 0 4 11 2 S. O. E..... 5 0 2 1 1 3 3

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BASE BALL London vs. Brantford

May 19-20-21

—AT— Agricultural Park