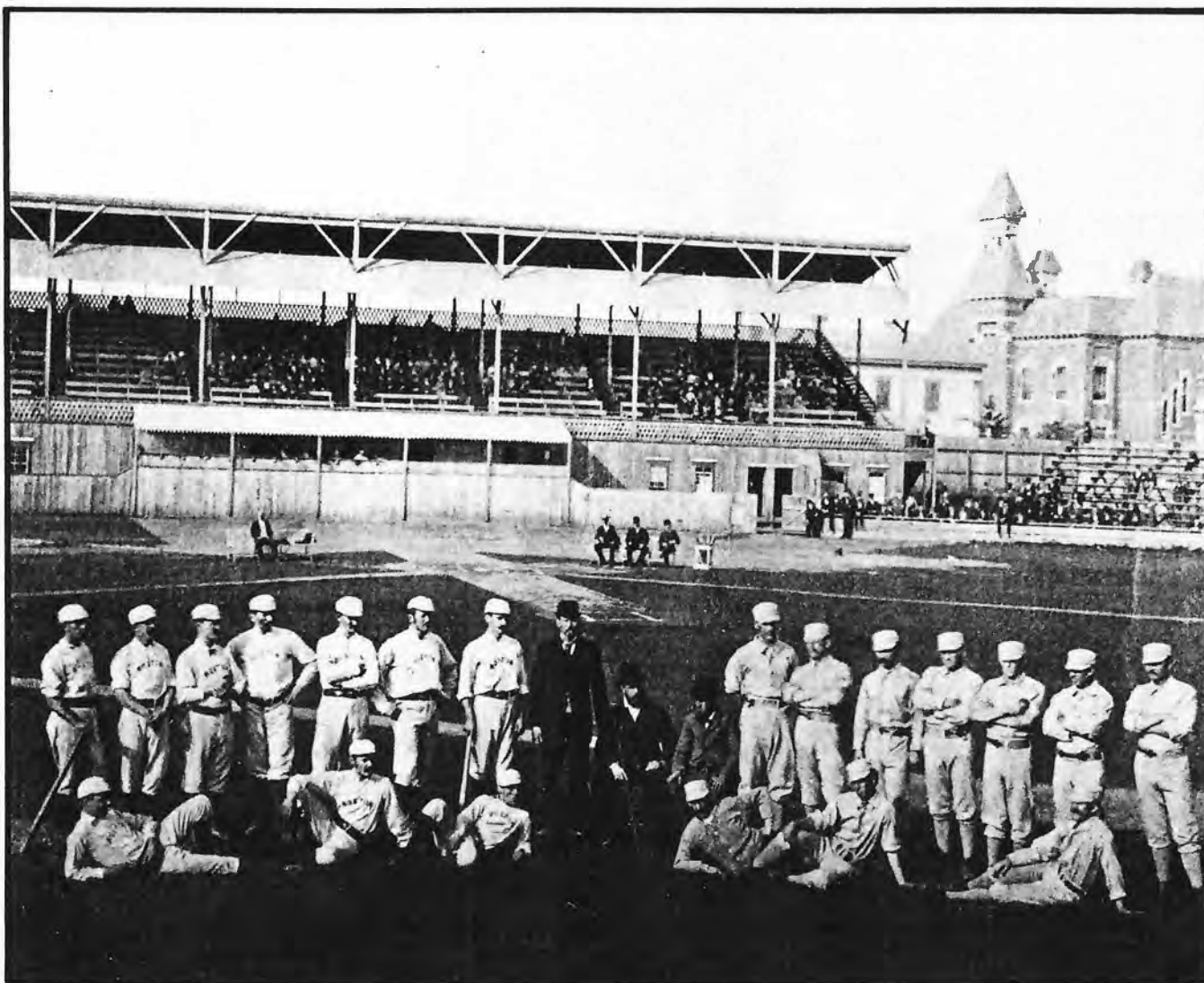


DAYS OF GREATNESS



Providence Baseball 1875-1885

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Society for American Baseball Research
in Commemoration of 100th Anniversary
of First World Series of 1884

Baseball in Rhode Island

By Leonard Levin

Tiny Rhode Island (40 miles long, 20 miles wide, population less than a million) has contributed more than its share to baseball lore.

* The Providence Grays were awarded a franchise in the National League in 1878, the league's third season. The Grays won the pennant in their second year (1879), captured the league championship again in 1884, and in that same year defeated the pennant-winning New York Metropolitans of the American Association, three games to none, in what is regarded as the first World Series.

* After dropping out of the National League following the 1885 season, the Grays participated briefly in the Eastern League in 1886 and then spent 27 years (1891-1917) and part of another (1925) in the International League and its predecessor circuits. In one of those years (1914), a 19-year-old lefthanded pitcher named George Herman Ruth, then the property of the Boston Red Sox, spent a month on the Grays' roster and won nine games and batted .300 in helping the team win the I.L. pennant. In a game at Toronto that summer, he hit his one and only minor league home run.

* Over the years teams representing Providence and two other Rhode Island cities — Pawtucket and Woonsocket — have played in other minor leagues: Providence in the Eastern League (1918-19 and 1926-30) and the New England League (1946-49); Pawtucket in the New England League (1892, 1894-99 and 1946-49), the Atlantic Association (1908), the Colonial League (1914-15), the Eastern League (1966-67 and 1970-72) and the International League (1973 to the present), and Woonsocket in the New England League (1891-92), the Atlantic Association (1908), the Colonial League (1914) and the New England League (1933).

* Three Rhode Island natives are members of the Baseball Hall of Fame: Hugh Duffy, Nap Lajoie and Gabby Hartnett. Another Hall of Famer, Frankie Frisch, spent his retirement years in the state. Still

others — Charles Radbourn, Babe Ruth and Jimmie Foxx, to mention just a few — played for Rhode Island teams as major or minor leaguers.

* While its population is small and it is not a Sunbelt state like California or Florida, Rhode Island over the years has sent its proportional share of players to the major leagues. At this writing there are three: Davey Lopes, Billy Almon and Mike Stenhouse. (Charlie Hough was born in Hawaii but spent much of his youth in Rhode Island.) Mike Roarke of West Warwick is the St. Louis Cardinals' pitching coach, and Johnny Goryl of Cumberland is a coach with the Cleveland Indians.

* Two of today's most successful baseball executives are Rhode Islanders: Roland Hemond, executive vice-president and general manager of the Chicago White Sox, and Lou Gorman, vice-president of baseball operations of the Boston Red Sox.

* Pawtucket was the site of the longest game in the history of professional baseball — 33 innings between the Pawtucket Red Sox and Rochester Red Wings of the International League, played April 18-19 and June 23, 1981. The game was suspended after 32 innings with the score tied 2-2. When it was resumed, Pawtucket quickly won, 3-2, in the thirty-third inning.

Because of their New England orientation and the proximity of Boston (an hour's drive for most people in the state), most Rhode Islanders are Red Sox fans. But because of the state's sizable Italian population and the Crosetti-DiMaggio-Rizzuto connection, there is a significant minority of New York Yankees rooters. This contributes to what author and SABR member Harvey Frommer has chronicled as "Baseball's Greatest Rivalry." With the success of the Yankees over the years, the rivalry from time to time becomes a little onesided; indeed many Red Sox fans will admit, after some prodding, that they get a bigger kick out of seeing the Yankees lose than in seeing the Red Sox win.

The articles that follow appeared in the Providence Journal in June and July of 1928 and are reprinted with the permission of the Providence Journal Co. The

Cover photo was taken at Providence's Messer Park in 1879 and shows 1878 N.L. champion Boston Red Stockings and 1879 N.L. champion Providence Grays. Boston players are: Standing (left to right) — Ed Cogswell, Ezra Sutton, Tommy Bond, Curry Foley, Charles "Pop" Snyder, Charley Jones, John Morrill, club official McSean; reclining — Jack Burdock, Bill Hawes, Sadie Houck. Seated in front are Harry Wright, manager of Boston, and Jim Bullock of Providence. Other Grays are: Standing (left to right) — Emil Gross, Bill Hague, Jim O'Rourke, Joe Start, Monte Ward, Mike McGeary, Paul Hines; reclining — Bobby Mathews, manager George Wright, Tom York.

author, William D. "Bill" Perrin, had covered baseball and other sports in Providence for nearly half a century at the time he wrote the articles. Although the prose style may seem stodgy to today's readers, it is typical of its era. Perrin covered the Grays for most of their minor league years, and his accounts of the games were long and detailed — a treat for the baseball fan of

those days who had few other sports or activities competing for his attention. Because of the wealth of detail they contain, the stories by Perrin and his contemporaries have proved a boon to SABR members sifting through newspaper microfilm in search of information.

Providence Articles Discovered in Old Scrapbook

Late in the fall of 1983 two SABR members — John Thorn and Mark Rucker — spent a week in Cooperstown, N.Y. Their mission was to look through the files of the National Baseball Library for photographs and other material that would be appropriate for the Society's new 1984 spring pictorial issue of *The National Pastime* devoted to pre-1900 baseball.

In the process of this search Thorn came across an old scrapbook containing the series of 35 articles on Providence's major league baseball history that follows. He immediately recognized the importance of the material and arranged to obtain photocopies.

Realizing the series would be of great interest to many SABR members, he subsequently proposed that the Society reprint the articles in booklet form for distribution to those attending the organization's 1984 annual convention in Providence and to other members who might like to have copies. After all, with 1984 representing the 100th anniversary of Providence's victory in the first World Series ever played, a booklet on the city's baseball history seemed most appropriate.

Efforts to obtain sharp, clear copies of the articles from the microfilm of the Providence Journal proved unavailing. As generally happens to old newsprint, the paper had shown signs of deterioration before it was put on microfilm. Consequently it was decided to use the photocopies made from the scrapbook in printing this booklet even through the passage of some 55 years had also taken its toll on the scrapbook clippings.

Upon looking through this booklet, one should bear in mind that while the quality of the printing of the articles themselves is not up to the standards that the Society or SABR member Dean Coughenour and his staff at Ag Press in Manhattan, Kan., would prefer, it is the historic value of the information presented — not the esthetics — that is of prime importance.

(Note: The photographs at the bottom of pages 6 and 14 and the cartoon on page 56 were not part of the original Providence Journal series.)

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

I

Baseball, almost since its birth, has fascinated the good people of Providence and a few of the bad ones.

The game has grown steadily here in sheer number of players and spectators, but relatively the city occupied a far more important place in the baseball world of the late '70's and early '80's than now. In 1879 and 1884 the Providence Grays, numbering in their ranks such paladins as "Old Hoss" Radbourne, John Ward, George Wright, Arthur Irwin, Bernard Gilligan, Joe Start, Jack Farrel, Charley Sweeney, Jim O'Rourke and others, captured the National League pennant.

To review these days of infancy and of greatness, as well as the fine players and contests since, is the object of this series of stories. Colorful characters, queer plays, great examples of playing skill crowd the writer's memory. Some, perhaps, he has forgotten. At any rate it is his purpose to attempt a history of baseball in Providence.

Professional baseball has been played in Rhode Island more than half a century. There were many nines in this city and the State, some of them of more than local fame, previous to the organization of the Professional League of Baseball Clubs in 1871. This was the first organization, however, to put the game on an organized basis, and its formation stimulated the so-called semi-pro game here. It was not long after the Professional League gained a foothold that Providence men took up the game and laid a foundation that has endured to this day.

In the late '60s baseball began to attract attention and, by 1870, had progressed so far as to remove the game from the generation of "barntick" and "one old cat" to the regulation game of nine men on a side, with some semblance of playing rules. The boys of those days had little money to spend for balls, bats or other paraphernalia of the game, and many contests played on the Dexter Training Ground, were played with a ball of carefully treasured wrapping string, salvaged from the grocers' and marketmen's bundles. "Lastic" bands, carefully drawn from sister's discarded garters, gave the necessary bounce.

The bat was more often than not a soft pine stick, or perhaps, when fortune was kind, a willow affair, whittled to near the wanted shape and size. One bat and one ball was all the average nine possessed, and they varied greatly in size and shape from those owned by other teams. These tools of the master workmen of those days frequently changed hands, bats being the usual stake played for, the winning

nine taking the bat. Sometimes the winning nine went home without a bat at all, depending on how closely the cherished pieces of timber were guarded. Such things as gloves, masks, shin pads and body protectors were unknown then, and, indeed, he would have been a brave man who used any of the safety appliances now considered absolutely necessary. Often the ball be-

it, or thought it could. As many matches broke up in a flight as were finished peaceably. Many a free fight was broken up by the sighted of a player, or follower, running for Cranston street for dear life with a bat or two in his hand. All hands joined in the chase, but generally the robber got safely away with the stick.



Here are some old pictures of the champion Grays of 1885. They are reproduced here through the courtesy of Providence Lodge, B. P. O. E.

came the property of the nine having the man who could run the fastest, or who last had it in his possession.

There was no ethical aspect to the Training Ground games. Both teams were out to win, and to win at any cost. Everything went, as a rule, and more often than not, if one team couldn't beat the other, it could lick

The visit of the famous Cincinnati Red Stockings to Boston in 1859 served to stimulate baseball interest all over New England, and nowhere did the lightning strike harder than in Rhode Island. Nines were formed in nearly every village and town. Probably the two best teams during this period were the Providence Juniors and the Bristol of Bristol. They were fast aggregations as baseball went then, and bat-

tled through a season or two of rugged baseball.

To prove that scandals are not the exclusive property of modern baseball, an incident concerning these two teams stands out prominently. In one game of a series, large sums were wagered, the Bristol boys going to the battle ground loaded with money which was freely bet and covered as fast as shown. The Providence Juniors won the game, but the captain of the Bristol team nearly lost his life. He played wretchedly and his slips cost Bristol the game. He was accused of having sold the game and was chased by his irate fellow townsmen on murder bent. He escaped, but never appeared in Bristol again, so it is said.

No attempt at a uniform was made, except that sometimes the captain of the nine wore a red cap, with perhaps a few of the players sporting a web belt of gaudy stripes with the name of the nine stencilled thereon in shoe blacking of ink. Spiked shoes were unknown and most of the men played barefooted or in their stocking feet. The home base was a flat stone and the other bases round stones. Smashed, crooked toes, were as much a baseball sign as zig-zag fingers, and there plenty of both.

The Providence Juniors was one of the first teams in Rhode Island to make any pretense at regular organization, uniformed and playing the game according to code and with games scheduled ahead. The nine flourished in the early '70's, playing most of its home games on the Training Ground, going abroad occasionally as far as Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton. For the times, the nine was a good one and played fine baseball. Only nine players made up the club as no such thing as shifting pitchers or other players was known. This was a product of later generations. The Dexters was another team of prominence at that time.

Closely following the Providence Juniors came the Atlantics of Cranston, and the two nines engaged in more than one rattling game. These teams reached their greatest height in 1874, the interest shown in the games causing several Providence men to organize in the early spring of 1875 to build a baseball park and put the game on a strictly commercial basis. The organization was headed by the late Gen. Charles R. Dennis, who acted as managing director, and the team placed in the field was known as the Rhode Islands, being a direct offshoot of the Providence Juniors.

The first enclosed baseball grounds in Rhode Island was built on Adelaide avenue, a short distance from Broad street and, here, for three years, many of the stars of that time were seen in action. The Rhode Islands were composed of local players of more than ordinary ability, but toward the latter part of the season a player or two was imported to strengthen the team. The first box score as printed in the Providence Journal in the spring of 1875 shows the following batting order of the Rhode Islands: Haley, p.; Barry, 2b.; Holdgate, c. f.; Carr, s. s.; J. Nichols, 1b.; Lyman, l. f.; McAloon, c.; T. Nichols, 3b., and Evans, r. f.

Later scores have other names, a player named Flynn playing second base and later a second baseman was obtained from the Professional League. Games were played with Taunton, New Bedford, Fall River, Beacons of Boston and other teams. A team of shoemakers from Grafton, Mass., played a few games with the Rhode Islands and generally beat them. Several teams of the Professional League played exhibition games on the new park during the season.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

II

The semi-pro baseball season of 1875 at Adelaide Park was so successful that Gen. Dennis and his associates placed a much faster team on the field in 1876, one that would hold its own with any independent team in New England and strong enough to battle teams of the newly organized National League in exhibition games. In those days the league teams did not play every day as now, and it was easy to get the crack nines here on the open dates.

At a considerable cost the best players available were signed to Rhode Island contracts. They came from all points of the compass and made a formidable combination that was ready to face any team, big or little, in the country. The line-up that took the field early in May and continued with but one or two exceptions to September included Keenan, c.; Critchley, p.; Tobin, 1b.; Brady, 2b.; Tom Burns, 3b.; Jerry Turbldy, s. s.; Shanley, l. f.; Mat Barry, c. f.; Ed. Hanlon, r. f., and Thomas, extra man. Barry was the only local player of the lot. For a time Fred Cory also acted as extra man on the team.

The later-famous Ned Hanlon, for several years manager of the Baltimore National League champions, started the



NED HANLON.

season in the outfield, but when Tom Burns, later third baseman of the old Chicago champions under Capt. Anson, had trouble with the management and was sent on his way, Hanlon played third base. So far as is known Hanlon is the only survivor of the team. Manager Arnold played a few games in right field.

To give the 1876 season a rousing start, an exhibition game was arranged between the Bostons and New Haven

of the National League, and to the surprise of all hands the New Haven team won. The Bostons presented a battery that was considered one of the finest in the country in Joseph Borden, pitcher, and Ben McGinley behind the bat. A. G. Spalding had forsaken the Boston team to go to the newly organized Chicago team, "The Giants of the West," and "Josephus," as Borden chose to be called, was signed in his place.

"Josephus" belonged in Philadelphia and had cut a wide swath the previous year in semi-pro circles. But he didn't last long with Boston, as the other teams batted him to a fare-thee-well. Like Spalding, he used the old square-hand delivery, consisting of a free swing of the arm backwards nearly to the height of the shoulder and then forward like the pendulum of a clock, letting the ball go as the arm swung slightly forward of the body. The underhand throw was not common then. No curves were possible with the old style delivery, the pitcher depending on change of pace to fool the batsman. "Tricky" Nichols, later a member of the 1878 Providence Grays of the National League, pitched for New Haven.

Critchley was a young giant, who possessed a world of speed, and followers of the game have claimed he had as much speed as Walter Johnson in his best days. He threw an underhand ball, and to catch this cannonball delivery Keenan, a slight youngster, held sway behind the bat for almost the entire season. Thomas going in occasionally. Both catchers caught Critchley's terrific delivery with bare

hands, with no mask, chest protector, shinpads or glove.

But catching was not the hard task it is today, the catcher not going under the bat except when a batsman had two strikes or there were runners on the bases. The catcher stood in the shadow of the grandstand and took the ball on the bound when the bases were free and less than two strikes on the batter. Once a fan in the grandstand called to "Critch" to pitch a fast one, and he responded by hitting the backstop, 135 feet away, without the ball touching the ground and holding its level nearly the whole distance.

Tobin, the first baseman, was a tall youngster and played the entire season without once using a glove. In fact nobody used a glove in those days. Brady at second was a big man, also, and wore a flowing moustache. Burns and Hanlon at third looked very much then as they did when holding berths in the big league, both wearing moustaches. Jerry Turbidy was a little fellow, but he could play shortstop and withal was a comedian. In one game he played the entire nine innings with a battered silk hat on his head.

Shanley came from Brooklyn and was a fine fielder. Mat Barry was a local boy and was well-known in Providence.

Thomas was little known, but Fred Cory was a player of great promise and developed into one of the best pitchers in the country during the next two years, but was forced to quit baseball because of illness when at the height of his career. More about him later.

Semi-professional teams were supported in Taunton, Fall River, New Bedford and other places and it was with these teams that the Rhode Islands of 1876 played. The players travelled from Providence to the city where they were playing, in moving wagons drawn by a pair of horses and it was a slow, bone-shaking ride over the roads of that day. Salaries were low, the entire payroll of the Rhode Islands for a month being less than some individual minor league players get today for the same period.

Getting to Adelalde Park was not the easiest job in the world, as the street car service was limited, but the park itself was a gem, so far as the playing field was concerned. It was somewhat smaller than the present Kinsley Park, but large enough for home run drives inside the fence although with the dead ball in use at that time circuit drives were a rarity and worth extended comment in the papers the following day.

The seating capacity was small, the grandstand holding not more than 300, with 1200 seats in the bleachers. On hot days the bleacher crowd always went to the park early to get a seat under the great tree that grew up through the right field bleachers and spread over a goodly distance. Occasionally a ball was batted into the tree, to bounce down from limb to limb, and fetch up, sometimes, on the heads of the fans beneath.

That ball was precious. Only one ball was used in a game then and play was held up until it was returned. It was the same with foul balls over the stands; until the ball returned play was suspended. This system had its advantages as well, for the crowd, anxious to see the game, forced the finder of the ball to return it. Under the present system of throwing in a new ball every time one goes over the fence or the cover becomes a trifle rough, the Rhode Island club would have gone into bankruptcy the first month.

Among the National League teams to play the Rhode Islands at Adelalde Park, then in its first year of existence, were the Louisville, Hartford, Chicago and Boston clubs.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

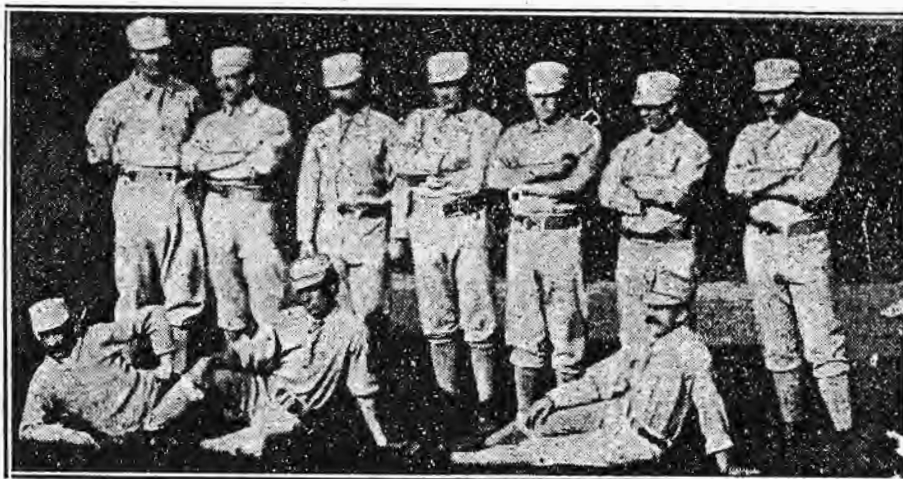
by  Wm D Perrin

III

The success of the 1876 Rhode Islands was one of the earliest examples of players capitalizing their good fortune in the history of baseball. When time came to talk business for the 1877 season Manager Arnold and every man on the team came out with demands that the local promoters, in baseball for the sole reason of furnishing Providence with good baseball and with no idea of profit, could not meet. Both sides were obdurate and as a result Manager Arnold took his whole team, with the exception of Matt Barry to Auburn, N. Y.

At this time Dickie Pearce, for many years a player in the National League and other baseball organizations, and who was living near New Bedford, was out of a job. The year before he had played shortstop for the St. Louis team, but didn't care to play again in that city. Hearing of the situation here he came to Providence one day, had an interview with Gen. Dennis and others of the Rhode Island promoters and was hired as manager and directed to organize a team to possibly better the one of the preceding year.

Pearce was a fiery character and was approaching the age when the game



Champion Providence Grays of 1879 — Reclining on the ground from left to right Bobby Mathews, p.; George Wright, s. s. and manager; Jack Farrell, 2b. Standing, left to right are Emil Gross, c.; Tom York, l. f.; Jim O'Rourke, r. f.; Joe Start, 1b.; John Ward, p.; Mike McGeary, 3b., and Paul Hines, c. f.

was getting ahead of him. He was short and stout and wore a moustache with long waxed ends, giving him a somewhat fierce appearance, and tradition

has it that he was as fierce as he looked. He had to be, as ball players of a half-century ago were a different lot from the present day brand.

It was a man's job to gather a team at that time that would be better than the Rhode Islands of the Centennial year. But although the promoters would not be held up for tribute by the Arnold team they were willing to go a bit further to gather a new combination that would fill the bill. Pearce set to work and the first man signed was Fred Cory; one of the most promising young pitchers in the country. He was a Providence boy and acted as substitute on the 1876 team. Then a catcher from the Cincinnati Reds of the year before, Pierson by name, was obtained. He started with the team, but couldn't get along with Pearce and was let go early in the season, Dungan doing all the catching thereafter.

Little is known of Dungan, other than that as a backstop he filled the bill. He was a small man and wore a moustache and goatee. Imagine a catcher today going behind the plate without mask, glove, chest protector or shin pads, with whiskers blowing about with every fast pitch.

It was at this time that the famous "One Arm Dailey" came to the front. He was a big man with his left hand off at the wrist. He wore a chamois skin covering for the stump of his left arm and rubbed the ball against it when about to deliver to the batters. He had a fine assortment of curves and was a regular ball player. When it was announced that Dailey had been signed many fans about town lifted their brows. It took just one game to convince everybody that Dailey was all right.

In his first game at Adelaide Park he pitched fine ball and in addition contributed a three-base hit. He grasped the bat in his right hand and held the stump of the left arm against the bat. Later he played a few games in right field and pulled long flies out of the air as well as a two-handed man, taking the ball between his hand and the stump. He was too valuable a man to remain long with the Rhode Islands and after a few weeks left the club to join a big league team. His departure placed the entire pitching burden on Fred Cory, who

pitched about all the games for the remainder of the season.

First base was the troublesome point with Manager Pearce and he had several men covering the position during the season. Sellman was the first regular, joining the team a few weeks after the start of the season. Evans, Cory and others having done temporary duty there. When the season was at its height and the Rhode Islands were making a fine record, a wild ball hit Sellman on the nose, breaking it so that he had to leave the team. A young player named Firth took his place.

Second base was in charge of Charley Sweasey, who played the previous year with the Cincinnati Red Stockings. Sweasey was credited with being the best second baseman outside of the National League. He was a fine fielder, could hit well and knew the game. His record was so good that he was selected as the regular second baseman for the Grays of the National League the following year. Pearce played short-field all the season.

A red-headed youth named Reville started on third base, but never could get along with Pearce and after playing for about half the season was taken out and put in the box office selling tickets. Later he played a few games in the outfield. He was replaced on third base by Kessler, also a fine player, who later went to the National League.

The outfield was strong, with Stone of New Bedford in left; Evans, later with several National League teams, in centre, and a variety in right. Dailey, Cory, Reville and Richmond of the Brown University team played the position at times.

No definite schedule was followed. Games were arranged a short time before they were played. The majority of games were with the Fall River team, Live Oaks of Lynn, Lowell, Manchester and Auburn. Several National League teams were seen at Adelaide Park during the season. Because of the feeling between the Rhode Islands of 1876 and the team of 1877, the five games played with Auburn, the Rhode Islands of 1876, were fiercely fought affairs, with

great crowds attending. Rooting for both teams was violent.

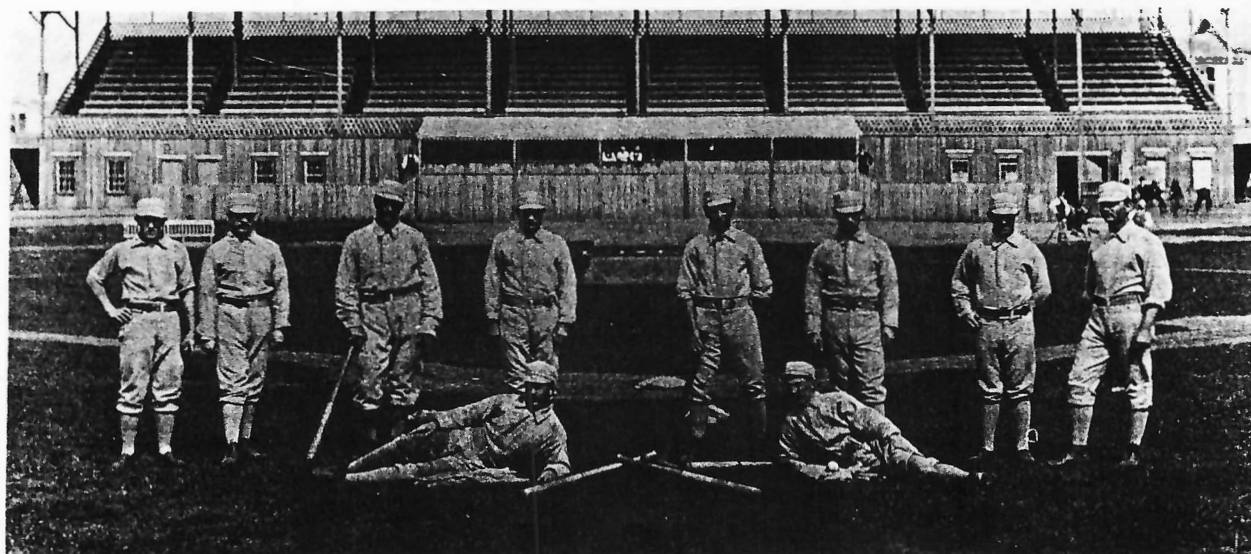
The records show that the two teams met five times, with one game a tie, one won by Auburn and three by the Rhode Islands. The first meeting was on Monday, July 23, with more than 4000 attending. The teams battled for 15 innings to a 3-3 tie and as darkness fell the game was ended. Four days later the teams met again, with 2500 present, but this time Auburn won by a score of 2 to 0.

As a fitting windup of the season a series of three games with the Auburns was played in September, the Rhode Islands winning all. There were hints of a scandal connected with the series, as for some unknown reason Critchley failed to show up and a man named Rossman pitched for the visitors. There was much betting and talk.

On the afternoon of Sept. 11 the Rhode Islands won by a score of 2 to 0; the next day the Rhode Islands won by a score of 7 to 3. The final game of the series was played Sept. 14 and also went to the Rhode Islands by a 5 to 2 score.

Of the exhibition games played by the Rhode Islands, two with the old Athletics of Philadelphia were the outstanding contests. The Athletics were in Providence for three days, defeating the Rhode Islands 2 to 0 June 2 and 3 to 2 two days later. Another game that was outstanding at the time was that of May 15 when the Lowell team won a 14-inning battle by a score of 12 to 8, Cory and Dailey dividing the pitching burden.

The Auburn games were the last of importance played at old Adelaide Park for the following year found Providence in the National League with new grounds on Messer street. Adelaide Park was located a few hundred feet from Broad street on Adelaide avenue, and some of the older fans of the city will remember the scramble that resulted on every hot day when everybody wanted to get a seat in the first base bleachers under the wide-spreading oak tree that grew up almost in the centre of the bleachers. With many homes now on the site of the old park not a vestige remains, not even the tree.



Champion Providence Grays of 1879: Standing: (Left to Right) – Monte Ward, Tom York, Emil Gross, Joe Start, Player-Manager George Wright, Jim O'Rourke, Mike McGeary, Paul Hines. Seated in front – Jack Farrell and Bobby Mathews. (Photo courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society)

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

IV

Although a matter of but a few months more than a half century has elapsed since the movement to place a National League team in Providence was launched, nobody seems to remember the exact facts. Most of the original movers in the venture are known, but so far as is known not one of the organizers is now alive. Old-time baseball men in Providence recall the circumstances of locating the National League franchise here.

The press of the day made little of baseball and diligent search in the files reveals little of importance bearing on the matter. Among the business men of the city who were responsible for locating the old Providence Grays here were Col. Henry B. Winship, Marsh Meade, Phil Case, Newton Dexter, Horace Bloodgood, J. Lipplit Snow, Newton Earle, New Allen and Henry T. Root. There were a few others, but their identity is not known. Mr. Root was the first president of the club.

Hartford was not wanted in the circuit as it was then a small city and was felt to be more of a liability to the National League than an asset. But the promoters there made good every obligation and how to get the city out of the league was a problem. At the meeting of the League, held late in 1877 or early in 1878, a vote was passed that no city of less than 75,000 could hold a franchise in the League. This eliminated Hartford.

As nearly as can be learned Benjamin Douglas, Jr., son of a wealthy man in Hartford, with a liking for baseball, came to Providence one day early in 1878 and called on the prominent business men interested in the game. His visit resulted in the men spoken of above joining in subscribing the necessary capital to float the club.

Col. Winship, apparently, was the prime mover for whatever light the press of the day throws upon the matter shines on him. The first move was to obtain a site for the proposed ball park and a committee named by him, now unknown, finally settled on the Messer street location, part way between High, now Westminster street, and Cranston street, and the lease of the property was signed Feb. 26, 1878.

The land needed little grading and about April 1, while this was underway a gang of carpenters started work on the fence and stands. It was the intention of the promoters to erect the best baseball plant in the country, and this was carried out. Although far behind many minor league parks of the present day it was then, a half century ago, the last word in baseball park construction. It was 500 feet square, with a grandstand to seat about 2000 and bleacher capacity of about 4000. The infield was as smooth as a bill-

iard table, the base paths being the only break in the expanse of green sward. There was no wide patch of rolled dirt such as now features all baseball parks.

In the meantime Manager Douglas had arrived in Providence and began getting his team together. He signed the entire team, with the exception of Louis T. Brown, who was later obtained from Boston, but before the season opened Douglas was released, the cause being given as "incompetency." The real motives of the move are unknown. Douglas Allison was the catcher, Fred Cory and Tricky Nichols, pitchers. Cory was a Providence product. Tim Murnane was first base and Charles Sweasey, second base. Hague was third base and Carey, shortstop and captain. In the outfield were Tommy York in left, Paul Hines in centre and Dick Higham in right. Mr. Root assumed the management of the team.

Practice was begun early in April. Dexter Training Ground was obtained by permission of the city authorities. Every fine day during the month the players assembled for practice. There were no Southern training trips in those days. The practice sessions on the Training Ground were watched by large gatherings, according to stories in the papers, considerable stress being placed on the fine way Allison caught for Cory and Nichols.

May Day was set for the opening of the park and the baseball season. The new park was not completed and the weather was doubtful, threatening rain. A gang of men worked until dark April 30 and began again almost at daylight.

The final nail was driven and the last remnant of shavings and dirt was carted off the park just five minutes before Umpire Charles Daniels called "Play ball." And it did not rain. Six thousand attended, filling the park to capacity.

"The Providence Nine," as the directors named the team officially, made a bit of history on this opening day by appearing in steel gray uniforms trimmed with blue, the first team to break away from the white uniform. Across the breast of the shirts were the letters in large Old English characters "P. B. B. C."

Cheer after cheer greeted the teams as they took the field for the game. Cory and Bond were the pitchers, the line-ups being: Providence—York, 1. f.; Higham, r. f.; Murnane, 1b.; Hines, c. f.; Carey, s. s.; Brown, c.; Hague, 3b.; Cory, Jr., and Sweasey, 2b. Why Sweasey was placed at the tail-end of the batting order has always been a mystery. Boston—Wright, s. s.; Leonard, 1. f.; O'Rourke, c. f.; Manning, r. f.; Sutton, 3b.; Burdock, 2b.; Morrill, 1b.; Snyder, c., and Bond, p.

For the first three innings not a hit was made, but in the fourth York hit

safely for the Providence's first base hit in the National League; Burdock in fumbling Hague's grounder made the first error at Messer Park. The only run of the game was made in the seventh inning when Leonard hit safely and stole second; he raced up to third as Murnane ran out O'Rourke at first and scored when Manning hit solidly to right for two bases. Boston won the game by a score of 1 to 0, making six hits off Cory and three errors. The Grays got but three hits off Bond and also made three errors.

To play every day was considered impossible in those days and it was the following Saturday before the teams again met, this time in Boston. Providence won by a score of 8 to 6. Nichols pitched for the Grays and Allison was behind the bat. Higham had a batting streak, his hitting alone winning for Providence; he made a single, a double and a home run, the ball going over the left fence and on to the railroad track for the first home run in the National League that year.

No games were played until Thursday of the following week when Providence won on the Messer street grounds by a score of 3 to 2. This game is probably more talked about than any of the thousands played since in organized ball as it was in this contest that the

Paul Hines



Member of first National League club in Providence in 1878. He played centre field, and in the third game of the season, staged on the old Messer street grounds, he pulled off a triple play. The play was a deciding factor in the victory of the Providence team, 3 to 2, and there was controversy over the feat for years.

much-discussed triple play by Paul Hines was made, the first in the history of baseball. The circumstances of this play have afforded more arguments than any other known play.

That the play was made is not disputed, but whether Hines made the play unassisted or whether Sweasey completed it by retiring the third man has been a subject for argument for more than 50 years. Here is what hap-

pened: O'Rourke drew a base on balls and scored when Sweasey threw Manning's drive over Murnane's head, Manning going to third on the error. Murnane muffed Sutton's fly, Manning holding third. Burdock was next up and dropped the ball just over Carey's head for what looked like a safe hit.

The story in the Providence Journal of the next day thus describes the play: "Manning and Sutton proceeded to the home plate," meaning that both rounded third. "Hines ran in and caught the ball, and kept going to tag third." The rule then as now requires that when a base runner is forced to retrace his steps he must retouch the bases passed in reverse order. As Hines touched third with the ball in his hand, after making the catch, before either Manning or Sutton could get back, both were out automatically. It is true that Hines then on a signal from Sweasey threw the ball to second, but this was unnecessary as both runners were out at third.

This description in the Providence Journal should settle the matter for all time, as it is evident that Hines made the triple play unassisted. The second largest crowd of the season saw the game, more than 5000 attending.

It was a weird schedule the Grays and Boston played in this eight-game series of 50 years ago, as the eight games were played over a period of 25 days, whereas today the teams would

play three times that number of games in the same time. The fourth game was played at Boston May 11 and was won by Boston by a score of 11 to 5. The box score of the game gives Providence 16 errors and Boston eight.

The fifth game, played at Messer Park, was another game that made history as the Grays defeated Boston 24 to 5, making 12 runs in the eighth inning and following this with seven in the ninth? The Grays made 25 hits off Bond and Manning. Hines getting a home run, Brown three two-base hits and York two triples. The Bostonians made 16 errors, every man on the team getting at least one, Manning making four.

Providence won the sixth game 6 to 2, while Boston won the seventh 12 to 10 and the eighth 17 to 10, the series being split with four games each.

At the end of the first Boston series Milwaukee opened a series at Messer street, being the first Western team to come here, and won the first game.

A few weeks after the opening of the season of 1878 Fred Cory was forced because of illness to stop pitching and Tricky Nichols lost his skill entirely, so the Grays were hard put for pitchers. For some time pitchers came and went. Healey of the Atlantics of Cranston pitched a few games, and in one game Lew Brown went into the box, following a short stay there of Allison, both players thus working at both ends of the battery. But a little later Johnny

Ward was obtained from the Crickets of Binghamton and became the regular pitcher for the remainder of the season and for a few seasons thereafter.

At the end of the 1878 season the Grays were in third place, with 33 games won and 27 lost, the final standing of the league being: Boston, 41 won, 19 lost; Cincinnati, 37 and 23; Providence, 33 and 27; Chicago, 30 and 30; Indianapolis, 24 and 36, and Milwaukee, 15 and 45, the season's schedule calling for but 60 games as compared with 154 played by the major leagues today.

Following the league season the Grays played a number of exhibition games with teams playing independent ball and with other leagues, the season lasting almost to the first of November that year.

The Grays and Boston played for the "New England championship," with the Grays represented as challenging. Boston won three straight, two of the games being shutouts.

Of the Providence players in this first game Brown, Cory, Murnane, Sweasey and Higham are known to be dead; York and Hines are still living, but nothing is known of Allison, Hague or Carey.



V

Baseball law in 1879 was far from the finished code it is now and many things could be done that a few years later were prohibited by rules based on experience. There was no reserve rule a half century ago and, because of this, clubs of the National League had no control of players after the close of the playing season of each year. Contracts were for one year only, and all players were free agents at the end of each season.

Because of this the promoters of the Providence Nine were in a position to add several players of the highest calibre to the roster of the 1879 team, men who were considered among the first flight of stars of baseball. The success of the first year in the National League spurred the promoters to greater ambitions for the second year and the pennant bee buzzed loudly in their bonnets. Expense was no factor and President Root and his associates laid their plans well for a champion team in 1879.

Great was the sorrow of Boston fans when it was announced that George Wright and Jim O'Rourke had signed

contracts to play with the Providence Nine of 1879. George Wright was considered not only as the greatest short-stop in baseball, but the best player in the game. Jim O'Rourke stood equally high as an outfielder and in addition was a first-class catcher. Having won the championship of the National League in 1878 with great profit to the Boston club owners they asked for larger salaries in 1879, and having been refused decided to go where they could get the money. They were probably the first holdouts in organized baseball.

Knowing of the situation in Boston two or three of the Providence promoters went to Boston one day, interviewed Wright and O'Rourke, agreed to their terms and signed them to Providence contracts. George Wright was appointed manager of the team and plans were laid to strengthen the outfit in other positions.

First and second bases had been none too strong in 1878 and it was necessary to get new players for each bag. "Reliable" Joe Start had made a great record with the Chicago team under "Baby" Anson, and as the Grays' own-

ers learned he was anxious to get away he was asked to sign a Providence contract and did. For second base Mike McGeary, a player of great ability, was signed, leaving only Hague of the 1878 infield.

Johnny Ward was signed as the first string pitcher of the Grays, his fine work in 1878 making any other pitcher unthinkable. Ward had a peculiar delivery, and one that is forbidden under the present code. He turned his back on the batter, faced second base and, turning quickly, cut the ball loose for the plate. He was a hard man to hit. Bobby Mathews was also signed as change pitcher, as the second string boxman was known at the time. Two pitchers was considered an extravagance, but most teams carried two.

Lew Brown started the season as regular catcher of the Grays, but was a hard man to control and broke training a little too often to suit Capt. Wright, who held his patience until early in August when he began negotiations with Emil L. Gross, a young Chicago catcher who had made a great reputation on teams in the West and was at that time playing with the Detroit nine. Gross joined the Grays at Troy, N. Y., on the afternoon of Aug. 10, just 15 minutes before game time and played practically every game behind the bat for the remainder of the season. Gross was a youngster of 22 years, but was a giant in size and a hard-hitting, reliable backstop. A young catcher named Dennis J. Sullivan of Boston was

hired for cases of emergency. Wemmley caught a few games also.

With his first game Gross won a place in the hearts of Providence fans and his fine work behind the bat and hard hitting had a lot to do with the winning of the championship that year. One of Emil's first stunts was to knock the ball into the "bull pen" for a home run and a tremendous drive it was. Messer Park was 500 feet square, an enclosure so large that most ball parks of today could be set down within its confines and leave room enough to play ball.

Some time after the opening of the season the directors yielded to a popular demand for cheaper seats, as the half-dollar admission fee was large for the times. To carry out the idea a section of circus seats was erected in centre field, taking a portion of the space originally reserved for carriages, for at that time all well regulated ball parks provided a place for carriages,



LATE MAYOR DOYLE.

Ardent Supporter of Old Providence Grays Who Officiated at Celebration in Honor of Team.

charging an extra fee for the privilege. Admission to this section was but 10 cents after the fourth inning and many were the fans who took advantage of the bargain seats.

It was as good as a show to see the rush for the bull pen seats when the gates were opened at the end of the fourth inning. The gods assembled just outside the horse gate in the left field corner and on days of big games the fence in that quarter actually bulged in as the crowd surged against it. Some days it took a squad of policemen and 10 ticket takers to collect the dimes as the bargain hunters swelled through the gate.

In addition to the dropping of Lew Brown but one change of any account was made in the 1879 Grays in their rush for the pennant. Hague started at third base and played several weeks

at the hot corner, but was not just what Manager Wright wanted. He was released in August and Ward and Mathews played the bag until the disbanding of the Syracuse team near the end of the season. Syracuse had made a sorry showing in the league, but among the few players who twinkled was Jack Farrell, second baseman. He was some second sacker and they have made few since who were better. Farrell joined the Grays Sept. 12.

Mike McGeary had covered the key-stone sack up to this time, but preferred to play third, and when Syracuse Stars, as they were called, had been blotted out, recommended that Farrell be obtained for second base. This was done and McGeary went to third. Hague had made many friends among the Providence fans and his going raised the first murmur of disapproval, but so strong did the new combination prove that the traditional fickleness of baseball fans came to the surface and Hague, who remained in town for some time, was lucky to get a pleasant look from his former admirers.

The Grays opened the season at Cleveland on May 1 and won by a score of 15 to 8. Carey, shortstop of the 1878 Grays, played that position for Cleveland. Providence was the class of the National League and before the season was half over it was evident that, barring serious accidents, the club would win the pennant. But this serious accident happened, although it did not kill chances for the flag. One day a badly twisting ball hit Joe Start's hand, breaking one of his fingers and "Old Reliable" was out of the game several weeks, Mathews playing first base part of the time, with Jim O'Rourke taking up the assignment in the remainder of the interval. Start rejoined the Grays July 23 and from that point the outcome of the season was hardly in doubt.

For weeks the battle for first place in the league was a bitter one, with Chicago and Boston fighting the Grays all the time. The disbanding of Syracuse helped the Grays in another way than the obtaining of Jack Farrell, as under the league rule then in effect when a team disbanded the standing should be revised, all games played by the disbanded team being erased from the record. As a result the Grays lost four victories and two defeats, Boston lost five victories and one defeat and Chicago lost two victories and one defeat, giving the Grays one full game advantage over Boston, but losing about the same to Chicago.

Sept. 30 was the date of the final game of the season, and, although the result made no difference in the standing more than 2000 fans saw the Grays defeat Boston 14 to 3. The Grays won 55 games and lost 23 during the season. The Bostons in second place won

49 and lost 29, thus giving the Grays the pennant by six games. The Grays were really champions, having won a majority of the games from each club in the league except Buffalo, and this series was split with six victories each. In 1879 the inter-team series consisted of but 12 games each instead of the 22 of the present system.

One feature of the final game not down on the program was the confusion of Johnny Ward when Col. Henry B. Winship, secretary of the club, marched to the centre of the diamond and, holding up the game, presented Johnny a floral ball, tied with white ribbon, with the announcement, heard all over the park, that the piece came from "Ward's lady friends." Years afterwards Johnny told the writer that he never was more tongue-tied in his life than on this occasion and that he kept the faded flowers and ribbon, yellowed with age, as a warning that "Pride goeth before a fall."

Interest was at a fever heat in Rhode Island all summer. Immense crowds gathered every afternoon in the neighborhood of the Providence Journal office, then at Turks Head, to watch the progress of the out-of-town games as the result of each inning was posted in the front window. On a few occasions it was almost impossible for the street cars or vehicles of any kind to get through. Business men left their stores, lawyers ran out of court and doctors neglected their patients to stand on the hot pavements to see "how the Grays are coming out."

On the night following the final game, many of these 33rd degree fans and hundreds of others went to the old Park Gardens on Broad street to take part in a reception to the Grays. The players were taken from the park in moving wagons and were tendered a banquet in the pavilion, especially fitted and decorated for the occasion. The Pawtucket Cornet Band furnished the music. The Providence Journal of the next day referred to the rivers of champagne that flowed as a fountain all night. The Boston team was invited, but Harry Wright, manager of the team, refused the invitation and returned to Boston with all his players except Snyder, who remained for the ceremonies.

Manager George Wright was given a floral bat and ball and each player received a gold medal, Mayor Doyle doing the honors and complimenting each player as he pinned the medal on his coat. The thing was done right in all respects, one feature being that as the Mayor called each player before him the athlete's name blazed out in colored fire from a frame near-by. Following the close of the championship season the Grays held together and played a number of exhibition games about the country.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

VI.

The coup whereby the Providence Grays obtained George Wright and Jim O'Rourke from the Boston club, started something nobody foresaw; it set the magnates to thinking. The possibility of every team being disrupted at the end of every championship season by several teams bidding for one player stared the promoters in the face. It meant more than this, for naturally the price demanded by such players rose with each bid, and it became plain that if continued salaries would mount to heights hitherto unknown and far above what the clubs could pay.

What it meant to the Providence club may be seen when it is stated that the profits of the Providence club for 1879, although producing a championship team, were but \$2000, and a major portion of this was needed to improve the ball park and make necessary changes. At a meeting of the National League in October, 1879, held at Buffalo, a "gentlemen's agreement" was entered into whereby each club could reserve five players for the succeeding season. This was the first rule adopted permitting the reservation of players, the rule that now means the salvation of baseball.

George Wright was one of the first reserved by the Providence club, and this act was much more far reaching than the promoters had any idea. It resulted in the retirement of Wright from baseball, although he played a few games with the Grays a season or two later. Jim O'Rourke was not one of the five reserved and he took advantage of the situation to return to the Boston club, playing right field and change catcher.

The sporting goods business had begun to be a factor in 1879 and George Wright associated himself with some Boston business men and established a house that is still in existence. He wanted to play in Boston because of this business, but the Providence club refused to release him. This so-called gentlemen's agreement entered into at Buffalo was supposed to have been kept secret, but some newspaper found out what was going on and the whole thing soon became public. But for the adoption of this rule, subsequently being extended to include every player under contract, it is doubtful if baseball as now carried on would have survived more than a few years.

Many were the communications between Wright and the Providence club, but in each case Wright refused to reconsider his determination to retire from the game. To guard against the event that George Wright would not return Robert Morrow, one of the owners of the Theatre Comique and later manager of the Providence Opera House, was elected manager. To fill the gap at

short field Peters, who played with the Chicago team in 1879, was signed as shortstop. Mike McGeary was appointed captain of the team. The matter was definitely settled April 14, when Mr. Wright notified Manager Morrow that his decision was final and that he would not play with Providence in 1880.

He announced that he had completed arrangements with a cricket club to play and coach the eleven, which would give him the opportunity to oversee his sporting goods business, which, as the Providence Journal of the day stated, "The sporting goods business has assumed a flourishing condition, necessitating the engagement of several clerks and the occupancy of larger quarters. He retires from the arena leaving behind a record that has never been surpassed in the history of the game and which his successor will try and emulate. As a fielder he was fearless, active and clear-headed, as a batsman, he proved efficient and reliable in critical situations; as a captain, he was watchful, dignified and intelligent, and his genial and dignified deportment off the field won him many firm friends in this city and abroad."

The Worcester club was admitted to the National League at the fall meeting and made an effort to get Wright to manage and play shortstop, but the Providence club refused to release him. Efforts were made by the Providence club to get Jim White to sign with the Grays, but he refused, preferring to remain on his farm not far from New York city.

Much trouble was experienced in getting Peters to report after he had signed his contract and only on threats of expulsion from the National League was he induced to report. To fill O'Rourke's place in right field and "change catcher," Mike Dorgan was signed and reported when ordered. Peters reported April 19 and the team was complete, being classed as the strongest team ever assembled.

Just before the opening of the season two professional men of Providence made a pool of \$2000 to wages on the Grays. Of this \$500 was to be wagered even that Providence would prove superior to Cincinnati; \$500 even that the Grays would lead Boston in the championship race, and \$1000 against \$1000 that Providence would win the pennant. How much of this money was placed is unknown.

On the afternoon of April 2 Ward, Gross, Farrell, McGeary, York, Dorgan and Bradley, signed as "change pitcher" and emergency player, started practice at Messer Park. The Grays of 1880 was the first team to take a Southern trip in the spring, a move considered absolutely necessary now. The team went to Washington to play a series of three games with the old Na-

tionals. The first game resulted in a tie score, the game being called at the end of the ninth inning with the score standing 4-4. This game was played April 9, and on the 11th the teams engaged in a game, going 13 innings which was won by the Nationals, 3 to 2. No record can be found of the third game, if indeed it was played.

The Grays fielded the following team: Dorgan, r. f.; Start, 1b.; Hines, c. f.; Gross, c.; Farrell, 2b.; York, l. f.; Ward, p.; McGeary, 3b.; Bradley, s. s. Coming back to Providence the Grays played the Brown University team April 19 and won, 13 to 3. Two days later the Grays again defeated Brown, the score in this game being 10 to 0. Peters arrived in time to take part in this game and was given a rousing welcome by the fans, and played a great game. Lee Richmond was the only Brown man to get a hit off Ward.

Meeting the Baltimore team April 28, the Grays were beaten by a score of 5 to 1, this being the first defeat of the year at Messer Park. In this game "One-Arm" Dailey pitched for Baltimore and held the Grays to seven hits. He was a member of the Rhode Islands of 1877, it will be remembered. Bradley and Dorgan formed the battery for Providence in this game.

May 1, 1880, was a gala day with Providence baseball fans, this being the opening game of the season. Boston was the opposing team and the Grays won by a score of 8 to 0. The attendance was given out as 2750, including 400 Boston fans, who took advantage of a special ticket costing \$1 for the round trip. The raising of the 1879 pennant was the feature of the afternoon, the players marching to the flagpole and raising the flag.

In this game the Grays' lineup was Dorgan, r. f.; Start, 1b.; Hines, c. f.; Gross, c.; Farrell, 2b.; Ward, p.; York, l. f.; Peters, s. s.; McGeary, 3b. The Boston lineup was Jones, l. f.; Jim O'Rourke, c.; John O'Rourke, c. f.; Foley, 1b.; Morrill, 3b.; Houck, r. f.; Burdock, 2b.; Bond, p.; Sutton, 3b. The Grays made 10 hits and five errors and the Bostonians made seven hits and nine errors. Boston won the second game at Boston, 4 to 3, but the Grays took the rubber game at Messer Park by a score of 1 to 0. The run was made in the "lucky seventh," Farrell leading off with a single. He was nipped, however, trying to steal. "O'Rourke making a perfect throw to Burdock," the Providence Journal's story the next day, declaring the decision a questionable one by the umpire.

Ward filed to Sutton, but York contributed a single to right. Here came in a comedy play that gave Providence the run. Peters hit in front of the plate and Bond rushed in and grabbed the ball and threw with great swiftness to Foley. Peters was already on the bag and the ball hit him on the right ear and bounded to the outfield. York scoring before it was recovered, "crossing the plate amid tremendous enthusiasm."

In Boston's half of the ninth the Reds threatened to score. Sutton opened the inning by flying to Farrell; Jones hit safely to right; Jim O'Rourke

popped to Ward, who purposely dropped the ball and then threw to Farrell to force Jones. With two out O'Rourke danced about first base waiting the opportunity to steal second, but Ward threw the ball to Start, who tagged O'Rourke off the bag, and the game ended.

Worcester came to Messer Park following the Boston series, and won the first game, 3 to 2. "because," as the Journal story the following day declares "of reckless fielding by one of the Providence players," presumably Gross, who is charged with missing several third strikes and in throwing poorly. In this game Providence made 10 hits off Richmond, while Worcester made but two off Ward. Worcester made a triple play in this game.

The Worcester line-up was Story, c. f.; Wood, 1. f.; Richmond, p.; Knight, r. f.; Whitney, 3b.; Sullivan, 1b., playing without a glove; Irwin, s. s.; Bushong, c.; Creamer, 2b. Worcester won the entire series of three games, the second by a score of 10 to 8 and the third by a score of 7 to 6. All sorts of things happened in the second game, played at Worcester. Start making three er-

rors. Gross four, Ward two and McGeary three. Hines also batted out of turn, and after making a base hit was declared out therefor.

During this spell of bad work the baseball writers panned the team and the spectators acted just as they do now, jeering the Grays. The team was badly crippled with injuries to players and illness. One sports writer of the day said about Capt McGeary: "He was suffering with split finger and debilitated constitution."

On the morning of June 17 the Grays played the Buffalo team a championship game at Messer Park in the forenoon, shifting the time from the afternoon because of the Hop Bitters regatta on the Seekonk river in the afternoon. This game was a classic and put Johnny Ward into the baseball Hall of Fame, as he held the Bisons to no-hit, no-reach-first-base for the entire nine innings. Just 27 Buffalo players were at bat and every man died before reaching first base.

Capt. McGeary's illness reached such a stage that on June 1 he was given a 30 days leave of absence and he went

to his home, never again to wear a Providence uniform. Manager Morrow appointed Ward captain of the team, but he resigned June 25 and "Mike" Dorgan was made captain. Bradley was sent to third base, playing the bag permanently with the exception now and then of going into the pitcher's box to relieve Ward, who covered third base in these games.

Some time after the leave of absence given McGeary the club obtained "Saddle" Houck, known as the \$600 prize package, the term being used as Boston signed him, a fine player, for the sum of \$600 a year. He played a number of games in the outfield.

The Grays recovered from their slump and from June 1 to the finish played good ball, although finishing second to Chicago, winning 52 games and losing 32, Chicago winning 67 and losing but 17. The new champions consisted of Dalrymple, 1. f.; Gore, c. f.; Williamson, 3b.; Anson, 1b.; Kelley, r. f.; Corcoran or Goldsmith, p.; Flint, c.; Burns, s. s.; Quest, 2b.



VII

Finishing second in the 1880 campaign was a big disappointment to the directors of the Providence club. The Grays of that year failed to fulfill the high expectations of the people and fell short of the mark fixed by a considerable margin. Starting out in the campaign heralded as the strongest baseball team ever assembled up to that time it proved a much less formidable combination and, judging by results, was considerably behind the Chicago team that won the pennant.

The directors of the club decided to make radical changes in the makeup of the team for 1881 and to get a combination that would be not only stronger than the disappointing one of previous year, but strong enough to defeat Chicago in the race for the pennant. President Root again took on himself the leadership of the team and determined to add some young blood to the roster, the Providence club practically blazing the way in the employing of youngsters for a major league team. Heretofore it had been almost an unwritten rule that only veteran players could be used in the big show. James L. Bullock was appointed manager.

This new departure had far-reaching results and brought into the National League three of the greatest players who ever wore a uniform. President

Root had been tipped off to the fine work done by a young pitcher in the West by the name of Radbourne. This colt had made a name for himself in the so-called semi-professional line and several friends of President Root who had seen the boy pitch recommended him so highly that he was signed, the Providence club grabbing him off from under the noses of Anson and the other baseball magnates of the West.

Denny Signed

Out in California, a young giant known as Jerry Denny had attracted attention by his brilliant work on third base and, through friends in that State, Jerry was signed to a Providence contract. Barney Gilligan in 1880 caught for a semi-pro team in the vicinity of Boston and in much the same way that Radbourne and Denny were obtained this young star was signed to a Providence contract with the Boston magnates knowing nothing about the brightest catching prospect then at liberty.

These three players developed into stars of the first magnitude, Radbourne becoming the most famous pitcher of his day and generation and, today, with nearly a half century passed in the parade of the years, his name still is held high in the baseball hall of fame. Denny was scarcely behind Radbourne, and to Barney Gilligan is due a lot of the credit of making one of the great-

est pitchers of all time out of Charley Radbourne. No greater trio of future stars ever broke into baseball at the same time and on the same club.

This was not the limit, however, of the plans of the Providence directors, as they were out to strengthen every position on the team if possible. Peters had not suited the directors any too well and it was determined to get another man for shortfield. The player selected was McClellan, who, like Radbourne, Denny and Gilligan, was highly recommended. He played good baseball, but was not of the calibre of the three stars, and was little better, if any, than Peters.

Dorgan was another player of the 1880 team to get the gate, and his departure left right field open; York in left was none too strong, the directors thought, and lines were put out for an outfielder to fill either right or left field as circumstances shaped themselves. A young player by the name of Baker who had flashed across the horizon in the Nationals of Washington was signed as an outfielder and his name was mentioned as the possible captain of the nine. He was also a catcher of considerable ability.

But Baker either repented after signing the Providence contract, or listened to some bad advice, or the Nationals doubled up on his salary, or something else happened, for, after returning his signed contract, nothing more was heard of him and repeated letters and telegrams met with no response. Refusing to report, Baker was expelled from the National League, which carried with it the ban of the National League on the Nationals as that club played Baker after he was expelled.

Troublesome Season

The season of 1881 was more troublesome than any that had gone before.

The patronage at most of the games was small, although crowds of 1500 and 2000 were common when good attractions were on at Messer Park. The money began to run short early in the season, although during the spring entertainments were held to raise revenue. There will be more of this feature later on in this article.

The promoters of 1881 had advanced ideas of baseball and were generally a few steps ahead of the other clubs, their ideas being no win full force everywhere. It was thought that the pitching burden was too much for Ward to carry alone, and one of the directors at a meeting advocated carrying at least three pitchers, declaring that victories would come oftenest to the club with the heaviest artillery. The idea prevailed and Radbourne and Mathews were added to the pitching corps.

Radbourne was destined to become one of the most famous pitchers of all time and by all odds the greatest of his contemporaries. His work at first gave little promise of what he was later to become. A unique statement was made by one of the directors in regard to signing Radbourne, declaring that if Ward pitched every day opposing teams would become conversant with his delivery.

The Cleveland Herald in February, in speaking of Radbourne, said: "Patrons of the national pastime in this city will remember this player (Radbourne). He was engaged for last year's Buffalo club, but was so unfortunate at practice as to injure his strong right arm, disabling him for active work that year. He had the reputation when engaged of being as promising a young player as any in the country, and it was only after the management of the Buffalo club had tried every means in its power to bring him around that they reluctantly released him.

Brilliance Predicted

"It is said, however, that he has completely recovered from the effects of the accident and we saw enough of him while here to warrant the prediction that he will, barring accidents, make a brilliant record with the Providence Grays."

The writer of that story either spoke better than he knew, or had a great eye for pitchers. Radbourne made more than a brilliant record with the Providence Grays.

A little tempest was raised about the ears of the directors when it was announced early in February that George Wright had signed to play with the Bostons, although he declared he would play only in the games at Boston, Providence and Worcester. His business was growing and he did not care to leave it for long periods at a time. In the previous year, the Boston club had asked President Root for the loan of Wright for a few games, the Providence club holding the player through the Buffalo agreement. Mr. Root consented and the matter was construed to the effect that the release was permanent.

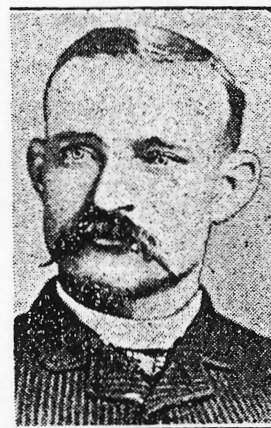
In commenting on this matter, a writer in the Providence Journal and Bulletin wrote: "Wright is just the man the Providence Grays need, being an experienced, cool-headed leader, and

just what the Grays need to keep them in line." But nothing came of the matter. Wright began the season with the Bostons, but hurt his knee in the second game and gave way to Ross Barnes. Later, Wright was released by Boston. The players reported to Manager Bullock April 1 and the practice season began. The first game was with Brown, April 14, the Grays winning by a score of 18 to 0. Providence made 11 hits and Brown 6. But it was in the fielding department of the game that drew attention, Brown making no less than 19 errors, of which Stuart Greene at second base is charged with seven. Barker made four. The Browns had no catcher for the day and Gilligan was loaned for the game.

Grays. Brown's run was manufactured from a fumble by Farrell, Smith's hit, a passed ball and a putout.

A picked nine came down from Boston one day and was beaten 18 to 1, Tim Murnane and Jack Manning playing on the picked team. The third Brown game went to the Grays by a score of 13 to 1, Brown again reducing the error column, making but seven. Providence made five. But this error column, scored according to ideas then in vogue, was greatly exaggerated, as in that far away day in the life of baseball any ball that a fielder even touched was recorded as an error. By modern methods of scoring, many of the so-called errors would be charged as hits.

STARS OF GRAYS OF 1881



Jerry Denny, at the left, and Charley Radbourne, "two youngsters" bought by the Providence Grays of 1881, to bolster up the team. These pictures are made possible through the courtesy of Providence Lodge, B. P. O. Elks.

Marvel of Skill

Not knowing Gilligan, the spectators marvelled at the skill of the catcher, suspicions being rife that Brown had put a ringer into the game. The next day, when it came out, the town was loud in praise of Gilligan. He developed with Radbourne into one of the greatest catchers in the national game.

In that game, the Grays' batting order was as follows: McClellan, ss.; Start, 1b.; Hines, cf.; Farrell, 2b.; Radbourne, rf. and p.; Ward, p. and rf.; Gross, c.; Denny, 3b.; York, lf. The Brown lineup was Dilts, ss.; S. Greene, 2b.; Taylor, 3b.; Smith, rf.; Rose, cf.; J. Greene, lf.; Barker, 1b.; Graves, p. Gilligan, c.

It was almost as bad in the second game, which the Grays won 20 to 1. The Grays made 18 hits off Smith, McClellan making a home run and a two-base hit. Radbourne and Mathews divided the pitching burden for Providence and held Brown to two hits. Brown's fielding showed great improvement over the first game, this time being content with but 13 slips, Ladd on third base and Rose in left field making three each. Gross caught for Brown in this game, and Gilligan for the

It beats all what will happen sometimes in baseball. What was expected to be the toughest game of the practice season turned into a farce, and a poor farce at that. The Aetna Baseball Association of Pawtucket was organized for the purpose of backing a baseball team and with the best players in Pawtucket on the roster and a fine record behind the team. Four of the Aetnas later played league ball. Miller and Bassett becoming big leaguers. The game attracted a fine crowd, many coming from Pawtucket to see the discomfiture of the Grays. But the Grays won by a score of 34 to 0! The only words of praise in the Providence Journal the next morning was for the fine playing of Bassett, Maloy and Graham. The Aetnas put the following team in the field: Graham lf.; Driscoll, ss.; Bassett, c.; Esser, cf., p.; Marshall, cf., 2b.; Miller, p., 1b.; Maloy, 1b., 2b.; Murphy, 3b.; Bigbee, rf.

41 Hits Recorded

Providence batted Miller and Esser for 28 hits and a total of 41 and made no errors. The Aetnas made five hits, one a double by Bassett; they also made 22 errors, Marshall leading with

six. Driscoll and Murphy made four errors each.

Seeking other fields to conquer, the Grays took a trip to New York to play the Metropolitans and, on April 23, lost their first game of the year by a 5 to 4 score. Dorgan of the 1880 Grays and One Arm Dalley of the 1877 Rhode Islands formed the battery for the Mets. The Grays won the second game, 6 to 1, and the third, 2 to 1.

Going over to Princeton, the Grays beat the Princeton team, 13 to 3, but

narrowly escaped censure from the National League officials, as Princeton had played the Nationals with Baker in the lineup, the latter the expelled player of the Grays. Trouble was saved when it was discovered that President Young of the National League had not yet promulgated Baker's expulsion. On the way home the Grays stopped over at New Haven and were beaten by Yale by a 9-6 score in a 10-inning game.

Jack Farrell was appointed captain and the season opened May 1 at Messer

Park, the Bostons winning the first game by a score of 4 to 2. The batting order was: McClellan, s. s.; Start, 1b.; Hines, c. f.; Farrell, 2b.; Radbourne, r. f.; Ward, p.; Gross, c.; Denny, 3b.; York, l. f. The Grays won the second game at Boston, 7 to 1, Mathews pitching with Ward in right field. Boston came back to Providence for the third game and won it, 3 to 0, Mathews also pitching this game.



VIII

The great Radbourne pitched his first game for Providence in the fourth game at Boston on May 5, winning by a score of 4 to 2. "Rad" held the Bostons to 10 hits, three of them two-baggers. As Boston had won both games played at Providence and the Grays had taken the first two at Boston, there was a lot of interest in the fifth game, and, on the morning of the clash, a Providence Journal writer suggested that it would be nice for the Grays to play all their games in Boston, and the Reds to play all their games in Providence. But the result of the fifth game smashed the combination, as with Mathews pitching the Grays lost by a score of 4 to 1. This gave the rubber game to Boston.

Following the final Boston game, the Grays went West, but failed to scare the Western teams. The first week in June found the Grays in sixth place, with nine games won and 11 lost. But the honor of being in sixth place was shared with Boston, the Reds having the same record as the Grays. Chicago led the league with 13 won and eight lost. July 1 the Grays had fallen to seventh place, with 15 victories and 21 defeats. Boston was last with 15 won and 23 lost. Up to this point, the Grays had won but one game in nine from Chicago.

In July, the batting order was changed and Joe Start, one of the heaviest hitters in the game, was placed last in the batting order. A lot of adverse criticism was afloat about town and attendance at Messer Park fell off alarmingly. But by the first of August the team had worked its way up to fourth place with 31 victories and 32 defeats and the crowds began to swear by the team and to predict the pennant. The team was 9½ games out of first place, still held by Chicago.

New Player Engaged.

About this time, a young shortstop named Meyers was engaged, as McClellan was not playing good ball and in addition had a bruised thumb.

Gross had turned his ankle badly in sliding into second base and was apparently out of the game for the remainder of the season. He was a familiar sight at Messer Park for a time, walking about on crutches. Meyers was a false alarm and showed in a few days that he was an amateur and a poor amateur at that. He was finally black-listed for "obtaining money on false pretenses." He had drawn \$57 from the club, of which \$17 was an overdraft. He was absent at the sick bed of his mother, so he said, which accounted for the \$17. He promised to make the money good, but jumped the town and was never heard of any more. So went \$57 of the club's hard-earned money.

Emil Gross was one of the hardest hitters in the game and was the terror of infielders. Bob Ferguson, one of the outstanding infielders of his day and generation, paid a great tribute to Gross's batting powers one day, following a game at Messer Park. Ferguson came to Providence with the Troy team, then a member of the National League, and played third base. The first time at bat Gross shot a ball at Ferguson with so much power behind it that it turned Bob completely around as he stopped it and nearly knocked him off his feet.

The second time at bat, Gross drove the ball at Ferguson so hard that he didn't have time to move, the ball hitting him on the foot and all but disabling him. The third time up, Gross whistled the ball past Bob's head at terrific speed, barely missing him. The fourth time up in the same game, Gross smashed another at Bob that dazed him. That night at the Narragansett Hotel, Ferguson asked an old-timer: "Who in blazes is that giant kid you fellows have catching in this town?"

"Why, that's Emil Gross," he was told.

Ultimatum Issued

"Well," Bob retorted, "either he or me will have to get out of the league, as I

will never take another chance on being killed."

But a defeat or two set the tongues wagging again and things came to such a pass late in July that the stockholders began to kick and President Root called a special meeting for Aug. 1. The meeting was held in Mr. Root's office and was a stormy one.

It was found that \$2650 worth of the stock was represented, or a little over the one-quarter needed, which shows the capital stock of the club to have been \$10,000! Today that amount would not buy Babe Ruth's glove; but it was considered sufficient in those days.

The stockholders present scored the management to the limit and, as a result, resignations poured in by the wholesale. The way the team had been run was the burden of the song of the disgruntled stockholders; the management was sharply criticised. The semi-monthly salaries were due and the cash in the treasury was several hundred dollars shy of the amount needed that day for salaries.

President Root's financial statement showed that the gate receipts at Messer Park to Aug. 1 amounted to \$6244.95, a loss of \$780.50 from the same date, the previous season. Some of the stockholders demanded to know why the salaries of players out of the game because of illness or injuries was not taken from their pay. One mentioned the fact that Hines had been out of the line-up for several days because of an injured finger, and declared Hines owed the club \$100.

Stillman White demurred at this, declaring it ridiculous to dock a player out of the game because of illness or injury obtained while in the discharge of his duty. Col. J. Lipplitt Snow declared that the main question was the lack of interest in the community in the management. He declared the players were permitted to get drunk and that no discipline existed on the team. He did not think there was sufficient confidence in the management to warrant the stockholders making up the deficit out of their pockets. "It was not good policy," he declared, "to overlook the faults of the players by treating them gently when guilty of glaring faults."

Root Seeks Release

According to President Root it would take about \$1500 to carry the club along until Nov. 1, this in addition to

the probable gate receipts. In the same breath, Mr. Root offered \$100 to the club to be released from his duties as President, declaring the job was injuring his business a lot. Later Mr. Root made an offer to subscribe the \$500 needed if he were sustained by the directors. This he did and the meeting adjourned for two weeks.

The next day Farrell resigned as captain and York was appointed, with Denny as assistant captain, apparently two captains being necessary to keep the men playing ball.

Light batting seemed the worst fault of the team and, when in the game of Aug. 4 but three hits were made, the story next morning in the Providence Journal says, "Move second base to centrefield, let the fielders take their position in the far off driveway and let the opposing pitcher throw from the present site of second base; the team might get a few hits."

Perhaps the roast had some effect, as the next day the Grays tore off 13 hits with a total of 16 from the delivery of Keefe of the Troys. The same scribe, in winding up his article, hoped "Umpire Smith will become more prompt in rendering decisions."

At this time, the players broke into print, accusing the management of being to blame for the conditions in the club.

On Aug. 12 the adjourned meeting of the stockholders was held at President Root's office and a thorough housecleaning was made. Stock to the amount of \$3700 was represented. President Root's resignation was accepted, but he was immediately elected president pro tem. A. Duncan Chapin, chairman of the board of directors, and Director Howard also resigned. James L. Bullock resigned as secretary and member of the board of directors. Mr. Root also resigned as treasurer.

Gardner Elected.

Dr. C. T. Gardner was elected President and Robert Morrow was elected secretary and treasurer. The following were elected a board of directors: Dr. Gardner, H. S. Bloodgood, T. C. Peckham, H. B. Winship and Newton Earl. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Root.

It was announced that \$700 would be needed in two days and that the treasury contained but \$175. In five minutes more than \$1300 was subscribed, and it was voted to inform the public that subscriptions from \$5 up would be received. So much enthusiasm developed in a few minutes that the new board of directors declared that Providence would continue in the National League and that the best team possible would be put in the field the next season.

Manager Bullock resigned and Robert Morrow was again elected as manager. The new manager at once communicated with George Wright, asking him to join the team for the rest of the season, but Mr. Wright refused because of business reasons, but offered his help in any other way possible. Manager Morrow also wired Lew Brown to report to the club, which he did and played the outfield for the balance of the season. The day following his appointment, Manager Morrow had a talk with the players and warned them that he would do everything possible to maintain discipline and expected them to play ball to the best of their ability.

Tommy York was appointed captain, with positive instructions to report to the manager all breaches of discipline.

There was a lot of speculation at the time as to the salaries the players received, and this was kept a dark secret, but as the writer got a peek over the Treasurer's shoulder one day the figures may be quoted as follows, being exactly what each player got for the entire season: Ward, \$1700; Gross, \$1500; Start, \$1600; Farrell, \$1400; McClellan, \$1100; Denny, \$900; Houck, \$700; Hines, \$1400; Gilligan, \$875; Mathews, \$1100; Radbourne, \$900. Thus the total payroll of the Grays for 1881 was \$13,175. A lot of players in the big leagues today alone get several times what it cost to run the Providence team in 1881.

Shake-up Effective

The shake-up must have had its effect, as the team began to play fine ball and won game after game. In the game of Sept. 3, Radbourne held the Troy team to one hit, made by Evans, formerly of the 1877 Rhode Islands.

Through August and September the Grays kept up the good work until they landed in second place. It came down to the final games of the season as to whether the Buffalo team or the Grays would hold second place at the finish.

Buffalo came to Messer Park a game and a half back of the Grays. The Bisons won the game of Sept. 29 by a score of 9 to 3, gaining a half-game over the Grays, with one game remaining. In this 9-3 game, the Grays made nine errors, Ward contributing four at shortstop. In the Providence Journal story the next day, Ward's playing was likened to a kitten playing with Grandma's ball of yarn.

"There's plenty of air at Messer Park and plenty of room outside the diamond, and the Grays should seek to pound the air less and drop the ball more outside the diamond," wrote the Journal scribe. But where he got his inspiration is unknown, as not a Providence player struck out in that Buffalo defeat.

But everything turned out all right, as sure enough the next day the Grays clinched second place by defeating Buffalo, 10 to 1, "900 spectators seeing the game handsomely won by hard batting and the error making propensities of Buffalo and the inability of the visitors to bat Ward."

In these days, it is about the only way to win a game—the way the Grays won that final game with Buffalo, at least that's the only way known to science.

Hines drove the ball over the left fence for a home run "a terrific drive." The previous day he had halted a newspaper man and, after telling him a yarn about dreaming he made a home run in the final game, marked the home run on the score book just where it actually occurred. The Grays made 10 hits with a total of 17, in addition to Hines's home run. Farrell made a two-base hit; Denny a two-base hit and Ward a three-bagger. Radbourne played shortstop and made three errors, the only slips of the game by the Grays.

The final standing of the league showed Chicago again winning the pennant with 56 victories and 28 defeats; Providence was second with 47 games won and 37 lost, with Buffalo third with 45 games won and 38 lost.

Providence Grays of 1882: Front row (left to right) — Charlie Reilly, Sandy Nava, Barney Gilligan; middle row Tom York, Joe Start, Harry Wright, George Wright, Nate Ward; back row — Paul Hines, Jerry Denny, Hoss Radbourne, Jack Farrell.



LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

IX.

Two innovations, one humorous and long since forgotten, the other the beginning of a regular custom, marked the next National League campaign. These were, respectively, the introduction of brightly-colored uniforms known as monkey coats, and the introduction of Cuban baseball players. The monkey coats are gone from our midst, but Cuba is still sending good men to the major and minor leagues.

Starting the season of 1882, the fifth year in the National League, with the first professional manager since George Wright had piloted the Grays in 1879, the club made the year a sharp contrast to the previous season. This 1882 campaign was waged with vigor and the Grays held second place during the greater part of the schedule, with the Chicago champions never more than a lap ahead. The Providence nine was always dangerous and everything possible was done to produce a pennant-winning team.

Recognizing the necessity of having a manager at the head of affairs who knew the game and who would give his entire time to developing the team and leading it over the rough places that all baseball teams encounter occasionally the directors cast about for a man to fill the place. The experiment of placing one of the stockholders in charge of the team, in all cases proving unsatisfactory and a failure as the seasons of 1878, 1880 and 1881 had demonstrated, it was resolved that the affairs of the team should be placed in the hands of a man versed in handling men who, at that time, needed far more directing and ordering than could be given by a man, successful enough in business but innocent of baseball.

The Providence Nine had received a great jolt at the annual meeting of the National League held on the last day in September, 1881, the date evidently being fixed on the final day of the championship season so the actions of the magnates could have no ill effects on the race. At this meeting three of the Grays were blacklisted, the trio including Emil Gross, Sadie Houck and Lew Brown, the charges being general dissipation and insubordination.

At the same meeting a vote was passed permitting club officials to negotiate with players at once. The next day Manager Morrow approached seven players of the nine and obtained their promise to play with Providence the following season under salaries agreed upon at that time. Ward, Gilligan, Farrell, Denny Radbourne and Hines gave their promise, but York, while not declining, refused to give his answer then. Quick action was necessary as the American Association, an outlaw body, had made overtures to the players with promises of larger salaries than the National League would pay.

The Directors realized that unless a better state of affairs existed and a team put in the field of championship calibre the public would not support the club. The National League held a meeting at Chicago, Dec. 7, 1881, at which the Providence delegates made the threat that unless the Providence players on the blacklist were reinstated the club would withdraw from the League. But this must have been more or less of a bluff, as no action was taken in the matter and the threatened resignation was not tendered.

It was at this meeting that the now famous, or infamous, rule was adopted to dress the players in what later were declared "monkey suits" in some quarters and "clown suits" in others. Who perpetrated the joke is forever lost to history, but less than two months of the season had passed into the hereafter when the rule was rescinded and the clubs discarded the "coats of many colors" and returned to the regular uniforms.

These "joke" uniforms made the diamond look something like the present



VINCENT NAVA

One of the first Cubans to play big league ball. He was signed by the Providence Grays in 1882.

day fences with all sorts of advertisements painted in every known color and some unknown. Here is the way the National League dressed its players at the start of the 1882 season, the colors applying to the caps, shirts and belts—Catchers, scarlet; pitchers, light blue; first basemen, scarlet and white stripes running vertically; second basemen, orange and blue stripes; third basemen, blue and white; shortstop, solid maroon; left fielder, solid white; centre fielder, red and black; right fielder, solid gray; substitutes, green and brown.

The knickerbockers were of white and very roomy. The stockings were the only distinguishing mark whereby one team

could be had from another, the Grays being given light blue, Boston red, Chicago white, probably the origin of the nickname "White Sox" still held by the Chicago Americans; Detroit old gold, Buffalo gray, Troy green, which resulted in that team being called "The Shamrocks; Cleveland navy blue, Worcester brown. It was also ordered that each player wear a tie of the color of the stockings, and leather shoes.

When it came to ordering the material, however, considerable difficulty was met, but the only change made was to change the third baseman's colors to gray and white as it was impossible to obtain the blue and white striped cloth. The kidding indulged in by the spectators was bad enough, but the growling among the players was worse. When runners were on the bases it was impossible for the players to tell which was which, especially when a first sacker, for instance, was on first, or a second baseman on second. The uniforms were exactly alike. The writer remembers well an incident that happened while the "monkey suits" were in vogue. He was sitting with the late John Dyer, one of the most widely known newspaper writers of his day, when the first baseman of the batting team occupied first base as a runner and the second baseman of the same team was on second. John called the attention of those about him to the singular coincidence and remarked that it might never occur again; it never did, as the kaleidoscopic mess was legislated out of existence a few days later.

There was a tragic end to the little affair, also, as Radbourne threw to Start to hold the runner on first and instead of shooting the ball to Start "Rad" saw crooked and threw the ball to the visiting first baseman, who promptly ducked the ball and it rolled to the bleachers, the runner on second scoring and the man on first taking third. This happened many times and was one of the reasons for changing the rule.

But this is running out of the baseline and delaying the game.

Dec. 6, 1881, the Providence baseball club held one of the most important meetings of its existence. At this session held at President Root's office a large majority of the 90 stockholders of the club were present. It was resolved to get a team that would wipe Chicago from the face of the earth, if it took every cent the association could raise.

It was hinted, but not disclosed, that negotiations were pending with a veteran manager and that action might be expected before the end of the year. At this meeting President Winship expressed his regret that so many newspaper men attended the games on passes, and suggested that the scribes be limited to one from each paper, that one to be the man reporting the game. No action was taken at this meeting, but the resolution was adopted at a subsequent meeting.

Enough "inside" stuff was permitted to leak out a few days before Christmas to start something, the "leak" evidently dropping through a hole of the directors' own punching, being to the effect that one of the leading managers of the United States had "approached"

the directors, stating he was desirous of an engagement. After a few days of suspense it was announced that Harry Wright of the Boston club was the man and that he had been engaged.

Wright was given full charge of the team and grounds and was promised all authority in everything pertaining to the nine, no suggestions or advice from the board of directors to be offered. Up to this time there had been a suspicion that the club stockholders were secretly negotiating to dispose of the franchise to some other city, but the announcement that Harry Wright had been hired dispelled the gloom.

Tommy York was the first player to be signed for 1882, and was at once put to work obtaining subscriptions to meet the existing deficiencies. It was announced that subscriptions however small would be received. York did very well with the paper and the proceeds helped the club over a hard place.

The fifth annual meeting of the club was held Jan. 29 and was a rousing affair. John D. Thurston was elected President, Col. Winship was elected secretary and Marsh Meade, treasurer. The board of directors consisted of Horace S. Bloodgood, Newton Earle, J. D. Thurston, T. C. Peckham and C. Fred Crawford. Harry Wright was elected assistant treasurer.

By the treasurer's report it was found that the club was \$300 in debt, and Col. Winship moved that the amount be raised and the debts paid off. Mr. Root announced that the club was in the best condition since its organization, as at the end of the first season the club was \$4000 behind, with the subsequent years showing deficiencies of \$1500 to \$2000. William T. Smith, a stockholder, suggested that the \$300 be raised by subscriptions and started the paper with \$25. More than half the shortage was made up at the meeting.

Col. Winship surprised the meeting by declaring two Cuban players had been signed for the 1882 team in Vincent Nava and a colt by the name of De Paugher, young stars who had played on the coast and were ripe for the National League. Nava was a catcher and the other Cuban a pitcher. It was proposed to use this pair as a pony battery, this being the first appearance of Cuban players in the United States in fast company, but they were the pioneers of a large contingent coming here from the island since that time. There was some opposition to the signing of the players because of their nationality, but the idea went through and the men reported. Nava made good and was a member of the team several years, but his running mate failed to fill the bill and was released before playing a game.



A.
The first mistake of the 1882 season was made when Tim Manning, a semi-professional player who had made a fine record on the sand lots of Chicago, was signed for shortstop. Manning was not of National League calibre or anywhere near it, and it was his poor playing that probably cost the Grays the pennant that year. He was responsible for the loss of several games.

Early in the year, the stockholders were subjected to a sharp bombardment by papers of other cities of the circuit, which charged that the Providence club was tampering with players under contract with other clubs. A Cincinnati paper came out flat-footed and declared Manager Harry Wright had been in Philadelphia on a certain date trying to induce Snyder, for several years catcher on the Boston club, to sign a Providence contract, alleging that Snyder had given his word he would play with Cincinnati that season.

Shortly after the charges were made (they were proved false, as Harry Wright was in Providence on the dates accusing him of tampering with Snyder), the New York Clipper, at that time the real authority on sports of all kinds, came out with an article defending the Providence directors and declaring that such a combination as Ward and Snyder would be impossible, as Ward worked the batters and Snyder worked the pitchers. But, whatever was in the wind, it blew over, as no more was heard of the Snyder affair.

The directors of the club were good showmen and handed out the good

news in installments. Early in March, it was announced that George Wright had promised to play with the Grays under certain conditions. The next announcement was to the effect that Wright wanted too much money, but that if the public would help the club with a subscription of a few hundred dollars he would be signed. Probably the public failed to come across, as the matter was apparently dropped.

Weather Is Bad.

Southern trips were unknown in 1882 and the Grays worked out at Messer Park during the greater part of April. Practice started April 3, but the weather was so bad they had to work indoors, a temporary gymnasium being set up under the grandstand. Johnny Ward had passed the winter in California and the papers of the day gave a paragraph to the news that Johnny had raised a moustache in the glorious climate of California. Ward brought with him a young outfielder named Tom Brown, who was highly recommended. He played the exhibition season in right field, but was released later as lacking in experience.

Another colt by the name of Luff also was given a trial, but went the same way as Brown. The fences at Messer Park were far away, and Brown and Luff failed to make good the prediction that they would "bust" every fence in the park. When the players assembled for the first practice, Col. Winship laid down the law, declaring that Harry Wright had full charge of the team and his word would be final. Tommy York was appointed captain.

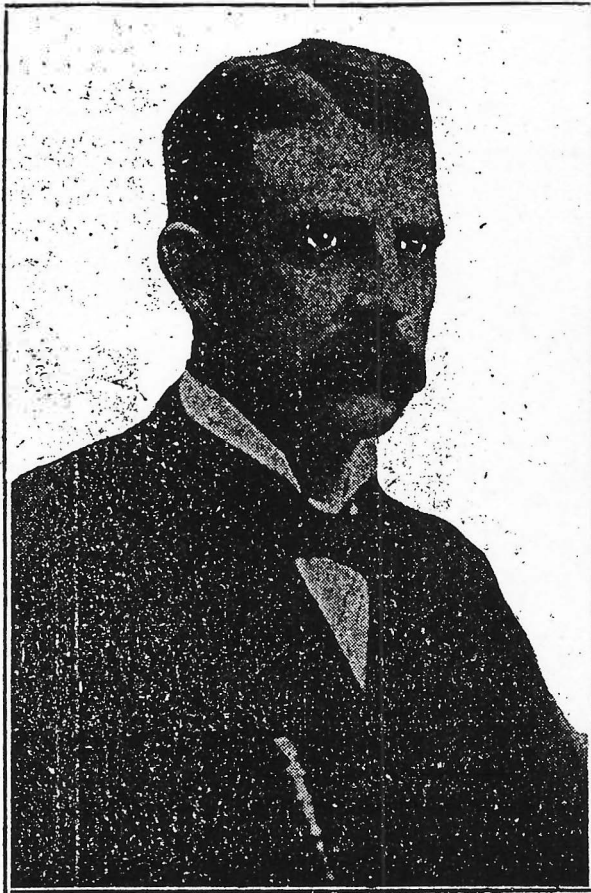
A series of exhibition games was arranged, the Grays beating a picked team from Boston for their first appearance 9 to 2. April 7, Brown appeared at Messer Park and took an 11 to 1 defeat. That night the Grays went to Philadelphia for two games with the association team there, winning the first game 3 to 0 and the second 19 to 6. Coming back, the Grays stopped over at New York and lost to the Metropolitans 8 to 2 and 9 to 2.

Returning, the Grays met a picked team from Boston with George Wright at shortstop and the afterward great John Clarkson on the mound. Providence won 25 to 3, but that meant nothing, as the real idea was to show George Wright as a sort of bait. The next three games here were pippins; the once famous Atlantics of Brooklyn falling by scores of 29 to 1, 11 to 0 and again 11 to 0. The fact that two balls were required for the first game was considered worthy of notice by the scribes. The Grays made 23 runs in the first three innings, rain stopping the game after the fourth.

Cricket Scores.

Then came a series of cricket scores, the Grays whipping Lowell 21 to 1, Yale 13 to 2, and Brown again, 24 to 1. The Atlantics came back for another game, losing 7 to 0. The exhibition season closed with a 7 to 1 defeat of Harvard. It was great for the wind and legs, this exhibition season.

The championship season of 1882 opened auspiciously with a victory May 1 over Troy by a score of 9 to 3, with 2500 fans at Messer Park. The lineup of the Grays in this game was: Hines, c. f.; Farrell, 2b; Start, 1b; Ward, p.; York, 1. f.; Manning, s. s.; Denny, 3b; Gilligan C., Radbourne, r. f. The Troys fielded this team; Buck Ewing, c.; later one of the greatest catchers in the game; Connors, 3b.; Smith, 1b.; Ferguson, s. s.; Glispee, 1. f.; Harbridge, c. f.; Roseman, r. f.; Pfeffer, 2b; Tim Keefe, pitcher.



A. G. SPAULDING

—One of baseball's pioneers whose loyalty to game had much to do with its ultimate success.

Later, nearly every man on the Troy team became a star of the National League.

It is sad to relate what happened in the second game, with Radbourne and Gilligan as the Providence battery, but the Grays won by a score of 17 to 1. In this game, Troy made 14 errors. The Grays swept the series by winning the third game 3 to 1, Ward pitching to Gilligan.

Great gaps existed in the schedule and a day or two later the Grays jumped to New York and handed the Metropolitans a 9 to 0 defeat in an exhibition game. Radbourne and Nava formed the battery, Rad holding the Mets to three hits.

For the first league game away from home, the Grays went to Worcester May 5 and bumped the Worcesters 17 to 2, scoring 10 runs in the seventh inning. This knocked John Clarkson from the box. Fred Cory finished the game and held the Grays safe. Providence collected 23 hits in this game,

with a total of 27. Worcester came to Messer Park the next day and gave the Grays a hard battle, the final score being 2 to 0 in favor of the Grays.

Sweeney Arrives

On May 6, a modest appearing youngster reported to Manager Wright, coming from California and bringing with him a great record as a pitcher among the small fry of that section. But he was a real pitcher, as he later proved, in fact, one of the greatest pitchers who ever toed the rubber. Many considered him a better pitcher than Radbourne. But he was sensitive and criticism rattled him. His name was Charley Sweeney. His record of 19 strikeouts against the Bostons June 7, 1884, has never been equalled in the major leagues, although just a month later One Arm Dalley, once with the Rhode Islands, fanned 19 in a Union League game.

After whipping Boston at Messer Park in the first game between the teams

by a score of 6 to 4, the Grays met their first defeat of the season at Boston May 11, losing by a score of 5 to 1, Radbourne pitching, with Nava behind the bat. The Grays made eight errors behind Rad. The Grays continued to play fine ball and held the lead in the league until June 28, when they fell to second place with 22 victories and 14 defeats, against Detroit's 23 victories and 13 defeats.

In June, both Gilligan and Nava were injured so badly as to keep them out of the game, Manning going behind the bat. But he was anything but a success and, after a few games, a catcher named Reilley was obtained from Cincinnati and was a big improvement on Manning. During Tim's spell behind the bat, a young player named Whitney was hired to cover shortstop, but, like the rest, he was in too fast company and was released as soon as Nava could work.

Then as now, the poor umpire was the target for all sorts of darts, and at the time the Grays were crippled the arbiter came in for a lot of adverse criticism. Martin C. Day, writing in the Journal one day when the Grays were idle, said the respite of two days might be used to advantage by the umpire and that he might gain some valuable knowledge of the rules to be put in practice at the next game.

During the first visit of the season of the Buffalo team, the game was going on in a light rain that had soaked the ball so badly it was almost impossible to handle it. Yet the idea of putting a new ball into the game never occurred to anybody. The ball was soft and punky and the Buffalo manager, with the assistance of Purcell, Buffalo left fielder, pulled what at the time was called "A despicable and outrageous trick."

"By some preconcerted arrangement, Purcell went into the Buffalo dressing room and got O'Rourke's corn knife, and, watching his opportunity, took the wet ball from Dan Brouthers, Buffalo first baseman, and, as he walked to his position in left field, deliberately cut the ball. Jack Farrell saw the act and called the umpire's attention to the matter. Purcell was fined \$10 amid great excitement. The fine was considered inadequate "for the enormity of the trick," and the Providence Journal writer the next morning declared it sufficient to warrant the blacklisting of Purcell. At the next meeting of the National League Purcell was fined \$100 for the act.

The ball was an object of great curiosity for several days and attracted much attention as it lay on exhibition in the Journal window at Turks Head.

Soon after the game, Reilley was engaged, Whitney released and Manning sent back to shortfield.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XI.

When the Chicago champions appeared at Messer Park for the first time in 1882, the fact that Anson wore a moustache was commented on in the papers of the following day, the Providence Journal saying: "It must be admitted that Anson's moustache is exceedingly becoming and really gives him a distinguished appearance when posed to gather in a grounder."

Things were not going any too smoothly with the Grays, and it became evident that something must be done to bolster baseball in Providence. Then the directors came to the front and again announced that negotiations were going on with George Wright. This set the populace agog and, sure enough, on June 17, Wright appeared on the field in uniform. At this time the Grays topped the league standing, with 18 victories and 10 defeats, Detroit being second, with two less victories and the same number of defeats. In the first game Wright resumed his old place at the head of the batting order, and in that game failed to make a hit, had one putout and seven assists without an error.

York resigned the captaincy of the team and George was appointed. The Grays whipped Chicago in the first game, 8 to 1. The Providence Journal story of the following day said: "The veteran George Wright resumed his position at shortstop and the ease and precision with which he covered the position, although not called on to perform any difficult work, served to inspire additional ambition and confidence among the players, who supplemented his efforts in fine style."

Made Successful Tour.

The Grays went West that night and had a hard trip on the road, although they won eight of the 15 games played. They took the opener in Detroit June 21, by a score of 12 to 3, but lost the second, 8 to 6. The third game was won by the overwhelming score of 15 to 5, the club making 13 runs in the third inning.

Chicago was the next stopping place and here conditions were reversed, the Grays falling among thieves, according to stories that drifted back to Providence. They won the first game, 7 to 2, but dropped the second, 9 to 0, getting but three hits off Goldsmith, while Chicago corralled 14, with a total of 20 bases, off Radbourne. The third encounter was bootied away, the Grays making nine errors, four charged to Paul Hines. The score was 8 to 1.

Going over to Buffalo, the opening game was lost, 8 to 6, but the second was won, 4 to 3, although the Grays got but two hits off One-Arm Dalley, both from the bat of Joe Start. Buffalo's errors gave the Grays the game. The third game was lost, 13 to 4, 10 errors featuring the work of the team. Denny contributed five boots at third base.

The Grays still held the lead on July 2, the standing being 23 won and 14 lost, but shared the honors with Detroit, Chicago being third and only one game behind. July 4 the team played two games at Cleveland, winning the morning game 5 to 1, but losing in the afternoon 4 to 1. The third game was

also lost by a 2-1 score, a wild throw by Denny giving the Clevelanders both their runs. On the way home the team stopped over at Troy to win three straight, the first by a score of 6-3, the second 6-4 and the third 5-3. This made seven straight victories over Troy. When the team arrived in Providence it was in second place with 27 victories, and 17 defeats, one-half game behind Chicago.

For the next four weeks the fortunes of the team varied, but it remained in the fight every day. Nothing unusual took place until Aug. 17, when one of the greatest games in the history of the Providence team was played at Messer Park. On that day was played the famous 18-inning game that has caused almost as much talk as Hines's triple play. The argument in this case has been as to who pitched the game. Because Radbourne knocked the ball over the fence for the only run he is generally credited with having pitched the game, but this is an error as Ward was in the box during the entire 18 innings.

Umpire in Error

Ward and Weldman were in great form that day and inning and inning was hung up on the score board for an imposing array of horse collars. By fair rights the game should have terminated in the 15th inning, but Umpire Bradley ruled otherwise—and was wrong. In this session George Wright batted the ball through the open horse gate in left field, the ball going outside the grounds. This should have entitled Wright to a home run. Wood, playing left field for the Detroiters, dashed after the ball and relayed it through Tom Foster, second baseman, who sent it to the plate to Trott, who nailed Wright on a close play. When Wright was declared out there was a young war, but the decision went and the game proceeded.

Radbourne was the first at bat in the 18th, and, landing on one of Weldman's fast ones, drove it towards the barn in left field. The owner of the barn was a thrifty party and let seats on the roof of the building at a quarter a head. The gallery was fairly large on this day and they dodged as the ball came sailing in that direction. It apparently was going over the fence to the left of the foul post, but a friendly puff of wind blew it the other way and it cleared the fence a bare foot fair. But it was enough. The barn is still standing on the same site.

In this game Start had 26 putouts and one error, Farrell had six putouts and nine assists with no errors, while Nava, behind the bat, put out nine, assisted once and made one slip. Curiously enough, Hines, in centre field, where opportunity is given a fielder to roam both ways as well as forward and back, had but one putout and one assist. For Detroit Powell had 21 putouts on first base and one error; Trot, behind the bat, had 13 putouts, but one assist and two errors. Whitney, recently released by Providence, at shortstop, had one putout, 10 assists and three errors. But one base on balls was handed out, this by Ward, while only six Providence men struck out and but four of the Detroiters fell that way.

As inning after inning was hung up on the Providence Journal's window scoreboard the excitement about the centre of the city became intense and when the final result was hung out hundreds of staid business and professional men who completely blocked the street greeted the announcement "with thunderous applause."

Wright was taken sick shortly before this game and was out for several days and was again out for several days toward the latter part of the month, Ward, Radbourne and Troy playing shortstop. Aug. 25 the Providence directors started a stunt that has been carried out to this day in many cities; they declared the day "children's day," and more than 900 boys and a few girls kept the police busy keeping order that afternoon.

In the meantime the battle for first place had been waged with great fury, with Providence and Chicago in the midst of the carnage. Detroit had been shaken off. Great interest was shown all over the National League in the race and several Providence fans went to Chicago to be present at the series there that was generally conceded as the final stand of both teams. The result probably meant the pennant. The Grays went into Chicago four games to the good. One victory in the series probably meant the flag.

Chicago Sweeps Series

But things didn't turn out that way and Providence was plunged into the depths of sorrow when the Chicagoans swept the series. The first game was lost by a score of 6 to 4, with 4000 fans sitting in. The second game went to Chicago, 6 to 4, also drawing 4000. The third game drew 7500 fans, an immense crowd for that day and generation. The Chicago club took advantage of the situation and raised the price of tickets for the game to \$2. All the games were characterized as spectacular.

Going over to Detroit on Sept. 17 the Grays were beaten in the opening game by a score of 2 to 1, and as Chicago whipped Worcester on the same day by a score of 5 to 1, the Grays fell into second place, the standing then being Chicago won 47 and lost 28, and Providence won 47 and lost 30.

Following this series Manager Harry Wright wrote home a report of the series. He admitted that the first game was lost on its merits, but that the second game would have been won but

for "bad and inexcusable base running by Hines." Hines had drawn a base on balls with one out when Start came to bat. Right field was short and a canvas screen was set up on the fence, a ball going over the canvas being good for two bases.

Start hit the ball solidly in the direction of the canvas and Hines thinking it was going over, automatically giving him third, just jogged around second. But the ball hit the barrier and bounded back onto the field. The Providence players shouted to Hines to hurry, but being almost totally deaf he didn't hear the cries and failed to speed up. Start, intent on making all possible out of the drive ran at top speed and, not seeing Hines, overtook him at third base. Hines here put on all speed, but was nailed between third and home.

Foul Trick Blamed

But according to the letter, what really lost the game was the foul work of Mike Kelly, a player famous for years as the trickiest man in baseball. In the eighth inning Anson was on second and Kelly on first. Tom Burns grounded to Wright, who stepped on second, forcing Kelly, and then faced to throw to Start for the double play when Kelly ran up and gave Wright a push that resulted in the peg going wild to Start. It rolled through a gate and under the stand, permitting Anson and Burns to score. Kelly ran out of the baseline to get Wright. Umpire Hawes was appealed to, but he declared he was watching first base and didn't see the play.

Sept. 25 the Grays played at Worcester and lost the game 4 to 3. The next day the Grays beat Worcester 8 to 6, but on the same day Chicago defeated Cleveland 2 to 1, so there was no advantage there. In this second game at Worcester Cliff Carroll joined the Grays, taking York's place in left field, which he held until the Providence franchise was disposed of at the end of the 1885 season. Chicago increased its lead to two games by defeating Buffalo 8 to 1 on Sept. 27.

The league season drew to a close with the Chicagos in first place with a record of 55 games won and 29 lost, the Grays stopping with 52 won and 31 lost, a difference of $2\frac{1}{2}$ games. But the methods of the Chicago club had so riled all the others that it was a bitter pill to have the Chicagos win the flag for the third consecutive time, the clubs, or most of them, declaring Chicago had stolen the pennant by winning games unlawfully.

This feeling came to a head some time before the end of the season and at a league meeting at Philadelphia action was taken such as had never before come up and never has come up since. At this meeting it was announced that the Worcester team would not complete its schedule and would withdraw from the league, leaving several unplayed games. Because of this it was voted that all the Worcester games be thrown out and that Chicago and Providence plays a series of nine games to decide the championship.

Soden Reverses Stand

Acting President Soden, one of the owners of the Boston club, who had assumed the duties of president after

the death of President Hurlbut, decided the resolution passed at Philadelphia void as the Worcester club changed front and decided to play out the schedule, which was done. There were ugly rumors afloat as to what influence the Chicago club had on the Worcester club to cause it to change its attitude. But it was never proved that Chicago had anything to do with the shift.

A. G. Spalding, President of the Chicago club, wired President Winship of the Providence club that the series, if played, must be considered as exhibition contests only. Col. Winship wired back insisting that the Philadelphia agreement be carried out, repudiating the action of Mr. Soden. To this President Spalding replied that Chicago was willing to play the series, call it what the Providence club chose, leaving the question of the championship to be decided by the league.

This President Winship agreed to, but stated that the games would be considered as championship games for the flag, subject to decision of the board of directors of the league. The Chicago club changed tactics and Spalding wired Col. Winship that he accepted the Philadelphia agreement, declaring that the league race had been so close that many partisans of both clubs throughout the country did not consider the question of superiority settled, and in deference to the wishes of friends and supporters of both teams he had decided to play the series and submitted the following schedule: At Chicago, Oct. 5, 6 and 7; at Philadelphia, Oct. 10; at New York, Oct. 11 and 12, and at Providence, Oct. 14, 15 and 16.



XII.

There was some delay in the receipt of the communication concerning the post-season play-off series, which caused Chicago to consider the event was off and several exhibition games were arranged. President Winship sent a tardy reply, caused by the failure of the last Chicago communication to reach him, in which he suggested the following dates for the series: At Providence: Oct. 10, 11, 12, 13; Philadelphia or New York, Oct. 16 or 17; at Chicago, Oct. 18, 19, 20, 21. Spalding accepted this schedule and the series that was to prove so disastrous to Providence was on.

The Providence and Boston clubs also arranged a series of three games for the championship of New England, whatever that meant. Boston won the first game in that city Oct. 3 by a score of 10 to 6. George Wright decided not

to play any more that year, and Arthur Irwin was obtained from the Worcester club to play shortstop. Chicago consenting to the change. Irwin played shortstop for the Grays for the next three years. Cliff Carroll took York's place in left field in the series.

The Grays won the second game 2 to 0, Ward allowing the Bostons but two hits. The Grays made but three hits off Whitney, but one was a double by Carroll and one a triple by Hines. The third game was played at Messer Park and was won by Providence, 3 to 0. Radbourne held the Bostons to four singles, while the Grays got six singles off Charley Buffington of Fall River.

Providence in the midst of this found time to play a benefit game for Ground Keeper Hunt who was sick and destitute. The Grays also played a few games with the Metropolitans at New York.

A crowd of 1500 assembled at Messer Park to witness the first game of the Chicago series. Providence won by a score of 10 to 4, making 12 hits with a total of 18 bases off Goldsmith, including home run by Hines, a double



Cliff Carroll

Plays left field for Providence in series with Boston for championship of New England.

and a triple by York. Chicago made eight with a total of 10 off Radbourne, with Gilligan catching. A little scandal was attached to this game as Anson laid off Dalrymple and Quest, playing Corcoran in left and Nicol as second base.

Also Play Cricket

The second game found the Chicagoans all on deck with Dalrymple and Quest back and Corcoran and Flint forming the battery. Ward and Nava made the Providence battery and the Grays again won by a score of 5 to 2. The 12 hits made by the Grays included a double by Nava and a triple by Irwin. Ward allowed six singles. The Grays made it three straight by whipping Chicago in the third game, 4 to 3, Radbourne and Gilligan forming the battery. Goldsmith and Flint worked for Chicago. Hines made one double, York two doubles and Gilligan a triple. A triple by Anson was the only extra base drive of the five hits credited to Chicago. Despite the raw weather 800 saw the game.

While all this baseball was going on the Grays accepted a challenge of the Providence Cricket Club to play a two-inning match at the English game. The Grays scored 27 runs in the first inning, to 23 for the Cricket Club. Wright and Ward bowled for the Grays. Denny made 11 runs before being caught out by Pomfret, while Wright, an old cricketer, was bowled on the first over. The Grays made 61 runs in the second inning as they caught on to the proper batting stance, but darkness forced the calling of the game with but seven wickets down for the Cricket Club. The Cricket Club made 29 runs in the second inning. York made 12 runs, Ward nine and Gilligan 11. It was said that the superior "base" running of the Grays won as they made two or three runs on a drive where the cricketers were satisfied with one.

Going to New York for the fourth game the Chicagoans swamped the Grays by an 11 to 1 score, batting Radbourne for hits bases with a total of 21. Providence made 10 errors, five by Farrell. About 5000 New Yorkers and a few Providence men saw the game, including President Winship and "Ned" Allen, one of the staunchest promoters of baseball in Providence at that time and later, his interest extending to the early days of the old Eastern League, now the International. The old Union station was crowded with fans when the team left, and handshakings and cheers were in order.

This severe whipping encountered in New York set some of the wise birds to thinking. Things didn't look right; the White Sox won too easily. Then again the peculiar actions of Anson in the first two games at Messer Park began to take on a different hue. Whether or not there was anything in the wind was never brought out. But at this distance the facts seem to disclose what the fans of that far-off date suspected.

Chicago Better Team

That Chicago was a far better team than the Grays is a certainty. It was a smarter team, under better discipline, surer of itself and most of all led by a baseball general than whom no better has ever arisen. The Chicago people knew that everything favored their

team to win the series and that, barring accidents, it should win. Besides the Grays was the cleaner team in every way, never stooping to the shady actions and unsportsmanlike tricks that marked the career of the White Stockings all through the season. With the last three games scheduled in Chicago, or equally hostile territory, the Westerners knew just how the series would come out and everything was planned with an eye to the gate receipts.

Lax discipline hurt the Providence nine. The players, or some of them, were prone to break training occasionally and sometimes oftener than occasionally. This error column in some of the games showed what was what in this line, but nobody ever did anything about it so far as was ever disclosed. Manager Wright knew what was going on and tried several remedies to overcome some of it. Here is one little stunt of Harry's that might have been clever enough, but it didn't work.

He had suspected some of the players were going out of nights after he had seen them safely in bed. One night in a certain hotel, Harry had a room assigned to him directly opposite one in which he had placed two of the suspected players. Seeing the men safely in bed and the lights turned out, he quietly arose, crossed the hall and tied a string to the doorknob of the room occupied by the suspects.

This string he carried under the hall rug and under his door, attaching a lot of rustling paper to the end of the string on his bed. Then he awaited the expected exodus of the prospective victims. But he waited in vain; there was no disturbance of the paper watchdog. Harry turned in as daylight sifted through his window, satisfied the players in question would at least be in condition to play ball that day.

Great was his surprise on leaving his room the next morning to find the hall end of the string tied to his own door knob and the opposite room bare of ball players, with beds undisturbed. Figuring the joke was on him, Harry let the players get away with it.

Interest is High

Interest in Chicago was at fever heat and when the teams took the field for the fifth game, 4000 were sitting in the stands, a big crowd for those days. Just to show how easy the Grays were the White Stockings handed out a 10 to 6 defeat. Again on the following day the park was crowded and again the Chicagoans played with the Grays, winning 7 to 3 in seven innings, darkness forcing the calling of the game.

But the tide turned in the night and the seventh game was won by the Grays 11 to 4. Providence walloped Goldsmith's offerings for further orders, collecting a total of 28 hits, of which Farrell got six and Start five. Chicago evened the series the next day by winning 6 to 4, darkness also ending this game at the end of the seventh inning.

With the series standing four victories each, the string was about played out and the ninth and deciding game was played at Fort Wayne, Oct. 24. In this game the White Stockings cut loose and slaughtered the Grays by a score of 19 to 7. The news was two days late in reaching Providence, but

the interest had died to almost nothing and nobody cared what the verdict was. It was an unsavory series all the way.

Strong suspicions were aroused throughout the country that Chicago simply played the series for the gate money involved. It was believed that the White Stockings did not try to win the first two games at Messer Park, but did figure on winning the third game and were balked by Radbourne's fine pitching. It was hinted in Providence that some of the players had not signed the temperance pledge before engaging in the series. "The Chicago team proved superior in all departments of the game except that of being gentlemen," was the weight of the Providence Journal's comment a few days after the close of the series.

Baseball interest revived here in Providence when on Dec. 6, 1882, the first and only local meeting of the National League was held, the old Hotel Dorrance being the scene of the gathering. Before the meeting the name of Col. Winship was prominently mentioned for President of the National League, but when the magnates assembled in solemn conclave in the Dorrance the Chicago influence governed the gathering as it always did, and A. G. Mills was elected President.

Chicago Gets Crown

The championship was, of course, awarded to Chicago, and there is no reason to suspect that the best team was slighted. The resignation of the Worcester and Troy clubs was accepted. It was at this meeting, which has since been declared the most satisfactory and successful ever held by the National League, that the first paid staff of umpires was established, with their year's salary fixed at \$1000 each.

An amendment to the constitution was adopted reading, "Any player under contract to a league club, who shall without permission of the club agree to enter the service of another club after the expiration of such contract will be liable to expulsion." This was the first move of the National League to curb contract jumping, but nothing was said of what penalty might be meted out to the club guilty of approaching the players.

The first move toward the so-called National Agreement that is now the bulwark of baseball was made at this meeting and the first agreement was made with the Northwestern League; a committee of three was appointed to meet the representatives of that body and draft an agreement. The number of games to be played during the season between the teams was increased from 12 to 14, one game being added to each series in each city. Some of the delegates wanted the number of inter-club games increased to 16, the reason advanced for turning down this suggestion being that such a schedule would leave but 20 open dates!

As an aftermath of the Purcell incident wherein the cut ball figured it was voted that a new ball be furnished as soon as the old one proved useless without waiting for the completion of an even inning. The league also did away with the legal catching of a four fly on the first bound, and reduced the number of called balls to

give a batsman his base from seven to six.

Harry Wright, always a progressive, suggested that the pitcher's box be set back to 56 feet and to permit the pitcher to deliver the ball in any manner he saw fit, and to do away with the high and low ball privilege of the batsman. But the other magnates were not ready for so radical a change and the suggestion was not acted upon. Harry Wright lived to see all his recommendations carried out.

This year of 1882 was most eventful for Providence so far as baseball is concerned. In addition to all the other things that happened the first and only scandal connected with umpires in the history of the National League was un-

earthed here, with Dick Higham and a local business man as the principals in the mess.

Higham was umpiring in this city and while he had been accused of poor work there was no suspicion that there was anything wrong. But one day a maid at the Narragansett Hotel where Higham was stopping picked up a note in his room signed "Dick," that was turned over to the hotel manager and by him turned over to the baseball authorities. The contents of the note were incriminating to Higham and the local parties named in the note.

Investigation was made and resulted in the discovery of a scheme to turn the results of the games played at Messer Park, so far as it lay in the power of the umpire, in the way the bet-

ting was going. A simple set of signals was in vogue whereby the umpire was to know which team to favor in that day's game. The signal was nothing but a broom placed in a window of the jeweler's establishment; if the broom was placed diagonally from the lower left-hand corner to the opposite upper right-hand corner, one team was to get the benefit of the decisions; if the broom was canted from the lower right-hand corner to the upper left corner the other team was to be favored.

Higham was expelled from the league and never reinstated, dying some years later.



XIII.

Following the somewhat stormy season of 1882 when clouds and darkness hung over Messer Park for the greater part of the season and the Providence club faced possible bankruptcy and disruption and the loss of the franchise, the season of 1883 opened most auspiciously.

Going back to Sept. 30, 1882, when the first preparations for the 1883 season were begun, feverish activities of the National League magnates denoted that something serious was threatening. The American Association was coming to the front, and the activities of the so-called outlaw organization in approaching players was so great that protective measures were taken. The association had gone so far as to apportion the National League players among its clubs, fixing the salaries to be paid, which in such instance was much higher than the league was paying, and preparing for an active war.

Because of this danger the Providence club began signing the players for the next season the day of the final championship game. Start, Farrell, Denny, Gilligan and Nava signed contracts at considerably increased salaries. As the Worcester club had disbanded Arthur Irwin was free and he also signed a Providence contract and was one of the main stays of the Providence team until the franchise was sold to Boston at the end of the 1885 season. Irwin was described as an active, fearless player, and with his signature all idea of again signing George Wright was abandoned, it being recognized that his business interests were too great to permit him to play baseball.

Irwin had never been on a first-class team and it was believed by Manager Wright that he would develop into a great player, and in this Harry Wright was right.

Radbourne Joins Providence.

Ward and Radbourne were non-committal, but later Ward signed with the New York club and Radbourne signed with Providence. Both were recognized as the most valuable general players in the country. Both had considered fine offers from the American Association. Hines also held off, but this caused no concern as it was practically certain that he would fall in line all right, and he did. Stovey and Evans, the latter the old Rhode Island player, were also talked of but they were passed up.

Radbourne signed his contract Oct. 1, this being hailed with great satisfaction by local fans. A few days later Cliff Carroll signed and developed into one of the greatest outfielders in the game, although his batting was not so heavy. Gross had also promised to sign

if his disabilities were removed. Early in December Richmond and Edgar Smith signed, the latter being engaged for the Reserves, as the second team became known. Charley Robinson was signed shortly afterwards. Smith and Robinson formed the battery of the Standards, a fast local amateur team.

Probably the annual meeting of the Providence club held Jan. 12, 1883, was the liveliest and most enthusiastic ever held. The treasurer's report for the 1882 season showed total receipts of the home games were \$23,377.64, and from road games \$14,720.66. In addition to the gate money taken on home days \$1903 was received from the sale of season tickets, \$640 from subscriptions and \$101.80 from the benefit at the skating

rink, making a total for the season of \$40,743.10. This sum would not begin to run the present Providence team of the Eastern League.

The disbursements for the year included \$18,256.90 for players' salaries and other expenses, and \$8621.56 paid visiting clubs. This left a balance of \$4624.96 in the treasury, the first time in the history of the club that the end of the season did not find the club in debt. Much of this fine showing was the result of the post season series with Chicago.

Salary List Increases

As a result of the activities of the American Association the salary list for 1883 was the largest ever made, and at the time it was said that the Providence club was the highest salaried team in the country. The Providence Journal scribe the next day after the facts were made known said: "Had the club looked simply for gate receipts instead of for the pennant, the surplus of 1882 might have been larger."

Col. Henry B. Winship was elected president of the club, and William C. Chase, secretary, this being the first year the club had a paid secretary. Marsh Mead was elected treasurer and Harry S. Bloodgood, John T. Thurston, Newton Earle, C. Fred Crawford of Central Falls and Thomas C. Peckham a board of directors. At this meeting it was announced that it was the belief of everybody that Richmond would fill Ward's place, and that Cassidy, signed to take York's place in the outfield, was a better player than York. But Cassidy was never the favorite with Providence fans that York was. Later York signed as manager of the Cleveland team of the National League.

Radbourne, Carroll and Start reported March 1 and Nava and Denny sent word they would be on hand about the middle of the month, and they were here. At this time the directors were thrown into a mild panic when they were notified that Jack Farrell was dangerously ill with pneumonia. He recovered, however, and joined the club before the training season opened.

Agreement Ends "War."

March 5 the National League held a meeting in New York to ratify an agreement entered into with the American Association, and so the threatened baseball war was off. This first threat of a baseball war in the history of the game was forfeited later with real wars. At this meeting Herman Doescher, a fine player and later an umpire in the old Eastern League, now the International League, was expelled for embezzlement and obtaining money under false pretenses. He was reinstated some years afterwards.

With a fat treasury as against an almost empty one the previous year, a strong team piloted by a great manager, and the dying enthusiasm rekindled, the Grays started their sixth year in the National League with everything lovely and the goose hanging high. Harmony had been restored between

the stockholders and the directors, and the threatened baseball war with the American Association had vanished. The players were all under contract and apparently satisfied; everybody looked forward to a great baseball year and the pennant.

The experience of the five years that had gone before was used to good advantage. On several occasions in previous seasons, when injuries or illness had crippled the club, the directors were compelled to obtain substitute players, often of an inferior class and generally at ridiculous salaries—that is ridiculous for the times. But for this fact the Grays might have repeated their championship march in each succeeding season.

Always a progressive set and generally ahead of their associate managers, the Providence directors early in 1883 decided to put two teams in the

field, one to be composed of the regulars and the other of young players of more than local renown, of which Providence in that year of grace boasted a plenty. This team of substitutes was to be known as the Providence Reserves. It was not planned to put two complete teams in the field, but to sign up enough young players of promise to, with the help of the extra men on the Regulars, put a complete second team in the field.

By this means it was hoped players could be developed of sufficient skill to be drafted into the first team whenever the conditions demanded. Another idea connected with this team of Reserves was that with the regulars having full knowledge of capable substitutes being ready for immediate call they would behave better. The experiment was tried and worked beautifully.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XIV

Manager Wright started in March, 1883, to comb the local sandlots for players for the Reserves, and gathered some promising material, some of the colts afterwards becoming big leaguers in different teams. Among the youngsters so corralled were Charley Robinson, a catcher of much promise; Edgar Smith, a fine young pitcher; Joe Mulvey, pride of the Blue Point district, a fine infielder who later made his mark in the National League, and Cudworth, a promising first baseman. Kelly and Barry, local players of note, were also picked up. From other regions a pitcher named Powell and a catcher named Fulmer were landed.

All the reserves were signed to regular contracts, exactly as were the regulars. They were paid for their services the first of the youngsters to get a call from higher up, Manager Simmons of the Athletics of Philadelphia coming to Providence one day and making an effort to sign Mulvey. But Joe re- about what they could earn at their regular employments. Joe Mulvey was fused to violate his contract. A first baseman by the name of Prince was also hired, making 21 players under contract.

The reserves were kept under contract for some time after the opening of the season on May 1, giving the regulars a lot of valuable practice. It was Manager Wright's idea to have the Grays play a match every day, putting the reserves against the regulars when there was no game with outside teams. He mixed the first-string players with the colts, playing Nava, Gilligan, Richmond



JOE START.
Named Captain of the 1883 Team by
Manager Wright

and sometimes Radbourne, with the second team, members of the reserves taking corresponding positions on the regular team. Games were played every day at Messer Park, when the weather permitted, and what is more, the thrifty directors put a charge of 25 cents on each game; there were no open gates at Messer Park that spring.

Daily Practice

Thirteen players reported to Manager Wright at Messer Park on Monday, April 2. Manager Wright addressed the players, and set the hours for daily practice as from 9:30 to 11:30 each forenoon, and from 2 to 4 each afternoon. Discipline started at once, as the players were told that the first time they were

tardy in reporting for practice a fine would be imposed, and that suspension awaited the player who was late the second time. Practice began promptly every session; nobody was late. Manager Wright instilled it into the players that the club meant business that year.

Raising his voice and pointing a finger in the general direction of the men, Manager Wright threatened dire consequences to any player guilty of dissipation and insubordination. Suspension would inevitably follow the first offence and expulsion the second, he thundered. Not a player was expelled that year.

The players reported in good condition, but "possessed of considerable surplus flesh." Joe Start was appointed captain, a popular choice. The experimental part of the 1883 campaign was confined to Richmond and Cassidy, and the matter of Nava's ability to catch Richmond. Cassidy had played two years with the Troy team, and was said to be "sober and reliable."

With but three days of practice under their belts the players lined up for the first practice game April 5, with the regulars tackling the reserves, and everybody who saw the game chipped in a quarter. The regulars won 5 to 2, and the game went nine innings, too. In the second game the first team won 18 to 4, Radbourne and Gilligan playing with the reserves in the field. Richmond and Nava formed the regular battery and Nava held Richmond all right, dispelling the doubts that the Cuban could catch left-hand pitching.

Terrific Batting

Some terrific batting was uncorked in this game, the regulars corralled 23 hits with a total of 32. Irwin made himself solid right off the reel by hitting safely each time on six consecutive occasions, including one two-bagger. Start made four singles and a double and Farrell, who showed no ill effects from his illness, made three singles and a double.

Brown Defeated

Brown appeared at Messer Park April 10 and submitted to 19 to 2 defeat, making 15 errors. The Grays hit Gunderson for 16 bases with a total of 23. Start getting four hits, including two doubles, in five times up. The batting order of the Grays was: Hines, c. f.; Start 1b.; Farrell, 2b.; Irwin, s. s.; Cassidy, r. f.; Carroll, l. f.; Radbourne and Richmond, p.; Denny, 3b.; Nava, c. Brown's lineup was: Greene, c. Duffee, r. f.; Bassett, 3b.; Doran, 1b.; Rhett, l. f.; Seagraves, c. f.; Shedd, s. s.; Gunderson, p.; Wardsworth, s. s.

April 13 Manager Wright fielded a composite team of the regulars and reserves to beat Perry College, 15 to 2. Powell pitched the game and looked like a comer. In the next game Powell was again sent in, this time holding the Bristols to five hits, while the Grays made 33 with a total of 43. In the first inning the Grays made 12 runs, sending 15 men to the bat. Denny about made a record in this game, making seven hits in seven times up, including one triple. Irwin made five hits, one a triple, in eight times up. Bristol made 24 errors. The Bristol outfielders had some energetic exercise in spherical pursuits and the infield

had its troubles in dodging ground hits.

The second Brown game was played April 17, and was won by Providence, 16 to 1, and William Jennings Bryan was unknown at that time. Powell held Brown to eight hits, while the Grays pounded Gunderson for 22 hits with a total of 25. The third game with Brown was a hard tussle, compared with the first two, as Brown held the professionals to a 9 to 4 score.

There was a celebration on the Hill that night as the fight the Brown team gave the Grays was considered as good as a victory. Gunderson pitched nice ball in this game.

Squad Is Cut

The first cut in the squad was made when Prince was released. Other departures were looked for as several Western clubs made bids for some of the Reserves. In the fourth Brown game the college boys again gave the Grays a battle, losing 4 to 0. Edgar Smith pitched for the Grays in this game. The Grays cut loose in the fifth game and whipped the rah'rah boys by a 10 to 1 score.

Seeking other fields to conquer, the Grays went to Trenton, N. J., and doled

out an 11 to 0 defeat to the team of that city. On the way home the team stopped over at New Haven and encountered a stiff opponent in the Yale team, barely winning by a score of 5 to 4. The pony battery of Smith and Robinson worked the entire game for Providence. The Grays were out-hit and outfielded by the collegians, but won through superior knowledge of the game.

Manager Harry Wright had now become a well known man on the streets of Providence. A tall, energetic figure, he became "hail-fellow-well-met," and was on speaking terms with every fan in the city. He wore a full beard and was always dressed in a silk hat and long Prince Albert coat. The small boy looked up to him as little removed from a god. He was genial and kind, but had pronounced ideas of his own. His players swore by him at times, and at other times, at him. He knew baseball and baseball players, but never offered his advice a second time. He generally acted the second time. Baseball in Providence was never better conducted than during the two years Harry directed the Providence nine. He died many years ago.



XV.

With the brightest prospects since the organization of the Providence Club, three pitchers, considered great, Radbourne, Sweeney and Richmond; two first-class catchers in Gilligan and Nava, and a great team of fielders, the Grays opened the season of 1883 with a boom.

The game had progressed greatly during the previous few years and the National League was in the best condition since its inception, seven seasons earlier. It was beginning to develop into the great organization it is today. Eight strong clubs comprised the league with teams in Boston, Providence, New York and Philadelphia in the East, and Cleveland, Buffalo, Chicago and Detroit in the West. All but Providence and Buffalo are still members of the major leagues. All the teams, with the possible exception of Philadelphia, had strong combinations.

Leaving for Philadelphia to open the season, the Grays were given a fine send-off at Union station. The first game was a tight one. For seven innings the Grays fell before Coleman, Philadelphia pitcher, like rows of bricks. The Grays made but one hit during the first seven innings and went into the eighth inning with the score 3 to 0 against them. In this session, however, they got the hang of Coleman's deliv-

ery and slammed the ball in every direction, getting six hits in the next two innings, including doubles by Radbourne and Hines, and scored four runs to win, 4 to 3. Radbourne held the Quakers to four hits, one a double by McClellan, former Gray player.

Shout Goes Up

Turks Head, in front of the Providence Journal Office, was crowded with men watching the scoreboard. It was a silent, glum crowd until the result of the eighth and ninth innings were hung up, showing the Grays had won, when a mighty shout went up. The same scene was the rule for the greater part of the summer. The Grays in this game batted as follows: Hines, c. f.; Start, 1b.; Farrell, 2b.; Irwin, s. s.; Cassidy, r. f.; Carroll, l. f.; Radbourne, p.; Denny, 3b.; Gilligan, c.

The second game was almost identical with the first, Providence winning 4 to 1. The Grays could do nothing with Coleman's delivery until the ninth frame when a batting bee produced three runs. The Grays had made but one run in the previous eight innings and led by 1 to 0. Philadelphia scored its lone run in the ninth. Providence made it three straight the next day by giving Philadelphia an awful beating, winning by a score of 24 to 6. Henderson was batted all over the county, per-

mitting 22 hits of which Hines contributed four, Irwin four and Radbourne and Cassidy three each.

But the error column was scandalous. How in the world the Grays got away with but six runs against them is unknown. Farrell offended four times, Irwin made three slips, Start, two, and Radbourne, two, no less than 13 errors being charged to Providence. But these 13 errors were swallowed up by the 22 made by Philadelphia, every man on the team making at least one. Harbidge, Quaker catcher, was charged with nine.

New York Defeated

Going to New York the Grays on May 4 handed an 11 to 3 whipping to the New Yorks, this being the first defeat for New York. Radbourne held New York to seven hits, while the Grays made 15 with a total of 22 off Johnny Ward, playing his first game against his former comrades. Carroll, Denny, Cassidy and Farrell each made one three-base hit, and Hines a double. Such stars as Ewing, Roger Connor, Ward and Hankinson were with New York. More than 5000 saw the home team take its first beating.

New York gave the Grays a hard fight for the second game, but fell 3 to 1 before Radbourne's fine pitching. It was a great pitchers' battle, with the Grays getting but four hits, all singles, off O'Neill, while the New Yorks got five, with a total of seven, off "Rad." New York made eight errors and Providence but one, charged to Start.

Making a clean sweep of the series, as at Philadelphia, the Grays landed the third game, and the sixth straight victory, by a 14 to 2 score. More than 4000 fans sat in. O'Neill puzzled the

Grays in the first game, but on this day they batted him all over the Polo Grounds. The New York team was completely demoralized. Ward was also hit hard and often, no less than 19 hits rolling off the bats of Harry Wright's charges. Irwin made a brace of doubles, Radbourne a double, and Hines, Start and Farrell each turned in three-base hits.

Ewing's work was miserable and the New York papers of the next day criticized him unmercifully, declaring that as the highest salaried man in baseball he was little less than a swindler.

Grays Get Set Back

That night the team left for the first invasion of the West with a clean slate of six victories. But things were due for a turn and in the first game at Cleveland the Grays fell by a score of 5 to 2. McCormick pitched great ball for Cleveland, holding the Grays to five singles. Radbourne was hit hard, as well he might have been, working in his seventh straight league game in 10 days. He allowed Cleveland 11 hits with a total of 16. Tommy York was captain of the Cleveland team and hit his old pal, Radbourne, for a brace of doubles.

Getting over the train ride and rested in other ways the Grays evened the series the next game by winning 2 to 1. Radbourne went in for his eighth straight game with Gilligan back of the bat. Cleveland found him for seven hits with a total of 11, but they were widely scattered. Radbourne's two errors were the only slips made by the Grays.

McCormick was again too much for Providence in the third game and Cleveland carried its bats out with a 4 to 2 victory; in this set-to the Grays landed but six hits, all singles, while Cleveland handled Rad for seven, including a two-bagger. This was Radbourne's ninth game in 12 days.

At the end of the second week the Grays led the league with seven games won and two lost. Chicago was second with five and three, Philadelphia had not won a game, losing eight in a row.

The battle for the lead in the National League was fierce. Chicago, with three straight pennants, was out to repeat, while all the other teams, while battling each other to the limit, were out to trim the White Stockings at any cost. It was a case of the entire field against Chicago, and the field won. Boston, through its formidable pitching staff, backed by a fast team of youngsters, won the championship almost in the final week of the season.

Buffalo—5 to 4.

Providence went into the first Buffalo game to lose 5 to 4. Radbourne, pitch-

ing his 10th straight game, was nicked for 15 hits with a total of 18. "Rad" was supported brilliantly, but one error cropping out, and this on a cold day with rain falling and the field a sea of mud. The Grays batted Galvin for 11 hits with a total of 15, his support being scarcely less tight than Rad's, but two misplays coming behind him.

But this one error by the Grays, charged to Joe Start, cost the game, as the Buffalos made three runs in the first inning after the side should have been retired. Galvin was the centre of an unsavory, if not exactly crooked, piece of business in the final Buffalo series here the following fall, which will be told later in this series.

Squaring the series in the second game the Grays won 9 to 4. It was a heavy hitting game full of errors. Fifteen hits caromed off the Providence bats, one a home run by Denny and three others doubles by Farrell, Radbourne and Carroll. The Grays made nine errors and Buffalo 11. But it might be said right here that this appalling array of errors was not so bad as it looks, as many things were charged as errors not now so designated, bases on balls, wild pitches and passed balls, for instance, being charged as errors. In addition, the players wore no gloves, aside from a small glove by the first baseman and the catcher.

One-Arm Dailey.

Radbourne and Gilligan went back as the Providence battery in the third game in Buffalo, this being the 12th straight appearance of the pair. The Grays took the series by winning this contest 13 to 9. In this game the Grays performed a wonderful trick in batting One-Arm Dailey out of the box in the fourth inning. In all that day Providence made 22 hits with a total of 28, while Buffalo got 14 with a total of 16 off Radbourne. Each team made five errors.

This continuous use of Radbourne in the box with Sweeney and Richmond with the team, and, so far as anybody knew, ready to pitch, caused a lot of discussion about town. Radbourne was recognized as the king pin of pitchers, but the other two had their followers, also. Also the stockholders began to wonder why it was necessary to pay salaries to three pitchers when one was doing all the work. Edgar Smith was also with the Grays.

As this gossip spread, the Grays went to Detroit. Some word of the feeling here in Providence reached Manager Wright and he sent Richmond to the box in the opening contest in the Michigan city. He allowed one hit, a two-bagger, in the first inning. When the Grays took the field for the sec-

ond inning Radbourne was back in the box for his 13th straight game. Detroit won 7 to 5.

Rain prevented the second scheduled game, but this gave some of the stockholders an opportunity to communicate their feelings to Manager Wright and Richmond pitched the entire final game. He pitched winning ball for eight innings with Nava behind the bat. But the Detroiters got to him hard in the ninth, and with the assistance of costly errors scored four runs, although they got but three hits, one a double. This ninth inning rally gave Detroit the game 6 to 4. Radbourne played errorless ball in right field and made two hits.

Radbourne's Conceit.

Radbourne was an enthusiastic player, and possessed what might be called a slight streak of egotism. He wanted to pitch every game and never took kindly to any other man in the box. Probably this was one reason for his being in so often.

The beginning of the end of this long stretch of games on the road was staged at Chicago, where two of the three games were victories.

Chicago was all agog over the visit of the Grays and more than 10,000 fans attended the three games. Radbourne Nava and Gilligan formed the battery for the first game which Providence won 9 to 5. This was Radbourne's 14th game in 24 days and he held Chicago to nine hits. The White Stockings made 14 so-called errors. Three Providence pitchers were used in the second game. Radbourne, Richmond and Smith taking turns in the box, and the trio succeeded in landing the victory by a score of 9 to 5. Joe Start was injured in this game and was out of the lineup for a while. This victory put the Grays into a tie for first place with Chicago.

Battling for the honor of returning home in first place the Grays went against Chicago in the final game with 5000 rabid fans looking on. Radbourne and Richmond divided the pitching burden and both were hit hard. The White Stockings walloped the ball for 11 hits and 21 totals, averaging almost a two-base hit on every safe blow. Providence fought hard and with nine hits with a total of 15, but fell one run short, Chicago taking the game by a score of 8 to 7.

The Grays carried the burden of defeating the powerful Western quartet on this first invasion, Boston and New York taking but four games each while Philadelphia won but three. Providence came home tied for second place with Cleveland and Detroit, one game back of Chicago.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D. Perrin

XVI.

Although the Providence players had gone through a wearisome journey of more than a month, in which games were played in Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland, Buffalo, Chicago and Detroit, and with a long string coming at home, beginning with two games on Memorial Day, the intervening day between their arrival home and the beginning of the home series was not one of rest. Instead it was utilized as a means of picking up a little change by sending the team, or rather a medley of players, to Woonoscket to play the Comets of that town.

The treasury could not have been fattened to any great extent, as only 1000 fans turned out to see the contest. Four of the Reserves played with the Comets, Powell and Fulmer as the battery and Prince and Barry. The Grays won 15 to 7, batting Powell hard. Edgar Smith was on the mound for the Grays and he got his bumps also. Mulvey and Robinson played with the Grays.

Memorial Day was not an ideal day for baseball, especially in the afternoon, when rain threatened, but large crowds watched both games. The Grays were given a rousing reception at both performances. Train service between Providence and Boston was so arranged that it was possible for the visiting teams here and at Boston to shift morning and afternoon games so that Cleveland, playing in Boston in the forenoon game, appeared at Messer Park in the afternoon, while Buffalo, the morning attraction here, furnished the fireworks in Boston in the afternoon. This made an ideal arrangement, as many of the patrons of the morning game remained at the park for the afternoon contest.

Fans Cheer Richmond.

To greet the Grays in their homecoming and to sit in at the opening championship game of the season here more than 2800 saw Buffalo take a 4 to 2 licking. Yielding to the popular demand that Richmond be given a better chance than he had been given on the road, Manager Wright sent him against the Bisons with Nava behind the bat. Gilligan was suffering from a boil on his neck.

When Richmond walked out to the box he was given a rousing reception and responded by pitching a beautiful game to the chorus of "I told you so's" from the stands. He allowed Buffalo but seven hits, one a double by Galvin. He was also given sparkling support, his own brace of errors being the only slips, and these were battery errors. He held the Buffalo batters in complete subjection and was grandly supported by Nava. Galvin and Rowe formed the Buffalo battery.

When the Clevelanders ran onto the field for the afternoon game the bleachers and stands handed a compliment to Tommy York, now captain of the

Clevelanders, by a series of hand clapping that lasted several minutes. York was a great favorite with the Providence baseball public. But Tommy didn't let friendship and good will interfere with his duties to his club and he piloted it to a 5 to 2 victory before a crowd of 8000 that overflowed the stands and stretched around the field.

Here our old friend, One Arm Dalley comes in again. He pitched for Cleveland and the Grays found him a regular teaser, getting but five scattered hits off his delivery, all singles. Radbourne was back in the box and held the Clevelanders at bay in all but the fifth and ninth innings when they fell on him for a bunch of hits that won the game. In these two frames he was found for five singles, one double and one triple. "Careless fielding" by Carroll, Denny and Start helped Buffalo out.

"Dirty Business" at Second

In this game Jack Glasscock, for several years considered the king pin of second basemen, pulled what the Providence Journal scribe the next morning described as a "dirty piece of business, for which Umpire Decker fined him \$5 to the satisfaction of the crowd." It's a question, however, if the fine was ever paid. The "dirty piece of business" consisted of interfering with Jack Farrell at second base as he was about to complete a double play, causing his effort to fail.

Cleveland outplayed the Grays, the only bright spot in the local story being a couple of throws to Nava by Hines to nip runners at the plate, one of them completing a double play. Cleveland made nine errors and the Grays six.

Coming back for more glory in the second game Cleveland again laid a defeat on the Grays by a 5 to 3 tally. Richmond was given another chance, and was batted much harder than in the Buffalo game, allowing Cleveland nine hits with a total of 14, but he was handicapped by the four errors made by the Grays. McCormick pitched fine ball and held the locals to six singles.

Farrell started the game, but had to retire after the first inning because of an injury to his side received in the previous game. Irwin went to second base and Joe Mulvey to shortstop; the three errors made by Mulvey were costly. One of Joe's slips was to let a drive from York's bat with the bases loaded and with two out, to go through his legs, three men scoring. Radbourne played left field in this game, Carroll being sick, and "Hoss's" wild throw to the plate gave Cleveland another run.

Fans Abuse Decker.

Umpire Decker, probably roasted by Providence fans harder than any umpire before or since, was the target of abuse by players and fans in the seventh inning, and a near-riot occurred.

Decker's decision was one for the book. In the seventh Dunlop, who had hit Richmond hard every time he faced him, batted the ball over the left field fence, plainly foul. Decker, however, refused to rule on the drive and Capt. York and Start, great pals off the field, argued the matter heatedly. The ball swung foul after clearing the fence, which Decker admitted, but eased himself out of the situation by declaring "his jurisdiction didn't extend over the fence."

Decker, however, did make one decision that pleased the crowd, when he fined McCormick \$5 for too much talk over a decision at second base.

Expecting some more of the verbal battling the next day, nearly 1000 fans went to Messer Park for the third Cleveland game. They saw little squabbling but did see some fine pitching by Radbourne and a 7 to 3 victory for the Grays. "Rad" allowed eight hits, all singles, and fanned eight. One Arm Dalley got his in this game, the Grays finally solving his delivery with 13 hits and 21 bases, the cluster including a three-bagger by Irwin, two doubles and a triple by Hines and two doubles by Denny.

Richmond was sent in against Cleveland for the final game of the series, and while he was not batted so violently he was found often enough to give Cleveland the game, 6 to 1, making the record to date five victories for Cleveland to one for Providence. In this game both Manager Wright and Manager Bancroft protested the decisions of Decker. The 450 kids at the game, it being children's day, made things hum.

Remember This One?

If any witness of the second Buffalo game, played June 4, should read this paragraph he may remember a stunt pulled by Jerry Denny. Radbourne had overrun third base and failed somewhat dazed several feet from the bag. Denny was coaching and jumped to "Rad's" assistance, picking him up bodily and putting him down on top of the bag, at the same time keeping himself in front of the Cleveland player trying to tag Rad, while the crowd howled in glee.

Sweeney rejoined the team June 5. The standing to start the second week in June showed Chicago in first place with 17 victories and 8 defeats, Providence second with 16 and 9, Cleveland third with 15 and 9 and Detroit fourth with 15 and 10. Boston, destined to land the pennant, was sunk in the second division.

June 10 was a day of big scores, the Grays taking their first shutout of the season by 11 to 0 with Chicago doing the trimming. On that day Boston whipped Detroit 30 to 8, making 29 hits with a total of 47, while Cleveland handed Philadelphia a 15-to-1 licking. The Buffalo-New York game was the only decent one of the day and that was won by a score of 8 to 7.

It took Sweeney a week to get a chance in the box, but in that game he put it all over Chicago, holding the White Stockings to four singles and winning by a 6 to 2 score. Nava caught the game. In this contest Jerry Denny made what was said at the time to have been the longest drive ever made at

Messer Park, the ball going over the left fence below the carriage gate.

After a few days in third place the Grays regained the top of the standing June 13, but a game and a half separating the Grays, Cleveland and Chicago.

There were some dizzy games on the roster along in June, 1883, and the one of June 19 at Messer Park might be cited as a horrible example. In the first inning of this game with the New Yorks the Grays turned in six errors, Gilligan having three, with Hines.

Denny and Irwin one each. But one hit was made off Radbourne, but the New Yorks made four runs. But most of the errors were spilled in this first inning and as Radbourne came back strong Providence won 6 to 5.

Sweeney had begun to cut into Radbourne's popularity and he was temporarily the most talked of player on the team. A few days after Sweeney reported a young man called on the proprietor of a cigar store, a baseball fan of the 33rd degree, and anxious to be known as an authority on the game.

The caller announced himself as Charlie Sweeney, and after telling the storekeeper what great sports Providence fans were remarked that he was short of money just then and also short on smokes, and requested credit for a box of cigars until pay day. He walked out with 100 of the best cigars in the store and was never seen afterwards. One look at the real Sweeney convinced the dealer his education in baseball had been sadly neglected.



XVII

By the middle of June, 1883, the Grays had won 11 consecutive victories, the victims being Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit and New York. The break in this long string that had kept the team at the top of the league came when the New York team took a 4 to 2 game. "Smiling Mickey" Welch was too much for the locals. He allowed but four hits, including doubles by Irwin and Denny.

Sweeney started a game against Philadelphia, but was forced to quit the box because of a lame arm and Radbourne was sent in to save the game, Sweeney going to left field. The fans and players baited Umpire Decker, who, although greatly in the dislike of local fans, was sent here by President Mills for game after game. Chicago never had much regard for Providence. A few days later as the Grays continued their slump, making 10 errors in one game in which the opposing Philadelphia nine made 11, a great roasting was handed both teams by the Providence Journal scorer.

The Grays won this comedy of errors by heavy hitting, the base hit column showing no less than 20 hits with a total of 25 bases, while the enemy was content with 14 and 18. Gross caught this game for Philadelphia. "It was cheap amusement for 50 cents," as the Journal reporter stated. But when the Grays on June 26 lost a hard luck game in which Sweeney held Philadelphia to four hits, the blasting ceased for the day.

Grays Beat Boston

Now comes some real baseball excitement, and the town was agog with interest as the series with Boston opened, a series that promised when it started to wipe out all previous attendance records. Boston came to Messer Park flushed with a long string of consecutive victories at home, and even then looming as the great threat in the championship race. More than 600 Boston rooters came down with the team

and wads of Boston money were in evidence at Messer Park and the sporting resorts down-town. Nearly 4000 were inside the park when the game began, with Radbourne in the box.

Providence won, 5 to 2, and it was said at the time that more than \$5000 of good Boston money was left behind. This game carried the season to July 1, with the Grays in first place with 30 games won and but 13 lost, as against 26 and 14 for Chicago, the second place team. Cleveland and Detroit had been shaken off.

But probably some of this money was returned to Boston as the Reds won the next two games, the second by 3 to 2 and the third by 6 to 1. Two defeats and the fans and betting men howling their heads off started something in the Providence camp and the fourth game was won by the Grays to even the series. Radbourne pitched the entire series and held Boston to two singles in this final game. The Grays played errorless ball behind him.

The schedule for the next few days was a tough one and things broke in all ways except the right one. For July 4, the Grays were carded to play in Philadelphia in the morning and in New York in the afternoon, making a tremendous handicap for Providence. To play a game in the morning in Philadelphia after an all-night ride from Providence and then jump to the train for a 90-mile ride to New York and play another game was sufficient for any team.

Forfeit Game to Philly

Delayed in reaching Philadelphia because of the holiday rush, the Grays didn't reach the ball park till 11 o'clock and when the seventh inning was finished Manager Wright insisted that the game be called to permit the Grays to catch the train to keep the New York engagement. At this point the Grays were leading, 11 to 9, and Capt. Ferguson of the Philadelphia team, one of the most disliked men of the time, objected and refused to consent to the calling of the game.

Knowing his obligations to the New York club, Manager Wright took his team off the field and barely made the train for the metropolis. The umpire forfeited the game to Philadelphia, 9 to 0.

An immense crowd, for the time, was at the Polo Grounds and saw New York win 1 to 0. But this victory was dearly bought as the next day the Grays hammered Pitcher O'Neil of the New Yorks for 19 hits and a total of 31 to win, 18 to 1, every Providence player, with the exception of Irwin getting one or more hits. Farrell and Denny got three hits each with a total of six each. Sweeney and Nava formed the Providence battery, Sweeney holding the New Yorks to six hits with a total of nine. New York made no less than 19 errors, Ward at third base having three; Caskins at shortstop, four; Troy, at second base, and O'Neil, in the box, also having four each.

At the end of the first half of the season, July 7, Providence was in first place with 33 won and 16 lost. Cleveland was second with 30 and 15, and Boston, the ultimate champions, third, with 28 and 19.

Grays Make Record

The Grays established about a record for scoring when on July 13 they played the Rockford team at Rockford, Ill., and won by a score of 43 to 4. The Grays in this game made 43 hits with a total of 73. In a rousing league game at Detroit, July 19, the Grays defeated Detroit, 7 to 3, in a 14-inning game, making four runs in the 14th inning.

Hines started the 14th inning by getting his base on an error. Farrell followed with a home run. Carroll got a life on an error and hits by Irwin and Radbourne and some more slips gave two more runs.

According to the system of placing the teams in the standing at that time, only victories being counted, with no reference to the number of games lost, the Grays were in first place, having won one more game than Cleveland, but lost two more. Under the present percentage system the Grays would have been second, with a percentage of .651 and Cleveland at .661.

The race and the year grew hot and as the battling teams squared away for the long drive down the August stretch the fine playing of the Grays and the great fight they were making filled the followers of the team with enthusiasm, high cheer and pennant hopes. Al-

though Messer Park was located on the other side of the city not far from Olneyville square, and there was no means of transportation but the slow-moving horse cars, big crowds wended their way to the games.

Directors, stockholders and fans were in accord. Everybody was pulling for the team, and the players caught the spirit of the time and generally played winning ball. General sentiment all over the country favored the Providence nine to win the pennant. The Boston menace, while a source of considerable worry to the better posted, was hardly considered by the people in general. Yet this same crowd of youngsters wearing the Boston silks finally triumphed.

Fans Disappointed

With this feeling of prosperity among the Providence enthusiasts as the home stand ended the latter part of July and the team departed for its second invasion of the West, the local fans were unprepared for what happened on this final trip through the enemy territory. While an almost even split on a road trip is today considered all that might be expected, the circumstances were such at this time as to make such a culmination a source of sorrow and indignation among the ones who had just before been loudest in the praise of the team.

Providence baseball followers had begun to look on the Grays as a superhuman team. Nothing could stop the Grays in their triumphant march pennantward. Consequently when disaster came they were dazed.

No help was looked for in staving off the rush of Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit except from Boston, and this smart aggregation looked the most dangerous to Providence sympathizers. It

was. Opinion was rife about town that Boston was the only team to threaten the supremacy of Providence in the race. The Reds were but four games back and playing brilliant ball, being a constant threat, not only to Providence, but to Cleveland and Chicago as well, these teams holding second and third places in the race.

The Grays started the trip through the West by winning the first game at Detroit 6 to 2, playing but one game on this visit. Going over to Chicago the Grays lost the first game 11 to 8, but won the second 14 to 11. The third game was put on the wrong side of the book 6 to 5 and the final struggle also went wrong, Chicago winning 4 to 3 before more than 5000 fans.

Going back to Detroit the first game was won, 4 to 2, and the second was taken 13 to 5, the Grays getting 18 hits off Jones. The third game was the 14-inning victory, described above, and the final game was also a victory by 7 to 5. The series of reverses started at Cleveland, injuries to Radbourne, who was hit by a batted ball, and Gilligan, crippling the team.

But the first game was won 8 to 0, Radbourne being hurt in this game. The second was lost 5 to 2. The next two games were split, the Grays winning the third game 9 to 2 and losing the final battle 7 to 2. Disaster hit the Grays at Buffalo and all four games were lost, the first 8 to 1, followed by 3 to 1, 9 to 2 and 16 to 11 defeats. In the second game the Grays made but three hits off Galvin.

Trip Strenuous on Team

It was a tough trip, this second invasion of the West, as all the teams were out to trim Providence, with Cleveland and Chicago still factors in

the race. The injury to Radbourne may have caused one or two of the defeats on the trip, as Sweeney and Richmond were forced to carry the pitching burden, and were hardly equal to the job, especially as the team fell off in its work in all departments when Radbourne was out of the game. Nava, however, did splendid work behind the bat whenever given the opportunity.

Some ugly rumors were in circulation

about Providence as this trip drew to its close, the burden being that the Grays would not support Richmond or Sweeney, and sharp criticism was directed at the team and management. It was expected that the pair would be batted harder than was Radbourne, but it was also pointed out that the players were all veterans in their positions and should not be so easily rattled as was the case. It was claimed that the team lost heart too easily and "accepted defeat with calm resignation."

But as the Grays were on the road and as the local patrons had no way of knowing how the players felt about the reverses or what the handicaps were, it is probable that much of the adverse criticism was undeserved and, after all, only the natural reaction from the enthusiasm that had run out of its channel and over its banks.

Because of the serious setback at Buffalo and Cleveland Providence fandom felt that the golden opportunity to obtain a firm foothold on the pennant had been lost. The four straight defeats at Buffalo after previously winning five out of six hurt badly. Besides, Boston had won four straight at Cleveland, while the Grays could take but two.



XVIII.

The second Western trip of the Grays was the most important part of the 1883 campaign, as the happenings on the journey among the Western stars was the turning point in the championship race. Two or three additional victories would have clinched the flag for Providence.

In the game on July 25 at Cleveland Radbourne was snatched out of a place in the baseball hall of fame through a muff by Cassidy. Radbourne in this game was in top form and pitched the entire nine innings without yielding one hit to Cleveland. Neither did he pass a man. The only Cleveland player to reach first base in the game was Phillips, who made the bag through Cassidy's dropping of an easy fly in right field.

This brilliant work by Radbourne and his support while the Grays belted the delivery of One Arm Dalley for 11 hits, including two-baggers by Irwin and Denny, plastered the most crushing defeat of the season to Cleveland on its home grounds, the score being 8 to 0.

No umpire appearing for one of the games at Cleveland, Manager Wright consented to let Lee Richmond take a day off and umpire the game. Cleveland must have had great faith in Richmond's sense of fairness to agree to this. The Cleveland papers of the next day declared that Richmond did a fine job, "giving his decisions promptly and with great impartiality."

Touch of Scandal

The first bit of scandal to mar the progress of the National League since

the Dick Higham episode happened during this trip of the Grays to Cleveland. With little regard for decency and appearances the enthusiasts of Cleveland gave Umpire Burnham a gold watch and chain, the presentation being made in the Cleveland dressing room. The present was in a sealed package. This was a little too much for the magnates and the next day Mr. Burnham lost his job and "Fog Horn" Bradley was appointed in his stead. This peculiar nickname was fastened on Bradley because of his loud and distinct announcements of decisions.

One of the funny things in baseball happened at this same time, and had to do with umpires also. Daniels and Decker were none too competent, although the former was much better than the latter. Cries against the work of both arbitrators had arisen from every city in the league. Daniels had given satisfactory service in most of his games at Messer Park, but Decker had been roasted to a deep brown by fans, players, officials and stockholders alike.

At the time of Burnham's removal all of the teams but one demanded the discharge of Decker, and curiously enough that dissenting club was Prov-

idence! For his work in this city Decker had been charged with everything but murder. The press bombarded him with solid shot, the spectators booed his every decision. Manager Wright declared him the most incompetent man in the world and declared he had robbed the Grays of at least a half-dozen games. Yet for some reason the Providence directors refused to consent to his discharge.

Perhaps there was method in this madness, but the reason for the stand of the local directors was never made known.

Enthusiasm Drops

This wintry trip of the Grays came to a timely end in Buffalo. What would have happened had the Providence team been scheduled for stops at any other point on the circuit is too painful to contemplate. With the team due at home in a day or two the enthusiasm of the home folks had dropped from 100 degrees above to about nine feet below zero, and all in a few weeks' time.

Whatever hit the Buffalo park on that day will never be recorded in history, but some sort of a jinx hovered over the diamond. Buffalo beat Providence 16 to 11, heavy batting, poor pitching and black errors featuring. Radbourne was still suffering from his injury, but insisted on pitching. He allowed the Bisons 19 hits, including two-baggers by O'Rourke, White and Force and three-baggers by Brouthers and Rowe.

Providence hammered Galvin for 16, Farrell's double being the only extra base hit. Each team made 14 errors, Calvin leading with seven, which, however, would not be so charged now-a-days; two being bases on balls and five were wild pitches. Hines and Carroll were the only Providence players to escape the epidemic; Gilligan had four passed balls and one other slip.

Probably with a wish to lighten the gloom a little the Providence Journal on the day of the first game at Messer Park, following the return from the trip, analyzed the situation, pointing out that, although Boston was pressing hard and coming fast, the margin of the Grays of four games was sufficient. But it wasn't. It was also pointed out that the Grays had 23 games coming on the home park as against 10 abroad. But practically the same situation existed with Boston.

But the Chicago menace was also considered, although the chances of the White Stockings were not considered so bright, due to "dissipation and insubordination." Yet the Chicagos beat the Grays out for second place at the finish. It was hinted in several papers of the circuit that the attitude of the Buffalo team should be carefully watched, as it was suspected that the Bisons, having no chance themselves or the pennant, might repeat the alleged tactics of 1879 when they made little effort to defeat Chicago in the final games.

Of the 17 games played on the western trip the Grays won eight and lost nine, the record of the Bostons being identical.

Team Average .278

When the Providence nine opened the home series following the road trip it

held first place in the standing with 41 victories and 25 defeats. Boston's standing was 36 games won and 28 lost. The average of the players at the end of the trip, including the first 66 games follow: Batting—Hines, .308; Farrell, .319; Start, .278; Cassidy, .239; Radbourne, .321; Richmond, .295; Irwin, .287; Denny, .297; Gilligan, .192; Nava, .240; Sweeney, .095; Carroll, .246. The team average was .278. In fielding the team average was .884, but this is not a fair sample, as passed balls, bases on balls and wild pitches were figured as errors at that time.

Hines led in two-base hits with 24, with Denny second with 17; Farrell, Cassidy and Irwin had each made 13 doubles. In three-base hits Farrell stood first with 12; Start was second with nine, and Richmond third with six. Denny had made five home runs, Hines two, and Farrell and Radbourne two each.

Of the 66 games played, Hines, Farrell, Irwin and Denny had played in every game; Start had played in 64; Cassidy and Radbourne had appeared in 58 each, and Gilligan had been behind the bat in 48 games. In fielding Hines and Farrell boasted averages of .925 each, Start .961, Cassidy, .851, Irwin .836, Denny .878, Gilligan .882, Nava .843, Carroll .901. When it is considered that fielders wore no gloves the averages are particularly high.

As a whole the Grays in the first 66 games had corralled 108 two-base hits, 50 three-base hits and 14 home runs.

The first game after the homecoming proved a bitter disappointment to the citizens of the city, especially to the 1964 who attended the opening game. This series was particularly interesting as Boston was the opposing team and won 6 to 4. Farrell was out of the game for the first time in the season and Irwin went to second base and Mulvey to shortfield. Radbourne allowed Boston but seven hits, but four of the seven were for extra bases, Burdock making a home run, Whitney a three-base hit, and Hornug and Burdock one double each, thus showing the total bases to just double the drives of the one-base variety.

Radbourne Fans Eight

Radbourne fanned eight of the enemy, but to have won he would have had to send several more back by the strike-out route, as the Grays made eight errors back of him, although he contributed four himself. The Grays made six with a total of 11, thus falling but one short of duplicating the Boston totals of double the singles. Carroll and Denny made triples off Buffington and Start collected a two-bagger.

It was worse the next day in Boston where the Grays took a 10 to 2 licking with Sweeney in the box. Ten errors were made by Providence, Nava having four, the Reds getting away with two. Boston hit Sweeney for but nine hits, including a triple by Morrill, and double by Wise. Nava supported Sweeney poorly and his throwing to bases "was wretched."

Returning to Messer Park for the third game the teams played the most brilliant ball of the season, but the Reds again won by a score of 1 to 0. Radbourne and Gilligan formed the battery and 1871 fans sat in. In this game Manager Wright shook up the batting order of the Grays, sending Richmond to right field in place of Cassidy, but the long-limbed son of Fall River, Charley Buffington, deceived the whole team and held the Grays to three hits, of which two were doubles by Hines and Radbourne. The Grays outfielded the Reds, however, making but two errors, by Farrell and Irwin, while Boston made six.

Sarcasm in Press

Boston made but five hits off Radbourne and made only one run. Yet the Providence Journal baseball reporter the next morning had this to say about the batting of the Grays: "Flat bats are allowed in cricket, and it has been suggested that the Grays practice with one during the forenoons and get some idea of what a hit is, and then try their luck with a round stick."

This "terrible" 1 to 0 defeat rankled in the heart of the Journal scribe as he also declared that "The players are getting handsome salaries, have received kind and considerate treatment from the management and public, and should not give way to dissipation."

The run in this game was netted in the second inning when Whitney hit the ball into the carliageway in right field and was followed by Wise with a double down the left foul line. Bradley was roasted for terming a foul drive by Richmond that Wise muffed. Radbourne followed with a two base hit, "which would have scored Richmond had Bradley used his usual excellent judgment," meaning that the umpire should have called Richmond's drive fair whether or not.

The supposed turning of the tide came the next day when at Boston before 5655 people the Grays won 6 to 2. Two hundred Providence fans were present and left the South End grounds at the close of the ninth inning gratified at the fine showing of the Grays who "wielded the ash effectually and fielded steadily and brilliantly." All this when the same morning's Journal story called the Grays everything but murderers.

Boston made a triple play in this game. Joe Start was on second base and Carroll on first base. Irwin lifted a pop fly to Whitney who dropped it, but which Mike Hines of the Reds caught before it touched the ground. Both Providence runners seeing Whitney muff the ball started for the next base, whereon Hines whipped the ball to Buffington on first base to double Carroll, and Buffington got the ball to Murdock before Start could get back, completing the triple play. It is doubtful if such a play would be allowed under present rules. As soon as Whitney completed his play on the ball it was again in play.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XIX.

The National League race at the close of this Boston series showed the four leading teams running almost neck and neck, with the outcome beyond the ken of any living man. Each of the four had its followers, and interest was at a fever heat. Through the virtue of a one-game lead Cleveland topped the standing, but had shown faint signs of slipping for several days. The standing at this point showed Cleveland first with 43 victories and 24 defeats; Providence was second with 42 and 28; Chicago third with 40-26, and Boston fourth with 39 games won and 29 lost.

Here in Providence the interest in the race was keen. Not so much of the nature of the fiery interest in Boston where the followers of the Reds were nearly frantic over the chances of winning the first pennant since 1878 and could see nothing but victory, but more of the uncertain sort. One day the crowds in front of the Journal window were raised to the heights of joy; the next day the same crowd would be besieged with woe. The sentiment of this crowd of scoreboard watchers reflected the general feeling throughout the city and State.

Even the daily press of Boston caught the violent fever and could see no good in anything but a Boston victory, and plenty of evil in everything else pertaining to baseball. The day after the Providence 6-to-2 victory the Boston Herald baseball writer came out with a fierce attack on the Providence players and management, and especially against Richmond. The article bewailed the fact that the Providence directors refused to join in the movement to rid the league of Umpire Decker, hinting that there was something brooked behind the action and suggesting that Decker take up his residence in Providence and umpire all games at Messer Park.

The tirade against Richmond was as fierce as was wrong. No better sportsman, no fairer player or more conscientious man ever played professional ball than J. Lee Richmond. The peg on which the Herald writer hung his charges was what happened in a game in Lynn a few days previous when the Grays played an exhibition game with the Lynn team. Richmond pitched this game and was wild, his control not being of the best.

J. Lee had the misfortune to hit two or three of the Lynn players with pitched balls. This, the Herald writer declared was deliberately done, characterizing the incident as brutal, and going so far as to accuse Richmond of gloating over the injury done the Lynn players.

While now it is considered a considerable advantage to teams playing on the home sod, it was more so in 1883.

This was the bright spot in the Providence and Boston schedules. It probably meant the pennant for one or the other of the pair, and close observers, even among the most rabid of Providence fans, gave Boston the benefit of the doubt. They saw clearly: The Boston team was composed of a lot of ambitious youngsters with enough veterans to steady the colts, and above all a system of discipline, voluntary or otherwise, that was far better than that existing in the Providence team.

Breaks Training Regular.

At least one of the Providence team broke training every day. The wine when it was red tempted him strongly. Another was suspected of shortcomings, but not to the same extent. Many times early comers at Messer Park saw the suspected player busy under the grandstand in the sort of practice room throwing the ball to another player in an attempt to get straightened out for the coming game. These facts were well known about town.

The remaining games on the schedule favored Providence and Boston through the large majority of the remaining games being carded for the home lot, but it worked the other way with the two Western contenders, as Cleveland and Chicago had about finished at home and faced a long trip on the road during which they met Boston and Providence in a half-dozen games on the latter's grounds. This really decided the race.

New York with Johnny Ward in the box came to Providence and trounced the Grays 9 to 6. There was a lot of objection to Bradley's umpiring, it being claimed that he was unusually severe on Radbourne, forcing him to split the plate to get a strike called. He was roasted plenty by the spectators. But the umpire had little to do with the result, as the Grays fielded sluggishly, making 10 errors, and failed to bunch the 13 hits off Ward. In this cluster of hits there were four drives for extra bases.

Despite the 13 hits, the press the next day panned the Grays for not making more, the Journal story winding up with the quotation, "And thus most surely doth the chance for gaining the pennant diminish like vapor in mid-air." It was a lost opportunity to advance as on the same day Buffalo defeated Chicago, 24 to 17, the Bisons making 27 hits with a total of 36 off Larry Corcoran and the White Stockings making 16 errors. Chicago made 13 with a total of 21 off Cushman and O'Rourke. The Bisons made 21 errors!

The Grays batted "Smiling Mickey" Welch the next day for an 11 to 5 victory. Sweeney pitched for Providence and allowed but five hits. Providence made 10 errors. New York won the rubber game, 7 to 6, in a 12-inning

battle. One of the many incidents that marked the Providence pitching situation all the year came in this game, as Sweeney in the box for the Grays had done fine work for five innings, but when the sixth opened Radbourne was in the box.

Philadelphia was the next team to appear at Messer Park and dropped the first game, 9 to 4, every Providence man getting at least one hit, with Radbourne and Cassidy getting four each, and Hines and Farrell three each.

The second Philadelphia game was a record maker for all time in the National League, the Grays winning by a score of 28 to 0. This game was played Aug. 21, and the Grays scored in every inning but the fourth. In the mill village of Lonsdale, R. I., which boasted fast teams for many years, a youngster named Hagan had pitched for the village nine and for several years been the terror of all surrounding teams. The Philadelphia management heard of the boy and one night sent an agent to Lonsdale in a buggy to get Hagan if he had to kidnap the youth.

Lonsdale people were loath to lose Hagan and kept close watch on him, as it was known he had been looked over by several scouts. But the Philadelphia agent got to him and bore him away in a fierce midnight drive having all the adventure of an elopement and a bank robbery combined. Philadelphia took him on the Western trip, where he made a reputation of hitting batsmen and ruining catchers.

Hagan Fails Miserably

As an opportunity for Hagan to show his home town folks what a great heaver he was Capt. Bob Ferguson announced two days before that he would pitch the second game in the series at Messer Park. There was a big delegation present from Lonsdale, Ashton, Albion and other places in the Blackstone valley. The cotton mills might as well have shut down that afternoon.

Well, Hagan started against the Grays and the Grays finished Hagan. He was given the most tremendous punishment ever administered to a pitcher in the major leagues. He looked very weary at the close of the first inning when 10 men faced him and scored seven runs. In the sixth and eighth innings the Grays broke loose on the favorite son of Lonsdale when 22 men went to bat and battered Hagan for four singles, four doubles and a home run.

Ferguson, perhaps in kindness of heart and good wishes for the large delegation from Lonsdale and way stations, kept Hagan at his task, occasionally gathering up a handful of sand and cussing. In all Hagan saw 26 hits fly past his head, including a home run and single by Denny; two singles and a double by Farrell; Start two doubles, Radbourne two singles and a double, Irving one single and one double, Carroll one single and a double, Cassidy two singles and Gilligan three singles. But Hines, the heavy stickler of the Grays, was content with one single.

Hagan was a little better at the bat, however, as he got one of the six hits allowed by Radbourne, a two-bagger. Philadelphia made 20 errors, Gross hav-

ing six behind the bat and Hagan the same number in the box.

Baseball fever was high when the Grays and the Bostons began their semi-final series of the year. This was considered as the "crucial" series of the season. The fans were a little off the track in this, but it served to attract great crowds to the parks. The first game was played at Messer Park with the Grays winning by a score of 3 to 1 with more than 2000 spectators present.

Radbourne and Buffington engaged in a pitching duel that was a treat to everybody sitting in. Providence got but two hits off Buffington, one of them a two-bagger by Radbourne, the other a single by Irwin. Boston got five, including a double off "Rad," but they were too widely scattered to be dangerous. Fine fielding by both teams ruled.

Going to Boston the next day the decision was reversed, the Reds winning, 3 to 2. This contest was brilliantly played to the satisfaction of 4592 spectators, including a couple of hundred from this city. The Boston rooters were wild when the game ended. Radbourne again went to the box, but the Bostons shifted pitchers, sending Whitney, who was fresh, to do the pitching. Again it was a battle of pitchers, although Radbourne appeared a little tired. Boston nicked "Rad" for nine with a total of 12, getting the hits more together than on the previous day. Providence hit Whitney for six with a total of nine. The fielding was sharp and clean on both sides.

Radbourne was like another famous pitcher; he went once too often to the well. For the third game in succession, also in Boston, Radbourne took the box

against the Reds, and was slaughtered. Boston batted him all over the lot and into the next county, collecting 18 safe drives off his tired arm and winning, 14 to 1. The Grays fell from grace in this contest and committed 12 errors. But at that the locals were not so bad, relatively speaking, as Boston booted 11 chances behind Whitney.

Every man on the Boston team made one or more hits. Wise and Burdock kicking in with home runs. Boston clinched the game in the first inning by knocking off five runs. The Grays were lucky to get one run, and that was a clean gift of the umpire, according to Boston papers, declaring the run scored on a foul ball. Evidently that one run hurt Boston more than the entire 14 did Providence.



XX.

Following this hectic series between Providence and Boston both teams went on the road for games in Philadelphia and New York, the final trips of the season to that section. Providence won both games at Philadelphia and Boston made it a standoff by twice beating New York. But Boston gained a game on Providence the next day when the teams shifted, the Grays coming back to New York while the Reds went to Philadelphia. Boston won its 14th straight victory of the season over Philadelphia, making a clean sweep of the entire schedule against the Quaker city, while to the surprise of the New York rooters themselves and the dismay of Providence fans the New Yorkers managed to hand the Grays 6-4 defeat.

The mystery of why Radbourne was kept in the box game after game was no nearer a solution than before. He was batted hard enough in the first innings all but to win the game, yielding four singles, one triple and a double in that frame. Errors in the fifth inning helped New York to score four runs. Denny made a home run in the second inning with nobody on base.

Boston sent both Whitney and Buffington to the box in Philadelphia and between them they allowed but three hits. The way the Boston management handled its pitchers was in marked contrast to the way Manager Wright worked his heavers. This little difference was what won the pennant.

On the same day that the Grays fell at New York and the Reds won at Philadelphia, Chicago whipped Cleveland, 21 to 7, batting One Arm Dalley out of the box in the third inning, when 11 runs were scored. The White

Stockings made 22 bases off Dalley in the three innings he worked.

Tied for First Place

At this stage of the season, according to the method of computing the standing, Providence and Cleveland were tied for first place, Cleveland having 49 games won and 32 lost, while Providence had won the same number but had lost one more. Boston and Chicago were tied for third place, but here again is shown the weakness of the system, as Boston had lost one more game than Chicago, the standing being 48 victories for each team, with Chicago losing 32, as against 33 losses by Boston.

Thus it will be seen how close a race was being waged by the first four teams. When the Grays returned to Philadelphia, Sept. 3, Philadelphia clipped the Providence wings again by winning, 6 to 3, batting Radbourne and Sweeney at critical points. The Grays outbatted the Philadelphias slightly, and each team made nine errors. Boston was idle on that day, but on the following day, while the Grays were idle, the Reds pounded out an 8 to 2 victory at New York, thus gaining a full game on the Grays in two days.

Both teams had a day off the following day, which permitted Chicago to gain a game on both by defeating Detroit, 14 to 1, and Cleveland also to gain a game by whipping Buffalo, 6 to 1. This victory by Chicago put the White Stockings and Cleverlands in a first place tie, with 50 victories and 33 defeats each. Providence and Boston fell to a tie for third place with 49 games won each, but Providence had lost two more than Boston.

This two-game difference in the number of games played by the Reds and the Grays was of great importance to Boston, as both games were due to be played in the Boston park. And furthermore one was with Chicago and the other with Cleveland, which added greatly to their importance.

Big Series Opens.

With the closest race in the history of the National League, with four teams practically tied for the championship and the season nearing its close, the big series of the year opened at Messer Park Sept. 6. At the same time, Chicago tackled the weak Detroit team, and Cleveland had the weakling Buffalo nine as opponents. Thus, while the two Eastern contestants were literally cutting each other's throats, the Western contenders were meeting easy game. But to offset this, both the Western teams faced a long trip on the road.

The attendance at the first game of this vital series was somewhat of a disappointment, only 1600 passing through the gates at Messer Park, and several hundred of these were from Boston. There was plenty of skepticism. Local followers of the game could not understand the policy of the Providence management. The continuous use of Radbourne in the box, although Sweeney and Richmond stood ready to go in at any time, and the generally alternating form of Radbourne, pitching almost shutout ball one day and suffering a terrific hammering the next, when he should have been resting, had set tongues wagging, with or without reason.

Yet with all this dissatisfaction of the patrons no change was made and no explanation was offered. Radbourne was sent back for game after game, despite the protests and the defeats.

But nevertheless in this first game Radbourne loomed bigger than a house. He held the Reds in the hollow of his hand, allowing but five lonesome singles to win, 6 to 1. The Grays played fine ball behind him, making but three

errors, remarkable in those days of no gloves and loose scoring. Providence got the hang of Buffington's delivery and hit him hard, collecting 12 hits, including doubles by Hines, Farrell and Irwin. Radbourne fanned eight of the Reds. Boston made seven errors.

Detroit Swamped

On the same day, Chicago swamped Detroit in a 26 to 6 game, making 29 hits off Bennett with the astounding total of 49 bases. This game was a record breaker for the National League, the White Stockings scoring 18 runs in the seventh inning, making 32 total bases in that frame. In this game, which spread consternation in Providence and Boston, and probably in Cleveland, Burns made one home run and three two-base hits. Pfeffer two singles and three doubles, with the others contributing their share.

Cleveland held pace with Chicago by easily disposing of Buffalo, 7 to 2, on the same day. These games of Sept. 6 were freely commented on the country over. They didn't look just right.

The next day Providence again beat Boston at Messer Park, the score being 8 to 1. It was good to be there and the park was packed, the crowd including a full trainload of Boston fans, and it was said that another full trainload was left behind, unable to get transportation to Providence, and there were no automobiles in those days.

Whitney started in the box for Boston and it was a tragic session for him. He had the reputation of hitting batsmen with malice aforethought. He had hit many men during the season, injuring some of them badly, notably Burns of Chicago. He was the most berated pitcher in the league, and at the same time one of the most effective.

When Hines of the Grays stepped to the plate in the first inning, one of Whitney's fast pitched balls hit Hines

squarely on the forehead. Hines dropped to the ground unconscious and apparently badly injured. He was picked up and medical attention was summoned. For more than 20 minutes Hines remained unconscious, and it was thought he was fatally injured. Whitney was white and faint and trembling like a leaf.

Whitney Condemned

Hines responded to treatment, however, and, after more than a half-hour's wait, resumed his place at the bat with every soul in the park standing and cheering him. Whitney walked back to the box with bowed head. The affair appeared to have been intentional, and even the rabid Boston fans condemned the act in no uncertain terms. Baseball patrons everywhere marvelled that such a skillful pitcher as Whitney should stain his reputation by the use of such cowardly and unworthy practices.

Whitney failed to recover his poise during the game and was batted hard, while Radbourne was in fine fettle, and, responding to the encouragement of the crowd, held Boston to six scattered hits, one a double by Whitney, who also contributed a single. The Grays landed 14 blows, including doubles by Hines, Radbourne, Carroll and Gilligan and triples by Irwin and Gilligan. By the seventh inning practically all the Boston contingent had left the park, and it was just as well, as the Providence rooters were still in an ugly mood over the Hines incident.

Two days later the Grays went to Boston to play the final game of the season's schedule between the two teams. A lot depended on this game and both nines were in fine fettle. One game was a good many at this stage, and furthermore, the result meant either an evening of the series between the Grays and Reds or the capture of the series by Boston, as the Reds had

won seven of the 13 games played to six by Providence.

Boston Wins

The old South End grounds housed more than 5000 people when this final game was begun, including more than 200 from Providence. It turned out to be the best game of the year and was won by Boston in an 11-inning battle, thus giving the Reds the series, 8 games to 6. The score was 4 to 3.

Superb pitching by Whitney and Radbourne, brilliant support by Mike Hines and Gilligan, and grand work in the field by every man on the firing line featured the battle. It was a magnificent display of strategy and pluck by both teams. Gilligan, appearing before hundreds of his fellow townsmen, played phenomenal ball, and the Boston papers of the next day were loud in the praise of the diminutive Providence shortstop.

Each pitcher had nine strikeouts, but Boston outhit Providence, as Radbourne was found for nine hits, with a total of 12, two of them in the 11th inning—a triple and double—while Whitney allowed but seven, with a total of nine, Farrell and Start making one two-bagger each.

It was a great day for Boston rooters. The thousands inside the park were supplemented by other thousands on the outside. Neighboring house tops groaned under the weight of human forms perched thereon. The railroad men had great difficulty in keeping the throngs off the road bed, as the high embankment along the left side of the park afforded an excellent opportunity to watch the struggle. Many others stood outside the entrances, waiting to hear of what was happening within, while hundreds of others went away, unable to get a glimpse of the battle or hear a word of what was going on inside that high board fence.



XXI.

The Grays started that crucial battle of 1883 as though they intended to make a runaway game of it. Two runs were sent over in the opening inning, costly errors by Wise and Burdock being largely responsible, but at the same time Joe Start's timely base hit was a big factor. Both the errors were made on easy chances. Mike Hines also had a passed ball and threw poorly. But from this point to the finish Whitney pitched great ball and was brilliantly supported; from this first-inning start to the ninth the Grays hit the ball out

of the diamond but once, getting but three hits in the first 10 innings.

In the fifth inning Whitney bunted the ball in front of the plate; Radbourne dashed in and grabbed the ball and threw to Start. It hit Whitney on the arm and then bounced off Start's chest. A wild pitch sent Whitney to second, and he made third as Farrell threw out Wise. Buffington dropped the ball into right field for a base hit to score Whitney with Boston's first run, thus cutting the lead in half.

A peculiar play was injected into the game in the seventh and was responsible for the game going extra innings. Burdock was on first as the result of

Start's dropping of a thrown ball to first. But Whitney's grounder to Irwin was fielded to Farrell in time to force Burdock at second, the try for a double play failing, because Farrell, by a wild peg, sent the ball into the seats crowded with spectators.

Whitney continued his dash around the bases and the tying run was in the offing when a spectator in the stand, possibly a Providence man, threw the ball back to the playing field. Radbourne held his head and stuck to the box. The ball was thrown to "Rad" and he fielded the sphere to Gilligan and Whitney turned back to third. Manager Morrill came to the bat and smashed a wicked drive at Farrell who captured the ball and threw it home in time for Gilligan to tag Whitney at the plate.

Wise tied the score in the eighth just when the Providence rooters were beginning to pack up to go home with the pennant and other things in their grips. He started the run with a single to right field and immediately stole sec-

ond. Mike Hines doubled to Cassidy's territory and Wise carried over Boston's second run, and it was a big run, too, as it tied the score and enabled Boston to win in the 11th.

Radford hit safely to right and Hines made tracks for the plate, but Cassidy gathered in the sphere and by a beautiful throw home landed the ball squarely in the hands of Gilligan, who nipped the runner a foot from the base.



P. UL RADFORD

Boston player whose hit in eighth inning of crucial series near close of 1883 season helped tie the score against Providence and whose run in 11th ended championship hopes of Grays. He later on played with Providence, being a member of the 1885 team. His picture was made possible for use in connection with this series of stories through the courtesy of Providence Lodge, B. P. O. Elks.

Both sides threatened to score in the ninth and pandemonium was let loose on each occasion. For Providence, Joe Start made a two-base hit with one out, but got no further. Whitney singled with two out in Boston's half, but he also was left.

In the 10th inning Whitney rose to great heights by striking out Carroll, Denny and Cassidy in succession, the Boston crowd rising as one man to cheer the deed. Radbourne nearly duplicated the feat in the Boston half of the inning by striking out two batters. The third man disposed of in the 10th was Burdock, who hit what looked like a double as it left his bat. Farrell dashed after the ball, got it and threw out Burdock, and the Providence rooters had their turn at cheering.

Boston Makes Game

The 11th inning opened with a great calm settled over the South End grounds. So many thrills had been served by both teams that the multitude was all but awed. Intense excitement prevailed and everybody sat back marvelling at the play and the uncertainty as to what might happen. Hardly a sound was heard.

Gilligan set the Providence contingent cheering when he opened with a single to right field, the little fellow, generally a weak hitter, having done yeoman service with the stick up to

this point. The sacrifice hit was not practiced much at that time and Hines made a vicious swipe at the first ball up and lifted a foul that Sutton took. Gilligan had advanced to second in the meantime, and when Farrell shot a single into right field he crossed the plate with what was generally conceded to be the winning run, to end the series and even up the season's victories, and cut deeply into Boston's pennant hopes.

The next two batters were retired and Farrell was left on second.

Boston came to bat for what proved the final inning and administered a blow that Providence never got over. Radford was first up for Boston and used his head to good advantage. He had two strikes, and as Radbourne cut loose a wild pitch he swung on it and made first base before Gilligan could retrieve the ball. The Boston section of the stands was a wild place then, with about 4550 straw hats waving in the air. The play broke the spell of silence that had held the crowd, and the cheering might have been heard in Providence.

Here was injected the blow that ended the championship hopes of Providence. Ubbo Hornung, Boston left fielder and part Indian, who later played with Providence in the old Eastern League, strutted to the plate with both feet toeling in. Perhaps Radbourne got a little careless, perhaps Ubbo was lucky, but whatever it was Hornung leaned against the ball for the longest hit of the game, sending it over Carroll's head for three bases and putting Radford across the plate with the tying run.

Burdock Breaks It Up

With a man on third and nobody out Providence backers began to pay their bets. Great excitement prevailed and the police had difficulty keeping the crowd off the field.

The blow might have been a home run but for the fast work of Carroll, who held Ubbo on third. But with nobody out Hornung would have deserved a large fine had he attempted to make the plate with the ball inside the park, as the Boston grounds were so small that few home runs were ever made inside the fences.

Farrell threw out Sutton at first, Hornung hugging his base. Radbourne was apparently tiring under the great strain of the game, following so many games in the box. Whitney appeared as fresh as when he started. He was a big, powerful man and one of great endurance. Burdock, who had hit Radbourne hard all the afternoon, came up, to the shouts of the crowd. Passing a dangerous man in a bad place was not known at that period and Radbourne pitched to Burdock. The swarthy second baseman caught one of "Rad's" fast ones squarely on the nose and drove it over Cassidy's head in right for two bases, on which Hornung scampered home with one of the biggest runs ever made in baseball.

The moment Hornung tapped the plate with this precious run the crowd broke all bounds and swarmed onto the diamond. Hornung and Burdock were seized, lifted upon the shoulders of the howling, perspiring mass and

carried in triumph off the field.

Hornung broke with all precedent and tradition by hitting as he did, as earlier in the game he was called to the plate and presented with a gold watch and chain donated by his Boston admirers. By all laws of baseball and chivalry Ubbo should have struck out at that critical period.

An immense throng gathered before the office of the Providence Journal to watch the progress of the game on the score board. Turks Head and vicinity was impassable. The square was packed to suffocation and the police could do nothing with the throng. The wildest excitement possessed the crowd when the run made by Providence in the 11th was hung out. But when the second half of the inning, showing Boston had won, was chalked on the board, silence prevailed and the crowd melted away in a few moments. Everybody gave it up then.

Fans Disconsolate

Nobody seemed to care what happened to Chicago or Cleveland. Second place in the standing after such an exacting campaign meant no more to Providence fans than 16th. Chicago defeated Detroit again by a score of 12 to 8, this being the third straight victory of the White Stockings over Detroit and as each was by a big score the whole thing looked like a gift. But there was one ray of light as Cleveland lost to Buffalo the same day 13 to 1, Galvin allowing Cleveland but four singles.

As the final series started, that with the Western teams, Chicago was on top with 52 games won and 33 lost. Providence was second with 51 victories and 35 defeats, while Cleveland had dropped to fourth place with 50 victories and 35 defeats. Boston was sitting strong in third place with 50 won games and 34 lost.

Because of the great importance of this game, its bearing on the championship of the National League, and in answer to several requests from readers to publish the box score of some of the more important contests, the box score of this 11-inning game, taken from an old score book in possession of the writer, is annexed:

BOSTON										PROVIDENCE									
	a	b	i	b	p	o	a	e			a	b	i	b	p	o	a	e	
Hornung, l.	5	1	3	0	0				Hines, m.	5	0	0	0	1					
Sutton, 3.	5	1	4	4	0				Farrell, 2.	5	1	3	7	1					
Burdock, 2.	5	1	3	5	1				Start, 1.	5	2	11	0	1					
Whitney, p.	4	2	0	0	0				Radbourne, p	5	0	0	2	0					
Morrill, 1.	4	0	14	0					Irwin, s.	4	0	0	2	0					
Wise, s.	4	1	2	5	1				Carroll, l.	4	0	3	0	0					
Burford, m.	4	1	1	0	0				Denny, 3.	4	0	1	1	0					
M. Hines, c.	4	1	0	0	1				Cassidy, r.	4	0	1	1	1					
Radford, r.	4	1	0	0	0				Gilligan, c.	4	2	12	4	2					
Totals	39	33	14	3					Totals	40	53	17	6						
Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11								
Boston	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2								
Providence	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1								
Runs—Whitney, Wise, Radford, Hornung, 4; Gilligan, Farrell, Start, 3; Earned Runs—Boston 2, Providence 1; Three-base Hit—Hornung; Two-base Hits—Farrell, Start, M. Hines; Struck Out—By Radbourne 9; By Whitney 9; First Base on Errors—Boston 4, Providence 3; Double Plays—Gilligan to Farrell; Farrell to Gilligan; Passed Balls—M. Hines 1; Wild Pitches—Radbourne 1; Time—1 hour 55 minutes; Umpire—Tom Bond.																			

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XXII.

It was no pleasant news Providence rooters heard in 1883, on the day following the crucial game in Boston. Hope still lingered and every Providence fan had his fingers crossed as the Chicagos met the Reds in one of the postponed games due Boston. Rivalry was so hot that "anything to beat Boston" was the slogan, and, next to landing the pennant, the elimination of Boston was the object. But the Reds had the team and the pitchers and walked off with the game, 4 to 2.

That the result meant the clipping of a few points from the White Stockings' standing in the current battle for second place meant nothing, as it was a case with the Providence rooters of whole hog or nothing. Second place didn't mean a thing. Ever since the winning of the pennant in 1879, the Grays had battled year after year for the flag, but each time failed to land it, finishing second each year.

Whitney pitched this game for Boston and worked like a beaver to win. A good-sized crowd of Providence rooters attended the game to make sure everything was on the up and up, and declared on their return home that the game was won absolutely on its merits, the White Stockings making every effort to win, as they still had a chance for the flag.

The series with the Western teams that was to determine the championship team opened with the Detroit at Messer Park. This team had no place to go in the race, and when the series ended with the Grays making a clean sweep of the three games, the Boston writers again burst forth with hints that the visitors "laid down." The Grays won the first game 7 to 0, mainly through Radbourne's splendid pitching, with fine assistance from Gilligan.

Radbourne struck out 11 men, and permitted the visitors to hit him safely but four times, one of the blows being a double. But two errors marred the work of Providence in the field, Denny making one and Joe Mulvey one, the local boy playing shortstop with Irwin on second base, Farrell being on the sick list. Denny made a home run in this game.

Boston Wins.

Nothing was gained on Boston, however, as the Reds again whipped Chicago. This contest was particularly aggravating to Providence and Chicago fans, as the White Stockings had the game apparently won, 2 to 1, until the ninth inning, when Boston made two runs to win, 3 to 2. Hornung, Sutton and Burdock tearing off hits in succession. Wise made a home run in the fifth frame. Continuing their attack on Chicago, the Reds the following day again won, this time walking away

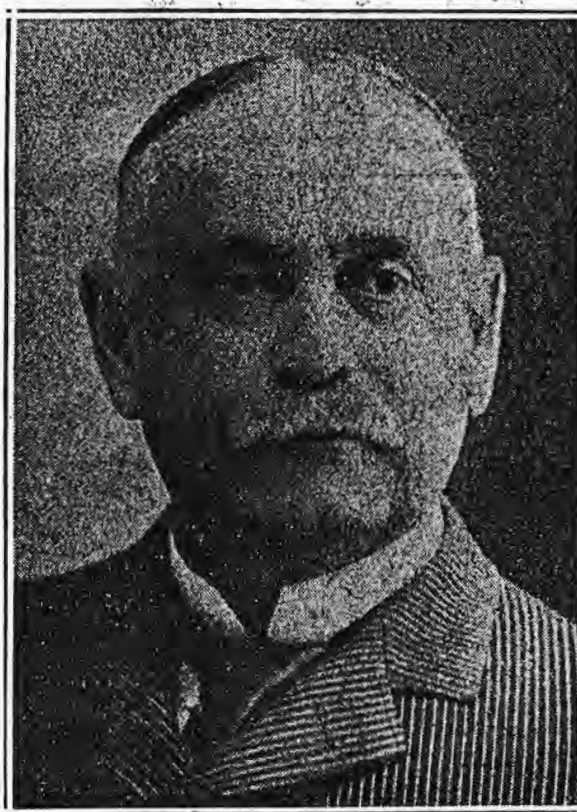
with an 11 to 2 score. The Grays were idle and practically the entire team took in the game at Boston.

Detroit battled the Grays in the second game of the series, the locals having a tough time in winning. Sharp batting won the game, the blows off Shaw mostly coming in the fourth, fifth and eighth innings. Costly errors by Detroit helped things along. The Detroit made two runs in the first inning, hitting Radbourne for three two-baggers. As Shaw weakened, "Rad" grew stronger. Denny's triple in the fourth broke a complete spell Shaw had held over the Grays for three innings.

Providence kept along by taking the final game from Detroit 2 to 1 in a 10-inning struggle. Sweeney pitched this game and should have had a shutout, as the lonesome Detroit run was the product of errors. Start was out of the game with a lame knee, Hines going to first base and Radbourne to centrefield. Detroit scored its only run in the second inning, when Ned Hanlon got on through Benney's wild throw of his ground drive. Hanlon stole second and crossed the plate on Sweeney's wild throw to Hines on Huock's slow roller, the ball bounding into the bleachers. Not one Detroit man got past second base during the remainder of the game.

Detroit Is Beaten

Weldman was in the box for Detroit and the Grays found him troublesome. He weakened a bit in the fifth inning, when Detroit tied the score. Carroll opened the inning with a two-bagger and reached the plate by fast sprinting, making third and home on infield



COL. HENRY B. WINSHIP.

But nothing, it appeared, could stop Boston and the fourth straight game was taken from Chicago, this time by a score of 3 to 1. All the Boston runs were made in the third inning, when Pfeffer and Corcoran made several boots, not one of the three runs being earned. Cleveland held on to the fringe of the race on the same day, defeating Philadelphia 1 to 0. One Arm Dalley holding Philadelphia to one hit, McClellan, formerly of the Grays, being the lucky man. Each team made but one error.

putouts. Cassidy was caught at the plate in the ninth inning as he tried to score on a slow roller in front of the base, Weldman to Troth.

Denny opened the 10th with a screaming three-bagger to left and walked home when Sweeney surprised every man in the park by driving a long liner to the outfield good for a triple; hits of any kind by Sweeney were few and far between. Cleveland kept along by handing the Philadel-

phia tall-enders a double defeat on the same afternoon.

Down went the enthusiasm in Providence when Chicago, after dropping four straight to Boston, walloped the Grays 8 to 7 in the opening game here. Boston fell on Detroit for a 6 to 4 victory and went into first place, as Cleveland was held to a 1-1 tie at New York, each team making but two singles.

Nearly 2000 saw the Grays fall before the White Stockings, in a free-batting game, Sweeney being found for 12 hits with a total of 15 bases, while Goldsmith yielded 12 to the Grays, but the Grays lifted the total bases to 20, Denny getting a home run, and Start, Hines, Farrell and Carroll making two-baggers. Ragged fielding lost the game for Providence, Farrell being charged with three slips, all costly. In all the Grays made eight errors.

At this point, the standing of the four contending teams was: Boston—Won 55, lost 34; Providence—Won 54, lost 36; Chicago—Won 53, lost 37; Cleveland—Won 53, lost 35.

In the second game with Chicago, the Grays "continued their speed in losing in the flag race," as the Providence Journal scribe wrote it, by falling 5 to 1.

Old patrons to Messer Park will remember the antics of Baseball Tommy, the self-appointed mascot of the Grays. His name was Thomas Cooke, and, while a man of more than six feet in height, had the mind of a 10-year-old boy. He hung about Messer Park for several years, the players using him for amusement, telling him that he had the makings of a great player. He was dressed up in a discarded Providence uniform. At times the matter grew a little serious, as some of the more careless of the Grays put him through a series of training stunts, one being rubbing Tommy down with a brick, after he had "mascoted" the team to a victory in a particularly hard game.

Tragedy Averted

A tragedy was narrowly averted one afternoon when Tommy, nursing a

fancied grievance against one of the Providence players, procured a loaded shotgun and chased the player for some distance, finally losing his prey in one of the lumber yards in that section of the city adjoining Messer Park. Tommy was disarmed and sent to the Almshouse.

Some of the "dyed-in-the-wools" who had seen Tommy around the park declared that the absence of the mascot was responsible for the loss of the pennant, that his inability to be present because of his taking up his abode in the Almshouse and the loss of his magic spell was largely to blame for the rapid decline of the Grays.

The bleacher fans, and not a few of the high-hatters in the grandstand, evidently sore at the way the Grays were acting in this second game with Chicago, forgot all about the game for a while, and, led by a wag in the bleachers, began to call for Baseball Tommy, demanding that he take Gilligan's place behind the bat. Radbourne was back in the box and pitched fine ball, but was given poor support by Gilligan. On one occasion, with Tom Burns running in from third base as Flint drove the ball to Farrell, Gilligan got the ball well ahead of the runner and had him a yard from the plate, but instead of tagging him to stop the run he threw to Farrell to get Flint running down.

On the same day, Boston and Cleveland gained a lap on the Grays, as Cleveland beat New York and Boston again conquered Detroit.

Providence managed to win the final game of the series, 7 to 4, by coming to the front in the eighth and ninth, after trailing the White Stockings to that stage. Three runs were corralled in the eighth and two in the ninth. "For the first five innings the infantile batting of the Grays was hardly suggestive of a \$20,000 professional team," the Journal reporter printed the next morning, also declaring the diamond knights appeared to enjoy the pastime and the patrons had begun to fear that the team had thrown up the sponge.

But the revival came in the sixth inning, as Farrell came to bat with two

out. Jack lifted the ball over the left fence for a home run, the first signs of life the Grays had shown in the game. Richmond got his base on called balls and rounded the bases when Radbourne singled to left and Dalrymple and Flint threw the ball around the field.

Rumors Are Heard

The Grays went after the game in the eighth, and Hines opened the barrage with a single, and after two were out, scored ahead of Radbourne on the latter's long home run drive over the fence. Gilligan opened the ninth with a gift of first when Williamson threw his drive wild. Hines contributed a single and Farrell followed with another safe hit, scoring Gilligan, and while the Chicago infield was throwing the ball about the field to nail Farrell between first and second Hines carried his run over.

At this time, ugly rumors were afloat about town regarding the alleged dissipation of one or two of the Providence players. Again the Providence Journal's baseball reporter came out with a story, known to have been founded on fact, and wrote: "Perhaps the players of the Providence team can answer a simple conundrum as to whether they have fulfilled the conditions of their contracts other than in being prompt in drawing their fat salaries on pay days," and, hinting that the stockholders and directors had become suspicious of the way things were going. The management was accused of being too lenient in imposing fines and "the imposing of the black list."

It was the same story, almost, as for several days before, as Boston again defeated Detroit, and Cleveland and New York played another drawn game with a 2-2 score. This Boston victory was the seventh straight for the Reds, giving them a lead of two games over Providence and three over Chicago and Cleveland, tied for third place. With the other three contenders idle the following day, Cleveland got a hard jolt by losing to New York, 7 to 5, practically losing all chance for the flag.



XXIII.

The Providence rooters of 1883 were kept on the griddle for a few days more, the Grays continuing their habit of winning one day and sometimes the next, only to hit the toboggan again and drop a most important contest. The gloom that hung over the entire State of Rhode Island thickened as Boston and Chicago annexed games often on the same day in which the Grays were licked. The race was the

closest in the history of the National League, with the flag within reach of either of the first four teams.

Never in the history of the National League before or since was the outcome of the race so much in doubt near the end of the season with so many teams in the running. Every game counted. The same feeling and excitement that kept Providence in a turmoil was evidenced in Boston, Chi-

cago, and Cleveland. The entire East was concerned in this great struggle, and the Middle West was seething. Baseball during these hectic closing days of the 1883 season was about the one topic of discussion.

Boston generally was given a shade on the other teams, because of the slight lead and the knowledge that the Reds were playing the best baseball of the four battling teams. The matter of pitching was the main factor in the race. Although Providence with Radbourne, Richmond and Sweeney ready to go in every day was credited with having the best corps of the quartet, the way Manager Wright was working his pitchers was a mystery to the rest of the country.

Radbourne was worked to death, and while he was almost invincible in some

games he was batted hard in others. The injury to Start that sent Hines to first base and Radbourne to centre field gave Sweeney a chance to show his wares, and he always held his end up. Richmond cooled his heels on the bench most of the time. On the other hand, Boston worked Whitney and Buffington generally on alternate days, thus having a practically fresh man all the time. Anson divided the work between Goldsmith and Corcoran with good results. But, fresh or tired, Radbourne was in the Providence box in a big majority of the games. It is a certainty at this far-away observing point that here is the rock on which the Grays split.

Grays Oust Cleveland

But there was one ray of light in the gloom as the Grays definitely put Cleveland out of the running in the series here, reducing the number of possible winners to three. They did a thorough job in the opening game with Cleveland at Messer Park, defeating the Ohio entrant by a 6 to 3 score. This game finished the hopes of Cleveland. The Grays won the game in the fourth inning with five runs, four earned. Sawyer was in the points for Cleveland and used himself up in the first three sessions. Yielding four singles and a double in the fourth, the Cleveland pitcher was beaten then and there.

Radbourne was back in the box and was in rare form, striking out 12 Cleveland batters, fanning every man on the team at least once, getting Muldoon twice and Sawyer three times, the latter failing to get even a foul in his three times at the bat. Sweeney played centre field in this game and had two putouts, both on hard chances. Hines, playing first base, as Start was still nursing his hurts, also made a fine record. Cleveland made but three hits off "Rad," one a triple by Pete Hotelling, and one a double by Tommy York.

Sawyer seemed to recover his wind after the fourth and pitched fine ball, during the battle, fanning Farrell twice and Irwin three times.

The dying interest in Providence was revived for about the "steenth" time as the welcome news came the next day that Buffalo had broken the long string of victories of the Bostons by beating them 3 to 2, and that New York had stopped Chicago in its mad career by the overwhelming score of 10 to 1. Ward gave the White Stockings only two hits, one by Gore and the other by Flint.

Radbourne appeared in the box again in the second Cleveland game and had one of his best days, although he had pitched a hard game the day before. The good news of the previous day acted like a tonic and nearly 2500 fans saw the contest. The Grays won 11 to 1, hitting One Arm Dalley with great regularity. They collected 12 blows, the lot including a home run by Carroll and a brace of two-baggers by Irwin. Radbourne allowed only four hits, all for one base. But as against the even dozen strikeouts of the day before in this game he was content with letting the enemy hit the ball, fanning but two. Most of the Cleveland drives were sent skyward to be taken in by the outfielders.

Victory Gains Nothing

There was no gain through this victory, however, as on the same day Boston took Buffalo 18 to 4, and Chicago won 5 to 3 at New York. This little streak at the expense of Cleveland put the Grays and Reds in a tie for first place, according to the method then in use, as both had won 57 games; but the Reds had lost but 35 games while the Grays had lost 37. Chicago had won 55 and lost 39.

Two disputed games were included in the standing, the Providence-Philadelphia contest of July 4, and a game at Cleveland where in the Bostons left the field against the orders of the umpire. No action had been taken by the league in these protested games, although both had a big bearing on the pennant. It was generally agreed that Providence would be given the disputed Philadelphia game, as Manager Wright was wholly within his rights in leaving Philadelphia to keep his engagement in New York that afternoon, to say nothing of the long lead the Grays had when the team left the field at the end of the seventh inning.

The Boston-Cleveland dispute was an entirely different matter, and a somewhat knotty one, as both teams appeared equally to blame. Apparently the only thing to do was to throw out the game entirely. In one of the games of the second series at Cleveland, One Arm Dalley started against Boston after a siege of rheumatism in his pitching arm. He reported himself in condition to pitch and was sent in to subdue the Reds. He was batted hard by Boston, and in the sixth inning notified Manager York he could not continue.

Sawyer was instructed to get into his uniform and pitch the game out. When Sawyer took his position the score was 10 to 3 in favor of Boston, but, notwithstanding this long lead, Manager Morrill of the Reds refused to continue the game unless Dalley went back to the box, claiming the umpire had not been notified of the change. Manager York claimed the league rules permitted him to make the change, as the rule provided for changes in players when the cause was illness or injury. Players could not be changed at will as is the case now.

Decision Arouses Dispute.

Umpire Bradley ordered Dalley to return to the box, suggesting that the game be played under protest, in order to give the spectators their money's worth. This Manager Morrill refused to do, and Bradley declared the game off until he could hear officially from Secretary Young of the league. A big dispute followed the decision, Cleveland claiming Bradley gave her the game through forfeit, 9 to 0. Bradley denied he forfeited the game to Cleveland, declaring positively that he called the game off, giving neither team the victory. Why Manager Morrill refused to continue the game with such an overwhelming lead is a mystery.

No game was scheduled for the day after the second Cleveland game, but despite the closeness of the race the Grays were sent to New Bedford to play an exhibition game there, Cleveland going to Lynn the same day to play the Lynn team. There were no exhibition games on the Boston or Chi-

cago cards at this time. But instead Boston played a game with Buffalo and won it, 7 to 5.

In this game, Hagan, the Lonsdale boy, who furnished the Grays with great amusement in the 28 to 0 game earlier in the season, pitched for Buffalo and put up a pretty good game; he appeared cured of his wildness, as not a base on balls did he give, and he yielded only 11 hits, one a double.

With second place hanging in the balance Buffalo came to Messer Park for the final series of the season. Three straight meant second place for the Grays, while three victories meant nothing to Buffalo. Here is where a mild scandal for the times came in. A few days before, while in Boston and the pennant not definitely settled, the Boston players made an offer of an overcoat to Galvin if he won two games in Providence.

Galvin went into the box in this first game and the Grays were all but helpless before him. He pitched better ball for that overcoat than he ever did for his salary. The Grays could find him for but four lonesome singles, losing 4 to 2. The Grays led until the seventh by 2 to 1, but here the Bisons cut loose on Richmond J. Lee was in the box because Radbourne had a lame arm and Sweeney was on the sick list. Richmond was effective enough when he got the ball over the plate, but was wild and passed six men. Gilligan caught a nice game, but the Grays contributed 11 errors, although six of these were due to the number of passes issued to Buffalo.

Bisons Leap Ahead

O'Rourke opened the seventh inning with a three-bagger and beat Farrell's throw to the plate on Hardie Richardson's ground drive. The trick of calling in the infield with a man on third was not practiced much then and Farrell was too far out to get a ball to the plate in time to catch a runner from third. Jim White sent a long fly to centrefield that Radbourne ingloriously muffed and Richardson scored, putting the Bisons ahead.

In the eighth inning Hines muffed Denny's throw of Lillie's drive and Force's putout at first advanced Lillie to second. Richmond cut loose a wild pitch and Gilligan in recovering the ball threw wild to Denny and Lillie scored. Less than 500 were present.

On the same day Boston by beating Cleveland, 4 to 1 clinched the pennant before 3000 rooters and Chicago trimmed Philadelphia 5 to 3.

Hagan pitched the second game for Buffalo and was an entirely different pitcher than in the 28 to 0 game. He allowed but seven hits, one a triple by Hines. He was wild enough, however, as he sent nine Grays to first on called balls. The Buffalo error column showed 16 errors. Boston beat Cleveland again 6 to 2, and Chicago disposed of Philadelphia 7 to 1 on the same day.

Galvin went out to win that overcoat on the final day of the season and won it all right as he permitted little familiarity by the Grays and held them to eight hits, including but one drive for extra bases, Benny getting a double. Radbourne did not pitch as well as was expected with second place depending

on the result. The Grays were severely handicapped by injuries, as Hines, Start and Farrell were unable to play, Richmond going to centrefield and Cassidy to first base. As Boston and Chicago both won their final games the standing of the league at the close of the tightest race in the history of the National League was:

	Won	Lost	P.C.
Boston	62	35	.639
Chicago	59	39	.602
Providence	58	40	.592
Cleveland	55	41	.573
Buffalo	52	45	.536
New York	46	50	.479
Detroit	40	58	.408
Philadelphia	17	81	.173

Providence won six from Boston, and lost eight; won seven from Chicago and lost seven; won six from Cleveland, and lost eight; won seven from Buffalo, and lost seven; won nine from New York, and lost five; won 12 from Detroit, and lost two; won 11 from Philadelphia and lost three.



XXIV.

Unlike previous seasons the early campaign of the Providence Club in 1883 was free from the disquieting rumors, stockholders, indignant meetings, wholesale resignations of club officials and other things that kept the game in a turmoil practically all the year.

While things went wrong often and the local rooters voiced their dissatisfaction openly, the position of the team either at the top of the standing or near it kept the agitation within bounds until September.

Little was heard during the first three months of the season, but about the first of August adverse comment on the game the Grays were putting up, the way the pitchers were being worked, or hints of certain players failing to keep in condition, grew to such proportion that the stockholders clamored for a meeting.

For nearly every season since 1878 rumors of the disbanding of the team and the disposing of the franchise to some other city were rife, the rumors generally taking form at about mid-season. With the Grays playing in-and-out ball during July dissatisfaction grew apace. On every corner men could be heard discussing the latest rumor that if the team failed to win the pennant that year it would be the final season in Providence, and it was common talk that the officials of the club had already adopted this policy.

All this discussion served to dampen the interest in baseball in Providence, especially as it began to dawn on the rooters that the Grays were losing their grip on the pennant. This was almost verified when the directors took an inopportune time to declare a dividend of 100 per cent. This was taken to mean that the directors had decided to disband the team and abandon the franchise.

A new angle was introduced at this time to the effect that the directors had become interested in the Narragansett Driving Association and had determined to drop baseball with its sorrows and uncertainties for the more interesting (to some) harness races over the best trotting park in the United States, as Narragansett Park was considered at that time. The declaring of

the 100 per cent. dividend was construed as meaning that the money would be paid the stockholders to empty the treasury and make it impossible to run the team the following year.

This new rumor flew about the city like wildfire and was the subject of universal comment on the street, so that stockholders became excited over the matter. A meeting was demanded and the directors called one for the night of Sept. 25, to be held in Mr. Root's office.

When President Winship called the meeting to order a large delegation of stockholders was present. Resigning the chair to Col. J. Lippitt Snow, a former President of the club, Col. Winship tendered his resignation as President, giving as his reason that the office was taking more time from his business than he could afford. He denounced the rumors current on the street and declared he had always been an ardent supporter of baseball and would continue as such so long as the game flourished.

He dismissed the charge that he and some of the directors were planning to sacrifice the baseball club for horse racing as "ridiculous and without a grain of truth." "Besides," he said, "the two sports do not conflict with each other, and there is no more truth in the racing story than there is in the statement that I am in the habit of betting on games played by the Providence team. I declare unqualifiedly that I have never wagered a cent on any baseball game played by the Grays."

Directors Resign

The proffered resignation was not at first accepted, but as Col. Winship insisted, it was accepted with regret, and Col. Snow was elected temporary chairman. A resolution was offered that all persons who had contributed to the club who did not hold stock to the amount of their contributions be reimbursed, but this was voted down. Henry T. Root and Col. Snow were appointed a committee to examine the stock book and list of contributors and report at a future meeting to be held at the call of the secretary.

Treasurer Mead gave the stockholders a pleasant surprise when he read his statement as to the condition of the treasury. His figures showed that the sum in the treasury amounted to \$13,600, the best showing ever made by the club. He declared that the amount would be raised to about \$14,000 by the end of the season through prospective gate receipts. But from this about \$4500 or \$5000 would be needed to pay bills, leaving an apparent surplus Oct. 1 of about \$9000.

"Ned" Allen asked if the rumor that the directors had declared a dividend of 100 per cent. were true, and supplemented this with a motion that a dividend of 25 per cent. be declared. Later he withdrew his question and motion. Harry Bloodgood answered Mr. Allen's question by declaring that if the directors had declared a dividend of 100 per cent. they were sure what remained would run the club another year, and because of this the directors had decided to remain in office and run the club after declaring the dividend, rather than draw away after making it.

Col. Winship explained that by the reservation of 11 men the expenses of the club would be greatly curtailed and he was positive the club could be run with what remained in the club's coffers, after the payment of any dividend the directors might declare. The matter was bitterly debated and at its end Directors Bloodgood, Earl, Thurston and Crawford tendered their resignations. More discussion followed and as the directors refused to withdraw their resignations they were accepted and George Flint, William T. Smith, J. Edward Allen and Henry T. Root were elected to fill the vacancies. It was long after midnight when the meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the secretary.

Much unfavorable comment was heard about the National League circuit over the action of the Boston players in promising a winter overcoat to Galvin if he won two games in the final series at Providence. But nothing was ever done about it. The price of the overcoat was nothing but a useless expense to the Boston players, as the double defeat administered the Grays made no difference so far as the Reds and the pennant were concerned. Had the Grays won both games from Galvin they would still have finished 2½ games back of the champions.

Boston won the championship in 1883 through steady uphill work on its own grounds during the final month of the season. Chicago's victory over Philadelphia on the final day of the

season gave the White Stockings second place, which they would have shared with the Grays had the latter won one game from Galvin; had the Grays won both games they would have finished second. But that didn't concern Providence rooters any more than it did the Boston tribe.

In the final home series with the Western teams Boston won 13 of the 14 played, seven in a row before falling for the only time during the invasion. The next six games were won.

Barnstorming Started

When the Grays played their final game all contracts were fulfilled and the question of who would be with the team in 1884 was one of considerable interest. Manager Wright could not be reserved and it was not known whether or not he would manage the team the next season. The directors favored his re-engagement, but it was rumored that Harry had been asked to manage the Philadelphia team the next year. This proved true and he piloted the Quaker City team in 1884. The directors of the Providence club gave him a good sendoff to his new field by declaring him "a valuable man because of his ability as a financier and his knowledge of baseball."

Barnstorming came into being at this time and Manager Wright arranged a series of road games taking the greater part of October and going as far South as Richmond, Va., where the exhibition series ended. On the day following the close of the championship season the Grays were given a benefit game at Messer Park with about 400 spectators present and about twice that number of tickets sold. It was a cold day and the Grays defeated Cleveland, 13 to 1.

In this game the Providence admirers of Radbourne gave him a gold watch and chain, with a \$10 gold piece as a charm. The presentation was made by Richmond, who umpired the game. Radbourne modestly lifted his cap and returned to the field. The present cost more than \$200.

The reserve list was announced Oct. 1 and included Radbourne, Gilligan, Start, Denny, Carroll, Sweeney, Nava, Farrell, Irwin, Hines and Richmond.

A special meeting of the Providence Association was held Oct. 5 to hear the report of the committee appointed to look into the matter of stock and contributions. Messrs. Root and Snow read a detailed report, in which it was shown that an over-issue of stock to the amount of \$25 had been made, the

21 shares in question having been honestly issued and properly recorded. The error was the result of the several changes in administration and officers of the association, the report read.

To overcome this and bring the capital stock to the limit named in the charter, \$10,000, a resolution was passed authorizing the treasurer to purchase at par from any stockholder owning more than four shares as much as may be offered, not to exceed \$3000.

George Flint was elected President, and C. Fred Crawford was elected to the place on the board of directors made vacant by Mr. Flint's advancement. J. Edward Allen was elected chairman of the board of directors. This meeting set everything in order and plans were at once put in motion toward assembling a team for the 1884 season, destined to be the greatest in the history of the association, and to make history in more ways than one. Confidence returned and, although the season with all its disappointments was scarcely over, Providence fans began talking of the great team promised for the next year.



XXV.

The foundations for the great team of 1884 were well laid, although much secrecy was used by the new officials. Little news was permitted to leak out for some unknown reason the directors giving little to the public. Publicity was succeeded by mystery. The notice of the negotiations with Frank Bancroft was made public, together with the probability that he would be signed to a contract to manage the Grays that year. Harry Wright had definitely cast his lot with Philadelphia, although he could have remained in Providence had he wished.

Local fans, or rooters as they were known 40-odd years ago, listened with ears to the ground for something definite about the team. But in marked contrast to the policy of previous years, especially of the two preceding years when meetings were held about every week with indignation conferences of the stockholders every day on street corners, local followers of baseball listened in vain for news.

One probable reason for the silence was the friction between some of the officers and directors. This was carefully covered, but was known to be true. The main trouble seems to have been caused by the difference of opinion of the previous summer over the

proposed 100 per cent. dividend. About the first news Providence rooters had of what had been done about the 1884 team or what players Manager Bancroft had signed came through the publication of a letter from him early in March stating that he had arranged a Southern trip for the team and giving a long list of dates for exhibition games.

Radford Replaces Cassidy

Another pleasing piece of news revealed by the letter was that Paul Radford of the 1883 Boston champions had been signed, this being the first inkling anybody here had that the colt outfielder of the Boston team had been released by the Reds and signed by Providence. He was signed to take the place of Cassidy in right field, that player deciding to give up baseball for business. The news was received with great joy in Providence, as Radford had played a wonderful game for Boston and was a factor in the winning of the pennant. Why Boston let Radford go was never explained.

It was not generally known until late in the fall that Bancroft had signed, but the news met with satisfaction in all quarters, as he was considered an experienced manager of excellent business ability and with plenty

of baseball brains. He was a New England man.

The close of the 1883 season had set the local rooters by the ears, but for all that there was considerable interest in the long barnstorming trip through the South. President Allen went with the team and continued with the players for the entire trip. He reported on his return that the Providence nine everywhere was considered the best in the United States. The Grays played 13 games on the road, winning 10. The final game at St. Louis was played in 65 minutes, as the players had made arrangements to go home that night and all wanted to catch early trains.

Following this St. Louis game the team disbanded. Denny, Sweeney and Nava went to California; Carroll and Radbourne to Bloomington, Ill.; Farrell to Newark; Cassidy to Brooklyn, and Irwin to Boston. Hines, Start and Gilligan returned to Providence. President Allen was not idle on this trip, as when he returned he handed in the signed contracts of Radbourne, Denny, Sweeney, Nava, Farrell, Irwin and Carroll. Cassidy had about made up his mind to abandon baseball for business and did not sign. Later he was released by the club.

Hines, Gilligan and Start signed later. President Allen also announced the partial promise of a pitcher and catcher to be signed later, but who the players were was never disclosed, as they did not come.

Gets Copy of Agreement

Early in November, President George Flint received a copy of the agreement entered into by the National League, the American Association and the

Northwestern League, the only baseball leagues of any importance in the country, agreeing to appoint a board of arbitration to take up any matters common to any two of the principals. This was the first agreement entered into between baseball leagues and was the forerunner of the present National Agreement on which the life of organized baseball depends.

This agreement greatly strengthened the hands of club owners and was the pioneer piece of legislation on which the present prosperity of baseball was built. Clubs were sure of their players, territory, and all other points, vital to the conduct of the game. The agreement took care of all contracts between clubs and players, the arrangement of exhibition games between teams of one league and those of another, and in general covered the same ground as the present National Agreement. It was really the beginning of constructive legislation, made necessary by experience, and without which it is doubtful if baseball as now conducted would have survived.



FRANK C. BANCROFT
Signed as manager of Grays of 1884.
He led them to championship.

The players objected strongly to the agreement, but it was pointed out that the matter was really more in the interest of the player than of the clubs. It was claimed that it put a check on clubs in the larger cities, where money was more plentiful and which were able to offer larger sums for services than the smaller places. Clubs of cities like New York and Chicago were cited as horrible examples of this abuse of the rights of the smaller fry. It meant a lot of high salaried players out of a job after a year or two of fat con-

tracts, the promoters claimed, if this agreement were not made. It provided also for the suspension of any reserved player who refused to sign with the club reserving him, going so far as to make the suspension permanent in case of absolute refusal of the player.

Contracts were limited in their life to the period between April 1 and Oct. 31 of each year, with no contract to be made with any player for the succeeding season previous to Oct. 10 of any year, but clubs must publish by Sept. 25 of each year a list of 11 reserved players in order to hold them. A peculiar rule appeared in the agreement to the effect that the low limit of salaries should be \$1000 per season for the players in the National League and American Association, and \$750 in the Northwestern League, a smaller organization.

Umpires, Managers Included.

For the first time in the history of baseball the agreement affected umpires and managers, providing for the regular signing of umpires and managers like that of players. Severe penalties were provided in case any team broke the agreement, or played another team having in its ranks any suspended or expelled player of either of the parties to the agreement.

The arbitration committee consisted of three representatives from each league party to the agreement. While some of the provisions of the agreement were vague and illogical, particularly that part pertaining to high-salaried players being out of jobs after a season or two, it was a start in the right direction and may have saved baseball, as before the negotiations were begun pirating of players was threatened by the American Association, and the National League threatened retaliation.

Until the adoption of the agreement the Providence directors were in a quandary, as about every Providence player had been approached by agents of the American Association and a few of the independent clubs in some of the larger cities. But with the agreement in force the club went ahead and one of the points discussed was the doubling of the capital stock, raising it to \$20,000.

From the close of the championship season until the annual meeting of the club in January, little news was forthcoming concerning the team for the season of 1884. As usual it was announced that the club would put a championship team in the field, but the additional statement was made that because of the new agreement the club would go ahead and sign a few high salaried men who would undoubtedly

make the team a pennant winner. Paul Radford was the only new player signed, and he was not the highest salaried man on the team by a whole lot, but the pennant winning team was produced just the same.

Treasury Flourishing

Things were not particularly pleasant in the inner circles of the club as was demonstrated at the annual meeting Jan. 30, 1884. Only 18 stockholders were present of 75 on the books. In the absence of the president, Col. J. Lippitt Snow acted as temporary chairman. The report of Marsh Mead showed the treasury to be in a flourishing condition, the best since the club was organized.

The figures, though large in those days, will cause a smile to cross the faces of modern baseball owners, even to a league of the size of the Eastern. The report showed that the admissions at Messer Park during 1883 turned \$26,871.15 into the till, which was supplemented by \$1956.50 received through the sale of season tickets. Other small items swelled the income of the club to about \$29,000 from home games. On the road the Grays were paid \$19,165.45, the largest sum paid any visiting team in the league. The total income of the club for 1883 was \$51,398.45, a sum so low that it would bankrupt King Bader's Grays of this year.

On the other side the report showed that salaries paid took \$21,700.65 of the income, and that visiting teams were paid \$9242.92, leaving a surplus of nearly \$10,000, after travelling expenses and other minor items had been deducted. This sum just about balanced the amount the Grays were paid on the road in excess of money paid visiting clubs here. A total of 61,341 paid admission to the games at Messer Park that year.

To show how the different teams drew in Providence it might be stated that Boston was paid \$2103, Chicago was paid \$1961, Cleveland \$1826, New York \$1065, Detroit \$784, Buffalo \$763 and Philadelphia \$549.

On motion of Henry T. Root the treasurer was authorized to issue new stock to the amount of \$10,000. New stockholders accepted were James H. Palmer, James H. Bugbee, John Heathcote, Edward P. Chapin, George J. West, Benjamin A. Gage, Jeffrey Hazard, Walter R. Stiness, Herbert R. Wood, Frank F. Carpenter and J. E. Roberts, all well known business men of Providence and vicinity.

Henry T. Root was elected president, Marsh Mead treasurer, and C. F. Crawford, J. Edward Allen, Stillman White, William Smith and T. C. Peckham as a board of directors.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XXVI.

What was then, in the spring of 1884, a radical departure in training baseball teams was made by the Providence club. Heretofore teams had trained at home, the matter of getting into condition in the South not being thought of. Some of the teams, including the Grays, had in previous seasons played a few games in the near South, but only after a preliminary season of training at home. But the Providence directors made another original move, and many of the customs of baseball now in general use and considered vitally necessary were first launched in Providence. This city was the birthplace of many things now common in the national game.

Early in March President Root received a letter from Manager Bancroft with the information that he had arranged an ambitious southern trip for the Grays and that the players would leave Boston, March 26, by steamer, bound for the first stopping place on the trip, Norfolk, Va. Letters had been sent to all the players and replies indicated all would be on hand.

This first real Southern training trip ever taken by a big league team was scheduled to start at Portsmouth, Va., with the team of that place, two games being on the card for April 1 and 2. From that city the dates took the Grays to Richmond for games April 3, 4 and 5; to Washington for contests on April 7, 8 and 9, and from the capital city to Baltimore, Lancaster, Pa., Wilmington, Del., Trenton, N. J., Reading, Pa., Harrisburg, Brooklyn, New York with the Metropolitans and with Yale at

New Haven for the final game on the way home.

The Grays were to open the exhibition season at Messer Park April 28, but the opposing team had not been selected, although the Brown University team usually got the opening dates.

At the National League meeting early in the winter a change was made in the rule for called balls, reducing the number to give a batsman his base from seven to six. Manager Bancroft commented on this change in his letter, giving as his opinion that the rule would help Radbourne and Galvin, but would hurt Whitney and Corcoran.

That Manager Bancroft was strictly on to his job was indicated that, in addition to arranging the Southern training trip he had decided on a new departure in the matter of scorecards to be sold at Messer Park. He proposed to illustrate the front cover of the card with lithographed portraits of the players done in colors, the players to be pictured in uniform and in action. This idea took splendidly with the public, and the cards being works of art, they met with a ready sale. Many Providence people kept the entire collection, and the writer had one set, but the thief of time, or some

other variety of robber, broke in and took away the prized possession, else they would be used to illustrate this little story.

The engagement of Paul Radford of the 1883 Boston champions, was also announced in the letter, and the additional information was given that Charley Bassett of Pawtucket, together with Murray and Jones had been added to the Grays' roster, Bancroft declaring the engagement of this trio of brilliant youngsters would fill the places of any player in dispute. He closed by saying he could see no reason why the Grays should not capture the championship in the season to come.

This last expression of opinion of Manager Bancroft served to set the city agog, notwithstanding the same expressions by former managers which never came to pass. But the Grays of 1884 proved what the Grays of the past four seasons did not—they were real champions and showed Manager Bancroft to be a truth speaker.

But like all good things in baseball the plans of Manager Bancroft did not work out so well as expected and he was forced to change his plans somewhat for the southern trip. Some hitch occurring over the game carded for Portsmouth, the Virginia League club failing to raise the guarantee, called the opening games of the trip off. Because of this the proposed trip to Norfolk, sailing from Boston, was cancelled, and a game was arranged with Brown University for March 29.

All the players with the exception of Jack Farrell, Denny and Hines reported before the game and practically the regular line-up of the Grays took the field against the college team, the Grays winning 10 to 9. The Grays batted in this order: Start, 1b: Irwin, s. s.; Radbourne, 2b, p.; Carroll, 1. f.; Murray, c.; Nava, 3b.; Radford, p., 2b.; Robinson, r. f.; Smith, c. f.

The Brown line-up was: Seagrave, c. f.; Shell, r. f.; Bassett, 2b.; Chase, 1b.;

Clarke, c.; Gunderson, p.; Doron, 2b.; Shief, 1. f.; Wadsworth, s. s.

At this time Manager Bancroft was notified that the Portsmouth Club, which had cancelled the opening game there with the Grays, had advertised it would play the Washington Nationals a member of the outlaw Union League. Bancroft at once warned the officials of the Portsmouth Club that as the Washington Nationals was an outlaw team if the Virginians went through with the game the Portsmouth Club would be forever barred from playing any team in the National League, American Association and the Northwestern League, as well as in the Eastern League, of which the Portsmouth Club was itself a member. What effect, if any, the letter had is unknown, as nothing more was heard of the event.

Manager Bancroft announced at this time that he was in communication with a young pitcher of promise who would be engaged, provided he didn't ask the City Hall for signing. Probably he asked as much as that, for he was not engaged. The idea was to have a man handy if either, Radbourne or Sweeney became incapacitated.

But as an offset to the loss of the youngster it was found that Radford could pitch, and his work in the game against Brown was loudly praised by Providence fans. He displayed all curves and other things used by pitchers of the time. Brown made only two runs while he was in the box, but landed seven from Radbourne's delivery in the last four innings. Murray caught the entire game and did well.

The Grays started on their southern trip that night and had a successful journey, playing at Hampton Roads, Richmond, Washington, but not with the Nationals, Baltimore, Lancaster, Pa., Trenton, Reading, Pa., Harrisburg, Brooklyn, N. Y., with the Metropolitans of the American Association, winding up with a game at New Haven, April 26.

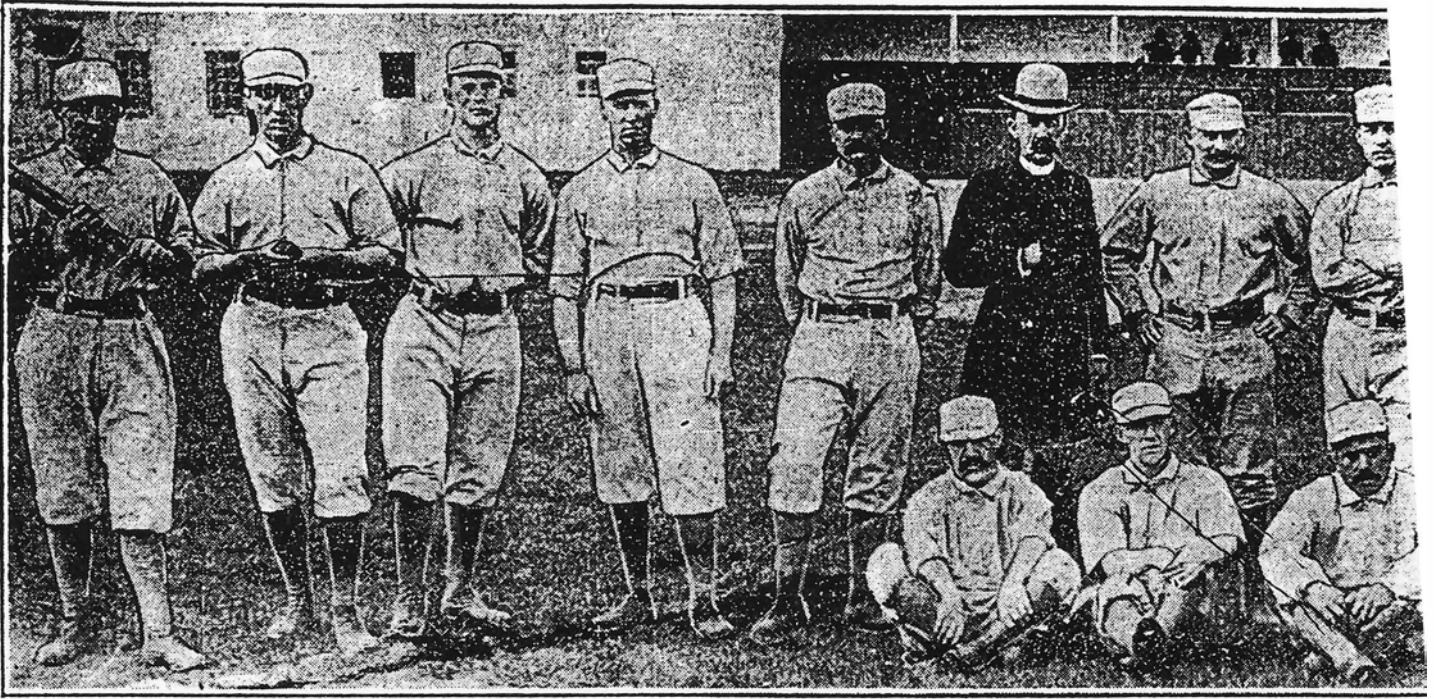
All missing players joined the team while on the road, Farrell being the last to report, and then, only on peremptory order. During the trip 21 games were played, and not counting a forfeited game at Brooklyn, each was a victory for the Grays. The money return was good and the trip more than paid for itself from a financial standpoint, as well as putting the players in splendid condition to start the championship season. At some of the games more than 3000 spectators cheered the Grays.

While at Richmond, Manager Bancroft wrote President Root that before leaving Providence all the players voluntarily promised to keep strictly temperate while on the trip, and on his return he declared every man had kept his pledge. Sweeney bore the burden of the pitching during the trip, as Radbourne complained of a lame arm. Paul Radford pitched some of the games and was highly praised by Manager Bancroft.

On returning to Providence Manager Bancroft waxed eloquent over the superb pitching of Sweeney, this being the advance news of what a great pitcher Sweeney was later to become. Had things been pleasant for Sweeney during the entire season it is probable he would today be considered one of the greatest pitchers the national game ever produced. More of this later. Sweeney's drops and curves were described by Bancroft as the most marvellous he had ever seen.

Radford showed this early in his career that he was the outstanding player on the Providence nine in fleetness of foot and agility in base running. The Grays reported in Providence in splendid form, with every man in shape to start the championship season. April 30 was taken up with an exhibition game at New Bedford, Manager Bancroft's home town.

A few days before the opening of the championship season here and in Boston the enemies of baseball here and in other sections, and in some quarters at that time baseball was linked with theatres by certain people



as a sure road to ruin, were greatly cheered by an address made in Cambridge by President Elliot of Harvard College. He said: "I think it a wretched game, but as an object of ambition for the youths to go to college, really it is a little weak. There are only nine men who can play the game, and there are 950 students in Harvard, and out of the nine there are but two desirable positions, I understand—pitcher and catcher—so there is little chance for the youth to gratify his ambition. I call it one of the worst games, although I know it is called the national game of the United States."

President Elliot's remarks were widely quoted, but soon were forgotten, and

how far wrong he was in his opinion has been shown for upwards of half a century of baseball progress.

The only setback on the trip was at Brooklyn, when a dispute arose that ended the second game with the American Association team there. The National League rule permitted the pitcher to serve the ball to the batsman in any way he saw fit, but the Association still clung to the old rule that the hand in swinging forward must pass below the shoulder. In the first game, Sweeney was permitted to throw the ball as he chose and the Grays won, but in this second game the Brooklyn manager insisted that the game was being played under Association rules

and refused to permit Sweeney to pitch from over his shoulder.

Radford had pitched a part of the game and was hit hard. At the end of the sixth inning Brooklyn led, 10 to 8. Sweeney started to pitch in the seventh and as he threw the ball from over his shoulder the umpire called three foul balks, each foul balk sending a batter to first base. The dispute waxed warm and finally resulted in the Grays leaving the field and the umpire gave the game to Brooklyn by a score of 9 to 0. The third scheduled game with Brooklyn was cancelled.

Returning to Providence the Grays defeated Brown, 15 to 6. In this game a young pitcher named McDonough, a

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D. Perrin

XXVII

Major league baseball in Providence reached its peak in 1884. All previous seasons were eclipsed, and this seventh year in the big show did more to put Providence in the baseball Hall of Fame than all the years that went before, or came afterward. The Grays not only won the National League pennant for the second time, but won the first World Series. Radbourne set a record for pitching and winning consecutive games that has never been approached

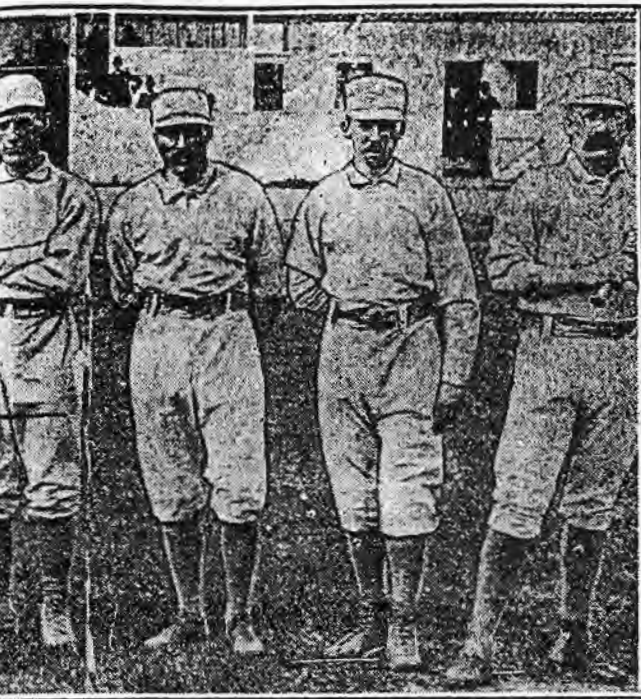
and probably never will be. Sweeney, although with the team but a part of the season, made a strike-out record that still stands, defying the onslaughts of hundreds of pitchers for more than 43 seasons. It is generally conceded among baseball men everywhere that the Providence team of 1884 was one of the greatest teams ever organized.

The season started in any way but as a success. The result of the opening game, May 1, was a bitter disappointment to the stockholders, and a sur-

prise to everybody concerned. To begin with, Cleveland won the game by a score of 2 to 1; but that was a minor consideration to the attendance figures, for where preparations had been made for a capacity crowd, the outfield roped off for the expected throngs, and excursions arranged from Worcester and other places at reduced fares, but 2395 paid to see the game.

Light batting prevailed, the Grays hitting McCormick for but three hits, one a double by Hines. The Grays lost at least one run by careless base running, and, according to the Providence Journal's report the next day, "showed signs of nervousness."

Sweeney was given the game and his work was admirable. He fanned eight men, including three in a row in the second inning. He allowed nine hits, all for one base, and should have won the game. Radford's work in right field was brilliant and the feature of



Providence Grays of 1884

Sitting, left to right: Bernard Gilligan, c.; Paul Radford, r.f.; Vincent Nava, c. Standing, left to right: Charley Radbourne, p; Charley Sweeney, p; Miah Murray, p.; Jerry Denny, 3b.; Paul Hines, c.f.; Frank Bancroft, manager; Joe Start, 1b; Charley Bassett, utility infielder; John Catannach, p.; Cliff Carroll, l.f.; Arthur Irwin, s.s.; Jack Farrell, 2b.

Boston amateur, was given a trial in the box, but failed to impress Manager Bancroft. In the second game, a day or two later, Providence tried out John Cattannach in the box against Brown. John was well known about Providence as an athlete of more than usual ability and possessed of a wealth of speed as a pitcher. But he was very wild and was removed to let Radford finish the game. Cattannach was kept on the pay roll, however, for several weeks. The Grays won this game, 11 to 6.

The training season closed April 30 when the Grays went to New Bedford and defeated the team of that place, 17 to 5.

It was well for the team that the Southern training trip was taken, as the weather in Providence that spring was cold and wet and the players would have had to do most of their work indoors. The weather in the South was fine. While the team was on the road the directors made a lot of changes and improvements in the stands and on the field at Messer Park, including a well-combed change in the press box.

Just before the opening of the season consternation was thrown into the rooters of Providence by the announcement that the new uniforms for the season were of a drab color with blue trimmings, thus doing away with the

famous gray. To appease somewhat the popular clamor against the change from the time-honored gray, it was announced that the gray suits would be saved as a change uniform.

Elaborate plans were made for opening day. State and city officials and prominent men of the city being invited to attend "to give the audience a representative color." Excursions were also arranged on the railroads from various points.

the contest. He made several grand running catches and completed a double play with Farrell that saved one run, and later threw a man out at the plate.

Double Play

In the double play with Farrell, Radford took the ball in territory that should have been covered by Hines. With a man on second base, Muldoon lifted a fly high over Hines's head that he misjudged, but Radford pulled it down, spoiling a potential home run, and then threw to Farrell to double the runner, who was half way home when the ball was caught, probably saving two runs.

The first run of the game was made in the seventh inning, when Murphy got his third scratch hit of the game and reached second when Start threw wild to Farrell as they had Murphy in a trap between the bases. Muldoon hit past Farrell and Hines fumbled and

then threw past Denny, Murphy scoring. In the eighth inning, with two out, Glascock singled and made second on a wild pitch, crossing the plate on a hit by Phillips to centre that Hines fumbled, Phillips making third. Murphy hit safely to right field and Phillips ran for the plate. Radford gathered the ball and, on a peg that bounded squarely into Gilligan's hands, enabled the catcher to nip the runner as he slid in.

For the first seven innings, Providence got but five men to first base, including passes and other things. The ninth inning opened so well that the crowd rose to its feet and cheered wildly. Gilligan began with a hit and reached second on Murphy's miff of Radford's fly and scored the first run for the Grays when Farrell hit safely to right field. In the meantime Hines went out on a pop fly. With a run in,

two on and only one out, it looked as if the game would be saved.

Evans threw the ball in, but Murphy dropped it and Radford took third, but was caught at the plate on a fast return by Phillips from Start's grounder. Farrell reached third on this play, but failed in his attempt to score the tying run, an attempted double steal, with Start, Briody to Ardner to Briody, ending the game.

Umpire "Roasted"

All through the contest the crowd "roasted" Umpire Burns, a brother of Tom Burns of the White Stockings. His decisions on balls and strikes were resented and his base decisions were bad. If any man on the field was nervous it was the umpire.

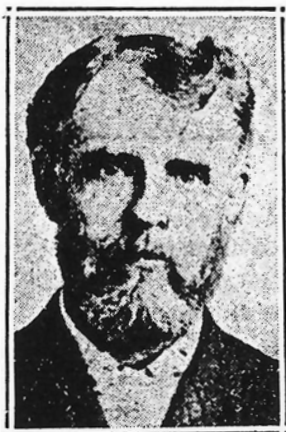
The box score of this game follows:

CLEVELAND						PROVIDENCE					
ab	1b	po	a	e		ab	1b	po	a	e	
Hotaling, m.	4	0	1	0	0	Hines, m.	4	1	0	0	1
Glasscock, 2.	4	2	3	3	1	Farrell, 2.	3	1	2	3	1
Phillips, l.	4	2	1	0	1	Start, l.	4	0	7	1	1
Murphy, l.	4	4	1	0	1	Sweeney, p	2	0	0	3	1
Muldoon, 3.	3	1	5	2	1	Irwin, s.	2	0	0	2	0
Evans, r.	2	0	1	1	0	Denny, 3.	3	0	1	0	0
Ardner, s. s.	3	0	2	4	0	Carroll, l.	3	0	0	0	0
McCormick, p	3	0	0	4	3	Gilligan, c.	3	1	1	0	1
Briody, c.	3	0	4	0	1	Radford, r.	3	0	4	2	1

Totals 30 9 27 19 7 Totals 27 3 24 11 6

Two-base hits—Hines. Struck out—By Sweeney 8, by McCormick 3. Base on balls—By Sweeney 2, by McCormick 5. Double play—Muldoon and Phillips; Radford and Farrell. Time—1h. 35m. Umpire—Burns.

On this opening day, Boston defeated Buffalo 6 to 3, Philadelphia downed Detroit 13 to 2 and New York whipped Chicago 15 to 3. The attendance at New York passed the 15,000 mark, the total attendance for the day being about 24,000.



HARRY WRIGHT

Manager of the Providence Grays for several seasons during the days when the sledging was tough.

Radbourne went to the box for the second game and was the master of Cleveland at all stages. He held the visitors to five singles and was given brilliant support by his mates, his own two errors being supplemented by one by Gilligan; but one of "Rad's" was a base on balls, the other a wild-peg to first, while Gilligan's slip was a passed ball. Sweeney was played in right field as a precaution; Radbourne still suffering with a slight lameness in his shoulder. Radford "played" on the turnstile that day.

Boston, Philadelphia and New York again registered victories. The Boston fans took an incident in this second game as a bad omen, as Dan Brouthers hit the pennant pole on the fly for a three-base hit. Perhaps it was a bad

omen, as Boston was hardly dangerous after the first few weeks.

Teams Shift

The teams shifted for the third day and Buffalo was handed a 3 to 0 shut-out at Messer Park. Sweeney was again in the box and displayed a sample of his skill that was later to raise him to the greatest heights. He held the Buffalo team to one hit, a single by Big Dan Brouthers that was scratchy enough and might have been chalked up as an error without damaging Brouthers a cent's worth. Brouthers was the only man in a Buffalo uniform to reach first base during the entire game. Nine Bisons fell before Sweeney's curves, but not a man walked and the Grays made no errors.

This was the second time Sweeney was robbed of a chance to join the no-hit-no-run circle. As Big Dan was caught napping by Sweeney on a quick peg to Start, but 27 Buffalo men went to bat.

Radford opened the sixth inning with a single and was followed by Hines with another bingo to safe territory. Both advanced on a wild pitch. Farrell's single scored Radford, Hines going to third. Farrell stole second, and, after Start had been thrown out, both crossed the plate on Irwin's single to left centre. No more scoring was done. On the same day, Boston, New York and Philadelphia won.

The opening week's play was surprising from several angles, notably the fine showing of New York and Philadelphia.

Providence defeated Buffalo in the second game, this time by a 5 to 2 score in a light-hitting game. Buffalo presented a Boston boy in the box, this being his first game in fast company; his name was Serad and he later became a strong pitcher. He passed the first three Grays to face him, but got the next two without a run sifting over, but Denny lit safely to score Hines and Farrell.

Serad was sent to right field and the veteran Jim O'Rourke went into the box and, although he gave the Grays nothing but straight balls, he got away with it pretty well. Radbourne pitched for Providence and gave Buffalo but five hits, and in addition made a three-base hit, for Radbourne was a great hitter, for a pitcher. Boston and New York again won, but Philadelphia's streak was broken by Chicago.

Boston Loses

The schedule was so arranged that the teams scheduled to play at Boston and Providence alternated between the two cities with two games in each in each half series. The third Cleveland game was postponed by rain, but Buffalo broke Boston's clean record by winning, 3 to 2, Galvin holding Boston to one hit, a two-bagger by Hornung. In this game, the Boston rooters roasted Galvin, advising him to return the

overcoat given him the previous fall by the Reds for beating the Grays.

Rain also prevented the finishing of the second game of the Cleveland half series, but Boston got square with Buffalo by winning, 7 to 0, in a five-inning game. In the four innings the game at Messer Park lasted, the Grays had piled up seven runs, while the visitors had failed to score.

Manager Hackett of the Clevelanders several times protested to Umpire Burns against playing the game in the rain, but Burns refused to listen, although rain was falling steadily. A slight let-up in the rain and in Hackett's protests was the signal for Burns to call time. The Cleveland players, under orders from Manager Hackett, gathered up their belongings and walked out of the carriage gate as if intending to take their bus. But, instead of boarding the bus, they returned to the park and began playing leap frog and doing the hbp, skip and jump. But the rain fell in torrents again, and continued through the following day.

On May 9, the Buffaloes returned and a game was played, although the park was little more than a sea of mud. The Grays won, 3 to 1, Radbourne and Galvin pitching great ball, "Rad" allowing five hits, one a double by O'Rourke, while Galvin was nicked for but four, including a two-bagger by Hines.

Brilliant Fielding

Both teams fielded brilliantly, saving the pitchers repeatedly. Buffalo got away to a great start, but it petered out early. The Bisons got three on the bases in the first inning with but one out, O'Rourke drawing a pass, followed by Richardson and Brouthers with singles. But Radbourne speeded up and forced Jim White to hit into a double play, ending the threat. In the Grays' half, Hines opened with a double to left centre and made third when Rowe missed Start's third strike, giving Joe first. Start stole second and scored behind Hines when Radbourne drove a hit to right. Denny's walk and Carroll's single filled the bases, but no more scoring was done, as Gilligan went out for the third out.

At the end of the second week of the season, New York held first place with five won and none lost; Boston was second with six won and one lost; Providence third with four victories and one defeat; Philadelphia fourth with three and two; Chicago fifth with two and three; Buffalo and Cleveland tied with one victory and five defeats, for sixth place. Detroit had lost all its five starts.

In these five games in Providence, Radbourne had pitched three and Sweeney two; Radbourne had allowed 15 singles and one double and fanned 10, while Sweeney gave nine hits, each for one base, and struck out 17.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XXVII

The mighty Chicago White Stockings next appeared at Messer Park and took a 9 to 1 beating, Sweeney pitching. He allowed the White Stockings but six hits, one of them for two bases. The Grays went after Corcoran with every gun doubled shot, tearing off 11 safe hits, of which Denny is credited with a three-bagger and Farrell and Sweeney each with a double. In this game, Nava made one hit and struck out four times.

Bitter feelings continued between Boston and Providence and the Boston papers hammered the Providence scribes for roasting Umpire Burns. But the following Sunday, after Burns had officiated in the Saturday game at Boston, the Herald came out with a screed as follows: "Umpire Burns will probably have a few spare hours today and he cannot improve them to better advantage in his posing than by studying the rules and thoroughly digesting them."

Things took on a peculiar appearance as the third week opened, the losing teams making but one run among them in the first day of the week, Chicago shut out the Grays 5 to 0, Boston used the brush on Detroit 7 to 0 and New York winning 4 to 0 from Cleveland. The only losing team to score was Buffalo, which yielded to Philadelphia, 12 to 1.

Although the Grays had lost but one game previously, the scribes roasted them to a frazzle for losing this second tilt with Chicago, notwithstanding two other teams were shut out on the same day. "Useless air agitation" was what the Providence Journal baseball writer called the efforts of the Grays, although but two men struck out. They made three singles and a double, but the fielding was wretched, 10 errors being charged to the team. "Spiritless fielding," the Journal man said the next day.

Kelly Again Panned

Kelly was again panned for some of his gly tricks that he pulled continuously without much interference from the umpires and none from his club. "Conspicuous sneak of the White Stockings committed one of his contemptible tricks in forcibly obstructing Radford on the base line and calling down hisses and maledictions from the spectators." Umpire McLean was forced to do something and fined Kelly \$5 and allowed Radford his base. But he evened matters by fining Farrell \$5 for too much talk over a decision at second.

Although the team was in a winning mood, with Gilligan and Nava catching pennant ball, a demand went up from the rooters that Murray be given a chance behind the bat, it being some of the same old talk of other years when the spectators tried to run Bancroft's team for him. "Murray is being used mainly as a bulwark for Cattannach to pounce

on," wrote the Providence Journal scribe, adding: "Murray should be used more in games so in case of injury to Gilligan or Nava he would be available."

Detroit came to Messer Park and dropped a game to Providence, 4 to 1, due largely to "wild pitching, loose fielding and inability to hit Sweeney." The Detroit players could get but five hits off Sweeney two of them doubles by Bennett and Geiss. Sweeney made the only error charged to Providence, while 10 were charged to Detroit.

The second Detroit game was a pip-pip and fringed on a National League record, the Grays winning, 25 to 3. In this game, the Grays made a near-record in the hitting line for Messer Park, 23 hits, with a total of 29, corralled off Weldman and Geiss, being only second to the 25-37 made off Bond and Manning in the famous 24 to 5 game in 1878.

Every man on the Providence team made one or more hits, Start being the only player to make less than two. Hines made one single and a triple, Farrell three singles, Radbourne five singles, Irwin a single and a double, Denny a single and a double, Carroll three singles and one double, Gilligan two singles and Radford one single and one double. Radbourne allowed Detroit five singles. In the face of this tremendous hitting, Detroit made 19 errors.

Chicago Falls.

Chicago returned to Messer Park the following day and fell before the Grays, 7 to 5, the hitting by both teams being light, each getting but six hits each, for one base. But the error column! Providence is charged with 13 errors and Chicago with 18! The game should never have been played, as it was three times held up because of rain and darkness. Mike Kelly again was an object of derision by the Providence fans, a large attendance hooting him throughout the game, and, in addition, he was fined \$5 by Umpire McLean for back talk.

It is passing strange why Kelley stooped to the many dirty tricks he was guilty of during his entire career on the diamond, when he was really the best player in the National League, and the game has developed few, if any, better all-around players than this same Mike Kelly. In this Chicago game Billy Sunday played right field and made three errors. The same day New York won its 11th straight victory by defeating Cleveland, 7 to 1.

In the fourth Chicago game, the last of the series, Sweeney's great pitching was the feature, the White Stockings getting but four singles and one double off his delivery, Providence winning, 4 to 1. On the same day, Detroit won its first championship game of the season, beating Boston, 4 to 2, Shaw holding the Bostons to four hits,

one a double. The Reds played errorless ball, a remarkable feat for those days of no gloves and proneness of scorers to charge a player with an error if he barely touched the ball with one finger. New York won its 12th straight by beating Cleveland, 6 to 3. By this time, the New York team had the whole country by the ears, and immense crowds swarmed to the Polo Grounds.

At the end of the third week, New York led the National League with 12 victories and no defeats. Boston was second with 11 victories and two defeats, while Providence was third with nine games won and two lost. Philadelphia, under Harry Wright, showed a great improvement over the previous year, having split even in 12 games to hold fourth place.

Western Teams Behind

The four Western teams had fared poorly on the trip, Chicago having won but four games against a loss of eight to lead the second division. Buffalo was sixth with three won and 10 lost, Cleveland seventh with two games won and nine lost, while Detroit had but one victory in 12 starts.

Providence won the third Detroit game by a score of 5 to 2 in a light hitting contest. This was an interesting battle and an extra large crowd sat in. In response to "an universal demand by the public," Manager Bancroft gave Murray a chance behind the bat. He made good all the favorable things said of him, supporting Radbourne in fine style. Because of an injury to Joe Start, Sweeney covered first base, faultlessly, having 13 put-outs and one assist. He also made one hit.

May 18 was a memorable day for the National League, as on that day the undefeated New York team was beaten for the first time, dropping a game to Buffalo, "to the chagrin of the New York rooters and the many admirers of the team." The Bisons outplayed New York from every angle, batted Begley hard and at critical points and demonstrated to the country that the New Yorks could be beaten. Serad held New York to four singles. From that day, New York was not so formidable.

The Grays defeated Detroit in the fourth game of the series, 4 to 2, to end the Western invasion.

At this time, the mystery of the release of Paul Radford by the Boston club became public. The Boston papers came out with a statement by the home management that Crowley, who succeeded Radford in the Boston outfield, was a better player, being superior to Radford as a fielder, batter and in general. But a glance at the averages at the end of the first week shows that Crowley had a batting average of .160, while Radford's stood at .229. In fielding, Radford had an average of .920, as against Crowley's .938.

With the end of the Western club series, the Grays took boat for New York for a series of games with the New Yorks and Philadelphia. The first defeat of the New Yorks by the Buffalo team deprived the Grays of that honor, as for a week before the game the Grays boasted of what they would do

to New York when they got a foul of them. They just carried out this boast, for in the first game on the Polo Grounds the Grays won, 2 to 1.

4000 Attend Game

More than 4000 attended the game. Sweeney pitched and, when Start was taken ill in the second inning, Radbourne went to first base and filled Start's shoes. In fact, the only position Radbourne never filled with satisfaction was the catcher; he shied at going behind the bat. New York made but five singles off Sweeney, and he was given brilliant support. The Grays hit Welch for seven, including triples by Start and Carroll.

It was worse in the second game, as Providence won, 3 to 0, Radbourne being in fine fettle and holding the New Yorks to three scattered singles. The crowd cheered the Grays as they appeared on the field. Ward gave the Grays nine singles and one double, Hines getting the long hit. Ward, Connors and Welsh, playing right field, were the lucky players to hit Radbourne safely.

Hines led off with a double in the third inning, was sacrificed to third by Farrell and scored when McKinnon made a mess of Start's grounder. In the sixth, Irwin got on through a fumble by Connor, and Denny followed with a short single to put him on second. Carroll shot a long single to cen-

tre that scored both, Denny making three bases on the drive and subsequent slow bouncer to the plate. Ward and Radbourne engaged in a pitching battle in which "Rad" had the better of the argument.

Jumping to Philadelphia the Grays took both games without turning a hair, winning the first game, 12 to 4, and the second, 8 to 1. Hard hitting in the fifth and eighth innings of the first game, assisted by wretched fielding by Philadelphia, made the contest a holiday affair for the Grays. Sweeney allowed but six hits, Philadelphia made 15 errors.



XXIX.

The Grays arrived home from their trip flushed with victory and decided heroes in their home town. A fine crowd went to Messer Park for the first day at home and were bitterly disappointed as New York won by a score of 10 to 8. The game was a listless affair, neither team showing any spirit, but of the two the Grays were the worst offenders.

Sweeney was in poor form and the base hits whistled past his ears to all corners of the park. New York collected 14 hits with a total of 19 bases, every New Yorker getting one or more hits. McKinnon got a double and Smiling Mickey Welch a double and a home run. The Grays turned in 16 hits, including a double by Hines, and a triple by Denny. Each Providence player got at least one hit. New York made nine errors and Providence 12. Local fans were dazed.

Two games were carded for Memorial Day, the Grays playing here New York in the morning and Philadelphia in the afternoon, while Boston played at home against Philadelphia in the morning and New York in the afternoon. Providence defeated New York in the morning game 12 to 9, both Radbourn and Ward being hit hard, the Grays getting 16 with a 21 total, and New York made 14 errors, McKinnon on first making four. In the afternoon Philadelphia was the attraction, Providence winning 9 to 2. Radbourn again pitched and held the Philadelphians at bay, notwithstanding he had pitched a hard game in the morning and was suffering with rheumatism in his leg, at that.

Irwin was ill and Nava played short-stop. Sweeney here displayed another of his great points, for where previously he was considered a weak hitter, he developed into a demon with

the stick and became the terror of opposing pitchers. He made three hits in each game Memorial Day. New York won at Boston in the afternoon. The winning of two victories on Memorial Day was a record for Providence as never before had the team taken both holiday games.

The effort to win two games on the holiday was too much for the Grays and they took the field against Philadelphia the next day badly crippled with Radbourn limping and Irwin too sick to play. Something ailed Radford and he was out of the game. Jack Farrell reported sick, but was ordered to play and apparently was all right. Philadelphia put its strongest team in the field.

At the end of nine innings the score stood 2 to 2. Denny opened the 10th with a single, made second on a passed ball and scored the winning run when Andrews muffed Gilligan's fly. Carroll saved the game by making two grand catches in left field.

Grays in First Place.

June 1 the standing showed the Grays in first place with 20 victories and but four defeats, while Boston had won 21 and lost five, and New York had taken 17 and dropped eight.

New York jumped back to Messer Park and lost 9 to 3, but Boston also won, beating Philadelphia 10 to 1, Whitney allowing but four hits.

At the end of the first month the Grays led the league in batting and fielding, with Sweeney leading the Grays' batting with .338 and Radbourn second with .333. Farrell led the second basemen of the country with the grand average, for the days of no gloves and loose scoring, of .978.

A fine crowd was disappointed when the Grays lost the second game to New York 12 to 7. In this game Umpire

McLean fined Radbourn \$10 for back talk. The Philadelphians came back for another dose, this time losing 4 to 0, Sweeney allowing but six singles. The Quakers made a triple play in this game. In the fourth inning with Hines on third and Farrell on second Start sent a line drive to McClellan, who caught the ball and whipped to Mulvey, a Providence boy, who in turn got it to Andrews on second to complete the first triple killing at Messer Park since Hines's famous play in 1878.

Frequency and costliness in errors gave the Philadelphians the next game 9 to 8. In this game Manager Bancroft yielded to popular clamor and sent the Grays' pony battery to the points. Cattanach was wild, but Murray gave him fine support, and but for the even dozen errors committed by the Grays, Cattanach might have won the game. As it was things were so bad in the middle of the fifth inning that Cattanach was sent to right field and Sweeney finished the game. Cattanach gave but two hits, but he passed four and made three wild pitches; he used a swift ball with an occasional curve mixed in.

Series with Boston

In the meantime the rivalry between Boston and Providence arose to a fever heat, although the teams had not yet met. The fact that Boston beat out the Grays for the pennant the previous year, and the great battle the teams were putting up for first place had set the fans of both cities by the ears and there was little talk in the sporting resorts of each city in which the coming series was not the main subject of conversation.

This series of eight games opened at Messer Park June 6 and turned out the fiercest series the National League had experienced to that time. It took on all the importance of a World Series.

The fireworks started with the first game, and this contest was likened to the famous 18-inning game in 1882. It went 16 innings and was stopped by darkness with the score 1 to 1, and no prospect of another score. The game was far superior in every way to the 18-inning battle. Strategic pitch-

ing was supplemented by brilliant fielding and the more than 5000 spectators sat spellbound throughout. Nearly 1500 Boston fans came down on a special train.

Justly termed the giants of the league by the newspapers of the country, both teams played championship baseball. Boston presented Whitney and Mike Hines as the battery but, contrary to expectations, Manager Bancroft sent in Radbourn and Gilligan when it was supposed Sweeney and Nava would do the battery work. Whitney used a deceptive drop ball and fanned 13 of the Grays, allowing six hits, all singles. Radbourn gave Boston four hits, one a double by Burdock. He struck out eight.

Grays Handicapped

The Grays were handicapped in a way as Start was sick and Paul Hines played first base, and played it well, accepting 20 out of 21 chances. Sweeney played a fine game in centre field. Irwin's great work at shortfield was a factor, making several grand stops and throws to kill prospective base hits. Carroll saved the game in the 16th by two marvellous catches, one a one-hand jumping catch of a terrific drive from Morrill's bat that was tagged for a home run. Carroll was given a reception by the fans that lasted several minutes. The box score:

PROVIDENCE										BOSTON									
ab	lb	po	a	e	ab	lb	po	a	e	ab	lb	po	a	e	ab	lb	po	a	e
Hines, 1	6	0	20	0	1	Horn's, 1	6	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Farrell, 2	6	1	2	3	1	Sutton, 3	6	1	1	3	0	1	1	3	0	1	1	3	0
R'dford, 5	0	2	0	0	0	Burd'k, 2	6	1	5	8	2	1	5	8	2	1	5	8	2
Sweeney, 6	1	4	0	0	0	Wh'y, 6	2	0	5	2	0	5	2	0	5	2	0	5	2
R'db'rn, 5	1	0	2	0	0	Morrill, 1	6	0	20	1	1	6	0	20	1	1	6	0	20
Irwin, 5	0	3	7	1	1	M'n'g, 6	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Denny, 3	6	1	2	5	1	Cr'l'y, 6	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0
Carroll, 1	5	1	2	0	0	Hines, 5	0	14	4	1	1	0	14	4	1	1	0	14	4
Gilligan, 5	1	13	2	1	1	Wise, 5	0	1	7	0	1	0	1	7	0	1	0	1	7
T's.....	50	6	48	19	4	T't.....	52	4	48	30	6	5	4	48	30	6	5	4	48
Innings.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Providence.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Boston.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Two-base Hit—Burdock. Struck out—By Whitney 13; by Radbourn 8. Bases on Balls—By Whitney 2. Passed Ball—Mike Hines. Wild pitches—Whitney 2; Radbourn 1. Time—2:45. Umpire—McLean.

Score in Fourth

Burdock opened the fourth inning with a double to left and immediately stole third, bad enough baseball then as now. But he got away with it, as to the surprise of everyone in the park Burns called him safe when he was out by a jump. This decision aroused the wrath of the Providence rooters and for a few moments great excitement prevailed. Whitney hit to Irwin and Burdock set sail for the plate. Irwin attempted to throw the ball to Gilligan before he got his hands on it and fumbled badly, Burdock scoring.

In the seventh the Grays tied the score. Radford was back in the game and was the big noise for Providence. He had two strikes when Whitney cut loose a wild pitch which Paul swung at and started for first base at top speed, and how that boy did run! He stole second and dashed up to third as Sutton robbed Sweeney of a base hit on a great stop and throw to first. Morrill took the throw and shot the ball home to nip the flying Radford.

Paul was caught between the bases, but in being run up and down Burdock made a wild throw to Sutton and he carried over the tying run. Sweeney kept on for third, but was caught on

a return of the ball, Hines to Sutton.

Then followed fruitless play by both teams until the 16th inning was finished in semi-darkness. After scoring the run in the fourth Boston got but three men as far as first base for the next 12 innings. The Grays got four men to first after the seventh.

Strikes Out 19

The second game of this great series was played at Boston, June 7, and a record was established that has defied the assaults of 44 years. In this game Sweeney struck out 19 Boston batsmen, a record that is likely to stand for all time for a regulation game of nine innings. It still holds after the passing of nearly half a century as the greatest pitching feat in the annals of baseball. More than 8000 rooters saw the exhibition which enabled the Grays to win by a score of 2 to 1.

Manager Morrill again sent Whitney to the box, not daring to risk Buffington with his slow teasers. Whitney pitched winning ball, but his fine work was completely eclipsed by Sweeney's marvelous performance.

Sweeney showed remarkable strategy and at times used great speed, and he was helped over a few hard places by the brilliant catching of Nava. The record of strikeouts shows the following facts: Each Boston player striking out as indicated: Hornung 3, Burdock 4, Whitney 1, Morrill 2, Manning 2, Crowley 2, M. Hines 2, Wise 3. Burdock was considered as the hardest man in the National League to strike out, yet he fell a victim to Sweeney on each time at bat; Wise hit the ball but once in four times up.

Hornung opened the Boston batting by fanning; Sutton fled to Carroll; Burdick struck out. Sweeney got his fatal drop ball to working and had it under control during the entire game, the ball making almost a right angle break to fall almost in front of the plate. In the second inning Whitney, Morrill and Manning struck out in succession.

Crowley opened the third with a double, but was left on second as Hines, Wise and Hornung fanned in a row. Burdock again struck out in the fourth, and Crowley and Hines followed suit in the fifth. Sweeney was like a savage in the box and used his curves mercilessly in the sixth when Wise, Hornung and Burdock fell in a row, hardly making a foul. Whitney also was fairly struck out in the seventh, this being agreed to by Whitney himself, but Umpire Burns was as bewildered as the Boston batsmen and lost his eye, giving Whitney a base on balls when Sweeney had split the plate with five pitches.

Sweeney Cheered

Making it almost a perfect day, Sweeney fell on the Bostons in the ninth inning to strike out Morrill, Manning and Crowley. During the entire game the crowd sat spellbound as batter after batter succumbed, only awakening to cheer Sweeney to the echo as he returned to the bench.

In any other game the work of Whitney would have stood out, as he fanned no less than 10 of the Grays, getting Farrell, Irwin, Sweeney, Radbourn, Denny and Carroll once each, and Nava

and Radford twice each. The Grays made six singles off Whitney, and Boston got two singles and two doubles off Sweeney.

The Grays were the first to score, getting a run in the fifth on singles by Irwin and Denny and Manning's miff of Carroll's fly. With two on and nobody out, Boston engineered a triple play with Manning, Morrill and Sutton taking part.

The passing of Whitney in the seventh when he was fairly struck out gave the Reds their only run. Morrill followed with a single that put Whitney on second and he tried to steal third, but to all appearances was out, but Burns declared him safe. He scored when Farrell fumbled Manning's drive.

Providence scored the winning run in the sixth with two out. Farrell hit safely and went to third on Radbourn's single, crossing the plate a moment later when Mike Hines threw wild in an attempt to nip Radbourn off first.

More than 2500 assembled at Meser Park two days later for the third game between the teams. The local rooters were wild with enthusiasm and the score board in the Providence Journal office window at Turks Head was the object of hundreds of business and professional men who could not get to the park. The space around Turk's Head was blocked with humanity. But it was a disappointed crowd that melted away as the ninth inning was posted showing Boston had won 2 to 0.

The game was another exhibition of strategic pitching and brilliant fielding. Sweeney was sent back against the Reds, notwithstanding his hard game of two days before. He used the same puzzling delivery as at Boston, but complained of a slight lameness in his arm. He fanned six in this game and allowed but four hits, one a double by Hornung, the Reds finding it hard to gauge the ball correctly.

Manager Morrill of the Reds was too wise to risk Whitney again so soon and took a chance on Buffington, and his confidence was well placed, as the Fall River boy proved more troublesome than Whitney. He used a slow, puzzling delivery with a sharp shoot and deceptive drop, holding the Grays to three hits, one a two-bagger by Denny. Providence made three errors and Boston two. Sweeney had fine control and did not give a base on balls, while Buffington passed two.

Both Boston runs were made in the first inning, Hornung opening with a two base hit to left centre. Sutton rolled an easy grounder to Denny who fiddled around to hold Hornung on second and then cut loose a wild throw to Radbourn, playing first base as Start was ill. The ball hit the right field fence and rolled away. Hornung scoring and Sutton taking third. Morrill's twisting grounder bounded off Radbourn's shins to Farrell who threw Morrill out, but Sutton scored.

From this point on Sweeney had the Reds hog-tied, only two reaching first the remainder of the game, Burdock and Manning making base hits, but both were left. The Grays never had a chance to score. During the game, which was played in one hour and 15 minutes, Sweeney was given a basket of flowers by local admirers.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XXX

With the series tied at one victory each, the Grays and Reds went into action at Boston on the afternoon of June 10 with another capacity crowd on hand. A big Providence delegation also was there, but most of them would have accepted rain checks before the game was finished. What hit the Grays cannot even be guessed, but that something happened is a certainty.

Sweeney went to the box and showed no let up in his great work, although he made the Reds hit at bad balls instead of trying to strike them out. He contented himself with fanning six and allowed but three hits, all singles. But the Grays, departing from the tight fielding games that marked the first three struggles, went to pieces and committed 12 errors, and here where the game was lost. Providence made four hits off Whitney, one a double by Gilligan, playing first base as Start was still absent. The Reds backed their pitcher to the limit, making but two slips in the field. Boston won, 3 to 1.

Coming back to Messer Park for the fifth game, the Grays were again beaten, this time by a score of 4 to 1. Radbourn went into the box and was hit for 10 blows, including a couple of two-baggers. Start returned to first base, but it made no difference. Buffington was in the box for Boston and was master of the Grays at all stages. He was found for four hits, one of them a double by Denny. The Grays failed to get the ball out of the diamond after the second inning. But the error column was much more respectable, each team making but three bobbles.

Faint strains of the anvil chorus began to be heard about town and the crowd that went to Messer Park for the sixth game was reduced to about 1300. Buffington and Sweeney were pitted against each other, and, although the Grays outbated the Reds, coralling eight hits, including two-baggers by Hines, Sweeney and Denny, they could not get a man around the bases. Boston hit Sweeney for six singles and a double, but would hardly have scored, but for costly errors by Hines, Denny and Radford. The support accorded Buffington was excellent.

Rumors Are Heard

Open comment as to how one or two of the players were conducting themselves began to be heard on the streets, and the corner sages started a mild war. Some ugly rumors spread about concerning the same one or two players who had been on the pan before. The Providence Journal scribe the morning after the 4 to 0 game wrote: "Hints at dissipation are rife and one or two of the players are not keeping the terms of their contracts. Suspensions will be in order if the fault is not corrected."

As was generally the case after a blast from the newspapers and the humors, the Grays perked up wonderfully in the next game, the last of the series, and, as Boston was in shape at all times, this seventh meeting was on a par with the first contest, that went 16 innings. It took 15 innings to find the winner of this game, played at Boston, and the 5400 spectators got their money's worth. There were few Providence rooters in the crowd, however, to see the Grays win, 4 to 3.

"Whitney was not so effective as usual," said a Boston paper the next day, but at that he came pretty near to equalling Sweeney's record, by fanning 17 of the Grays, although he had eight more innings for his record than did Sweeney. But when the Grays did hit the ball they sent it far and fast. Radford, who had been easy prey to Whitney in all the previous games, surprised everybody in this game by doing the bulk of the hitting for Providence and was the biggest factor in the victory. He made four hits in seven times up, two of them for two bases.

The luck that had followed the Bostoners deserted them in this game and Manager Morrill was too ill to play. Buffington taking care of the first corner. But Buffington played the bag to perfection.

Providence started the scoring in the third inning, when Start drew a base on balls. He ran down to second when Mirtzy Hackett threw wild in an attempt to catch him napping off first. As Jack Manning was slow in handling the ball, Start went up to third. Manning threw to the stand in returning the ball, and Start scored.

Denny Makes Wild Throw.

Denny's wild throw was responsible for the two runs made by Boston in the second half of the inning. Wise hit for two bases, Hornung hit to Denny, who might have tagged Wise coming up the line, but instead threw the ball over Start's head, Wise scoring. Two infield outs scored Hornung. Hines tied the score in the fifth, getting on through his single. A walk to Start put him on second. Irwin sent him to third on his single, and he evened the count when Denny sent a long fly to Hornung.

Boston went ahead again in the sixth, when Manning hit for two bases, reached third on a passed ball, and crossed the plate when Buffington hit safely. Radford, with his father looking on, came up in the eighth and made another hit, sending the ball to centre for two bases. Carroll hit for a base, putting Paul on third, whence he scored when Sutton fumbled Farrell's grounder.

The ninth inning passed with the tie unbroken and, from that point to the 15th, both teams battled for the victory, Whitney and Radbourn pitching air-

tight ball and receiving perfect support from the fielders. Inning after inning went by with no score. As there was plenty of daylight left, it began to look as if the record would go by the boards.

But the break came in the 15th, and again Radford was the man of the hour. Two were out when he stepped to the bat. He sent the cold shivers down the backs of the Boston rooters when he tore off his second double, a long drive to centre. Whitney apparently was weakening, for Carroll landed the ball in the same territory for another double and Radford went home with the winning run.

In the Boston half, Crowley gave Start a foul fly, Denny threw out Wise, and Hornung ended the game with a long fly to Hines. The box score:

PROVIDENCE											BOSTON										
Lines, m...	7	1	2	1	0						Hornung, l.	7	1	3	0	0					
Start, l....	4	0	2	0	0						Sutton, J.	5	0	2	2	0					
Radbourn, p.	7	1	0	2	2						Burdock, J.	6	0	1	2	0					
Irwin, s....	7	2	1	9	1						Whitney, p.	5	1	0	3	0					
Denny, J....	7	0	2	1	1						Manning, m.	6	2	3	0	1					
Radford, r...	7	4	4	0	0						Buffington, l.	6	2	14	0	1					
Carroll, l....	7	2	2	0	0						Hackett, c.	6	0	19	3	3					
Farrell, J....	7	2	1	4	0						Crowley, r.	6	0	0	0	0					
Gilligan, c...	6	3	13	2	1						Wise, s....	6	1	3	3	0					

Totals... 59 14 45 19 5 Totals... 53 7 45 13 5
Innings... 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Providence... 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1-4
Boston... 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-3

Two-base hits—Radford 2, Carroll 1, Farrell 1, Hornung 1, Manning 1, Wise 1. Struck out—By Whitney 17; by Radbourn 13. Passed balls—Gilligan 1; Hackett 2. Bases on balls—By Whitney 3; by Radbourn 2. Time—2h 20m. Umpire—Burns.

Boston Leads League.

At the conclusion of this Boston series, won four games to two by the Reds, and one tie game, Boston led the National League with 28 victories and 8 defeats; Providence was second with 24 games won and 70 lost, and New York stood third with 24 victories and 13 defeats.

Following this hectic series, the Grays had a sort of double series with Philadelphia and New York, the two teams alternating between Boston and Providence. The magnates of those days did things differently from the powers of today. Car fares were cheap and travelling expenses were not the item they are today.

Philadelphia came to Messer Park to take a 13 to 1 beating in the first game. Radbourn pitched and allowed Philadelphia but five hits, one a double by Tim Manning, once a member of the Grays. The Grays hit Knight hard, getting even for the game in Philadelphia, when Knight held them almost helpless. The visitors made 15 errors, McClellan, formerly of the Grays, contributing four, weak fielding being his trouble while with Providence.

It was announced by Manager Bancroft that Jack Cattanch had been released to Willimantic, where he signed for \$100 per month.

In this Philadelphia game, Manager Harry Wright appeared on the field wearing a tall white hat, "just for luck," he said, as he wore this hat when his team defeated the Grays. Harry doused the hat after the game.

New York next tried to beat Sweeney, but left Messer Park beaten by a score of 9 to 0. The visitors found the young pitching star as big a puzzle as

did Boston, corraling but one hit, a single by Caskins, and he was the only New York man to reach first. As he was on one end of a double play a moment later, Sweeney held the visitors to 27 men at bat; Farrell grabbed Hankinson's ground drive tagged second to force Caskins and then threw over his shoulder to nail the batter at first.

Cliff Carroll helped Sweeney not a little by capturing five hard hit flies in the deep outfield, including a leaping one-hand catch from Gillispie's bat. Sweeney did not pass a man and the Grays played errorless ball. New York made 14 errors.

Perhaps the New Yorks were not so much to blame as they were victims of the unthinkable schedule, having played a hard game at Boston that morning, Bunker Hill day, and jumped to Providence for a game here in the afternoon. They beat Boston 7 to 6 in the morning game in a tough 12-inning battle. In the afternoon game at Boston, the Philadelphia won 7 to 2, the Grays thus gaining 1½ games on the Reds for the day.

New York Beaten.

The next day the Grays administered a bad beating to the New Yorks when they won by a 15 to 0 score at Messer Park. Smiling Mickey Welch was on the mound for the visitors and was batted to a frazzle. The Grays collected 23 hits, the collection including a home run by Hines and a three-bagger by the same man.

Farrell and Gilligan made two-baggers. Every Providence player made two or more hits, except Radford, who was content with one. The home run by Hines was made off the first ball pitched in the first inning and was the first circuit drive ever made inside the park. Radbourn was again on the verge of the Hall of Fame, as he was found for but one hit, a single by Ewing.

The same day, Boston defeated Philadelphia 11 to 2 in the loosest fielded game ever played in the National League, a total of 32 errors being charged to Philadelphia, of which McElroy, colt pitcher, made 12, and Kephley, a young catcher, made 13.

Although it was a rainy day, the Philadelphia came to Messer Park the following afternoon and fell before the Grays in a six-inning game, 6 to 6. Denny in this game made a home run inside the park to tie the feat of Hines of the day before. It is interesting to note this pair of circuit drives inside the park in two consecutive days, after nearly seven seasons without one of the variety being recorded.

This game wound up the home stay of the Grays and marked the finish of

the first half of the season in Providence. The Grays left for their first Western trip that night, being due to open in Detroit two days later.

The Grays started this trip in second place, with 28 victories and 10 defeats, Boston being first with 30 victories and 10 defeats. New York was not so far behind in third place, with 25 games won and 16 lost. This trip was successful for Providence and Boston and a little better than normal for New York. The Grays won 19 and lost five, the record being four straight in Detroit, two won and two lost in Chicago, two victories and one defeat at Cleveland, rain preventing one game, and two won and two lost in Buffalo. Boston won 10 and lost 3, and New York won eight and lost seven.

Grays Beat Detroit

Things broke well for the Grays at Detroit, the game being won 10 to 0. Radbourn held Detroit to two singles, while the Grays batted Shaw for 12 safe hits, including a home run, and a triple by Denny and four singles by Hines. Buffalo beat New York, 6 to 2. Boston lost the opening game at Chicago 11 to 7, this defeat forcing the Reds to yield first place to the Grays. In this game, Manning was forced to quit because of a sprained ankle and Boston finished the game with eight men, a remarkable performance.

Batting Brill hard in the second game, the Grays won, 4 to 3, making one run in the eighth and two in the ninth. Boston defeated Chicago, 12 to 5, and New York downed Buffalo, 8 to 3. The third game at Detroit was the best of the season there, the Grays winning, 1 to 0, in a 14-inning struggle, Denny opening the 14th with a hit and scoring when Carroll and Gilligan also made hits. Radbourn held Detroit to three singles batting Shaw for 11 singles. Radbourn fanned 14 men. Boston lost to Chicago 13 to 6, and New York beat Buffalo, 10 to 5.

The Grays made it four straight at Detroit in a 3 to 0 game in which Sweeney allowed but two hits, both for one base. Rain stopped Boston and New York.

Starting in at Chicago, where they left off at Detroit, Providence won its fifth straight game on the trip, defeating Chicago, 8 to 6, in a heavy hitting game in which Sweeney and Gilligan surprised the natives by each making a home run. Kelly, Williamson and Anson made home runs off Radbourn. Boston handed Detroit a 21 to 4 licking, getting 19 hits, with a total of 28, off two pitchers, with Detroit making 19 errors. Chicago beat New York, 4 to 2.

With 4000 looking on the next day, the Grays administered "a paralyzing

defeat," as the Chicago papers stated, winning 13 to 4. Hines, Irwin and Denny hit home runs for Providence and Dalrymple and Kelly made circuit drives for Chicago. Boston won, 6 to 0, at Detroit and New York downed Cleveland, 10 to 5. The Grays lost their first game on the trip the next day when they took a 6 to 0 whitewashing.

This game was a classic, inasmuch, as Larry Corcoran pitched a no-hit, no-run game, striking out six. Sweeney was apparently on the road to a no-hit game, also, until the White Stockings fell onto his delivery in the seventh and eighth innings. Cleveland downed New York, 6 to 4, and Boston trimmed Detroit, 15 to 4. The final Chicago game was also a defeat for Providence by a 6 to 4 score, Kelly's home run off Radbourn in the seventh deciding the issue. Boston and New York gained a game on the Grays, as both won that day.

7000 See Game

Jumping over to Cleveland, Providence won, 10 to 3, but Boston and New York held their own by winning on the same day. The second game in Cleveland was lost by Providence, 4 to 2. New York and Boston again winning their games. Rain held up everything the next day, but 7000 Cleveland fans saw the Grays win the final game, 4 to 2, on July 4. New York won, but Boston did not play because of rain. The third scheduled game at Cleveland was also prevented by rain.

The Grays arrived at Buffalo badly crippled, with Radbourn complaining of a lame arm and Sweeney ill. Paul Radford pitched his first game for the Grays and the Bisons hit him at will, winning 9 to 1. Buffington was too much for Cleveland, allowing but two hits and won, 6 to 0, but New York, lost at Chicago, 7 to 6, in 11 innings. Although Radbourn complained of a lame arm, he went into the box for the second Buffalo game and beat the Bisons, 14 to 9. The New Yorks were put out of the running for the time being by losing, 7 to 0, at Chicago, but Boston won, 11 to 3.

Neither Sweeney nor Radbourn were right for the third game in Buffalo, and "Rad" had to relieve Sweeney in the 10th, and but for a muff by Brouters in the 10th, with two out, the Grays would not have won, 6 to 5, as was the case. Boston beat Cleveland, 10 to 1. Costly errors by the Grays lost the final game in Buffalo and of the trip, 5 to 1. Boston was almost as badly off for pitchers as Providence, as Morrill had to pitch the final game in Cleveland, which the Reds lost, 12 to 2.

All the Eastern teams left for home that night.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XXXI.

The Grays received a royal reception from the rooters of Providence when they opened up the second series with Boston at Messer Park on Friday, July 11. With the Bostons as opponents and first place at stake in the series, about 2400 sat in. The Grays were cheered long and loudly as they took the field. Both nines presented their strongest teams, with Radbourn and Gilligan in the points for the Grays, and Buffington and Hackett for the Reds.

But unfortunately Burdock was badly injured in fielding a ball in the second inning and had to leave the game. Manning came in from centre field and a youngster named Morlarity went to centre field. This change gave the Grays the game as things stood, although as the Reds failed to score, the Grays winning 2 to 0.

Hines opened with a double, and went to third on a putout, but was thrown out at the plate by Burdock on Start's infield roller. No runs were scored until the seventh inning, when Radbourn grounded to Sutton, who threw wild to first, his first error in 24 games, "Rad" going to second. Irwin lifted an easy fly to Morrill, who muffed it and Radbourn, by fast springing, crossed the plate. In the ninth, Hines hit for one base and took second on Farrell's out at first. Start walked and Radbourn struck out. Irwin drove a hard liner through Wise to score Hines.

The Bostons made but four singles off Radbourn, while the Grays found Buffington for five singles and one double. Both teams fielded sharply. This was a day of contrasts, as, besides the close game at Messer Park, Chicago defeated Dertolt, 4 to 2, but New York defeated Philadelphia, 17 to 3, and Buffalo downed Cleveland, 19 to 2.

Grays Defeated

Things broke the other way the next day at Boston and the Grays went down to a 7 to 1 defeat. Radbourn was hit hard and the Grays fielded loosely. More than 6100 spectators were present. Returning to Messer, Park the two teams played a loose fielded game which the Grays won, 9 to 6, making 10 errors, while the Reds turned in 14 boots. Whitney pitched his first game in a month, having been seriously ill. The series was evened the next day at Boston, when the Reds took the Grays, 4 to 3, with Miller pitching for Providence. This youngster had made a fine record with the Worcester team, but the game was protested by Manager Morrill on the ground that Miller had not been released by Worcester, but nothing came of the protest. Boston fell on Miller in the ninth and batted out three runs to win.

Returning to Messer Park for the fifth meeting, the Bostons won, 5 to

2, and this game was full of troubles. Radbourn pitched fine ball for eight innings. Manager Bancroft objected strongly to Buffington's stepping out of the box in delivering the ball, and Boston had kicked vigorously over the same thing by Radbourn. In the eighth, Umpire Decker called a balk on Radbourn for stepping out of the box. This rattled Radbourn a lot, and, in the language of the Providence Journal's baseball reporter, "he began to throw the ball recklessly, hastily and wildly, giving Gilligan false signs and evidently trying to break up the little fellow." While this was going on, Boston scored three runs.

The board of directors held a meeting after the game and voted to lay Radbourn off without pay "for the present." Radbourn was ordered to appear before the board the next day "and answer several pungent conundrums concerning his peculiar actions of the past three weeks." What was done at this meeting, if it was held, was never divulged, but Radbourn was out of the game for several days.

Journal's Comment.

Commenting on the matter the next day, the Providence Journal printed the following: "While there may be some dirty insinuations afloat, there is nothing definite. Every inducement has been given Radbourn, financial and otherwise, to play ball for the Grays to the best of his ability, and he has been coaxed and petted beyond all reason to seek to carry the nine to victory, and it is high time that more compulsory measures are taken. Players and public await the action of the directors with keen interest."

As in many former cases, a little pressure brought on the Grays resulted in better work, as the next day at Boston, before 3700 people, the Grays won, 5 to 4. Through some quirk in the rules of the time, the pitching was divided between Sweeney and Miller, "to avoid the trouble experienced on Miller's playing with the Grays."

New York and Philadelphia were next due at Messer Park, alternating here and at Boston. Providence won the first game from New York, 5 to 2, Sweeney and Miller again dividing the box work, and between them allowing but four hits. Philadelphia came the next day and lost, 6 to 1. In this game, Eddie Conley of Lonsdale, who had been pitching for the Woonsocket, was tried in the box and surprised everybody, allowing Philadelphia but two singles, both by Joe Mulvey, a South Providence boy. He fanned eight men.

Meantime, nothing had been heard of the disposition of the Radbourn case, and tongues were wagging at a great rate about town. But there was plenty of fodder for the local rooters. It was known that representatives from the St. Louis, Chicago and Boston clubs of the outlaw Union League had dogged

Radbourn's footsteps for three weeks, seeking to get him to sign a contract and jump the Grays. It was reported that Radbourn had signed with St. Louis at a salary of \$5000 for the remainder of the season and the same sum for the 1885 season, \$1000 advance money to be paid. If this was true, Radbourn threw the Union League representatives overboard, as he returned to the Grays a few days later and began a pitching campaign that has never been approached.



EDDIE CONLEY.

Lonsdale boy given tryout by Grays. In his first game he pitched the Grays to 6 to 1 victory, allowing only two hits.

Philadelphia Wins.

Philadelphia came back for the second game and won, 10 to 6. Charley Bassett went to second base for the Grays and played a splendid game in the absence of Farrell. At the end of this contest, the prospects of the Grays getting anywhere in the race seemed dashed to the grounds. With Radbourn under suspension and supposedly on his way to St. Louis, Sweeney kicked over the traces and was lost to the team for good.

Sweeney started the game in the box and for seven innings held the Philadelphia team at bay. To save Sweeney and give Miller needed practice, Manager Bancroft decided to make a shift, ordering Sweeney to go to right field and Miller to come into pitch. It was suspected that Sweeney had nursed a grudge for a long time, as he considered himself as good a pitcher as Radbourn, and in some ways he was a better pitcher than Radbourn. On the inside, it was whispered that "Rad" was jealous of Sweeney, which was at the bottom of Radbourn's peevishness for several weeks before his suspension.

At any rate, Sweeney refused to obey the order of Manager Bancroft, used vile language and left the game, dressing and leaving the grounds. The Grays were forced to continue the game with but eight men, something that would not be permitted in these days, but which was compulsory under the rule then in vogue, as changes were only permitted when a player was injured or was taken ill during a game. Carroll and Hines took care of the three fields during the rest of the contest.

The episode sent the Providence team into the air and errors were plenty, Philadelphia scoring eight runs in the next inning. New York came back the next day to lose, 11 to 5. The Radbourn matter had been fixed up and "Old Hoss" walked into the box to a tremendous ovation. He toyed with the New Yorks and fielded his position in rare form. The board of directors expelled Sweeney from the league that evening.

That night the Grays departed for a road trip to Philadelphia and New York stopping over at Hartford to play the team of that place. Charley Bassett caught the game and Radford pitched, the pony battery doing great work, Bassett made two hits.

Grays Take First Place

Opening at Philadelphia, the Grays won, 16 to 3, and, as Boston lost to New York, the Grays were but a half game out of first place. Again the next day Providence won, 11 to 4, Radbourn and Miller holding the home team to four singles. As Boston lost to New York, the Grays took undisputed possession of first place. Back in New York the next day, Providence won, 8 to 5, fielding perfectly. As Umpire Van Court did not appear for the second game, Miller of the Grays was

pressed into service and was responsible for a small riot and the calling of the game at the end of the ninth with the score 3-3.

Miller was roundly hissed all through the game and was escorted off the field by the police. The New York papers accused him of trying to throw the

game to the Grays. New York made a triple play, with Richardson, Ward and Loughran officiating. The Grays kept up the great work by beating New York the next day, 7 to 3, Radbourn pitching his sixth straight game. Visiting Philadelphia again, the Grays won, 9 to 2, but rain prevented the final game of the series.

To finish the New York series, the Grays went back to the old Polo Grounds and suffered a 2 to 1 defeat in an 11-inning game. Pitching his eighth straight game the next day, Radbourn beat the New Yorks, 4 to 2, yielding but four hits. To finish the schedule in Philadelphia, the Grays went back and, with Conley in the box, won, 6 to 0, Conley giving but two hits, one a double.

With about everything happening in Providence games that could be imagined, the greatest novelty of all was to be shown in the opening game at Boston Aug. 9. This game was won in a peculiar manner, and was probably one of the greatest ever played on the old South End grounds. Providence won in the 11th inning when Arthur Irwin scored the only run of the pastime on a home run.

This home run has been talked about more than any other ever made, ranking with the home run in the famous 18-inning game in 1882. Radbourn and Buffington fought out a bitter pitching duel, Radbourn allowing but two hits, both singles. Up to the home run drive, Buffington had allowed but three hits, the Grays going nine innings from

the second to the 10th without getting a man to first base, going out in one, two, three order.

The 11th inning opened with Carroll striking out. Irwin came up. In the high fence of slats erected on the right field fence to cut off the view from neighboring house tops, where seats were sold at cut prices, was a hole about one foot square. Irwin sent the second ball pitched to him through that hole, making perhaps the most peculiar home run ever made in the National League.

Two Game Lead

This gave the Grays a two-game lead over the Reds. Radbourn fanned 12 and Buffington struck out 10. Radbourn gave one base on balls, while

Buffington did not walk a man. The box score:

PROVIDENCE						BOSTON					
	ab	lb	po	a	e		ab	lb	po	a	e
Hines, m..	4	1	1	2	1	Horuung, l.	4	0	0	0	0
Farrell, 2b..	4	0	0	1	0	Sutton, 3..	3	1	1	4	0
Start, lb...	4	0	1	0	0	Buffton, p.	4	0	0	14	0
Radbourn, p.	4	0	1	14	1	Burdock, 2	4	0	0	4	1
Carroll, l...	4	1	2	0	0	Morrill, l.	4	0	20	0	0
Irwin, s....	4	1	0	6	0	Wise, s....	4	0	2	4	0
Denny, 3....	4	1	3	1	0	Crowley, r.	4	1	1	2	0
Gilligan, c..	4	0	12	1	1	Hackett, c.	4	0	9	2	0
Radford, d..	3	0	2	0	1	Mann, g, m	4	0	0	0	0

Totals .35 4 33 23 3
Innings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Providence ... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1-1
Boston 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-0
Run—Irwin—1. Home run—Irwin. Struck out—By Radbourn 12; by Buffington 10. Base on balls—By Radbourn (Sutton). Double play—Crowley to Morrill. Passed ball—Gilligan 1. Time—1:50. Umpire—Gaffney.



XXXII.

With the departure of Sweeney, the Grays apparently were in a bad way for pitchers and great was the consternation and sorrow about town. The coming of Eddie Conley, a son of the Blackstone Valley, lightened the gloom a little, but the doubt existed for several days. Here Radbourn came to the rescue and informed the directors he stood ready to pitch every game from that point to the end of the season. Nobody believed "Rad" could make good, but he did, and here is an example for pitchers of this generation, who generally feel abused if asked to pitch more than two games in eight or nine days.

When Radbourn made this offer to the directors of the Providence club he had won nine straight games, going to the box and winning six straight, then playing third base for one game as Eddie Conley won, and then pitching and winning three more without a break. With this nine-game start, Radbourn

went to work to redeem his promise and won the next 17 games in a row, pitching every day but Sundays and a day or two when no games were scheduled. Thus Radbourn pitched and won 27 consecutive games before meeting defeat, and, in the game lost, the Grays failed to score to run for him. This defeat ended a string of 20 straight victories for Providence, and 28 victories in 30 games, was the record.

This puts the so-called record of 19 straight by Rube Marquard far into the woods, Radbourn winning eight games in his string more than did Marquard, and the wry-necked southpaw had several days rest between each game, while Radbourn was in the box nearly every day. Radbourn, through this feat, became one of the most famous pitchers of all time.

It must not be supposed, however, that "Rad" did this with great ease and with no arm trouble, for he had plenty of bother with his good right arm. On some days he could hardly raise his arm

in the morning, and passed hours and hours in the club room at Messer Park, steaming his arm and submitting to long rubbing by the club trainer. But when the game started he was in the box with his arm ready for business.

First Game at Boston

After this declaration to the directors, Radbourn pitched his first game at Boston, holding the Reds to two singles in 11 innings, the Grays winning 2 to 0, as described in the previous article of this series. On the following Monday, the Reds came to Messer Park and again the Grays won, this time 3 to 1, and again Radbourn held the Reds to two hits, Wise and Mike Hines being the lucky players, as Sutton and Crowley were in the game in Boston. As "Rad" fanned eight in this game, it raised his total of strikeouts for the two games to 20.

In these two games with Boston Radbourn made a record unparalleled in baseball up to that time and seldom equalled since. He held Boston to four singles in 20 innings and to one run, and that run was unearned. He showed thorough mastery of the ball and intimate knowledge of the weak points of opposing batsmen. He was afforded great assistance by Gilligan, who caught brilliantly day after day.

The Reds presented their full strength in this second game, every regular being in the game, with Whit-

ney in the box and Buffington in centre field as a precautionary measure. Radbourn was wild in the first inning and Boston made its run on three men going to first on called balls, assisted by a wild pitch and an overthrow by Gilligan. Sutton scored the run. In the next eight innings but five Boston men reached first base.

Providence scored two runs in the second inning on fine hitting and base running. Hines opened with a single and Farrell followed suit. A double steal worked all right. Hines stealing third and Farrell second. Start fled to Sutton and Radbourn struck out. Carroll hit sharply past Sutton and both runners scored.

In the sixth, Carroll tore off his third hit of the game and reached third on Irwin's double. Denny popped to Whitney. Gilligan rolled a slow bunt to Whitney and, while the big pitcher was throwing him out, Carroll crossed the plate, beating Morrill's peg to the plate. More than 3000 passed the gates at Messer Park. The next game was played at Boston, with 500 Providence fans helping swell the crowd at the South End grounds to 5000. Radbourn held the Reds to seven scattered hits, fanned eight, and won, 4 to 0.

To end the series of 1884, the Grays and Reds appeared at Messer Park Aug. 14 and Providence again handed the

base on balls. Radford forced Gilligan at second, the try for a double play failing. Hackett's only passed ball let Radford go to second. Hines came up and was the man of the hour, shooting a basehit to centre field to score Radford with the only run of the game.

Boston died hard and made a great bid for the game in the ninth. With two out, Morrill hit safely and took third on Whitney's single. Whitney stole second, Gilligan wisely making no effort to nip him. Hornung came up, but he was not so lucky as he was in one game in Boston, and the best he could do was a weak roller to Start, who tagged first base to end the game, with Morrill and Whitney flying for the plate with the tying and winning run. More than 3000 were present. Providence won the series with Boston by nine victories to seven.

Cleveland Falls.

Cleveland was the next team to try to defeat Radbourn, but lost the first game in a tough battle, 3 to 2, getting but five hits off "Rad." Irwin burst a blood vessel in his leg and was forced to retire, Nava going to shortfield. Detroit was next at Messer Park in the invasion of the Western teams, but was beaten for the ninth straight time, dropping a fast game, 4 to 2, getting but two hits off Radbourn, who fanned 10 men. Bassett played shortstop, and played like a hero.

Radbourn played shortstop in the next Detroit game, Eddie Conley going to the box and beating Detroit, 5 to 2, the Blackstone Valley boy allowing but five hits, all singles. Back in the box next day, "Rad" was hit hard by Chicago, but as the White Stockings made costly errors at critical points, the Grays won, 5 to 3. Irwin was back at shortfield.

The second game was a close call for the Grays as, going into the ninth inning, the White Sox held them at an even score of 3-3. But in the ninth the Grays made four runs to win, 7 to 3. Charley Bassett played shortstop again, as Irwin was again out, and made a fine record, getting two hits and fielding faultlessly. Chicago made 15 errors.

Just for diversion or a little extra money or something, the Grays and Reds the next day played an exhibition game at Portland to 3500 spectators, the Reds winning, 9 to 0. Radbourn pitched part of this game, Conley working the remainder.

The third Chicago game was another desperate battle, with the Grays winning, 5 to 3, Radbourn granting six hits. John Clarkson, afterward one of the greatest pitchers of his time and later sold to Boston for \$10,000, a remarkable figure for the times, pitched for the White Stockings. But with Flint injured and Kelly unable to hold him, he could not let himself out.

In this game, Gore was hit by a pitched ball and fell unconscious to the ground and was carried off the field.

To fill his place in centre field, Corcoran went to the outfield and was obliged to borrow one of the old gray suits of the Providence team, as the White Stockings had no spare uniform. This victory was the 20th in 22 starts by the Grays.

21st Victory Is Won

Because of the alleged dirty playing of the Chicagoans, especially the sly tricks of Mike Kelly, the crowds at Messer Park delighted to hoot Baby Anson and his gang. But the final game found the White Stockings on their best behavior, and not a hint of dirty playing was made. The game was the cleanest and best of the season between the two teams, the Grays

winning, 6 to 4. Radford turned the laugh on Kelly, who was catching, by sliding under him and between his legs as he waited for "Little Paul" at the plate with the ball in his hands.

This was the 21st victory for the Grays in 23 played.

Owing a postponed game, Detroit came back a day ahead of the schedule and went down to a 7 to 1 defeat. Radbourn giving six hits. The next day, Detroit fell before the Grays for the 12th successive time, losing 6 to 5, in an 11-inning battle. The visitors got a four-run lead in the third inning by batting Radbourn hard, but the Grays got to Weldman in the fourth and fifth and forged ahead, but Detroit tied the game in the ninth on hits and an error by Hines. Carroll won the game in the 11th by hitting safely and rounding the bases on steals and putouts.

The standing Sept. 1 showed the Grays so far out in front that the outcome of the race was hardly in doubt, although the Boston papers insisted the Reds would eventually beat the Grays for the flag. At this time, Providence had won 64 games and lost but 20, while the Reds had won 58 and lost 26, a six-game lead for the Grays.

With the championship practically settled, the chief interest of baseball fans the country over lay in how long the winning streak of Providence and the phenomenal work of Radbourn would continue without meeting disaster. But the team that was to smash the streak was just around the corner. Buffalo next appeared at Messer Park and fell, 4 to 0, the Grays giving one of their best exhibitions of the year, not an error of any kind marring the performance. But three hits rolled off the Buffalo bats, Rowe getting two singles and Force a double.

Radbourn Complimented

Radbourn struck out 10. Big Dan Brouthers paid Radbourn a great compliment when he declared "he was glad the Bisons were about done with Providence for the year." Asked why he replied: "Because you have such demon pitchers here."

This was a gala day for Radbourn and Gilligan and their friends, as a great demonstration was turned loose at Messer Park. A crowd of friends of both obtained photographs of recent date and had large crayon pictures made, elaborately framed. The game was held up in the early innings and a delegation marched out onto the field and unveiled a life size portrait of Radbourn. They returned to their seats, but in the next inning again paraded onto the diamond and the same process was repeated with Gilligan.



MIKE KELLY

His hitting for Chicago had much to do with defeat of Grays in crucial series.

Bostons a shut-out, winning 1 to 0. In this engagement, the giants of the National League played almost phenomenal ball. The series stood eight to seven in favor of Providence and the Reds made every effort to win this game to even the series and cut off the victorious march of the Grays. It was a memorable event in the history of baseball, this Boston-Providence series. Radbourn held the Reds to six scattered singles.

As Hines went to bat in the first inning, he was given a mammoth bunch of flowers and then did the unethical thing by making a base hit, when by all rules of such matters he should have struck out.

For seven innings, the teams battled to no purpose. Home plate was an unknown land. But in the eighth, Gilligan broke the suspense by drawing a

Radbourn walked out onto the diamond and helped the Grays hang a 10 to 1 defeat on the Bisons the next day seven of the Bisons falling on strikes, with one base on balls the only error by the locals. This game was the 25th victory in the last 27 starts. Cleveland replaced Buffalo and was beaten

3 to 1 in the first game, but came perilously near to beating the Grays the following day, losing by a score of 5 to 4. Cleveland held the lead at 4 to 1 until the eighth, when Denny hit the ball far over the fence in deep left field, below the carriage gate with one on, one run having previously been scored in the inning.

The Grays made the run of victories 20 straight against Cleveland the following day, winning a great game, 3 to 0. Gilligan helped Radbourn not a little in this game, fielding magnificently.



XXXIII

Buffalo had been playing great ball for some time and had worked her way up to third position. It seemed in the air that something was going to happen as the Bisons came back to Messer Park to close their series here for the year. A good-sized crowd was present and sat in at the game the whole country had been looking for to accomplish the defeat of Radbourn and the Grays. The strain had become so violent that even the Providence players felt a defeat would be welcome.

This event happened Tuesday, Sept. 9, after the Grays had won 20 straight games and Radbourn had taken 27 victories out of 27 starts. The 2 to 0 defeat could not be laid to "Rad," as he pitched winning ball, but Galvin was a little too good for the Grays that day, as he shut them out, and the Bisons rewarded him for his great work in holding the Grays to four singles—two by Start and one each by Radbourn and Farrell—by scoring two runs, enough to win, although they got but five off "Rad," O'Rourke getting a double and Rowe three singles.

The contest was spirited and exciting, with both teams playing brilliant ball in the field, but hitting weakly. To quote the baseball writer of the Providence Journal the next morning on the two runs made by Buffalo: "Lillie opened the fifth inning with a long fly to left field which Carroll captured. Then Egler hit the ball and sent it rolling to Radford in right field. He made a grand stop and pickup and threw to Start to put Egler out, as most persons who witnessed the play thought, but Mr. Gaffney, the umpire, was of the opinion that Egler was at the bag before the ball, and so allowed him to stay there."

"O'Rourke was the next at bat and had two strikes and Radbourn pitched another splendid ball, which could not be anything but a strike. Just at this minute, however, Egler started to steal second and attracted the umpire's attention so that he did not see the ball pass over the plate, and he gave it as a called ball. O'Rourke hit the next ball for two bases, sending Egler home. He was advanced to second on a passed ball and scored on Rowe's single."

In the Gray's half of the ninth Carroll reached first on White's wild throw and made third on Start's single. Radbourn tried to win his own game and drove a long liner to right that looked good for extra bases and Carroll started for the plate and Start for second. But Lillie made a great catch of the drive and returned it to Richardson on first base in time to double Carroll, ending the game and the great winning streak of Radbourn and the Grays. Bassett played third base in this game, as Denny was ill.

The box score:

BUFFALO													PROVIDENCE												
ab b h p o a e													ab b h p o a e												
O'Rourke, l. c.	3	1	2	0	0								Hines, m. . .	4	0	2	0	0							
Rowe, c. l. . .	4	3	6	1	0								Carroll, l. . .	4	0	2	0	0							
Richardson, 2.	4	0	2	6	1								Start, l. . .	4	2	5	0	0							
Brothers, l. .	3	0	1	1	0								Radbourn, p.	4	1	0	1	1							
White, 3. . . .	3	0	1	3	1								Farrell, 2. .	3	1	3	1	0							
Forces,	3	0	1	3	1								Gilligan, c. .	3	0	1	0	0							
Lillie, r.	3	0	2	1	0								Irwin, s. . . .	3	0	0	3	0							
Egler, m.	3	1	2	0	0								Bassett, 3. . .	3	0	0	0	0							
Galvin, p. . . .	3	0	1	1	1								Radford, r. .	2	0	2	0	0							

Totals,	29	5	27	13	3								Totals,	30	4	24	5	1							
Innings		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9															
Buffalo		0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	—2														
Providence		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—0														
Earned runs—Buffalo	2.												Two-base hits—												
O'Rourke 1. Bases on balls—	Off Galvin 1,												off Radbourn 1. Struck out—	By Radbourn											
8, by Galvin 4. Double plays—	Force to Richardson to Brothers; Lillie to Richardson.												Time—1:30. Umpire—Gaffney.												

With the strain of successive victories off their minds the Grays started afresh the next day by handing Cleveland a 5 to 3 beating, although the Clevelandans got nine hits with a total of 12 off Radbourn, while the Grays got but five singles off Harkins. Seven errors by the visitors helped things along. The next day Cleveland again fell, 9 to 1, Radbourn allowing but three hits, but these included a home run by Hotelling and a double by Muldoon. Cleveland made 11 errors. Radbourn struck out 12 men.

Buffalo came back for another killing, but was licked 8 to 2, getting six hits off "Rad," with Buffalo making 12 errors. The Grays won their last home game of the season by defeating Buffalo 6 to 1.

Providence fans made the final day here a gala one and presentations were the rule of the hour. Radbourn was presented a huge bouquet and "a bulky

envelope containing lawful currency of the United States." Farrell was given a framed photograph of himself, similar to the ones given Radbourn and Gilligan, and with this was a solid gold watch, chain and charm, the charm being in the form of a \$20 gold piece, the whole costing \$185."

The Grays left for Cleveland that night eight games in front of Boston, the standing being: Providence—won 73, lost 21, percentage .776; Boston had won 65 and lost 28, a percentage of .698.

Arriving at Cleveland for a postponed game Radbourn pitched the Grays to a 10-2 victory, his third on the new string and the 30th in the last 31. Three straight were won at Detroit, but the fourth was lost. The first game at Detroit was stubbornly contested, and the Detroiters tried hard to break the long string of defeats handed the team by the Grays. But Radbourn was strong in the pinches and held the game in his hands all the way.

The Boston scribes still were unconvinced and the morning of the first game the Reds played on the trip had figured how many the Reds would have to win and the Grays lose to put Boston on top. The race of the year before was quoted and the boast made that the Reds would repeat on the Western trip and the Grays were doomed. Just how they got that way is hard to tell, but their hopes got a severe jolt when the Chicagos plastered the Reds with a 17 to 0 defeat.

When the Boston fans read the story the next morning they were dumbfounded. Manager Morrill presented Buffington in the box and the White Stockings proceeded to knock him out. Manager Morrill went into the box when the slaughter of Buffington became too bad, but fared almost as poorly. The White Stockings collected 22 hits with a total of 36.

Chicago Beats Grays

Gore made two home runs, while Pfeffer and Burns contributed circuit clouts, with numerous doubles mixed in. Boston made four hits off Larry Corcoran and Boston made 10 errors.

Continuing the good work the Grays won the second game at Detroit, 9 to 5, making the fifth winning start for "Old Hoss" since losing to Buffalo and the 31st game in 32 pitched. Chicago again whipped Boston, not so badly as in the previous game, but bad enough, the score standing 18 to 9. Whitney was batted off the rubber and Morrill again finished. This was some game and 27 errors were made, Boston making 15 and Chicago 12. As this practi-

cally put Boston out of the running the Reds will be named here but few times from now on.

It was the same story in the third game at Detroit, Radbourn adding his sixth straight victory and the Grays were out of danger. This was the 32nd in 33 starts for "Rad." The final game was a walkaway for Detroit, the Grays taking a 7 to 1 beating. Radbourn was not hit so hard, but his support

went to pieces, the Grays committing 11 errors.

Chicago won the first game in that city, 5 to 3, hitting Radbourn hard, the seven safeties including two home runs by Pfeffer and doubles by Kelly and Dalrymple. This heavy hitting overcome the eight passes issued by Clarkson and the 15 errors made by the White Stockings. Conley won for the Grays, 6 to 5, in 10 innings the next

day, Dalrymple and Pfeffer making home runs. To the surprise and delight of everybody Paul Radford also made a home run.

Radbourn was back in the box the next day and won, 8 to 3. Start getting a home run, which had become a habit with the Grays. In the final game the White Stockings batted Radbourn all over the field to win, 15 to 10, scoring 10 runs in the first inning. Each team made 14 errors.



XXXIV.

With the championship settled, interest in the trip of the Grays among the Western teams cooled and Turks Head was a deserted place and traffic in that square resumed its normal tone. Eddie Conley was given two chances in Buffalo on succeeding days, and while he held the Bisons to six singles he lost, 2 to 0, the first day and was hit hard the second, the Grays losing, 11 to 2.

The remainder of the championship season was disposed of with the Grays winning and losing about an even number of games, the season ending at Philadelphia with an 8 to 0 victory. The final standing showed the Grays winning by 10½ games, the record being Providence won 84, lost 28; Boston won 73, lost 38. The Grays won nine from Boston and lost seven, won 10 from Buffalo and lost six; 11 from Chicago and lost five; New York, Philadelphia and Cleveland found the Grays a tough proposition, as each of the trio lost 13 of the 16 games played with the champions. Detroit could win but one game in 16, taking the final game.

After the jumping of Sweeney in July the burden of the pitching fell on Radbourn. He was supported grandly by Gilligan and the rest of the team. Charley Bassett showed himself a big league player, filling all demands on him with satisfaction to the directors and public. Later Bassett made an enviable record as a regular player in the National League.

Record Never Equalled

Radbourn kept his promise and showed himself not only a great pitcher, but a fine all-around ball player, being equally at home at any of the infield or outfield positions, and withal was a fine batter. His greatest achievement, perhaps, was against Boston. The Reds had two pitchers to send against Radbourn, but numbers counted for nothing, and Radbourn made a record that has never been equalled. No man in baseball ever deserved more than this star of the diamond in 1884.

This great player was born in Rochester, N. Y., in 1854, but when seven

years of age went with his parents to Bloomington, Ill., where he made his home until his death several years ago. He was one of a family of 18 children. And, by the way, Cliff Carroll also was a Bloomington boy.

Charley Radbourne never pitched for a record, but for the success of the Grays. He favored himself only in games that the Grays were almost sure to win, but when a victory was needed he was equal to the occasion, as the box scores show.

Contrary to general belief, the feeling between the Grays and the Boston players, and between the directors of the two teams, was of the pleasantest nature, and after each game, no matter how bitterly contested, the players fraternized, visited each other's homes and often dined together.

Looking over the record of 1884 it is found that the Grays won almost all the extra inning games, showing the fighting nature of the team. In each trip away from home, excepting the final one, the team carried 13 players and its success was notable. But in this final trip, which was the least successful of any, but 12 players were carried. Manager Bancroft was not superstitious about the 13 players, but always figured to lose a game on a day when a load of barrels passed him.

One little item that was almost forgotten is that some of the players banked largely on a horseshoe found by Radford in Detroit the previous year when he was with Boston and that team won the pennant. This horseshoe was carried with the team everywhere it went and in the home games was hung in the clubroom under the grandstand. For a long time Hines was seen to go into the clubroom just before going to bat, stop a moment and then return to take his place at the plate. He was watched one day and it was found that he went to the corner where the shoe hung on a piece of string, turned it around and then returned to the field.

Superstitions.

Hines had a great habit of talking to himself, holding at times extended conversations with himself, perhaps taking

consolation in the fact that he could hear himself think while, being hard of hearing, he couldn't hear those who spoke to him. After a game one day at Messer Park Umpire McLean told a few hearers that as he cautioned Paul against "sassing" the umps with the threat of a fine Paul said to himself: "If me was out of debt, me would not play ball another day."

With the championship assured and the day of the return of the team drawing near preparations were made for a reception to the players that should be worthy of the feat of winning the pennant for Providence. Two benefit games were arranged with the Cincinnati team, the proceeds to go to the players. At the time also Manager Jim Mutrie of the champion Metropolitan team of the American Association, the man who originated the saying, "We are the People," as applied to baseball, sent a challenge to the Providence directors for a series of games between the two champion nines. This appealed to the local magnates and the series was later arranged.

On the evening of Oct. 18 a vast throng assembled at Union station here to greet the team. A large squad of police was on hand, but failed to control the crowd, which packed the station and overflowed on to the tracks. As the train came in sight the pent-up enthusiasm was given full vent and the old station rang with the cheers and cries of thousands of enthusiasts, while White's Military Band played stirring airs. When the players stepped off the train, the rush swept the police away and hand clasps and back-patting ruled for several minutes. A crowd of Brown students grasped Bassett and gave a dozen rah rabs for the son of Brown.

New Brooms.

It took some time for the police to clear the way to the waiting barouches where a new broom was given each player and during the parade to the Narragansett Hotel that followed they wore the brooms over their shoulders. Exchange place was lurid with red fire and packed from curb to curb. As the procession, led by the band and a regiment of rosters, started through Exchange place for Washington row, a detachment from Battery A fired an 11-gun salute, the number of games the Grays won over the Reds in the flag race.

Sidewalks were crowded from curb line to buildings with a cheering, tumbling crowd, while every window on

the line of march was crowded with rooters, waving handkerchiefs and flags. Arriving at the Narragansett the players were escorted through a dense crowd to the lobby of the hotel and amid a tremendous demonstration took their places at the head of the grand staircase, where there was more handshaking and enthusiasm. The dinner was served in the main dining hall and the room was filled with prominent men of the city.

It was announced at the dinner that the season had been a success financially as well as in other ways, due largely to the business ability of Manager Bancroft and Managing Director "Ned" Allen. But the directors admitted that the patronage at Messer Park had hardly come up to expectations. Mention was made of signing Tom Lovett, North End boy recently deceased. Tom had a short time previously performed a pitching stunt by striking out 17 of the New York team.

A day or two after the banquet rumors spread about town that Radbourn would not be with the Grays in 1885, as under his agreement with the directors when he took up the pitching burden that if the Grays won the pennant he would be given his release. But Radbourn declared he would rather play in Providence than anywhere else, and he was with the team the following year, which was the final season in the National League for Providence.

On Oct. 18 it was announced that the challenge of Jim Mutrie had been accepted and that a series of games would be played for the championship of the United States beginning the following week. From this series, the first for the world's championship, eventually grew the present fall classic between the champions of the National and American Leagues.

The Cincinnati team came here and fell in both games, played in cold weather before small crowds. The Grays won the first game, 4 to 1, Radbourn allowing but two hits. The second game was played with Eddie Conley in the box and was called at the end of the ninth inning with the score 2 to 2, the Cincinnati wishing to catch a train.

At the second Cincinnati game the friends of Gilligan presented him a gold watch and chain and charm, the present costing \$175. A pair of sleeve buttons in the form of \$5 gold pieces was also given to Gilligan as a "mark of esteem from your lady friends in Providence."

Hines Bats .304

Official records showed that Hines led the team in batting with an average of

.304. Start was second with .273.

The final round of festivities to celebrate the winning of the championship was held at the Vape de l'Eau Club Tuesday, Oct. 21, when all the players but Radbourn, together with more than 100 rooters, held a field day at this once well-known club at Ocean Cottage. A clambake was the big feature and at this function, presided over by Col. J. Lippitt Snow, the players were given gold badges and gold watch charms in the shape of a rooster, the number to get badges including Wood of the Detroit team, Snyder of the Cincinnati team and Umpire Gaffney, who were present.

Col. John G. Wyman, one of the best after-dinner speakers of his day, was the speaker of the day.

Some controversy ensued over the plans for the series between the Grays and the Metropolitans, Mutrie demanding the lion's share of the gate receipts, which were expected to be large. Mutrie finally accepted the terms of the Providence club, calling for an equal division of the entire receipts. The New York Herald declared the Grays were afraid to meet so formidable opponents as the Metropolitan champions of the American Association. But as soon as the terms were agreed to the Grays packed up and left for New York.

Championship Series

The first game was played Oct. 23 and won by the Grays, 6 to 0. The weather was disagreeable and cold, but 2500 attended. A high, cold wind handicapped the players. Keefe pitched a poor game, while Radbourn was at his best. The Grays clinched the game in the first inning when Hines and Farrell singled off Keefe and scored on a series of wild pitches and passed balls.

In the second inning Hines again hit safely and scored on a passed ball and two wild pitches. The Grays batted Keefe hard in the seventh, when doubles by Farrell and Gilligan, a triple by Irwin and a single by Denny scored three runs.

The box score:

PROVIDENCE						METROPOLITANS					
	ab	lb	po	a	e		ab	lb	po	a	e
Hines,m....	4	1	1	0	0	Nelson,s..	4	0	2	2	0
Carroll,l....	4	0	1	0	0	Brady,r...	4	0	1	0	0
Radbourn,p	4	0	0	1	0	Easter'ks,3	4	0	0	3	0
Start,l.....	4	0	13	0	0	Rosen'n,m	3	0	0	0	0
Farrell,2....	4	1	2	2	0	Orr,l.....	3	0	13	0	0
Irwin,s.....	3	1	0	4	1	Tray,2....	3	1	0	5	0
Gilligan,c...	3	1	8	2	0	Reipsch'r,c	3	0	7	2	1
Denny,3....	3	1	0	2	1	Kennedy,l.	3	0	0	0	0
Radford,r...	3	0	2	0	1	Keefe,p...	3	1	0	1	0

Totals ..	31	5	27	11	3	Totals ..	30	2	24	13	1
Innings ..						Innings ..	1	2	3	4	5
Providence ..						Providence ..	1	2	0	0	4
Runs—Hines 2.						Runs—Hines 2.					
Gilligan—6.						Gilligan—6.					

Struck out—By Keefe 8; by Radbourn 9. Three-base hit—Irwin. Two-base, . hits—Farrell and Gilligan. Double play—Irwin to Farrell to Start. Wild pitches—Keefe 4; Radbourn 2. Passed balls—Reinschlag 2, Gilligan 2. Umpire—Kennedy. Time—1h. 55m.

The second game, played Oct. 24, was also won by the Grays, 3 to 1, in a 7-inning battle, called because of darkness. About 1000 were present. All the Grays' runs were made in the fifth, when Farrell and Gilligan made singles and Denny cleared the bases on a home run. The Mets scored in the same inning on Roseman's hit and wild throws by Irwin and Farrell.

The box score:

PROVIDENCE						METROPOLITANS					
	ab	lb	po	a	e		ab	lb	po	a	e
Hines,m....	4	0	3	0	0	Nelson,s..	3	1	1	2	0
Carroll,l....	4	0	0	0	0	Brady,2...	3	0	3	0	0
Radbourn,p	3	0	0	0	0	Easter'ks,3	3	1	1	1	0
Start,l.....	3	1	7	0	0	Rosen'n,m	3	1	1	0	0
Farrell,2....	3	2	3	1	2	Orr,l.....	3	0	7	0	0
Irwin,s.....	3	0	3	0	1	Troy,2..	2	0	1	3	0
Gilligan,c...	3	1	5	3	0	Hanbert,c.	2	0	5	1	0
Denny,3....	3	1	2	2	0	Kennedy,l.	2	0	2	0	0
Radford,p...	3	0	2	0	0	Keefe,p...	2	0	0	1	0

Totals ..	29	5	21	9	3	Totals ..	23	3	21	8	0
Innings ..						Innings ..	1	2	3	4	5
Providence ..						Providence ..	0	0	0	3	0
Metropolitan ..						Metropolitan ..	0	0	0	1	0

Earned runs—Providence 3. Base on balls—By Keefe 2. Struck out—By Keefe 4, by Radbourn 6. Two-base hits—Gilligan, Farrell. Home runs—Denny. Double plays—Keefe to Troy to Orr. Wild pitch—Keefe 1. Umpire—Ramsen. Time—1:35.

The final game was played Oct. 25 in cold blustering weather and was won by the Grays 11 to 2. The game was called in the sixth inning because of the cold.

The score:

PROVIDENCE						METROPOLITANS					
	ab	lb	po	a	e		ab	lb	po	a	e
Hines,m....	2	1	2	0	0	Nelson,r...	3	0	0	1	0
Carroll,l....	4	1	0	0	0	Brady,s...	3	0	3	0	1
Radbourn,p	4	1	0	1	0	Easter'bs,3	3	2	0	12	
Start,l.....	3	0	6	0	0	Rosen'n,m	3	2	0	0	0
Farrell,2....	3	1	0	3	0	Orr,l.....	3	1	12	0	0
Irwin,s.....	3	1	2	1	2	Foster,2..	3	0	2	4	1
Gilligan,c...	3	2	4	0	1	Reipsch'r,c	2	0	2	2	6
Denny,3....	3	2	1	2	0	Kennedy,l.	2	0	1	1	0
Radford,r...	2	0	3	0	0	Becan'n,p	2	1	0	4	0

Totals....	27	9	18	7	3	Totals....	24	6	18	13	10
Innings ..						Innings ..	1	2	3	4	5
Providence ..						Providence ..	1	2	0	0	4
Metropolitans ..						Metropolitans ..	0	0	0	1	2

Struck out—By Radbourn 2, by Keefe 1. Two-base hits—Easterbrooks. Three-base hits—Denny. Double plays—Kennedy to Foster; Farrell to Irwin to Start. Wild pitches—Radbourn 1, Becannon 1. Passed balls—Reipschlag 2. Base on balls—By Becannon 5. Umpire—Keefe. Time—1:20.

The Grays won a silk pennant emblematic of the worlds championship that cost \$100, and waved beside the League pennant the following season.

LINE DRIVES THEN and NOW

by  Wm D Perrin

XXXV.

The season of 1885 was not only the final campaign of the Providence club as a member of the National League, but the least satisfactory of any since the advent of the Grays in the National League. Starting out with a Southern trip that was fairly satisfactory, the club entered the pennant race with a team that was confidently expected to walk away again with the pennant. But, fourth place was the best the team could get and fifth was narrowly escaped, a few victories at the close of the schedule saving it from falling below Boston.

Strengthened by the addition of new and stronger players, the Grays started the league season with bright prospects, and the opening games at Messer Park were liberally patronized, but as the season wore on and the quality of ball was far inferior to that of the previous season, the attendance fell off alarmingly, and before the close of the race interest in the Grays had fallen so low that the accounts of the Providence games were given third consideration by the local press, the Chicago and New York games being given the leading places and the display heads, with the Grays sunk low down in the column.

Grays Slump.

At the end of the season, the St. Louis Sporting Times printed a paragraph that told the situation to a letter, declaring that the team, always a weak hitting team, but strong in the field, had batted weaker than ever and fallen to next to last place in fielding. The paragraph closed as follows: "The team is completely gone, root and branch, and, apparently, is dying of dry rot."

Troubles among the players was not the only thing to blame, as there was discord among the directors and stockholders. Rumors were about town, as early as the middle of the season, that some of the officials were in league with Boston and that a financial offer had been made for Radbourn and Gilligan, which was being considered. This did not materialize, however, until long after the championship season had ended and the directors had declared the team would be in the National League in 1886.

Things floated along in this way till cold weather, and even as late as Oct. 17, when the National League had a special meeting in New York, it was declared at the session that the Providence club would be a member of the league the next season. But later developments showed that some of the officials at least had negotiated with another city for the disposal of the franchise, and that Radbourn and Gilligan, and possibly one or two other players, were to go to Boston.

This was denied vigorously, but later developments showed the rumors were

founded on fact. The franchise was sold and Boston got the players she needed to rebuild a team as badly demoralized as the Grays.

Things Stir Up

Manager Bancroft arrived in Providence early in March, accompanied by his bride and things began to stir around headquarters. An ambitious southern trip, to take the entire month of April, was arranged, planned on the successful southern trip of the year before. Among the new players signed were Tom Lovett of this city, Charley Bassett of Pawtucket, who proved a valuable player when Denny was of, but little use to the team because of malaria from which he suffered nearly all the season.

Jim McCormick of the Cleveland team of the previous year was signed, as was Con Dailey of Woonsocket, later one of the best catchers in the game. Dupee Shaw, a left hander and the first southpaw pitcher of the Grays of any account, since Richmond, was also signed, but only after a long and bitter fight with Boston, that club claimed Shaw because of its "influence in getting Shaw reinstated after he had jumped to the St. Louis club of the outlaw Union League.

Shaw was a member of the Grays all the season and was one of its strongest assets. McCormick did fair work while he was with the team, but was suffering with a lame arm and was of little use to the team. This signing of Shaw and McCormick with Radbourn as the mainstay, and the obtaining of Dailey, gave the Grays three batteries, Gilligan and Nava being the other catchers.

Difficult Signing

There was some difficulty in signing the players of the champion 1884 team as all of them demanded, and finally got, an increase in salaries. Shaw was signed for \$3500 and was worth it. Radbourn was willing to play again with Providence, although under the agreement with the club he was a free agent as the Grays won the championship in 1884. After some negotiations a contract, with the salary item left blank, was sent Radbourne, with instructions to fill it out himself.

The contract was returned with \$4000 inserted as the figures. This was accepted by the directors and "Rad" reported here in March. This contract was later presented to Martin C. Day, for years city editor of the Providence Journal, and official scorer of the Grays for years. Mr. Day cherished this contract as one of his most precious souvenirs of his connection with baseball, and kept it to the day of his death. The writer was shown the paper one day while "fanning" with "Mart" in his den in the old Journal Building.

Things looked bright when it was announced at the annual meeting of the

Providence club, Jan. 30, 1885, that the 1884 season had been the most successful in every way since the club was formed. The figures showed that a total of 64,409 paid admissions were received at Messer Park and that a "satisfactory bank balance was on hand." President Root was re-elected and Marsh B. Mead was elected treasurer. Mr. Mead later got control of the stock, and it was declared, when the franchise was sold, that he owned or controlled the majority of the stock. A vote of thanks and confidence in Manager Bancroft was passed.

Crane Not So Good

Ed Crane, a pitcher of renown in his day, was signed before the team went South, making five pitchers on the roll, but Crane didn't do the team much good and was used in the box but few times. Later Tom Lovett was sold to the Philadelphias.

The Grays started the season well by winning the opening game at Philadelphia, which had also been strengthened, 8 to 2, fielding the same team as won the pennant the previous year. After one game in Philadelphia the team jumped to New York, where an 8 to 5 defeat tacked on with Shaw in the box; he was hit hard. Radbourn pitched the next day and the Grays won 4 to 3. Going back to Philadelphia McCormick was sent to the box. He was wild and was beaten 9 to 6.

Although the Grays had batted Keefe hard in the World Series at the close of the 1884 season, when the Grays went against him on their return, to New York, they could find him for but one hit, a single by Farrell.

May 11 was the date of the opening championship game at Messer Park and a fair crowd sat in. The World Series pennant was raised on one staff and the National League pennant on another. The series pennant was of white silk with black letters and trimmings, and a beautiful piece of work it was, of the whip variety, and about 30 feet long. Radbourn was in the box and the Grays won 9 to 4 over Buffalo. The next day Shaw beat the Bisons 5 to 1 in a light hitting game, allowing but three singles, the Grays getting but four singles off Serad.

18 Errors

But possibly the light hitting may be laid to the fact that the Grays made 10 errors and the Bisons 18, as many of the errors would undoubtedly be given as hits nowadays. Serad gave nine bases on balls and these were counted as errors.

Everybody awaited the first St. Louis game, as it was announced that Radbourn and Sweeney would battle it out in the box in this game. When the St. Louis team took the field there were more than 3000 spectators present. Where it was supposed Sweeney would meet with a frigid reception the reverse was the case, as when the former Providence star faced the Grays the big crowd broke out into a demonstration that had no equal at Messer Park from the day of its inauguration. Sweeney was cheered throughout the game.

It was a sweet morsel for Sweeney and he responded by holding the Grays to five scattered singles, striking out four men and beating the Grays 8

to 2. The St. Louis team batted Radbourn hard, collecting 12 hits with a total of 15. The Grays also fielded miserably, Hines alone making four errors in centre field. This game was the pioneer of the costly losses of the Grays and the beginning of the end.

Shaw Gains.

Shaw was rapidly gaining the good will of the Providence public as he was showing better form than any of the Grays's pitchers, not excepting Radbourn. He pitched a great game against Buffalo in this first home series, holding the Bisons in his hand and winning 3 to 0. The next day Radbourn also handed the Bisons a 3 to 0 shut-out. The close of the second week of the season showed New York in first place with eight victories and two defeats, Chicago in second position with seven and three, and the Grays third with five won and four lost.

The Grays were somewhat crippled during this period as Denny was of little use to the club because of malaria, but Bassett played third base as well as Jerry McCormick's lame arm was still lame.

Another big crowd gathered at Messer Park when St. Louis returned from its Boston engagement. If Sweeney had the laugh on Radbourn in that first tussle, the tables were turned with a vengeance in the second. The Grays batted Sweeney out of the box in the fourth inning, having made 12 hits off him, including two three-base hits by Carroll. Radbourn toyed with St. Louis.

McCormick was given a beating by Chicago and in addition to being batted hard he passed seven and made six wild pitches. More than 1500 saw this game go to Chicago 10 to 0, and great was the indignation about town. The fans would have sold the team for 30 cents about that time. More of the rumors that abounded in Providence went flying about town and it was said that the Grays would not support Shaw or McCormick. Both pitchers published a letter in the newspapers to the effect that they were perfectly satisfied with the support given them by their mates and the best of feeling existed in the team.

GRAYS SLIPPING

At the end of the first month the relative positions of the leading teams were the same as at the end of the first fortnight, with New York on top and Providence third, less than three games back, but apparently slipping. The high water mark of the season was reached Memorial Day, when 4000 saw the Grays defeat Chicago 4 to 1 in the morning game, and Detroit succumb in the afternoon 4 to 3, in 10 innings, before 3000.

The Boston series was the best of the year, and encouraging crowds attended, but with the close of that series the interest waned rapidly, not only here, but in Boston, matters in that city being about as poorly as here. Things went from bad to worse, and all sorts of absurd statements were spread about town as to the team "laying down" and "dissipation of the players." This latter statement was true enough.

Going West badly crippled, disaster after disaster afflicted the team, and at one time or another about every man on the team was out because of injuries or other matters. Farrell had a broken arm, Bassett a broken finger and Denny "malaria." Radbourn had a badly bruised hand, and the fans panned the club for releasing Crane, although when he was let out everybody seemed glad. At St. Louis, Irwin sustained a broken finger and was sent home.

Returning to Providence, the team played to small and discouraging crowds, and the quality of ball displayed was as meagre as the crowds. Manning had been signed to play short-stop in Irwin's place, but was no better than when he wore a Providence uniform a few years before. About Aug. 1, President Root resigned, and J. Edward Allen was elected in his place. Both Radbourn and Shaw were sick and Edgar Smith of this city was obtained to help out.

Eleven Games in Ruck.

At this time the Grays were far down in the ruck, so far as first place was concerned, being 11 games back of the leading New York team.

Things were bad enough with the team and it was common knowledge that the players were being tampered with by other clubs, and that they were playing poor ball to force the club to disband at the end of the season, giving them their freedom so they could sign elsewhere for larger salaries. Then, too, it became known that the larger clubs, including Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and St. Louis, were in a compact to force Providence, Buffalo and Detroit out of the league.

Hines was suspended for "breaking training;" Carroll was sick, and the entire team was demoralized. Listless, indolent ball was played to empty benches. At that time the Providence Journal baseball writer printed a scathing article one morning charging the players with every sin on the calendar and urging the suspension of the worst of the offenders and the signing of local amateurs to complete the season.

A league meeting was held Aug. 2 to consider "changes in the rules," as announced by the league officials, but really to take measures to oust the Providence club. As Buffalo and Detroit were hanging by a thread the trio made a compact to fight the proposed ouster and succeeded, as unexpectedly the New York club took sides with the three intended victims and the measure failed to go through.

The Providence directors had a knife up their sleeves at this time, and in "the event of certain things coming up" the delegates—President Allen and George J. West—were empowered to pull the knife. The delegates together with Stillman White, had been appointed a committee just before this meeting to arrange for a sale of the players at that time and to wind up the affairs of the club.

Owing to the action of the New York club, represented by John B. Day, the committee refrained from taking action, seeing a more favorable time to dispose of the property later on. Probably Mr Day had some inkling of what was going on when he apparently forsook

his co-conspirators, as it became known later that the Boston club practically had an option on the Providence players and franchise.

The stockholders held a meeting Sept. 9 and "voted to continue the team in 1886." That this was a colossal bluff became known later. Both sides evidently carried out their bluff, waiting for developments as at a League meeting in New York Nov. 18, President Allen of the Grays was elected to the Board of Directors of the League.

In the mean time the team kept on its way to the goal aimed at and lost game after game until 13 straight defeats had been hung up. The quality of ball was of the most miserable nature, the players being indolent and listless in every contest. Yet so poor were the other teams holding lower places that the Providence team was kept in third place in the standing despite the efforts of the players to get to the bottom.

As the team lost its 13th straight game, one of the players let the cat out of the bag by declaring in a moment of hilarity that the whole thing had been cut and dried and that it had been figured out to lose that number and then jump in for the final game of the season at Messer Park and show just what sort of a team the Grays really was. They showed it all right. Had the directors disbanded the team then and there, fined the players all they had coming and blacklisted the lot it would have been no more than the players and the rest of the National League deserved. But this would have spiked the contemplated deal with the Boston club, and it was allowed to pass.

The information printed in the above paragraph was conveyed to the writer by a man who was active in baseball at the time and who had several statements in black and white on paper, now yellowed with age, which he permitted the writer to read a short time ago.

Best Game of Year.

But the facts of this final National League game in Providence are that in this game the Grays played the best ball of the year. It was a day of many surprises. The Providence team from the catcher to the right fielder played magnificent ball. Not an error of any kind, battery or otherwise, marred the contest. The base running was the most spirited the players had shown since early in the spring; Radbourn pitched in superb form.

Philadelphia did all possible to win, but no team could have beaten the Grays that day and they won, 3 to 1.

But once on the road the same tactics that had disgusted the people and stockholders were followed and the road trip was a disastrous one. When the season was finished, Oct. 10, the Grays were in fourth place, the lowest they had been since the city joined the league. Chicago won the pennant with 87 victories and 35 defeats; New York was second with 85 and 27; Philadelphia third with 56 and 54, and the Grays fourth with 53 games won and 57 lost.

Although it was common knowledge that the stockholders had decided to

quit and accept the offer of the Boston club, the matter was not announced until the morning of Nov. 30, when the doings of the stockholders' meeting of the night before were made public. It was announced that the franchise and players had been sold to the Boston club "for a consideration that repaid the stockholders for their holdings and cleared the debts of the club."

The statement of the stockholders was soft in the extreme. They declared that "after calm and thoughtful consideration it was thought best for all concerned that the club be sold, especially as the larger cities of the league wanted the franchise to be transferred

to a larger city where the game would be more profitable."

Boston's main interest was to obtain Radbourn and Gilligan, and "Rad" was for several seasons thereafter a member of the Red's pitching staff. The other players were scattered all over the league.

Thus died the National League experience of Providence in the eighth year of its age.

Some of the sporting men of Providence died hard and an association was organized to place a team in the Eastern League of 1886, with such teams as Long Island City, Meriden, Conn., and a few cities of that calibre as members.

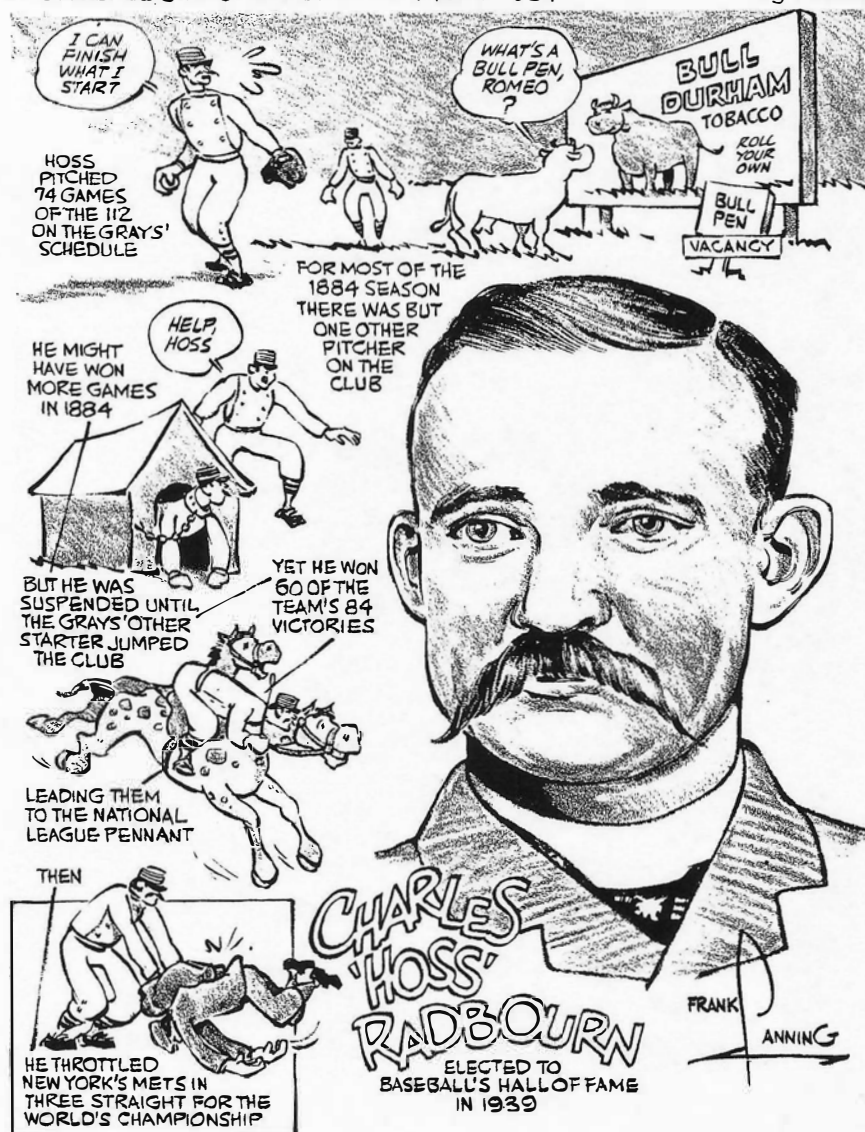
The idea was that in a few years the National League would split into Eastern and Western divisions, and then Providence would be sought for as a member; by continuing in baseball the promoters thought it would keep Messer Park in existence and Providence on the map.

There was nothing to it, as nobody went to the games and the club disbanded, after a few weeks of starvation. A few circuses showed at Messer Park and a few semi-pro teams played a few games there. After a few years of this the famous Messer Park was dismantled, cut into house lots and continued not.

The End.

PROVIDENCE GRAYS - WORLD'S CHAMPIONS - 1884

by LANNING



(Reprinted courtesy of Frank Lanning and the Providence Journal Co.)



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