

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MOVIES

In The Olden Baseball Days

The Entry of the Gambling Element; A Time When There Were Two Shortstops; The First Trip to England

(BY JOE PAGE)

Note—This is the fifth of a series of articles.

The year 1871 saw the formation of the National Association of Baseball Players. At a meeting in New York on March 4, J. W. Kerns of Troy, N. Y., and president of the famous Haymakers Ball Club of that city, was elected as president. Ten professional players entered in the championship race that year.



JOE PAGE

but only eight remained at the close of the race, the Eckfords of Port Wayne, Indiana, and the Eckfords of Brooklyn being the two delinquents. The championship season closed with the club finishing as follows: Athletics of Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Haymakers of Troy, Mutuals of New York, Forest City, of Cleveland, Nationals of Washington, and Forest City, of Rockford, Illinois.

Many followers of the baseball game today will remember many of the famous players of that time, as for instance, Al Reach, second baseman of the Athletics and at present head of the sporting goods house of Reach & Co. of Philadelphia. On the Boston club were the late A. G. Spalding, pitcher, of the famous house of A. G. Spalding Bros., while Harry and George Wright, later of the firm of Wright and Dison of Boston, played short and center field. On the Eckfords of Brooklyn was John Chapman at right field. For years after he managed minor and major league teams, principally in the east. Among those on the Forest City team of Brooklyn may be mentioned the famous old Jim (Deacon) Lary, who was at that time catching, and Larry Sutton, at third base, who for years after was the third baseman of the famous Boston Red Sox when the infield was composed of Morrill, Bardock, Wise and Sutton.

With the Forest City of Rockford at this time was a young third baseman who was to become world famous years later as player and manager of the greatest ball team of the 80's—Adrian C. Anson.

Of the Haymakers, of Troy, was Craven at second base. A few years later he and others were convicted and banished from baseball for having connection with the gambling elements.

The Mutuals of New York had Robert Ferguson, second base, considered by many the greatest all round player the game ever produced; also Joe Starfield, first base; Dick Pearce, shortstop, and John Hatfield, outfielder. The latter for more than a score of years held the world's record for the long distance throw of a base ball, 135 yards and one foot.

With the Washington famous was Davy Force. He and Pearce of the Mutuals

AINSMITH OUT FOR CATCHER'S RECORD



EDDIE AINSMITH

Eddie Ainsmith, of the Washington Americans, has caught every inning of every game played by the club so far this season. Ainsmith plans to set up a new catcher's record for consecutive games, provided he is not out of the game by injuries.

were considered the star shortstops of their time.

At the first annual convention of the association in 1872 Robert Ferguson was elected to the presidency and he had the distinction of being the first and only ball player of the major leagues to hold that high position in baseball until Hon. John K. Tener took the office several years ago, and now is still the president of the National League.

A strange thing happened, so it would appear to the present day fan. There were eleven clubs applying for admission to the league and all were accepted, namely, Boston, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Mansfield, Conn., New York, Philadelphia, Troy and the Nationals and Olympics (two clubs) from Washington. Previous to the organization of the National Association and even during its first year of existence, the baseball magnates had a great deal that was unpleasant to handle, the main thing being the constant contract jumping of players. Laws, however, were made under the supervision of President Ferguson that practically put the time being wiped out this evil. However, at this period a far more dangerous thing was entering into the life of the game—the gambling element—for it was in the fall of 1871 that the pool selling business was inaugurated.

This system of gambling was introduced principally on account of the loose method the betting public of that time had in making wagers on the outcome of the league games. And it was to make an end of this that the pool selling system was introduced. Unfortunately for the professional game this pool selling innovation proved more damaging in its results than any one could have dreamed of, and within the next few years it had taken such a firm hold on the baseball public and even some of the baseball players of the National Association that it threatened the very life of the game.

In 1873 the league, with the same executive and with the old number of nine teams, entered, passed through an exciting season due in the main to the ever result of the games. Pools on a single game frequently amounted to more than \$80,000. This was paving the way for the eventual corruption and leveling of major league ball players.

In the following year, 1874, a new rule for the playing of the game was adopted. Some bright mind thought the game was lopsided and reason of there being a hole between first and second base, in other words, there should be an additional shortstop, making ten men thorough trial, but was soon abandoned. The innovation was given nothing to the interest or perfection of the game.

Eight clubs former the entry for the championship race and they finished as follows:—Boston, Mutuals, Athletics, Philadelphia, Chicago, Athletics, Hartford and Maryland. While the season was less than a month old, the late A. G. Spalding, who was playing on the Boston, conceived the idea of taking the crack ball teams over to England to show the lovers of out-door sports there the merits of the baseball game as compared to their favorite game of cricket.

Off to England.

Soon after the National Association had finished their season, eighteen of the best ball players of the league divided into two teams, were soon on their way to England, the first tour of base ball players to a foreign country. The teams and players were:—

	Pitcher.	Outfield.
A. G. Spalding	J. D. McBride	Catcher.
C. McVey	J. C. Clapp	First Base.
J. O'Rourke	W. D. Fisher	Second Base.
Ross C. Barnes	J. Battin	Third Base.
H. Shaffer	E. B. Sutton	Left Field.
Geo. Wright	M. H. McGeary	Right Field.
A. J. Leonard	A. W. Gedney	Center Field.
Harry Wright	J. M. McMullen	Right Field.
G. W. Hall	A. C. Anson	Left Field.
Thomas Bask	S. Wright, Jr., and Tim Murnan, who passed away less than a year ago, were the utility men.	

The Boston team lined up as above, were the champions of the National Association for 1874. On the arrival of the teams in England practically all the papers had prepared their sport readers for a fine series of cricket matches. This was no doubt due to the fact that when arrangements were made, it was understood that the ball teams would play a few cricket matches while in England. One thing sure they were not prepared to be heralded as players par excellence of the English pastime. Aside from Harry and George Wright and Dick McBride and possibly one or two others, none of the ball players had ever played cricket.

In the first game with the famous Marylebone "All English" eleven, it was agreed that the Americans should play at the odds of eighteen to eleven. However with this big advantage in the ball players' favor, the Britishers scored 105 runs in their inning.

On resuming play the next day we managed with the slugging tactics, as the cricketers called it, to gather 107 runs in one inning. America's cricket stock went skyward. London papers agreed that Americans were not much on form, but their batting and fielding were simply marvellous. From the first game and during the entire stay the American baseball tourists met and defeated all the best cricket clubs in England, and the All-Irish team at Dublin. One game played at the Richmond grounds was drawn, the English cricketers being disposed of for 108 in their innings, while the Americans had forty-five with only six wickets, down when rain called the game off.

While in England and Ireland they gave fourteen exhibitions of America's national game, seven at London, two at Liverpool, two at Manchester, one at Sheffield, and two at Dublin. Boston won eight of the games played. The Athletics six.

Editor's Note.—A Sixth article will soon follow.

GIANT PITCHER BRUSHES UP ON FIELDING



FRED ANDERSON

THE SMILE THAT WINS

(William H. Tolman, in Leslie's)

The modern employer is a captain of industry, in some cases a general. What does he expect of those coming to his recruiting station? In many cases he has thousands of troops, whose movements, means of expense which are appreciable when the number of employees runs up into the hundreds and even thousands. I know of one factory where, in three months, the manager hired two

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thousand workers for six hundred positions. The right kind of education for this employer, as well as for the workers, could have reduced this waste at least 75 per cent, so you see it becomes a very serious consideration for the employer that he does not make any mistake at the outset.

"By Jove, that's as honest a girl as I have seen for many a day. I'm going to look at my watch to see if she has stopped it."

"That's all right, old man," said the other man, for the two were sitting next to me in the subway. "But I look at that young lady with eyes very different from yours. I've got a fine job for the right kind of a girl for the information desk in our reception room."

"You don't mean to say that you would give that 'clock-stopper' a chance at the job," said his friend.

"So much so, that if that young lady should come to my office within the next five days the position is hers. Strange as it may seem to you, that girl has presence. She holds herself well. Did you notice when she smiled—not at you but at the way—how her face lighted up. That girl is winsome; hers is a character face. Every caller whom she greeted at our information desk would go away satisfied, because he would receive definite, clear-cut information. The girl at the information desk is a big business getter, or, by the same token, a big business repeller. How many times have you gone

away from an office thoroughly disgusted with the indifference, lack of interest in the subject of your call. Never again. Then you at once think what other business house can supply your needs. The first house had very likely lost a good customer, all because the wrong girl was at the reception desk. Believe me, I'm right."

A MINISTER OF HEALTH.

Montreal Star.—Over and over again it has been suggested that Canada should have a minister of health. If anyone doubts the wisdom of this suggestion, let him look at the facts regarding tuberculosis and insanity. Tens of thousands of tubercular subjects are dying every year while the absolute lack of isolation is insuring the contamination of other tens of thousands. On the governments of Canada rests the blame for this negligence. There are a few sanitariums caring for a small portion of the consumptives of our country, and there it ends—a crying disgrace to our legislators who apparently never give to the one hundred thousand tubercular subjects a passing thought. Mental diseases also are little thought of and little cared for. Hundreds of insane men, women and children, many of them curable, are forced into lunatic asylums which in many cases are chambers of torture.

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