

STORIES OF THE DIAMOND.

Dan Brouthers Tells About the Duties of Baseball Scouts.

FIND RECRUITS FOR BIG TEAMS

Agents of Different Major League Clubs Travel From One End of the Country to Other Looking Over Material.

No. 11.

By DAN BROUTHERS.

[Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association.]

I've been asked to explain the duty of a baseball scout. A baseball scout is a man who during the playing season is constantly on the lookout for promising material for the club that employs him. For many years I have been connected with the New York National league club in that capacity and in my time have recommended many youngsters who have turned out to be stars.

Within the last few years scouting has become a business. Every club in the major organization has a man employed whose business it is to keep close tabs on a young ball tosser who gives promise of developing into a crack. In fact, the scout plays an important part in a winning ball team. It is on his judgment that the major club league owners buy up the cream before the drafting period comes around.

What does a scout do? Well, one day he may be watching a minor league player and the next may be looking over some semiprofessional player on the lots who never has played with a league, but who has so much baseball ability that somebody has seen him and reported him to the scout's employer or to the scout himself. The following day he may be with some Class B league, and a week



DAN BROUTHERS, FAMOUS BALL TOSSEUR.

from then he may be in some other part of the country getting a line on the material in that section.

The position of scout is not an easy one by any means. First of all, he must be a good judge of what there is in a young ball tosser. If the presumably future great star has a bad arm, is slow on his feet or can do nothing but bat, the scout must be able to tell whether he is worth a trial or not. If he sees a youngster who can field like a big leaguer he must be able to make up his mind whether the youngster will ever be able to do anything with the bat against the pitchers of fame.

If he is sizing up a twirler who is wild he must be able to form an opinion as to whether this fault can be cured with coaching. And, another thing, he has to form a hasty estimate as to the ordinary amount of brains which the youngster possesses.

This reminds me of a little incident that happened some years ago in one of the trolley leagues. A youngster had been recommended to me as a future great. For weeks this fellow had been doing wonders with the willow and in the field. One day I decided to take a peep at him. Shortly after my arrival some one informed him of my presence in the grand stand. I could see by his actions that he was nervous. The first time up he fanned. He repeated this in the second attempt. The third time, however, he managed to work the pitcher for a base on balls. There was a man on second and another on third, with two out. The youngster began prancing around first, trying hard to get the pitcher rattled, as he thought. The twirler looked him over and then started to warm up.

Then Mr. Bonehead started for second base at full speed, and, thinking that it would be a close shave, he slid for the base. After he picked himself up and was informed that his bonehead steal had retired his side he quit the game and made for the clubhouse. Perhaps if some one had not informed him of the presence of a scout from the major leagues in the grand stand he would not have made such a bonehead play. But nevertheless it proved that he lacked brains.

(From Wednesday's Daily)

The Modern Woodmen will hold regular meeting at Coates Hall tonight.

Mrs. Louis Dose was among those who departed on an early train today for Omaha.

Mrs. August Stohman and daughter traveled to Omaha today on an early Burlington.

The little son of Charles Mason has been quite sick the past few days with a fever.

Mrs. A. Bisanz is spending the day in Omaha going up on the popular morning train.

G. F. McCauley was among those who departed on the 8:15 train today for the metropolis.

Mrs. M. Gless bought a ticket reading for Omaha this morning where she will spend the day with friends.

James Keay, a resident of Weston was a caller in the city yesterday, registering at one of the local hotels.

Mrs. James Jones and daughter Mrs. Budig went up on the 8:15 train to the metropolis for a day's stay.

J. E. Mason went up to the Market town today to see about the purchasing of some improvements for his ice cream parlor on Main street. He has ordered a new fountain which he will have installed and in operation for the hot weather.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Richards were early travelers today in the direction of Omaha where they will spend a short time.

Mrs. Wallace Roberts and children left this morning for a visit at the home of her mother, Mrs. William Harris at Ralston.

Miss Anna Carson of Omaha returned to her home this morning after spending several days in the city as a guest of Mrs. August Anderson.

Miss Molly Seiver, Edna Wray and Jennings Seiver took the early Burlington for Marquette, Nebraska to attend the funeral of one of their relatives.

The ladies aid society of the Presbyterian church met yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Agnes Chapman and the session was very well attended.

Mrs. J. F. Curtis and children and Mrs. Mary Holmes left this morning for Lincoln where they will proceed to Idaho for a lengthy stay with J. H. Holmes, Mrs. Holmes' son.

All who attend the Parmele theater Friday night and purchase a reserved seat ticket will be given a chance on the 100-piece dinner set presented by the management. Go and see "The Adventures of Miss Brown."

On account of lack of space in yesterday's paper, it was impossible to get a number of articles that were were set up during the day, and a number of yesterday's items will therefore appear in today's edition.

All who attend the Parmele theater Friday night and purchase a reserved seat ticket will be given a chance on the 100 piece dinner set presented by the management. Go and see "The adventures of Miss Brown."

The Social Workers are requested to meet in the Epworth League room at the Methodist church Thursday afternoon and to bring their sewing. A large attendance is desired for there will be some important business to transact.

All who attend the Parmele theater Friday night and purchase a reserved seat ticket will be given a chance on the 100-piece dinner set presented by the management. Go and see "The Adventures of Miss Brown."

A Card to the Public.

On Friday evening of this week in the high school building the Platts-mouth high school team will debate with the Blair high school. The subject for debate is "Resolved that Labor Unions are on the Whole beneficial." Platts-mouth have the affirmative side of the question. We do not wish to seem to complain but we must say in all frankness that the high school has not had the patronage it deserved so far as the debates are concerned. We have spared no effort to put out a team that is a credit to the school and the fact that they defeated Fremont is evidence that they are worth hearing. It is rather discouraging to the students and faculty however to have to go away from home to secure an audience. With an admission fee of twenty five cents there is no reason why we should not have the auditorium filled. This is the only debate that will be held here this season and

AN ARMY TURNED LOOSE THIS WEEK

Over Seventy Thousand Men and Women Start Out Friday For a Raid On the People

GET READY TO ANSWER THEM

Census Enumerators Will Begin Their Work Counting Uncle Sam's Busy Flock.

WASHINGTON, April 10—With the break of day on next Friday, the 15th inst., a host of 70,000 interrogators, men and women, white and colored will be turned loose in pursuit of the people of the United States. On that day Uncle Sam will begin the numbering of his children in preparation for the thirteenth census. He estimates that he has a family of about 90,000,000 men, women and children, and he has already employed and put to work a body of enumerators considerably greater than the standing army. The law provides that the enumeration shall begin on the 15th but it is not so peremptory about the commencing time as about the closing time, and already intimations have been received that in some instances the work may be postponed until Saturday. This is due to the fact that the 15th falls on Friday and among the 70,000 name-takers there are some who are superstitious as to this day of the week.

The enumeration will cover all of the forty-five states and two territories of the union proper and also Hawaii and Porto Rico, Alaska, the Philippine islands and Guam will not be included, as special arrangements are made for numbering the people of those dependencies.

Under the statutes governing the work, the entire enumeration must be completed in a month, and in the cities the work is limited to fifteen days. It is expected that some of the returns

we hope to have an audience that will be an encouragement to the speakers. In my estimation there is no better work offered in the high school than debating. If you have an interest in the school come out Friday evening and if after the debate you are dissatisfied your money will be cheerfully refunded. A special invitation is extended to union men to be present. Do not let it longer be said that Platts-mouth patronizes her high school less than any other town in the league. Respectfully yours, J. W. Gamble, Supt. of Schools.

Alfalfa Meeting.

(From Wednesday's Daily)

This morning Mr. W. B. Swygard of Omaha was in the city and met several of the gentlemen who are agitating the formation of a stock company here for the establishment of an alfalfa mill. Mr. Swygard has had considerable experience in the business and some two years ago was in charge of the building of a mill at Albion in this state. His experience will be of great value to the company here when they get ready to build and he has signified his willingness to assist them all he can. The commercial club certainly appreciates his interest in the matter and will probably call upon him to assist in the plans when it comes time to put in the plant.

Music Festival in Omaha.

Arrangements have been made by music lovers in Omaha and Eastern Nebraska, to hold a music festival in Omaha, May 17, 18, 19. It will be held in the new Brandeis theater in the west. Among the numbers on the programs will be the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra; the Omaha Oratorio society, Mrs. Lucy Tewksbury, Arthur Middleton, the great bass singer, Mme Frieda Langerdorff, mezzo soprano, Carlos Fischer, cellist, Richard Czerwonky, Max Landoy, German pianist, Jane Osborn Hannah, Soprano. Accompanists for the festival will be Madam August M. Borglum and Martin W. Bush.

Escaped from Union Jail.

(From Wednesday's Daily)

Two men escaped last evening from the jail at Union and so far they have

from the cities will be received as early as the first week in June, but the exact population of the entire country will not be determined before some time in September. The census officials will, however, know within a few thousand of the number long before the close of the summer months. They will be able to reach a substantially accurate conclusion by their payrolls, but this will be more or less speculative, and the figures will not be given out.

Director E. Dana Durand, is counting upon a roll of not fewer than 90,000,000 names. This estimate is based upon calculations of his experts and makes allowance for an increase according to the tendencies shown in the last three previous censuses. Between 1870 and 1880 the increase in the population was 30 per cent; between 1880 and 1890, 25 per cent; between 1890 and 1900, 21 per cent. If the decrease should continue at the same ratio there would be a falling off this year of the rate of gain to 17 per cent. The immigration figures for the past decade have been greater, however, than for any of the previous ten-year periods. Making allowance for this augmentation from outside it is calculated that the increase for the past ten years will be about 18 per cent and as, in round numbers, the figure for 1900 was 76,000,000, it is now calculated that there prove to have been an addition of about 14,000,000 souls.

found no trace of the fellows. The two men were seen in the act of breaking a seal on a freight car in the Union yards and were placed under arrest before they had time to go through the car. The authorities phoned from that place yesterday and stated they would bring the men up here to be put in the county jail but before they could get around to remove them, they had made an exit of their own and down the coop. The jail was not in good condition and it was not much of a trick for the would be car robbers to make their get away.

Taken Paper Since Started.

An interesting and welcome letter was received today from Union for the renewing of the News-Herald for next year. The paper is considered to be an old household friend of Mrs. Buck of that city, and although she is ninety years old and cannot see to read anything but the headings, she thinks she couldn't get along without it. She has taken every copy of the paper from the time of its founding to the present day and she has always been a constant reader of its contents.

Sixty Pounds Pressure—What?

To the body of sightseers, who had never been to the shops before, the manner in which the car wheels were fitted to the axles was in the nature of an eye opener. The work is done by hydraulic pressure. After the wheels are bored and the axles turned they are properly adjusted and brought together by a sixty ton squeeze, (not sixty pounds as the Journal in its ignorance mentioned in its write up.) When the big press has accomplished its work the wheels are there to stay and can only be removed by a machine having the same power as the one by which they were placed in position.

Farmers Attention.

All farmers in eastern Cass county are invited to attend the alfalfa meeting to be held here Saturday April 16th at 2 p. m.

If you are interested in Alfalfa in any way, whether it be as food for stock or as a re-builder of worn out soil, we want you at this meeting.

Julius Pitz, Chairman.
H. A. Schneider, Sec.

A RUSSIAN SERF.

He Bought His Liberty With a Barrel of Crimean Oysters.

One of the principal banking houses of St. Petersburg is said to have been founded by a man who for a great part of his life was a serf. Even in his condition of serfdom he was a wealthy banker and, as may readily be imagined, made many attempts to procure his freedom. The story goes that he offered 1,000,000 rubles for his liberty, but that his master, Count Sheremetieff, proud of possessing such a serf, refused to liberate him. The liberation was, however, finally procured and at a much lower price than that mentioned. The story is a pretty one:

This serf, by name Shalounine, returned one day from Odessa to St. Petersburg and, as in duty bound, repaired to the Sheremetieff palace, there to report himself. With him he had brought, as a gift to the count, a small barrel of choice Crimean oysters. This he left outside till he should receive an intimation that the offering would be acceptable to Sheremetieff.

Now, it so chanced that he found his master surrounded by a large number of guests who had been bidden to breakfast. The count was engaged in berating his butler for negligence to provide oysters for the breakfast. The butler contended that there were no oysters in the market.

It was at this juncture that the count caught sight of his banker serf.

"So," he angrily exclaimed, "you, too, are to annoy me! And with your pestering appeal for liberation! Let me tell you that your errand will prove a fruitless one! But stay! I'll release you on one condition—and one only—that you get me some oysters for breakfast!"

Shalounine bowed low and left the room. When he returned he laid the barrel of oysters at his master's feet.

Whereupon the count, true to his word, called for pen and paper and instantly wrote out a declaration of emancipation making the serf a free man. Then the former master, with a most gracious air, added:

"And now, my dear Shalounine, will you be so good as to favor us with your company at breakfast?"—Harper's Weekly.

A Unique Volume.

What is perhaps the most curious book in the world is possessed by the Prince de Ligne. This work is neither printed nor in manuscript, the text being formed of letters cut in vellum and pasted on blue paper. Notwithstanding this extraordinary method of presenting the text the book is as easy of perusal as if printed in the boldest type. All the characters shown are cut with marvelous dexterity and precision.

This unique volume bears the title "The Book of All Passions of Our Lord Jesus Christ, With Characters Not Composed of Any Materials."

It is said that Rudolph II, the Roman emperor, offered no less than 11,000 ducats for this wonderful product of the bookmaker's art, but the offer was refused.

A curious feature of the history of this book is that while the English arms are inscribed on its cover it is confidently held that the volume has never been in England.—New York Times.

A Gentle Complaint.

Two men, next door neighbors, each had a pet diversion. Chickens was the hobby of one; that of the other, flowers. Because of the devastating instincts of the unrestrained fowls the flowers did not flourish. The gardener, however, valued his neighbor's friendship more than he did the flowers and made no remonstrance. The poultry farmer one evening visited his neighbor and by way of introduction made a complimentary remark about the garden. "What a beautiful bed of flowers you have here!" he said glowingly.

"Yes," added the gardener dejectedly, "but it just keeps me a-sweating to keep it from becoming a feather bed."

Might Always Wear It.

"John, do you recognize this hat?"

"No; I can't say that I do. It looks rather dilapidated."

"Yes, I have been keeping it as a dear memento. I was wearing it when you and I first met. That was eleven years ago."

"I hope you'll keep it always. It ought to convince you that you must have been mighty good looking once, seeing that even with that thing on your head you caused me to fall in love with you."—Chicago Record-Herald

WITH THE NEW BASEBALL PILOTS

Fans Keeping Close Tabs on Work of Managers.

WILL BILL DAHLEN SUCCEED?

Handler of Brooklyn Nationals Will Have His Hands Full Unraveling Twists and Knots in Superbas—Duffy's Big Task.

Never in the history of the big leagues have there been so many changes in the management of the teams as there have been since last season, seven new pilots having been signed by as many clubs since the 1910 season closed. It is no easy matter to secure an expert team handler, but the National and American club owners believe they have cornered the best in the profession.

Since last year three changes in the managerial ranks of the National league—the engagement of "Bad Bill" Dahlen by the Brooklyn club, the appointment of Fred Lake by the Boston club and the promotion of Charles Doolin by the Philadelphia club. Dahlen has never handled a ball team, big or little, before, but he has had a world of experience on the field and is an excellent judge of playing talent.

"Bad Bill" certainly knows what "inside ball" means. He is conversant with the methods employed by Anson, Hanlon and McGraw, and he is a fighter for his rights. He is not a taskmaster and is popular with all players, but he will probably insist upon hard work and will develop team play from the very beginning.

Charley Doolin, the new pilot of the Philadelphia Nationals, is a star ball player and well liked, but he is not head-d and inclined to look for trouble with the umpires, a weakness in these days of discipline on the diamond. He is an experiment pure and simple.

Fred Lake has a problem to solve in Boston. He made a name for himself last season as manager of the Boston Americans, but because of a difference over salary he was released outright by President John I. Taylor, who declared that Lake was not the man who deserved credit for the excellent showing of the Red Sox. Lake in accepting the management of the Hub Nationals saw a chance to redeem himself, but he will begin with a splendid tail end



HUGH DUFFY, NEW PILOT OF CHICAGO AMERICANS.

team and will have to build it up gradually. As first class ball players are not to be had for the asking, Lake will have to be satisfied with his present layout, which means that Boston fans do not expect him to accomplish wonders.

Four of the American league teams, Boston, St. Louis, Washington and Chicago, have new team handlers. Pat Donovan, who was released by Brooklyn after the season of 1908, has charge of the Red Sox instead of Fred Lake. Donovan was the team's scout last year and picked up some speedy youngsters. He has a rich club behind him this time, which means a lot, and as he has had plenty of experience President Taylor thinks he will make good.

That Hugh Duffy will make a splendid manager of the Chicago White Sox is the general opinion of leading baseball men. Duffy and Owner Comiskey are old friends. They were players in rival teams back in the old Brotherhood days.

Jack O'Connor, the old catcher of the Cleveleans, Pittsburgs and St. Louis Browns, will manage the last named team this year. O'Connor was a star backstop under Pat Tebeau and helped to make the veteran pitcher Cy Young famous. In the old days he made the lives of umpires miserable, but he has seen the error of his ways and now believes in accepting the rulings as they are laid down.

O'Connor takes the place of his old side partner, James McAleer. They played on the Cleveland team for many years and were fast friends. McAleer had a crack team in St. Louis in 1908, but last year a hoodoo was busy, and all kinds of accidents kept the Browns out of the running. The St. Louis critics made it decidedly unpleasant for McAleer as a result, so he quit cold when his contract was up and signed with the Washington club for a salary of \$10,000 a year. McAleer is a first class manager—in fact, the best that Washington has had for many years.