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OLD TIME PITCHERS

Some of the Former Stars Who Won Fame on the Diamond

THEIR FEATS OF ENDURANCE.

Spalding All Alone Twirled the Old Boston Nationals to Victory Four Years in Succession—Radbourne's Great Record—Some Sad Finishes.

What becomes of all the great pitchers who thrill the baseball populace for a day? That depends upon the age in which they lived. If a man won his fame in the period from twenty to forty years ago he probably went back penniless to manual labor whence he came, or else he found an early grave. But if he was fortunate enough to make his baseball fame within the last score of years he may still be drawing a good salary from some club treasury. Or he may be enjoying prosperity as a successful business man.

A. G. Spalding was one of the few men who won nation wide fame on the diamond in the earlier period, was absolutely unspoiled by it and then followed it up with even greater fame in the business world. Spalding jumped into the limelight as a seventeen-year-old boy with the Rockford (Ill.) club way back in 1887. Talk about the endurance of the modern twirling giant! Just consider what this original from man did in the early seventies. During that period he was a member of the Boston Nationals, and he won the league championship for his team four years in succession. He was Boston's only pitcher, and he twirled every game the team played, though in those days games were scheduled only every other day and the season was shorter than it is now.

Old timers love to dwell on the prowess of Charles Radbourne, who shone with quite as much brilliance as Spalding until consumption cut short his career, about twenty-five years ago. Radbourne was a member of the Providence team, and when Charles Sweeney deserted that club in midseason only Radbourne was left for slab work. But that didn't bother Radbourne, for he not only jumped right in and did all the pitching, but made a new world's record by winning eighteen straight games and the championship for Providence. This gemstone, however, cost Radbourne his life, for his health broke under the strain, which was generally credited with having caused his consumption.

From day laborer to the world's premier pitcher and then back again, in brief, the history of Amos Rusie, who from 1889 to 1894 thrilled the baseball world. Rusie had a narrow escape from being cast into the outer darkness of oblivion before he could get started. The first day he entered the big league he was weighed by Bancroft, the manager of the Cleveland team, and found wanting. After watching him pitch one game Bancroft let him go. But John T. Brush, owner of the Cincinnati club, had faith in this youngster, gave him his chance, and suddenly the recruit blossomed forth into the greatest pitcher of his day. But prosperity and the applause of the unthinking crowd were too much for Rusie. Then there were Tim Keefe and John Clarkson, about whose respective merits the fans are still divided. In 1889 Keefe won nineteen straight games for New York, while in 1899 Clarkson pitched seventy-two games for Boston, winning forty-six of them. These two men, whose exploits were heralded from one end of the country to the other, were radically different in temperament. Clarkson utterly ruined his health by not taking proper care of himself and died in an insane asylum. But Tim Keefe retired with money in the bank.

Probably more printers' ink was used to tell of the exploits of the eccentric Rube Waddell than any other baseball player that ever lived. Rube was always good for a story, no matter what he did. On the diamond this man was forever breaking records, first in jumping from one team to another and then by making new strikeout records. Probably his greatest feat was when he called in all the outfielders and then retired the side in order. But consumption finished his broken down constitution.

O'Young belongs to a different school of pitchers. He was a shining example of baseball longevity founded upon clean living. This marvelous man, who broke into major league baseball in 1890, pitched every season for twenty-two years, a record still unequalled—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Fragonard Panels.
 The celebrated Fragonard panels had their inception, it is said, in the lavish expenditures of the Countess du Barry. They were designed for her chateau, but never adorned it, owing to a dispute between the painter and the king's favorite. Mme. du Barry, notwithstanding her lowly origin, was extremely critical in matters of art and was dissatisfied with these pictures, which are among the greatest prizes of the connoisseurs of today.

Color Blindness.
 The ratio of color blind people to those of normal sight is about 65 to 1,154. This does not mean that all of the sixty-five are absolutely color blind but that that is the ratio of those who are more or less affected. Color blindness is said to have been discovered by the famous Dr. Priestley in 1777.

Try to be happy in this present moment and put not off being so to a time to come.

HISTORY AS IT IS TAUGHT.

A Plea For Really Neutral Textbooks in Every Country.

History in every country is so taught as to magnify that country. Children learn to believe that their own country has been always in the right and almost always victorious, that it has produced almost all the great men and that it is in all respects superior to all other countries. Since these beliefs are flattering they are easily absorbed and hardly ever dislodged from instinct by later knowledge.

To take a simple and almost trivial example: The facts about the battle of Waterloo are known in great detail and with minute accuracy, but the facts as taught in elementary schools will be widely different in England, France and Germany. The ordinary English boy imagines that the Prussians played hardly any part; the ordinary German boy imagines that Wellington was practically defeated when the day was retrieved by Blucher's gallop. If the facts were taught accurately in both countries national pride would not be fostered to the same extent, neither nation would feel so certain of victory in the event of war and the willingness to fight would be diminished.

It is this result which has to be prevented. Every state wishes to foster national pride and is conscious that this cannot be done by unbiased history.

The defenseless children are taught by distortions and suppressions and suggestions. The false ideas as to the history of the world which are taught in the various countries are of a kind which fosters strife and serves to keep alive a bigoted nationalism.

If good relations between states were desired one of the first steps ought to be to submit all teaching of history to an international commission which should produce neutral textbooks free from the patriotic bias which is now demanded everywhere.—Bertrand Russell in Atlantic Monthly.

SCENIC BEAUTY OF ALASKA.

A Grand Panorama That Reaches Its Climax in Mount McKinley.

A careful reading of literature pertaining to Alaska prepared me in part for what the journey was bound to disclose, but seeing is the only sense that can give knowledge and secure appreciation of the grandeur, the sublimity, the fascinating beauty of mountain, sea, stream, forest, falls, islands, forests, cloud and the glorious color effects which the dazzling rays of the sun bring into existence. In connection with all these is a land of enchantment for all who love and can appreciate nature.

Cook Inlet, with its arms and reach on, has many bewildering channels, resulting from the numerous rugged islands. The forbidding and embattled shores rising into lofty mountains and at present swathed in white almost to the water's edge possess a virility, a grandeur and sublimity which require the most poetic imagination and most facile pen even faintly to portray. The grand panorama reaches its climax in Mount McKinley, monarch of the North American continent. With its altitude of 20,400 feet it stands alone in lofty pride and is distinctly visible from the vessel notwithstanding the very great distance. This fact well establishes the quality of the clarified and invigorating atmosphere of this far north country.

The Thousand Islands with all their beauty would scarcely serve as a prelude to the surpassing grandeur and loveliness of the many thousand islands that adorn the 3,000 miles of Alaskan coast. The fjords of Norway, the famed glaciers of Switzerland, cannot compare with their counterparts to be found in Alaska in number, variety, size, color effect and all the qualities that give charm to these works of nature.—Hon. A. Barton Hepburn in Leslie's.

Eggs and Onions.

If less meat, shall we eat superboiled eggs after the manner of the Albanians? It testifies to the strength of their digestions. An equal number of eggs and onions are boiled together for about three hours daily on ten successive days, the eggs being slightly pricked after each boil so that the juice of the onions thoroughly permeates them. They are naturally as hard as bullets at the end of this treatment, but an Albatian will bolt down a huge plateful, helped down by lashings of olive oil, and then clamor for a second helping.—London Chronicle.

Windward and Leeward Isles.
 The Leeward islands are so called because they are less exposed to the prevailing northeast trade wind than the Windward islands near by, while the Windward islands in turn derive their name from the fact that they are the most exposed to these winds of all the Lesser Antilles.

The Sure Tip.
 "How did you get that new suit?"
 "Had a sure tip on a horse race."
 "I never knew one of those sure tips to pan out."
 "Neither did I. So I didn't play it. Put the money into this suit instead."
 —Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Boost.
 "Do you think you can get along on my salary of fourteen a week?"
 "Why, certainly, do you. As an allowance now papa only gives me ten."
 —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Tropical Vegetation.
 Freshly cut ferns and telegraph poles often start growing again when set up in the tropics, and vine roots often disrupt masonry.

WHEN THE PLAGUE RAGED.

Cat and Dog Laws in England in the Sixteenth Century.

Disease and the dog were believed to walk together in the sixteenth century. The barrier then was a much a suspect as the rat today. In plague times he had only to venture into the street to court death. Here is an order issued by the authorities at Winchester in 1583, which is typical of the rest:

"That if any house within this city shall happen to be infected with the Plague, that these every persons to keep within his or her house every his or her dog and not to suffer them to go at large. And if any dog be then founde at large it shall be lawful for the Beadle or any other person to kill the same dog and that any owner of such dog going at large shall lose 6 shillings."

Among the records of King's Lynn, under May, 1585, appeared this: "For as muche as it hath pleased Almightye God to begynn to send us his visitacion with sickness amongst us and that dogges and catteres are thought verie unfit to be suffered in this tyme. Therefore, Mr. Maior, alderman and common counsell have ordered and decreed that every inhabitant within the same Town shall forthwith take all their dogges and yappes and hange them or kill them and carry them to some out place and burye them for breedinge of a great annoyance."

"And likewise for catteres, if there be any nigh unto any house or houses visited with sickness. It is ordered that the catteres shall forthwith be killed in all such places." An exception was made in favor of any "dogge of accompte." Such a one was allowed to be kept if "kenelled or tied up or led in a lease."

A Spurgeon Sermon.

Mr. Spurgeon, taking a quiet holiday in the country, was moved to spend his Sunday morning at the little village Bethel, where he listened to one of his own sermons. At the end of the service the pastor of the Metropolitan tabernacle walked unrecognised into the vestry and thanked the preacher for the edification he had derived from his sermon. Then the flattered preacher did a foolish thing and asked his visitor's name. Mr. Spurgeon was in the best of moods. "My name? Oh, Spurgeon—you may have heard it; I preach a bit in London myself." "My dear brother's face," said Mr. Spurgeon in telling the story, "glowed as red as scarlet bane."—St. James Gazette.

Garrick and Kitty Clive.

Kitty Clive, the paramount coquette of Garrick's time, was celebrated for her temper and her spiteful tongue. She denied "little Davy" had skill in tragedy and mocked at him when he prepared to put on "Hamlet." During the performance she stood in the wings, intending to scoff, but she was carried away with enthusiasm in spite of herself and applauded vigorously. "Well, Kitty," asked Garrick as he came off the stage, "have I convinced you that I can act in tragedy?"

Kitty burst into tears of vexation, declaring, "Why, hang you, Davy, you could act a gridiron!"

The Giraffe.

The famous story of the man who, on first seeing a giraffe at the circus, promptly and emphatically declined to believe in its reality, has a historical precedent it seems.

When Levaillant, the first European to bring back tidings of the long necked inhabitant of the jungle, told of his find he could find no Frenchman to credit him. Even when actual living specimens were landed on French soil the populace were almost inclined to doubt the evidence of their own eyes.—Exchange.

Never Seen Besieged.

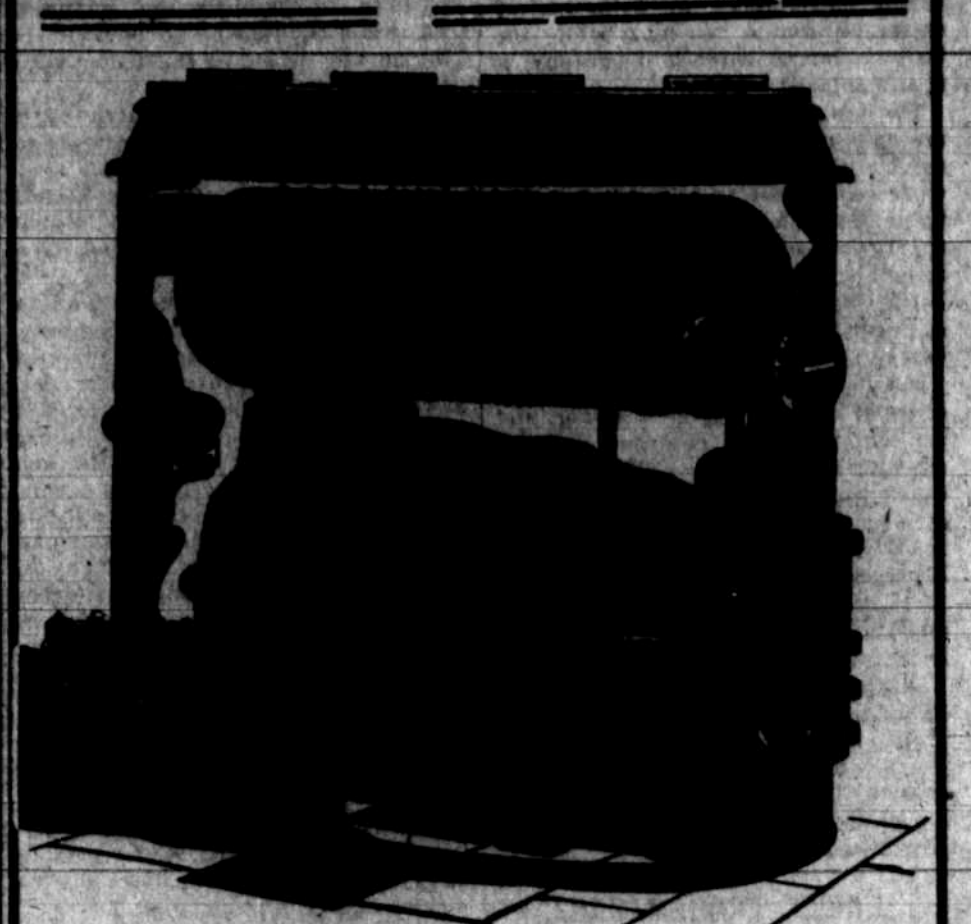
Petrograd is one of the few European capitals which have never been besieged or captured by enemy forces. On May 27, 1703, Peter the Great founded the city by building himself a small wooden hut upon the site. In 1710 Count Goltz built the first brick house, and in the following year the emperor with his own hands laid the foundation of a house of the same material for his own residence and transferred the seat of government from Moscow to the new capital.

Great Consolation.

A famous book lover had married a woman much younger than himself, a woman whose every impulse of mind was as gracious as all her acts and movements were sweet and graceful.

She adored her elderly husband so wholeheartedly that when he was dying he said to her: "My dear, I want you to make me a solemn promise that as soon as I am dead you will begin to learn Greek. Nothing else will save your reason and console you for my loss."

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