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 Directions: Make tea exactly as usual; While still hot pour into glasses filled with cracked ice; Add sugar and lemon to taste.

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**SPORTS CAMERA**

BY H. COLES

Baseball as a game is a far cry from what originally was intended by the founding fathers of what today is termed "America's National Sport." It has been subjected to countless innovations. Since the days when great-great-grandpappy fondled his moustache in the same manner in which nephews now handles his convertible, the sport has evolved from a reflection of English Cricket to a star within its own realm with a distinctive flavouring of its own. But not before it experienced, along with a variety of other ailments, profuse growing pains that later proved to be only an incentive for Joe Blake and numerous others like him to develop a love for the game.

Take for instance the sphere itself. In its infancy baseball appeared to Joe because of the tremendous amount of home runs in a game. The ball, of rubber composition, was easily slapped out of the park and it was practically imperative that each player count at least once in nine innings. Such proposterous scores as that piled up when Guelph Maple Leafs invaded Acton's ballpark for a game with the local Nils Desperandums and tied up 107 runs to Acton's 26, motivated experts of a century ago to deaden the ball. While scores became more reasonable, the ball was deadened to such an extent it was virtually impossible to knock it out of the infield. When two clubs in the States battled for 24 innings to a scoreless tie, the faithful demanded something better. As a result today's ball is infused with a century of improvement and is supposedly perfect although that assertion needs verification after reading that 10 home runs were slashed out in an International League fixture at Buffalo last Sunday.

**Fluffy-Duffy's**

You can imagine the disdulu with which old-time players would regard the present game. In their hey-day no one would even think of donning a glove to play with. In fact, men prided themselves on the length of time they could stand behind the plate and withstand the slants of some voracious pitcher without anything except their hands. Primarily catchers stood 50 feet back from the batter but gradually kept coming closer as the sphere densened. An extra infielder inserted between first and second base and called the right shortstop lasted only one season. They seemed to have the idea that their place was to assist at any position where help was needed and wandered nonchalantly all over the pasture. When they started aiding the catcher, allowing him to advance closer than his accustomed 50 feet, it was recognized the right shortstop was more of a deterrent than an improvement. Consequently he was removed from the lineup.

As a sequel to this, rules were

enforced that authorized the use of a sponge bat, an ingenious instrument that enabled a player to hunt wherever he wanted and to prevent foul tips. Another innovation was a rule preventing pitchers from taking more than one step before pitching.

Prior to this, a moundman could run all over the hill although at one time, the batter could call his pitcher wherever he willed high, low, or in the middle. Few slingers having adequate control of the present system of compelling the batter to swing at his offerings. Around the time of this drastic change, it took nine balls to snare a pass to first. Kind of tough on Lorne Masters, what?

Back to gloves and when they were first publicly utilized, it appears they were assimilated rather than adopted as standard equipment. First gloves were merely thin leather gauntlets that the catcher wore. Noting that the backstop curtailed his body brushes by its use, players gradually adopted them until A. G. Spalding boldly donned a padded glove which found favour as a contribution to baseball rather than a dissipation. The cage you'll observe Duke wearing was devised from a fencer's mask by a coach who had the interests of his catcher's classic profile at heart. Moreover the backstop in question refused to play that position unless some such protection was supplied. The supposition that it would slash the game was proven unwarranted as all custodians of the "decker" readily approved.

So as you sit watching a game of baseball compare it with the sport your predecessors played. Note the methods which your home team employs. It's a game of science, exactitude and perfection which has taken all of a century to create. And many's the thorn that accompanied it on its lumpy road to success.

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