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In The World Of Sport

BASEBALL GAINING HOLD

OVER IN ENGLAND, ACCORDING TO LONDON WRITER.

It is Not, However, Likely To Replace Football and Cricket as the Leading Pastimes.

"Old Blue," writing in the London Sporting Life recently, has the following to say:

It is said that the New World is fast swamping the Old in many respects. But in national sports, at least, it will be a very long time, if ever, ere conquering America has matters all her own way. This for obvious reasons—the majority of English sports are indigenous to the soil, while the contagious passion for them seems hereditary. To-day, however, when Englishmen and Americans are brothers in arms as well as in taste, feelings, etc., one can appreciate the decided flip which is being given to the great national (American) game of baseball in this country. It implies a sporting brotherhood. And it evidences the true missionary spirit of sport.

Let me say at once that baseball is not an ancient game. Baseball, as baseball, is barely half a century old. An Englishman witnessing it for the first time will immediately exclaim, "Why, this is nothing but rounders!" And to a great extent he is right. The Americans have a genius for taking a thing, examining its every part, and developing each part to the utmost. This they have done to our very ancient game of rounders. They have so tightened its joints, and put such a fine finish on its points, that the once clumsy, primitive pastime stands forth a complicated machine of infinite exactitude. That is to say, baseball is rounders made scientific.

The National Pastime.

It holds undisputed sway throughout the United States as the national game. There are Americans who play cricket, and, in a limited degree, football, while yachting, athletics, and kindred sports have all plenty of devotees. But baseball knows no rival. The enormous popularity of the game can hardly be comprehended in England. Visitors to America in the summer time could certainly be led to paraphrase Addison, and exclaim, "Good heavens!—Even the little children here play baseball!" And so they do. The American boy grows up with it. It becomes a part of his existence. The spirit of America is bound up in the heart of the ball, which speeds at such a terrific pace forward and back, this way and that, across the "diamond." To watch a game is to behold a scene that is positively painful owing to the intensity of suppressed emotion. The game is admirably adapted for the requirements of the average professional man or artisan. It does not, for instance, cause a great sacrifice of time, inasmuch as a game does not last more than 2½ hours. But what an amount of exercise is crowded into that short space of time. Everyone is busy, and on the move. Everybody is given a chance to excel both with the bat and in the field. Should one get out, first ball at cricket one's chance of distinguishing one's self is, in all probability, over for the day. But at baseball nine innings are played, hence one has several other chances of retrieving one's honor. Application and diligence are the only requirements. Given these, the average athlete can, after a decent education, gain a fair knowledge of the game and its ramifications. He must, however, have all his wits about him.

Not Popular Yet.

On the other hand, there is little likelihood, I think, of baseball becoming an outstanding pastime in England. It can never hope to attract the English public to such an extent as to seriously rival cricket or football, or even lacrosse. For one thing, baseball must be played in warm weather. Numb fingers and stiff joints are foreign to the game. And the interest is altogether too congested. "Nerves" are a potent factor of the game. My friend, Mr. R. G. Knowles, and other Americans, have long tried to make the game take root in England, but their efforts have hardly met with striking success. Lacrosse has, in fact, made far greater strides in popular favor over here than baseball, and for this reason—it is a cleaner, neater, and faster game than football, and "af-

fords a splendid preparation for athletics, etc."

In Different Climes.

Another fatal drawback is that the game is not indigenous to British soil. The hard-hitting and sharp fielding of baseball please the American spectators better than cricket, and the American lad would much rather display his muscle by making a three-base hit than manifest his skill by a cool-headed defence of his wicket against the work of a long-headed and clever-handed old bowler. But with Englishmen it is exactly the other way about. "Different climes, different games," still holds good, and ever will, I fancy. All the same, I wish the renewed efforts of some of our American brothers to popularize the game every success. It is being done in the spirit of manly and generous rivalry, which makes it all the more praiseworthy. And this I can say—anybody who takes up baseball as a pastime will not be in a hurry to desert it. Experience creeds.

CONTROL AMATEUR BALL THROUGHOUT ONTARIO

Ontario Baseball Commission Has Called Meeting For Hamilton May 4th.

The Ontario Baseball Commission propose laying the foundations for an amateur association to control the baseball situation in this Province. The date is set for Saturday, May 4th, at Hamilton, where the delegates will attend the opening of the senior league and then launch the Ontario Amateur Baseball Association. W. J. Smith, Chairman of the Commission, will be in Hamilton next week to make arrangements. The members of the Hamilton A. B. A. have promised to lend their assistance and, judging by the enthusiasm at the inter-city games last fall, the Commission made no mistake in selecting Hamilton for the inaugural meeting. Delegates are expected from various places in Eastern and Western Ontario.

LAJOIE WON OUT.

Former Toronto Manager Declared a Free Agent.

Napoleon Lajoie was declared a free agent by the National Baseball Commission. Lajoie requested that he be declared a free agent after he had received notice of his release from the Toronto Club to the Brooklyn club. The commission ruled the reservation right of the Toronto club to the player, under an illegal contract, null and void and then annulled his transfer to the Brooklyn club, thus declaring him a free agent. Lajoie is on his way to Indianapolis to assume the management of that club, according to word received by owner James C. McGill. Lajoie will take charge of the Indianapolis club Monday, at its first exhibition game on the home grounds this season. This game will be against the Cleveland club, with which Lajoie played for twelve seasons.

Knotty Lee's Baseball Scheme.

"Knott" Lee started on Monday to line up the towns for the proposed reorganization of the Canadian league. He intends to visit Hamilton, Brantford, London, St. Thomas, Kitchener, Guelph, Niagara Falls, N. Y., and Lockport, N. Y. "I have met with pledges of enthusiastic co-operation wherever the subject of the reorganized Canadian league has been broached, and I believe the circuit can be put under way in a very short time," said Lee. "We will apply for the protection of the National agreement, and may operate as a class B organization, although there is a feeling in some of the cities concerned that class C would suit the purposes of the league until after the war. Daylight savings would lead us to call our games in the evening, while doubleheaders could be played on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, which are observed in most of the cities as half-holidays.

"A Guelph man told me that he would furnish all the money required for the operation of a club in the Royal city. I believe there will be less difficulty in organizing the league this season than ever before," said the "Father of the Canadian League."

The Toronto Leafs will open the season at Binghamton and the latter will be the attraction in Toronto for the opening game on May 17th.

Baseball Briefs

There will be one new manager in the National League in Jack Hendrick's, at St. Louis, who won a pennant for Indianapolis last year in the American Association.

Miller Huggins, at New York, and Ed. Barrow, at Boston, will be the new managers in the American League this season.

Sixty-two major league players are now in U.S. army. The Boston Red Sox head the list with twelve and most of them were star performers.

Ed. Pfeffer, once of the Brooklyn Dodgers' star twirlers, received word to report to the army. The Dodgers lost Cadore and Smith, two other high-class twirlers, some time ago.

Charles Comiskey, of the Chicago White Sox, will keep up his good work of a year ago when he donated ten per cent. of his receipts to the Red Cross. His contribution a year ago amounted to over \$17,000.

Johnny Evers as manager of Jersey City is the latest rumor. It is to be hoped it is true, as the Trojan would add a lot of "pepper" to the new international.

Speaker has started the season in his old-time form. He broke up a ten-inning game for Cleveland against New York Giants on Sunday at Lexington, Ky., by making a single, stealing second and going to third on a wild pitch and then scored the winning run on a drive by Miller.

St. Louis Americans won four straight games from the St. Louis Nationals in the spring series between the two teams.

Eddie Collins, star second baseman of the Chicago White Sox, is laid up with tonsillitis, but Manager Rowland expects he will be ready for the opening game on Tuesday.

Knotty Lee expects the Canadian League to benefit by the Daylight Saving Bill. He proposes that all games be started at 4.15 p.m., and this should help the attendance.

"Larry" Lajoie must have a big pull with the National Commission. He will now go to Indianapolis to manage the American Association pennant winners.

Argo Star is Killed. Another of the famous Toronto Argonaut athletes has paid the supreme price in the fight for liberty in George Warwick, who played hockey with the light and dark blue during the winter of 1914-15. He was also a prominent member of the Toronto Canoe Club.

Hockey Manager Dies.

Richard Russell Smith, for ten years manager of the Victoria Amateur Hockey Club of Montreal, died Sunday in the Montreal General Hospital from pneumonia. He enlisted with the Royal Flying Corps, and on the eve of his expected departure for Toronto he was taken down with pneumonia.



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