

by the importation of several excellent players from the United States, who took the place of Nicholls, Sunley, Goldie, Steele, McLean and other well known local experts. About the same time, W. Smith mastered the knack of under-hand throwing and developed into a formidable pitcher ; Maddocks, their old third baseman, possessing the requisite nerve, skill and endurance to face the new style pitching, the club contained in itself the nucleus of a strong team. The old infielders were wiped out and a new infield of experienced players substituted. These changes made the Maple Leafs, so far as Canadian amateurs were concerned, invincible. They did not even rest content with Canadian conquests, but carrying the Maple Leaf across the border gained decisive victories over the best of the American so-called amateurs. Professionals, too, have had in one or two instances to lower their banner to the Canadian champions.

A new era in base ball was inaugurated in Canada. The Tecumsehs, of London, the only Canadian club that for several years had ventured with any prospect of success to encounter the Maple Leafs, pluckily maintained its organization, invited professional nines to visit them, and profiting by the experience gained in its contests with the latter and the champions, developed strong playing powers. A namesake of the Guelph pitcher, though a mere lad in years, discovered the art of underhand throwing, and catchers soon sprung up who were able to handle his swift delivery. Some fine contests were the result, the most notable being that of the season