

OUR BASEBALL COLUMN

BASEBALL COACHES

By N. J. Flatley.

When one stops to think of the large number of good professional ballplayers, and then turns his mind to those who are able to get out on the coaching lines and keep things moving, he is liable to be surprised at the small number who can really be placed in the list of good coaches. Many and many a player who knows the game inside out, so far as playing it is concerned, is as much at sea on the coaching lines as any high school tyro. It takes a man with a comprehensive mind to make good at this very difficult part of our national game. A player, brainy enough when he is on the bases or in the field, may be, to use a popular expression, a "bone-head" when his manager sends him to the lines to watch out for things, back of either first or third, because his brain cannot seem to take in the myriad situations that are likely to arise when he himself is not personally participating.

The good coaches may be divided into two classes—the noisy, witty men of the Hugh Jennings stripe, and the quiet, almost silent coaches, of the Frank Chance type. These two classes may, of course be subdivided. In the former we find men whose vocalistic attempts carry with them no hidden barb or sting—they merely "jolly" the other fellow along in a good-natured way. In contrast to these are the ones who, becoming excited or angered, are likely to voice their opinions of umpires and opponents in terms which, while not exactly profane, carry a very obvious and unpleasant meaning. The quiet men follow the same classification. Some of them never attempt sarcasm or abuse, while others have tongues that act as lances on the sentimental nerve centers of their rivals. A good example of this latter class is Clark Griffith, the manager of the Cincinnati Nationals. He has not a very extensive range of talk but he puts a whole lot of vigor and meaning into what he does say. When communing indirectly with the other side there is no more caustic or biting, and his remarks very often put his opponents in the air. He is very earnest in directing his own players, and he keeps them on the qui vive every minute. He is a clever strategist and rarely fails to take advantage of a slip on the part of the other team. As is natural to his disposition, he is a strenuous kicker and is often benched, but he never voices his opinion in tones audible to other than the person he is arguing with, and consequently must be placed in the undemonstrative list.

The most picturesque figure the country has ever known, so far as coaching is concerned, is Hugh Jennings, the astute director of the destinies of the Detroit Tigers. The red-haired one keeps his men on the jump all the time and his "see-yah" became a famous cry all over the country in a month. Some critics objected to his antics on the field, declaring that he cut up too much, and tended to make a laughing stock of the game, but majority of baseball lovers like nothing better than to go out and watch Jennings. It can be safely said that he is one of the greatest drawing cards in baseball today. His snappy, encouraging remarks tend to keep the man at bat hopeful, and at the same time they are likely to have a rather depressing effect on the spirits of the opposing twirler.

Archie Latham will go down in history with Jennings as a baseball alldity. He, too, was a most striking

figure and always attracted a large crowd wherever he went. He was a natural entertainer, his quips and cracks were original, and he never grew tiresome or coarse.

Joe Cantillon, the Washington manager, is an extremely vociferous person on the side lines and he never lets things quiet down for a moment. He lacks some of the natural wit and spontaneity of Jennings, however. To a person not directly in sympathy with the Senators, he soon grows monotonous, and then disagreeable. Rather than sympathy, he arouses antipathy.

Altrock, formerly with Comiskey's White Sox and now a member of the Washington team, is a typical type of the clownish coach. His jigs and capers are very amusing, and he has a lot of common sense of a rather rough and tumble order. Somewhat in the same way does Dutch Schaefer comport himself, but his is a far more subtle nature, and there is much more point to his remarks. His antics are also more artistic.

Of the silent men on the lines not much can be said, for what they say can never be heard except by the persons directly interested, but they get the results just as well as their more noisy brothers. From the spectator's point of view, however, they are more or less a failure, but then the spectators are not winning the pennants. These chaps do the greater part of their work by signal and their task is a much harder one than that of the noisemakers, for nine times out of ten, a baseball signal is some little unperceptible motion which to the uninitiated looks perfectly natural. If the coacher had not a steady mind, always concentrated on the intricate problem before him, he might involuntarily make one of the moves that mean so much, and thereby throw his team into disorder. It is related of one manager that, on an occasion when the team were dining, he happened to stroke his chin. On the field this was a sign to slide and one of the players looking up, saw the well-known signal and promptly dove under the table. As to the truth of this incident there may be some doubt, but it illustrates the point.

As an essential part of the game coaching has not improved proportionately as have mechanical skill and the use of brains in playing, but it is showing evidences of a change, and every leader is devoting more attention to it. Some of the teams now carry men whose sole occupation is to get out and coach, and the time seems to be coming when a regular list of coaches will be on the payroll of big league clubs.

"THOUGHT IT MEANT DEATH SURE." Mrs. James McKim, of Dunville, Ont., says of her almost miraculous cure from heart disease, by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart: "Until I began taking this remedy I despaired of my life. I had heart failure and extreme prostration. One dose gave me quick relief and one bottle cured me. The sufferings of years were dispelled like magic."—Sold by A. E. SHAW'S Pharmacy. 3.

EXPORTATION OF CANADIAN PULPWOOD.

The action of the United States government in placing a special duty on pulp and paper manufactured from logs cut on Quebec and Ontario crown lands will tend to increase the agitation in Canada for an export duty on pulpwood generally.

TEACHER'S COLUMN.

The ordinary Country teacher is more or less handicapped by a lack of facilities in the school room. To the resourceful teacher this handicap of ten proves the greatest instructor, for, left to self necessity breeds invention and the teacher is brought to develop a faculty too often dormant. In the country school, too, with miscellaneous classes, time is an important element. When the attendance exceeds 25 the teacher will find it almost impossible to get all the work done between 9 o'clock in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. The result is one of the large classes must either sacrifice the recess hour or remain after school. The average teacher will reduce the number of classes to a minimum, combining two classes in one whenever possible, and while such a course fails to give ideal results it is about the only alternative, especially where the school is large. But the successful teacher will go a step farther and do much work outside school hours that would otherwise occupy much valuable time, and retard the progress of the work. There are, however, some things which a teacher should not do outside school hours,—e. g. problems in arithmetic, should be worked out at once, otherwise the pupils are apt to lose confidence in the teacher's ability. There is nothing appears to please a boy so much as to come home and announce that he "stuck the teacher with a sum to-day". The teacher should be very careful to know the exact extent of her knowledge in this particular before the day's or even the week's work begins. If in doubt it is better to go through the higher books working each question in a blank book which should be present for reference. Arithmetic has always been, and must always remain, the stumbling block of the country school teacher. Other branches, such as history, geography, etc., present little difficulty in this respect with the text book always at hand. Most teachers realize their weakness in this particular branch, but few apply the necessary remedy. There is but one absolute cure and that is, if you have not the solution at your fingers' ends, then make sure to have it in your desk. The same difficulty arises in algebra and geometry, but not to the same extent; as these branches, especially the latter, are very often neglected unless a pupil happens to be preparing for college or Normal School. It is, then, the first duty of every teacher to be proficient in this one branch of learning, for it is the one in which the child must have a competent instructor. Practice makes perfect, and the more practice the pupil can get in this in the early days of its school life the more perfect will be the foundation for the advanced science. The four elementary rules, addition, subtraction, mul, and div, are the four great corner stones of the whole structure; all else is but the proper application of them. Unless these are firmly grounded in the pupils' mind in the early stages the child is handicapped for life. In order therefore, that the pupils should have the greatest amount of practice in these four principles in the time allotted for this subject, the teacher should resort to all the time saving methods which inventive genius can create. Lest the inventive genius of many of our more desolate may not be equal to the occasion, we propose giving a few suggestions which cannot but reduce the amount of time spent in putting down figures on the blackboard to the minimum, and at the same time, being directly under the teacher's supervision must naturally create a greater interest than though the pupils were left to work at their leisure. The objectionable feature to the proposed scheme is that the pupils may become accustomed to the particular figures used, but this can be obviated by changing them from time to time. As the work must be done outside of school hours the school time spent in the construction of the machine is reduced to nil. The apparatus is so simple that it can be obtained in any school district and the cost of construction will not exceed twenty-five cents.

(Continued in next issue.)

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While timber wolves are notoriously rapacious, they are just as notoriously shy, and although the ranchers state that their depredations this year have been very badly, auguring an increase in numbers, still comparatively few of them have been taken. On Thursday of last week, however, Edmund McKay and A. L. Fitch jumped up a big fellow while working on Addison K. Walker's ranch between the Twelve and Thirty mile Sand Hills, some seventy miles northeast of the Hat. They had no weapons, but, nothing daunted, went after the quarry with their ropes. After about four miles hard riding they were able to get within roping distance of the wolf, and McKay, being an expert, made an effort to rope the brute, while Fitch circled round him, holding him at bay. After several trials, in which the wolf was always able to go clear through the loop, McKay got him by both front feet and started over the prairie with him. Fitch soon had his rope over the animal's head and short work was then made of him.—Medicine Hat News.

LORD STRATHCONA NARROW ESCAPE.

Thrown From Coach in Driving at Vernon, B. C. Escaped Injury.

Vernon, B. C., September 10.—It developed yesterday that Lord Strathcona narrowly escaped serious injury in an accident near Vernon on Saturday evening. Accompanied by Sir Edward Clouston, he drove out from Vernon to visit Lord Aberdeen's celebrated fruit farm, the Coldstream Ranch. They were driven by W. R. Megaw, ex-mayor of the city. On a steep hill near Long Lake, three miles from town, the team became unmanageable and bolted toward the lake. Megaw is one of the best whips in the country, but he could do nothing to stop the animals, which had become frightened by the whirling trees striking their legs. At the foot of the hill the is a sharp turn of the road, which starts the bank of the lake at this place about twenty feet high. Seeing it could not make the turn, Mr. Megaw pulled the horses into a wire fence. The carriage was overturned and all were thrown to the ground. All escaped without serious injury, except Megaw, who had his leg broken. Lord Strathcona's right arm was bruised but he made light of the accident as far as he was concerned, but expressed great concern over Megaw's misfortune.

CATARH FOR TWENTY YEARS AND CURED IN A FEW DAYS.—Hon. George James of Scranton, Pa., says: "I have been a martyr to catarrh for twenty years, constant hawking, dropping in the throat and pain in the head, very offensive breath. I tried Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. The first application gave instant relief. After using a few bottles I was cured. 50 cents.—Sold by A. E. SHAW'S Pharmacy.—1.

The ladies of the W. M. S. held an anniversary service in the Methodist church on Wednesday evening Sept. 8th at 7.30 o'clock. An interesting program consisting of music, addresses, recitations, and a play, was presented. A silver collection in aid of the work of the W. M. S. was taken up.

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