

## THIRD BASE THE EASIEST POSITION

COVERING LAST SACK IS SOFTEST JOB ON TEAM, OUTSIDE OF OUTFIELD.

### SO SAYS CHARLES HICKMAN

Statement Comes from Man Who Has Played Every Position—First Baseman Had Snap in Old Days, But Now He Has One of Most Difficult of the Infield.

Charles Hickman, Cleveland's utility man, is authority for the assertion that next to the outfield third base is the easiest position to play on the diamond. Inasmuch as Hickman has played every position on a ball team he should know what he is talking about.

"The catcher has to do the most work," says "Happy Hick." "The pitcher runs him a close second. The first baseman comes third. The second baseman and shortstop have about the same amount of playing to do, and should almost work as one man. But the third baseman has a snap in a way compared with the other infielders and battery.

"In the old days the first baseman must have had a picnic. From what I have heard and read up to the time that Charley Comiskey became a famous player the first baseman did not cover much ground. They were up to catch the ball when it was thrown to them, and to grab what grounders they could and beat the runners to first with the ball. When a player got too slow for any other position on the team, or when his arm went back on him, they would still think him good enough for first base, providing that he was a good stickler.

"But now a first baseman must be as quick as any other of the infielders. He has got to be able to play bunts just like a third baseman, but where a third baseman, in handling bunts, rarely throws anywhere except to first base, the first sacker in making a one-handed pick-up has all three bases to watch on many occasions. He may have to shoot it to third or second, or again he may have to turn around and toss it to either the pitcher or second baseman, which ever one is covering first.

"The first baseman has to be on the watch for snap throws from pitcher and catcher; he must have an understanding with the pitcher on fielding bunts and grounders between them and in addition, he is expected to cover more ground than he used to and to catch every thrown ball that comes within ten feet of him."

Hickman has never caught a professional game of ball, but was the regular catcher for the University of West Virginia team prior to going to Newcastle as a pitcher. Boston used him as a pitcher and outfielder, and he pitched one game for that club in the Temple Cup series against Baltimore, losing it by the score of 12 to 11. Then he went to the Giants, and actually played in every position on the team except behind the bat in a single year. He was at short for nearly three months, and George Davis, who was managing the team at that time, wanted him to catch also, but "Happy" declined with thanks.

While with Cleveland he played everywhere but behind the bat, short and center field. He played nearly all the positions for Washington, but did his best work at third base when Lufe Cross was hurt. That is Hick made up his mind that third was such an easy place to fill. He says he did not average over one error a week, and claims that he did not strike any difficult ones at that.

George Shovall also thinks that third is the easiest and first the most difficult of all the infield positions to play, and George ought to know, for he has been all the way around the infield and back again.

### MINOR LEAGUE NOTES

Craig, who was one time seen with the Athletics, will pitch for Utica this year.

On the whole the Toledo club doesn't loom up as the equal of last year's one in hitting.

Joe Yeager, the former American league infielder, will play on Jimmy Casey's Montreal team this season.

The St. Paul club has sold Catcher Elmer Pierce to the Lincoln Western league club. Pierce, like Charlie Check, is a graduate of Wisconsin university.

Bunk Congalton, who has been holding out for some time, has finally signed his contract with the Columbus team of the American association.

Another Hemphill (Fred) has butted into baseball. He resides in Detroit. He is an outfielder who has made good in independent ball. The Hemphills could form an outfield with Fred, Frank and Charlie.

President Frank R. Carson announces that the Central league season opens April 23 and ends September 8. There will be 148 games played. The opening games are: South Bend at Terre Haute, Grand Rapids at Evansville, Fort Wayne at Wheeling, Dayton at Zanesville.

The Ohio Independent Baseball league was organized at Tiffin recently. Tiffin, Toledo, Cleveland and Ashland will be included in the league, with Fremont and Lorain probable members. There will be six teams in the league. The games will be played Saturday and Sunday, and the opening game will be played May 2. Each team will play 20 games.

## BUSINESS TROUBLES

By H. C. Gleesley

"I see by your sign out there that you furnish all kinds of help here. What are the chances to get a cook?"

"The very best, sir; have a fine lot of first-class cooks already on the list waiting for a job. What will you pay?"

"Depends on the woman. Isn't much to do—cook for me and my hired hand, attend to some chickens, and make some butter, and such like, of course. I live five miles out on a ranch."

"When do you want to see the woman?"

"I go home to-night if I can get my business done in time; am in town, though, twice a week. I don't need to see them at all myself; haven't time—have no use for women anyway, but when a man gets up at four in the morning and don't get in bed till 11 p. m., pretty near have to have a woman around to do the cooking—though if I could get a lively one, not afraid of work, and—what is your bill for such, sir?"

"Won't cost you anything; the woman that gets the job pays me a dollar."

"As I started to say, my stopping place when in town is up on the hill. I'll give you the exact address, sir, there it is—that Mrs. Thomas is an old friend like, and you just send the candidates for the job up to her, and who she hires I'll take out with me next time I'm in town."

The country gentleman departed and Mr. Smythe turned to the office clerk with: "Look the list over and keep sending girls up there until some fool of a woman takes it. You needn't explain matters about the chickens and butter and the like, and don't mention that it is five miles out—just give them that woman's address, and if they come back, no matter. Some woman before the end of a week will be fool enough to take it. Nothing much to do—up at four, to bed at 11; well, my business is to close deals and get a dollar."

Turning to a caller, he added, "I pride myself on never losing a customer—I get my dollar out of each case that comes in. Nobody can outdo me in running a business of this kind."

Just then came in one of the daily callers at the agency to see if there was a job for her.

"Send her to that new place," called Mr. Smythe to his clerk. "I don't know much about it; the man was just in here, didn't explain much, but no harm to go and see."

"I haven't the fee with me," said the girl, "but if I get it I will come back to your office and pay you."

"Yes, never mind that," said Mr. Smythe. "You don't go to work for two or three days if you do get it, and that will give you time to settle with me."

Nancy Green, with the address in her hand, started wearily on her errand. Experience had taught her not to be over confident. She had hardly gone to a woman who had had not been to the agency before came in and registered for a "housekeeping" job, and said she preferred going to the country and keep house for a man where there were no children.

"We have just the place for you," said Mr. Smythe, "and you come in the morning and we will send you to see about it. Unfortunately we just this minute sent a woman, but I don't think she'll do; in fact, I know she won't. We'll send you in the morning."

The woman went off with a light heart and returned promptly the next morning, dressed in her Sunday best. Mr. Smythe sent her without a word, although the first woman had not yet returned to the office.

"That woman will take the job," said the wise head of the agency, and added, laughing, "I have noticed all through my experience in running an employment agency that nothing ever comes along so absurd but that pretty soon after somebody comes in just like they were made to order to fit that job. One is pretty sure to find somebody to fit in every place."

Shuffling the dollar comfortably into his pocket, he continued, addressing one of the hangers-on about the agency, "When you have run an agency for as many years as I have you will know as much about human nature as I do. That woman I sent yesterday is looking for an easy job and she'll look a long time yet. Ha! ha! she was so overcome when she heard that 'four o'clock in the morning' she hasn't come to yet. Just wait a while and hear what she has to say when she comes in on her daily errand to tell me why she didn't take it."

An hour later the last woman returned, brimful of wrath—demanded her dollar, and said she would never patronize that agency again.

"That woman you sent yesterday," she at length explained, "was hired, that is, she married the man and went home with him—give me my dollar back!"

"Where is my fee?" soliloquized the sagacious head of the agency. Then he dictated a letter to the address up on the hill which read:

"Dear Sir: Inclosed please find bill for two dollars. Whereas I charge, as aforesaid, but one dollar for a cook, I habitually charge two dollars for a wife, and since the lady above mentioned did not pay the customary dollar there will be no rebate. Please remit at once, and oblige, your truly,  
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### PLAY BALL.

Western League Season Opens Up With a Defeat for Lincoln.

At 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon Governor Sheldon walked gracefully from the grand stand at Antelope park, took a position in the pitcher's box, and shot the ball over the plate with all the speed and curve of a veteran. And thus was the third season of the Western League pried open in Lincoln. A couple of hours after it was pried open it snapped shut again, and pinched the fingers of the home team by a score of four to one.

But despite the defeat of the Greenbackers, it was a bully good game, and the local fans, although disappointed in the score, were satisfied that Manager Green and Captain Fox have gathered an aggregation of players that will make the other five teams go some.

Manager Green saw to it that the score cards bear the label of the Allied Printing Trades, and also saw to it that it will be easier to buy a union made cigar this year than it was last.

The crowd at the opening game was big enough to make Manager Green's heart beat a little faster, although he bore the evidences of appreciation with becoming modesty. Signor Gioovanni Bonno of Naples officiated on the slab for Lincoln, and Colonel James Sullivan of County Mayo received the Bonno slants with becoming grace. Signor Bonno was a little eccentric in his delivery at times, but this was excused on the ground that it was the first time he had ever faced a Lincoln multitude of fans and fannies. But the signor certainly has the baseball goods concealed about his rotund person. As each member of the home team stepped to bat he was roundly cheered, and the bows made in return were exceedingly Chesterfieldian.

With the single exception of being handed the diminutive end of the score the game was full of satisfaction. Here's to the Greenbackers and to the gentlemanly Mr. Green who has them in charge. May the ultimately arrive without being subsequent—or words to that effect.

### THE TWO ANSWERS.

How Taft and Bryan Replied to a Very Pertinent Question.

It will be remembered that at a public meeting in New York Secretary Taft was asked the question: "What

is a man to do who is out of work and is starving?" Taft's reply was, "God knows; I don't."

Some two weeks later, at the conclusion of a speech by Mr. Bryan in New York, the question was repeated with Mr. Taft's answer: "God knows; I don't." Mr. Bryan's reply was as follows:

"I approach this question with some hesitation, for I do not want to say anything that would put me in the class to which it has been committed by the Secretary of War. But my answer is this:

"All questions of this kind must be considered from two standpoints: First the temporary remedy, and second, the permanent remedy. If a child falls and breaks its arm as the result of carelessness, it is not sufficient to tell the child how to keep from falling again. It is necessary that the arm shall be set and the child cared for, even though its sufferings are the result of its own carelessness. And so, temporarily, we must provide for every human being in need. I will not admit that any man in this country should be allowed to starve to death, no matter how careless he may have been in not providing for the future.

"But while we must make temporary provisions for the necessities of those who actually suffer, we must make permanent provisions against the recurrence of such conditions, and the best way to prevent a recurrence of these conditions is to change the laws by which a few men have been able to secure an unfair proportion of the results of the toil of all the people. There is no difficulty in this country about production. We produce and consume something like three times the amount per capita produced or consumed by any other people. The trouble is with the distribution, and I believe that the way to reach the difficulty is to withdraw privileges and favoritism and to enact laws that will secure an open door to every man's labor and a reward for his toil."

As the tendency of things political today foreshadows that Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan will be the candidates of their respective parties, the two questions and answers quoted above will probably interest many people.

### Burglars Overlook Money.

Burglars entered the office of the Iddings Lumber yards at Sutherland by prying open a window and ransacked the building. The safe was opened, but no money was secured, though the robber overlooked \$100 in checks.

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### Night Riders Again Active.

Night riders are again becoming active in Montgomery county, Kentucky. Warning notes have been sent to various farmers threatening them with whipping by riders.

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