

A strike has taken place in the realm of baseball and the "pros" are demanding more money and their demands may be satisfied. Good athletes in any field of endeavor demand, and usually get, increased salaries, or some other type of remuneration. Various types of sport have experienced huge demands on the part of participants. No longer are doctors, dentists and lawyers in the highest wage bracket — athletes are in the groove.

Very few readers of this column will remember when Lindsay had a baseball team and salaries of \$35 a week were paid when baseball promoters were broke, but the brand of baseball was the best to be found east of Toronto.

The team known as the Lindsay Grey Birds had a pitcher, catcher, short stop and third base player who were paid \$35 a week. They were first class players and the two Cummings brothers and a pitcher named Allan received wages. It was a good move on the part of a reluctant executive as Lindsay won the championship of the Central Ontario League.

At the same time, Belleville had a paid battery and also Peterborough and Oshawa, and possibly Port Hope and Cobourg.

The brand of baseball was tops and baseball attracted thousands of supporters. The game was so popular that many storekeepers closed their stores at 5 o'clock in order that clerks could attend the game.

History records the fact that back in the early nineteen hundreds, the then baseball financier, W. H. Simpson, proprietor of the Simpson Hotel, held the money bags and kept the game going. This man's

son, "Cap" Simpson, was one of the backers of the Lindsay Midgets the year they won the the Intermediate hockey championship of Ontario.

Early reports of baseball days in Lindsay mention that George Little of Kingston was brought to Lindsay to play baseball and was setup in the Little Book Shoppe, a name and store still well known in this district.

History also informs us that the first baseball diamond was on the ground now occupied by the library on Kent Street and the second diamond was surrounded by a high board fence at the corner of Victoria Avenue and Melbourne Street. There used to be baseball diamonds on the different public school grounds and Sunday afternoon games were played on a sawdust diamond at the north end of William Street, on property owned by the John Carew Lumber Company.

Church going people mildly complained but the Lord's Day Alliance, a strong organization, did not seriously complain and town councillors were among the regular Sabbath Day audience.

A baseball diamond at the rear of the curling rink on Peel Street was popular, and another diamond on the Separate School grounds at the corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets, and the diamond on the East Ward school grounds attracted many players and spectators.

At one time the east ward team was unbeatable, at the time the rivalry between wards was very keen. In fact the rivalry extended into other realms of thought and action.

A young lover from the north or south ward who happened to have a girl friend in

the east ward often escorted the young lassie as far as the Lindsay Street bridge and from there on home, she was on her own. Tar and feathers were mentioned but apparently did not take place, for those brave enough to experience the adventure. There was no doubt at the time that the prettiest girls lived in the east ward, but that claim was never put to a real test.