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COVE CAPTURES LEAGUE OPENER

LOCALS DEFEATED ON HOME GROUNDS SUNDAY

Fast Ball Played at Start of Game, but Last Few Innings Saw Heavy Hitting and Scoring

Measured with Class AA ball, it wasn't much of a ball game that was played at fair grounds as the opener of the Eastern Oregon league season, but as mirth provocation, it was easily worth four bits of any man's money. Cove was the facing aggregation and after three rounds of bang-up ball, La Grande blew for three innings and then settled down and proceeded to overtake a 12-run lead. When the final round rang up the score was 15 to 16 in favor of Cove, and the bases full. The score tells its own story—but any time the home team is scratching at the heels of the enemy all the way, it's exciting even if the score is 1500 against 1600.

As the opener, C. D. Emahiser introduced De Court, the big wrestler, and the latter offered \$2.00 to the Cove man who would hit safe De Court's throw to the plate. Murchison hit, but not safely, and De Court gave him the two bones any way like a good sport.

There was much hitting, much error, much fumbling, some flashes of good ball, and, generally speaking, all that goes to make the great pastime. Cove has a formidable bunch that will bear watching—Cove always does that sort of a thing.

Manager Scranton faces the job of uncoiling at least four better players—probably a half dozen, four or five on the team can get by in the ball that this is—just amateur home-town stuff without any semi-pro coloring. That's what is intended for it. Next Sunday a different lineup will be introduced, and as interest is general, it is believed the season will go along with keen enjoyment. North Powder and Baker are other teams in the league. McInnis and Alexander each started for their respective teams as pitchers

but both were off color. Pro believed McInnis, when he scored was 12 to 6 in favor of Cove, and Flap relieved Alexander of Cove. Jay Van Buren did a good job at umpiring. The O. W. band entertained with snappy music. Another thing that Mr. Scranton must inject is a little high life. The players went to their stations with east iron feet—but one must not be too critical with volunteer players.

GREAT YEAR FOR CONFIDENCE MEN

It Is Estimated That American Public Was Swindled Out of Ten Million Dollars.

CHICAGO, May 6.—The American confidence man reaped a harvest of more than \$10,000,000 last year, according to figures compiled by Chicago authorities. This is the approximate amount actually collected from the credulous public by professional confidence operators and does not include the millions gathered in annually by the various stock-jobbing men. The crude devices of the old time confidence man, with his shell game, three-card monte, gold brick, green goods, money changing and lemon games, have given way to modern methods, more complex and more profitable.

The really successful confidence men of today usually have summer and winter homes, ride in limousines and are aided by richly gowned women, authorities say. They are educated and far more clever than their brothers of old days, whose favorite trick in Chicago was to sell the Masonic Temple to a "rube" for a small sum, or agree to make the building "turn round."

Land selling schemes, peddling of worthless mine and oil well stock, wire tapping and fake sporting events are now the hand maidens of the modern confidence man, who matches his wits with the banker, capitalist and lawyer, instead of dealing with the more ignorant class. Nearly all the victims of a Chicago gang recently sent to the penitentiary were bankers and business men. The gang's loot aggregated more than half a million dollars a year.

Fear of publicity keeps most victims quiet, thus giving the high class confidence a certain degree of immunity, authorities say. They add that federal prosecution for using the mail to defraud has been a big factor in breaking up gangs and recently has been instrumental in bringing about conviction of half a dozen leading confidence workers.

"Tom Brown, who came from Detroit and made his headquarters in New York, was the father of the present type of confidence man," said William A. Pinkerton, veteran detective, in striking a comparison between the old and new swindlers. "He operated forty years ago and formerly

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was a three-card monte man. He was known as a bunco steerer and won by fake lottery schemes and other crooked gambling devices. Then he invented the gold brick with which he toured the country. The green goods game came later and Brown had many imitators who picked up thousands annually. Wise tapping and many other schemes now used developed from those old games. The modern operators don't bother with small money and often clean up \$100,000 in a single deal. The old timers thought that \$1000 was a big job.

"Victims are not really honest at heart, for they often enter into the scheme to cheat another fellow. The small town banker and business man has proved a shining mark for swindlers. They cannot risk their reputations by complaining. It is surprising how many shrewd business men fall into the net."

It is estimated that \$3,000,000 of the \$10,000,000 total was obtained in Florida, where hundreds of confidence workers are said to operate, particularly among the winter tourists.

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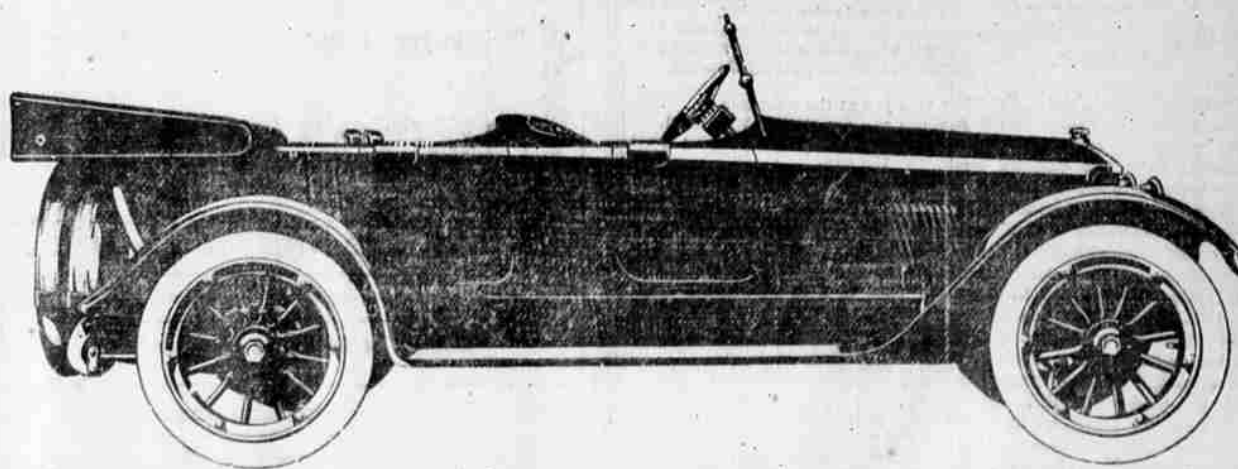
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