

FANS DESIRE SNAPPY PLAY

Athletics' Games Consumed More Time Than Any Other Club—Keeps Attendance Down.

Athletic fans are wondering whether with the chasing away of all of Connie Mack's old pitchers, and many of the other veterans and the filling of their places with young players, they will be able to get home in time for dinner occasionally during the coming season.

Last season strangely enough the Athletics' games consumed more time than those in any other city of the country. The fans complained, the newspapers knocked and criticized, Ban Johnson came on and investigated, the games were started earlier, but the slowness continued. The Athletic club officials tried every means in their power. They ordered the players to hustle, the pitchers to work faster and even asked the umpires to go the limit in speeding up the games, but without avail.

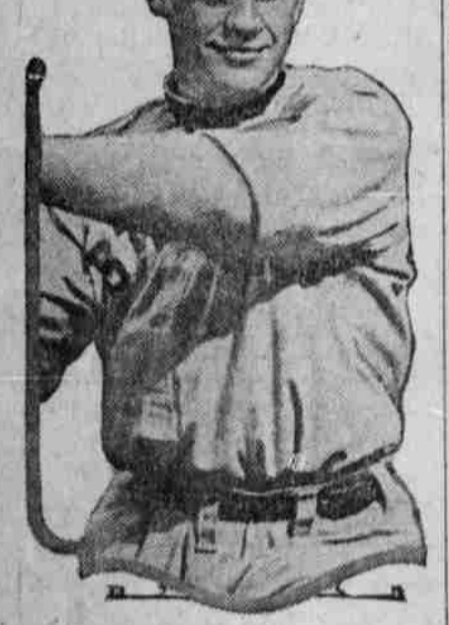
Some blamed the two veteran pitchers, Plank and Bender. They were watched and timed. While Plank, especially, and Bender sometimes, did work more slowly according to the timing, and took more pains with their pitching, there was nothing to indicate that this was the main defect. The Athletic club knows that it hurt the attendance, but are anxious to see whether the new lot of young players and especially pitchers can remedy the trouble.

SKETCH OF DERRILL PRATT

Second Basemen of St. Louis Browns First Attracted Attention as Member of College Team.

Derrill Pratt, the brilliant young second basemen of the St. Louis Browns, was born in Waltham, S. C., January 10, 1888, and first attracted attention as a member of Georgia Tech. College team in 1906.

After leaving college he joined the Montgomery club of the Southern league, and played with that club until May 15, 1910, when he threw his arm away. This caused Montgomery to



Derrill Pratt.

send him to Hattiesburg of the Cotton States league. After one month there he regained his arm and was re-sold to Montgomery. He finished the 1910 season there and was a sensation in 1911, until purchased by the Browns late in the year.

In 1912 Pratt at once clinched the second base place on the Browns, and his work with this demoralized team stood out brilliantly.

He has improved each season and is now one of the most dangerous long distance hitters in the game. He bats and throws right-handed, stands about five feet eleven inches in height, and weighs 172 pounds.

Southpaws Are Lacking. "The lack of left-handed pitchers was one of the main reasons for the heavy hitting in the Federal league last season," said Dick Carroll, business manager of the Brooklyn Federals.

Another Trial for Hitchman. Bill Hitchman is back in the majors. Bill left the American league in 1909 and was said by some to be all in as a player. Now he is with the Pirates and his friends are wondering what he will do in fact company this time. He has been up a pile of times before only to be shunted back. Bill batted like a fiend in the American association. Last year with Columbus he whaled the ball for .366.

Job for Josh Devore. Josh Devore, formerly of the Boston Nationals, has purchased an interest in the Chillicothe, O., club and will act as its playing manager.

Hackneyed Shakespeare. "Yes," said Mr. Parvey New, "that fellow Shakespeare has some very good things, but his works are full of hackneyed phrases. Why, I absolutely know that lots of them have been used as common slang ever since I was a mere boy."

SHECKARD PLAYS SUPERSTITION TO WIN



Artie Hofman, Brooklyn Fed Outfielder.

(By ARTIE HOFMAN.) The thing that sticks in my mind as perhaps the funniest I ever saw on a ball field happened when I was with the Cubs and Jimmy Sheckard was playing out there in the pasture beside me.

Sheck was, perhaps, the best man at playing for batters the game ever has known. Much of his great success was due to the fact he played right where batters hit the ball. But this time things had been breaking badly for him.

One day we were playing Pittsburgh. At the end of one inning I glanced over into left field. There was Sheckard with his eyes shut, whirling around and around, and finally he let his glove fly. I wondered what was coming off, until I saw Sheck walk to

where the glove had fallen way over in short left within an inch or two of the foul line. Then it dawned upon me that Sheck had shut his eyes, thrown the glove, and was going to play where it lighted. I doubled up laughing over his plan, then saw Tommy Leach coming to bat. Leach caught one right on the nose and sent it over Steinfield's head on the line. He tore around first sprinted for second and looked to see how far the ball had gone just in time to see Sheckard tossing it back. The drive had gone straight into Sheck's hands!

Tommy was the maddest man you ever saw. Sheck's superstition had robbed him of a sure three-base hit—and, as it turned out, saved Chicago the game.

SPEAKER MADE DOUBLE PLAY

Boston Red Sox Outfielder on Two Occasions Last Year Retired Players Without Assistance.

Tris Speaker is the only major league outfielder who last year executed a double play without assistance from anyone. Not once, but twice, has Boston's high-salaried star turned this trick. The first time Speaker made an unassisted double play was on April 21, in the game with the Athletics. On August 8, in a contest with the Tigers, Tris Speaker repeated his earlier performance.

Speaker was born in Hubbard City, Tex., April 4, 1888. He became a professional ball player in 1906, when he joined the Cleburne, Tex., team.



Tris Speaker of Boston Red Sox.

In 1907 he played with Houston. At the close of the season he was purchased by Boston and turned over to Little Rock the following spring as ground rent man, the Red Sox having trained on the Little Rock grounds.

At the close of the Southern league season Speaker was repurchased by Boston for \$500 and joined the Red Sox late in the season of 1908. Speaker is one of the greatest hitters in baseball, having had a batting average of .300 or better each season since leaving Cleburne.

Herzog a Golf Fiend. Charley Herzog, the manager of the Reds, has become so badly afflicted with golfitis that he has about decided to quit raising crops on his Maryland farm and will have the farm laid out as a golf course. "Never could see the sport in golf until I got a club in my hand one day," says Herzog. "I used to think it was child's play to knock that innocent looking ball a couple of miles. Well, just for exercise I swung at the ball with a club that belonged to a friend of mine. I missed. That made me vexed. I swung again—and I swung low. That time I nearly knocked the bottom out of the tee. What's the use of going farther? Golf got me like it does nearly everybody else."

Wood Not Sure of His Arm. "I would give \$5,000 if my arm was sure to come around," said Joe Wood, the "Smoky One," now in training with Boston Americans. This intimates that Smoky Joe is skeptical and is not at all certain that he will be any better off than he was last year. Wood says there is a click in the shoulder, and he has grave fears that it will prove serious. As a result he is favoring the arm every time he throws the ball.

Announce Batting Order. National league umpires will be required to announce the entire batting order before the games this summer. This is a helpful innovation that is sure to gain favor.

FIRST FINGER MITT IN GAME

Veteran Player Tells of Origin of Glove to Protect Players' Hands—Bunt Is Disliked.

"Dad" Phillips, who is employed as binder by the Leland Stanford University Press, claims to have seen the first finger mitt ever used in a baseball game. Over forty years ago "Dad" says he played on the same team with A. G. Spalding at Rocketon, Ill., and tells of the origin of the mitt as follows:

"In one of the games that our Rocketon squad played we were attracted by the sound of the ball as it clapped into the hands of the man on first base or our opponents. Of course none of us wore mits in those days, and we never thought such a thing would be practical. But this man on first base always caught the ball with a loud pop, and several of us noticed it, though we could see nothing unusual about his hands.

However, after he caught the ball each time, he pressed something into his left hand. After some protest he showed us. It was nothing but a piece of bent metal around which he had sewed some leather. It seemed he had injured his hand and did not want to be kept out of the game, which was for the championship of the state. So he had this mitt."

Bunting ought to be tabooed, according to "Dad." He says that the team on which he played originated the bunting stunt, but he does not think it is legitimate baseball. In his early days a bunt was called a "fair foul," and was not looked on with much favor by the fans of the time.

NOTES of the DIAMOND

Jim Gilmore says Jake Ruppert is hitched up to a lemon in the New York Yankees.

Manager Branch Rickey of the St. Louis Browns is a great advocate of handball.

George Stallings, manager of the Braves, is anxious to land a substitute infielder for his club.

Sherwood Magee's shoulder will not trouble him during the season, according to the Braves' physician.

Cleveland is planning a municipal kick bureau. We sincerely hope it does not include a department of professional baseball.

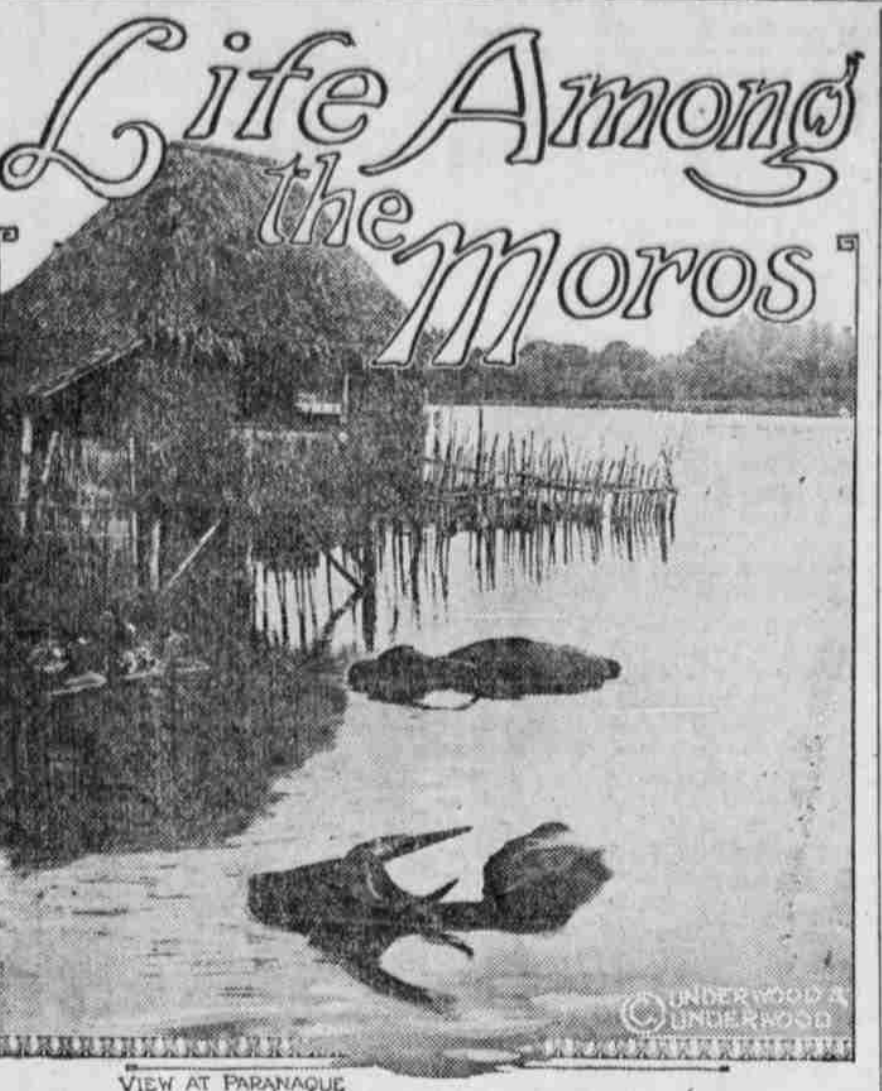
Bob Tebeau, son of President George Tebeau of the Kansas City association club, has succeeded John Savage, as secretary of the club.

The St. Louis Cards and the Pittsburgh Pirates both have pitchers who wear spectacles. They will need double lenses to see a pennant.

The first deal made by the new management of the St. Paul American association club was the sale of Pitcher Dixie Walker to Milwaukee.

Charles Mullen is to be given every opportunity to battle for his job with the Highlanders even though Walter Pipp has been signed. If Mullen hits as he did at Lincoln he would hold on.

Nemo Liebold of the Cleveland Indians denied he intended jumping to the Reds. Birmingham contends that these rumors of a player jumping hurt the player and get him in wrong with the fans.



VIEW AT PANAPAGUE

MRS. LORILLARD SPENCER

And after all, the discomfort was not so great, for we had ordered our beds, mosquito nets, etc., sent from New York, and were fortunate in finding them waiting for us at the customhouse. That reminds me of my surprise when we were obliged to pay duty on anything made outside of the United States, in spite of the fact that duty had already been collected in the States.

Were in Real Danger. At first the natives quite ignored us. I mean those we met in the streets of Jolo, for we were not at first allowed to go outside the gates (you know Jolo is the smallest walled town in the world), as there existed a strong feeling that we were in very grave danger owing to the fact that it had been heralded we had come to proselytize. Some Mohammedans in San Francisco had written to a high dignitary that we might be expected and they hoped every possible obstacle would be put in our way, and as the Moro's idea of an obstacle seldom falls short of death you can see the danger was very real.

Yet we did go out and nothing happened. And after a few weeks both Miss Young and myself went out quite alone. When Miss Katherine Buffum, also a volunteer, joined us, she took charge of our industrial class, which was a great success, and Mrs. Tryon, the trained nurse, started in with a charge of the dispensary supervised by Col. Charles Lynch. By the way, we were told before it started that we would be lucky if we had three patients during a month. The first 90 days we treated nearly six hundred, many coming from the other side of the island. This pleased us very much, as it meant we had gained the confidence and were getting hold of the mountain people, who are quite different and much more difficult to get at than the natives of Jolo.

To cut a long story short, with the exception of Miss Young's illness and return to the United States after a few months of very real work, during which she and the bishop (he was with us the first few weeks) laid the foundation of what which has been in the providence of God a most wonderful exhibition of what the Golden Rule can accomplish, the work progressed gratifyingly; but even the Golden Rule might have failed if we had not been able to call into play that other rule, without which no real sympathy can be given. I mean—to put yourself in the other man's place, trying to see things as he sees them and not as we think he ought to see them.

What They Sang. A North side school teacher with a class of little girls was trying to get them to rehearse some songs for an entertainment. She wanted to find out what part they sang. "Now, what do you sing?" she asked a little blue-eyed maiden, who replied: "Well, brother says I sing terrible and papa says I sing horrible, but mamma says I sing lovely." The teacher tried to suppress a smile, but the pupils all looked serious, and especially so when the little girl next to the blue-eyed maiden got up and said, "That's what I sing, too." However, the class was organized and their singing promises to be one of the treats of the entertainment.—Columbus Dispatch.

Strategy in Tongue Inspection. Everyone who has ever tried to get a very small child to "put out your tongue" for inspection, or to open her mouth wide, that the suspected tongue might be viewed, knows how hard a matter it is to really see either the condition of the tongue or tonsils, because the baby will not straighten out her tongue or open her mouth wide enough. I have gotten around this difficult by putting a drop of honey or molasses on the tip end of the child's chin, and asking her to lick it off. The process of licking off gives me a good, unobstructed view of the straight, extended tongue; it also causes her to open her mouth so wide that I can see her tonsils and the back of her throat. And all this without worrying the baby, for she thinks it is a game.—Good Housekeeping Magazine.

She Handed It to Him. "What d'ye think?" said Lucile, the waitress in a New York hushery, as she handed the newspaper man a napkin. "A feller comes in here a while ago and says he's wrote a song; and

decreated it to me. And what d'ye think is the title of it? 'Lucile, I Know You're Real.' Sounds like as if there was some suspicion about my finger or complexion. Don't you interpolate it that way?" "I don't know." "Well, I know. So I says to him, 'You needn't to make me the victim of any of your songs.' He says, 'Why, it's just a harmless little ditto.' Then he says he'll have some oxtail soup and some tongue. At that I hands him one. It was an old one, but I just couldn't resist. 'What are you trying to do—make both ends meet?' I asks. 'Aw, be nice,' he says. 'Say something soft.' So I glares at him and says 'custard pie.' And away he goes." "You're a bright one," said the newspaper man. "Say, kid," replied Lucile, "sometimes I'm so bright I'm almost a shine."

Those best qualified to know about it claim that the expression "War is hell" did not originate with General Sherman. Just how, when and by whom the term was first used it is impossible to say.

BIRDS DESTROY MANY HARMFUL INSECTS



Crow Blackbird (Quiscalus, Quiscula).

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) In the spring the crow blackbird (or grackle) follows the plow in search of large grubworms and literally crams its stomach with this pest which is so annoying to the farmer. During the breeding season also this bird does much good by eating insects and by feeding them to its young, which are reared almost entirely on this food.

The crow blackbird or grackle in one or more of its subspecies is a familiar object in all the states east of the Rocky mountains. In the Mississippi valley it is one of the most abundant of birds, preferring to nest in the artificial groves and windbreaks near farms instead of in the natural "timber" which it formerly used. It breeds also in parks and near buildings, often in considerable colonies. Farther east, in New England, it is only locally abundant, though frequently seen in migration. In the latter days of August and throughout September it is found in immense numbers before moving southward.

The grackle is accused of many sins, such as stealing grain and fruit and robbing the nests of other birds. An examination of 2,345 stomachs shows that nearly one-third of its food consists of insects, most of which are injurious. The bird also eats a few snails, crawfishes, salamanders, small fish, and occasionally a mouse.

It is on account of its vegetable food that the grackle most deserves condemnation. Grain is eaten during the whole year, and only for a short time in summer is other food attracted.



Barn Swallow.

lively enough to induce the bird to alter its diet. The grain taken in winter and spring probably consists of waste kernels from the stubble. The stomachs do not indicate that the bird pulls sprouting grain; but the wheat eaten in July and August and the corn eaten in fall are probably from fields of standing grain. The total amount of grain consumed during the year constitutes 45 per cent of the food, but it is safe to say that at least half is waste grain and consequently of no value. Although the crow blackbird eats a few cherries and blackberries in their season, and in the fall some wild fruit, it apparently does no damage in this way.

Swallows That Have Attached Themselves to Abodes of Man. There are seven common species of swallows in the United States and four of these have already abandoned their primitive nesting habits to some extent and attached themselves to the abodes of man. The swallow is one of the important birds described in the new Farmers' Bulletin (630) of the United States department of agriculture, entitled "Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer."

The presence of swallows should be encouraged by every device, says the department's scientist. Barn swallows may be encouraged by cutting a small hole in the gable of the barn, while martins and white-bellied swallows will be grateful for boxes placed in a high situation. Cliff and barn swallows, it is said, may be induced to build their nests in a suitable locality by providing a quantity of mud to be used as mortar. It is a mistake to tear from the eaves of a barn the nests of a colony of cliff swallows; for in addition to the fact that this bird destroys large numbers of injurious and annoying insects, the nests are picturesque rather than ugly.

In the eastern part of the country the barn swallow now builds exclusively under roofs, having entirely abandoned the rock caves and cliffs in which it formerly nested. More recently the cliff swallow has found a better nesting site under the eaves of buildings than was afforded by the overhanging cliffs of earth or stone which it once used and to which it still resorts occasionally in the East and habitually in the unsettled West. The martin and the white-bellied, or tree, swallow nest either in hollow

supplied for the purpose, in abandoned nests of woodpeckers, or in natural crannies in rocks. The northern violet-green swallow, the rough-winged swallow, and the bank swallow still live in practically such places as their ancestors chose. Field observation convinces an ordinarily attentive person that the food of swallows must consist of the smaller insects captured in midair or picked from the tops of tall grass or weeds. This observation is borne out by an examination of stomachs, which shows that the food is made up of many small species of beetles which are much on the wing; many species of mosquitoes and their allies, together with large quantities of flying ants; and a few insects of similar kinds.

Unlike many other groups of birds, the six species of swallows found in the eastern states extend in a practically unchanged form across the continent, where they are re-enforced by the northern, or Pacific coast, violet-green swallow.

How to Ship Hatching Eggs. Most Important Thing is to Satisfy Customers—Neat, Attractive Package is Plesing. The most important thing is to satisfy your customers by giving them exactly what you advertise to sell, or even doing a little better. If eggs are broken in transit do not hesitate to replace them the day you receive the complaint from your customer. Give everybody a square deal and remember that a satisfied customer is always a customer. A neat, attractive package may cost a trifle more than a slovenly one, but it will please your customers and advertise your egg business, because customers very often judge a man's business by first impressions of package and contents when they are received. The best package for shipping eggs is a basket, although many breeders do not use them. The basket should hold one or two settings, and these can be got for two cents from any manufacturer. A thick layer of excelsior should cover the bottom, and all eggs should be wrapped in soft paper and so packed with fine excelsior that they will not touch each other. When the eggs are packed put another layer of excelsior over the top and cover with a thin board. Next to the basket is the egg box made for holding 12 or 15 eggs. This is arranged with cardboard compartments with room for excelsior or other packing at the top and bottom. This box is provided with a wire handle and the cover slides into grooves which may then be screwed or tacked down with small nails. Never ship a package that is not screwed or nailed down, because this will save eggs from being flied by curious persons who can open the package in transit. Never ship a soiled egg. Nothing so disgusts a customer as to receive a setting of eggs which are dirty and of poor shape. Eggs should be selected so that each setting will be uniform in size, shape and color when possible.

GET THE INCUBATOR STARTED. Delay in Starting on Broiler Chicks Means Big Loss—Watch the Temperature Carefully. Get the incubator at work on the broiler crop as early as possible, delay means loss. Trim the lamps at the same time each day, no matter if they are warranted to run 48 hours. You cannot afford to forget them once. Watch the thermometer and do not expect a good hatch if you allow the machines to run from 95 to 105 as it happens. Regulate the brooders at 100 before putting the chickens in. Remember that they are taken from an incubator where it probably registers 105. Use covered baskets "with cushions in" to transfer them and they will not get a chill. Give them warm water, dry rolled oats and sharp sand alone for the first three days and avoid future trouble. Take pains in teaching the way in and out of the brooders; it will save loss. Remember that a box of finely broken charcoal is as necessary as food. Keep the water dishes sweet and clean, and warm the water given in the coldest weather. Peas and Oats. Canada field peas and oats sown at the rate of about 1 1/2 bushels of each per acre, as early as the ground will permit, will furnish good early pasturage. Comfort and Cheerfulness. There is comfort, health and cheerfulness in a stable that has pure air and plenty of sunshine.