

BASEBALL AS A BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

It is estimated that the salaries in the major baseball leagues this season will amount to more than \$2,000,000, a fact which gives the game a rather respectable standing among the industries of the United States, when it is remembered that this amount will be distributed among sixteen clubs, while there are thousands of clubs scattered throughout the country. The new park of the New York Americans, which, it is expected, will be ready for use in the fall, will cost \$2,000,000, which is another fair indication that baseball has become what Americans would call a Big Money Proposition. It is growing steadily greater year after year, as regards the salaries paid the players, the amount of money invested in plant, and, naturally, the amount of money collected at the gates. Each new field is larger than the largest field previously in existence. There seems to be hardly a reasonable limit to the number of American citizens who will pay money to see an important ball game. In time, it is possible the baseball crowds will rival those of old country soccer. They have not yet approached this mark, but, of course, the prices charged for soccer are a mere fraction of what baseball patrons pay.

A Game for Gamblers.
Experience has proved that the baseball magnate who is the biggest gambler is likely to be the biggest winner. The owners of the New York Americans, who have paid more money for their players and probably have a heavier payroll than any other team, have made more money in the past two years than any other magnates. Other teams may have made money by selling their stars. The New York club has made money by buying them. It is pointed out by a writer in the New York Tribune that a weak club does not lose much by parting with a famous star. The fans may resent his departure for a while, but one man never can make a ball club, and it is rarely that the passing of an individual, no matter how eminent, has an appreciable effect upon the standing of the club. Moreover, baseball is a co-operative business and it may be that a team that is not liberally patronized at home will make money on the road.

Co-operation.
The agreement is that the visiting team shall receive half of the general admission; that is to say, the bleachers. When a weak team plays a series on the grounds of a strong team that is of importance to the strong team, the crowds are likely to turn out in vast numbers, and the weak team naturally profits. But the observable tendency in new ball parks is to increase the grand stand accommodation and decrease that of the bleachers. But there is a limit to a scheme which would deprive the visiting team of much profit. The backbone of the game is the man who goes in by the general admittance gate. He is the rabid rooter, the partisan, to whom baseball is the chief pre-occupation of his life, not excluding his family and business cares. If he were frozen out it would be a cold day for baseball.

LAWRENCE ROOTERS WALK TO SYRACUSE

Six High School Boys, Their Funds Exhausted, are Sent Home by Assemblyman.

Albany, April 11.—How six students of the Lawrence, L. I., High School, on foot and with "shifts" in automobiles or wagons, traveled all the way from their homes to Syracuse to root for their school's basketball team in a game with the Pittsburgh High School for the championship of the State Interscholastic League was revealed when Assemblyman Thomas A. McWhinney of Nassau County brought the "rooters" to Albany by railroad.

Incidentally, the boys, the youngest of whom is 14 years, and the oldest 16 years, were introduced to Governor Miller by Assemblyman McWhinney and later started for home on the night boat.

The boys began their trip with a combined capital of \$15. They arrived in Syracuse in time for the game. Their funds were so depleted that they were forced one night to seek shelter in a Syracuse police station. Assemblyman McWhinney, who also confesses to be a "rooter" for the Lawrence High School basketball team, had gone to Syracuse to witness the game, and learned of their plight.

During their journey the boys were obliged to be highly economical in their meals, some of which consisted chiefly of crackers. The boys said their names were Thomas Ryan, 15, of Cedarhurst, L. I.; Jack Stern, 15, of Inwood, L. I.; George Godschalk, 16, of Lawrence, L. I.; Richard Koppe, 15, of Inwood, L. I.; Morris Moscovitz, 16, of Cedarhurst, L. I., and Emanuel Berg, 14, also of Cedarhurst.

Syracuse, April 11.—Boys of Masten High School, forty strong, hiked most of the way from Buffalo to Syracuse so that they could be present to back their team in the State tournament. Some of them hiked all the distance, while others, more fortunate, were helped by motorists along the way.

IN-HIS-NAME OFFICERS.

The In-His-Name Circle of the King's Daughters held its annual meeting last night at the residence of Mrs. R. C. Thomas, Portland street, and heard gratifying reports of the success of the last year's work. Plans were made for some new means for raising money for philanthropic work. The retiring leader, Mrs. C. J. Stammers, presided and the election of officers resulted as follows: Honorary leader, Mrs. George Doherty; leader, Mrs. S. K. McArthur; first vice-leader, Mrs. R. C. Thomas; second vice-leader, Mrs. Tyler Mullin; secretary, Mrs. Elmer Alexander; treasurer, Mrs. Bliss Smith.

PATIENTS HEAR CONCERT.

The St. Mary's Band gave a special concert last evening in the Provincial Hospital at Fairville for the benefit of the patients there. The musical programme was listened to by nearly 800 patients. Thirty-five members of the band, under the direction of Bandmaster Williams, took part in the concert. At the conclusion of the entertainment the hospital attendants served refreshments for the members of the band. This band has been making a round of all the local institutions and will conclude the programme by giving a concert in the Boys' Industrial Home on Thursday evening.



FIRE!

SALE

CROWDS UPON CROWDS

OF THRIFTY BUYERS Have been reaping the benefit of the bargains offered since the doors were opened at my Big Fire Sale at 90 King street. (Upstairs.)

HUNDREDS OF SUITS AND TOPCOATS

Which were not effected in any way by the smoke and water; and the shipments which held up at the express offices and received since the fire, are all marked down to sell at Fire Sale Prices. They are the greatest values ever offered in Men's Clothing in the history of St. John.

Remember The
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Don't Get
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*This Stock Embraces
50,000 Worth of Clothing
Enough for Everybody*

DON'T RUSH!
DON'T HURRY!

21 Spring and Fall Coats. Sizes 34, 35 and 36. Values \$25 and \$30.00. Fire Sale Price **\$9.00**

Salvaged Suits—41 men's and young men's suits slightly damaged by water. Good as new. Regular \$30 and \$35 values. Fire Sale Price **\$14.50**

22 All Wool 16 ounce guaranteed Blue Serge Suits. Fire Sale Price **\$29.50**

98 pairs Odd Pants **\$1.95**
114 pairs Odd Pants **\$2.95**

142 pairs Odd Dress Pants. Many will match suits nicely. Fire Sale Price **\$3.85**

72 Suits—Men's and young men's. This lot comprises a beautiful assortment of worsteds and the finest blue serges. Fire Sale Price **\$33.50**

26 Spring and Fall Overcoats. These are very fine coats. Buy yours now. Fire Sale Price **\$14.50**

23 genuine English Gabardines. Beautiful young men's coats. Silk sleeves and yoke. Fire Sale Price **\$19.50**

13 Fine Tweed Raincoats. **\$9.95**
\$20 values
11 Tweed Raincoats. **\$14.50**
\$25 values

93 pairs Fine Odd Pants. Some blue serges in this lot. Fire Sale Price **4.95**

Salvaged Goods—28 men's and young men's fine suits. Linings slightly damaged by water. Some of these were my highest price garments. Fire Sale Price **17.50**

19 black and grey Fall Chesterfield Overcoats. Just the coat for middle aged men. Fire Sale Price **14.50**

31 Spring and Fall Overcoats. Wonderful values, fine fabrics. Mostly all silk lined. Fire Sale Price **19.50**

All dealers will be refused. This clothing will only be sold to retail trade.

ROBINSON'S

CLOTHES, LIMITED

UP-STAIRS CLOTHES SHOP

Over Levine's
Shoe Store

90 KING ST.

Over Levine's
Shoe Store

No Exchanges During this Sale.
No Alterations During
This Sale.

(But we will make any alterations on your garment free of charge when the sale is over.)