

PITFALLS *of* BASEBALL

Written Exclusively for the Chicago Defender by Andrew ("Rube") Foster,
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In my previous articles I have dealt with many things that to my way of thinking have hindered our progress; to all of this there can be no crime, without a reason for such, and in this article I will try and explain what has shown the caliber of men who want to bask in the limelight as progressive leaders of clubs.

Lack of Co-operation a Disgrace

In the West we managers often disagree, yet we eventually come to



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an agreement, forgetting the differences where they affect the welfare of the game, each time before any great wrong is done, that we will co-operate and stand by any plan agreed on, is a moral certainty, with our eastern owners it is different. Can you imagine the benefits to be derived from such, to be such a hard task, those familiar with our troubles wonder why we cannot agree. No chain is stronger than its weakest link. Knowing this, I made efforts long before the articles were written, to try and get Nat C. Strong, eastern booking agent, controlling all the available parks, to play in New York; to let's all meet together, east and west, formulate an agreement for better working conditions, salaries to remain, each club to retain its present players. He answered back, he wanted something done, but the men who are at present identified with the eastern clubs are an IMPOSSIBILITY, that there were several owners, managers and players they would never do business with again.

Why Such a Disagreement?

This disagreement dates back to the existence of Colored clubs; it is deeply rooted; there will be no peace until the men now connected give way to different owners. The players question is the root of all the trouble. Managers have gone after the playing season and taken the main men of each other's club; these players oftentimes owed the past owner money; naturally this broadened the feelings of the owners. Results, they would not play against each other. Even the western clubs have done the same to eastern clubs, yet they do not tamper with the western players of western clubs. This has got to such a condition that the leading clubs east do not meet, nor will the western clubs meet any of the eastern clubs. If you have taken your club east, win many games, the owners try to take the men away from you, bring about dissatisfaction between you and your men; so much so, you avoid going there.

What Getting Together Would Mean

"Had the eastern men accepted the proposal, the bitter feelings that exist would have been eliminated, a working agreement respecting each other's right, a chance to see all the clubs meet, the securing of places fit to play, then the launching of a league. But they refused such, desiring to fight each other. Now it's the survival of the fittest. You kill my dog, I will

kill your cat. One would not think such **IGNORANCE** existed in the **MODERN AGE**.

Ball Players vs. Owners

Ball players have had no respect for their word, contracts or moral obligations, yet they are not nearly as much to blame as the different owners of clubs. These owners baited the men away from the different clubs, telling them it's money that you want, you had better get it while getting is good. He raises the salary, and the player jumps. About one in every hundred pays the money back voluntarily. The players think better salaries should be paid, often saying:

"Well, if you played so and so you would have made money to pay more, or pay what you promised." They do not realize that their actions in disrupting another club is the prime factor in not getting what they should, as one never knows how long he will have a club.

Chicago Defender, Chicago, IL

Saturday, January 17, 1920, Page 9, Column 6 and 7