

WAR TO THE KNIFE.

Citizens' Champion Base Ball Team Issue a World Encircling Challenge,

THEY ARE WILLING AND ANXIOUS TO DO UP THE HOSPITAL CORPS

On Dominion Day for Glory and an X Ray Apparatus.

SKETCH OF THE MEN WHO ARE ALREADY MARCHING TO VICTORY.

A gentleman with sandy hair and in a very excitable condition of mind called at the Herald office this morning and asked that the following base ball challenge be published today:

"We the undersigned, self-constituted Champion Citizen base ball team, of Fredericton, challenge the trustees and medical staff of the Victoria Hospital to a game of base ball on July 1st. Proceeds to be given to the Hospital towards the purchase of an X-ray apparatus.

No practice games allowed.

An early answer requested through the press.

F S Hilyard Jas H Crocket
F B Edgecombe R W L Tibbits
Geo N Babbitt R P Foster
John Palmer T B Winslow

L C Macnutt

Spare men—C F Chestnut, G Y Dibblee.

Umpires recommended—A F Street, J H Hawthorn.

This is a bold challenge and the men who have signed their names to it mean business. The members of the hospital staff, lay and medical must face the situation. They cannot afford to ignore the challenge although an overwhelming defeat may be staring them in the face.

Something about the Champions.

The players composing the "Champion Citizen" base ball team, are known far and wide as very active and effective exponents of the game. Every man has a base ball record in front of him, and



Mayor Crocket's favorite attitude as back stop.

they are confident that victory will perch on their hats on July the first if the hospital people have the courage to face the situation.

The Postmaster, who is canvassing industriously for the position of captain, is a wonderful player, if one can believe all he says about it himself. Somewhere back near the year 1835, he was captain of a Lover Cove team that wiped up the earth with the Straight Shore nine. Mr. Hilyard claims to be the pioneer of



Winslow's daring left hand catch at centre.

base ball in St. John, and if he can play the game as well as he talks it, he is wasting time sorting letters in the post office. He should be playing ball with the national league.

Mr. Edgecombe has had the advantage of almost constant practice at Springhill. During his camping days last summer he belonged to Charlie's nine, in which Mr. Wilmot Guion and Mr. Montgomery's boys were star players. Mr. Edgecombe has a habit of staying too long on first,



Right Fielder Edgecombe waiting for a grounder.

but as our heaviest taxpayer will have great weight on the team. The captain

will place Mr. Edgecombe where he can do the least harm.

Whether or not the transcendent base ball ability of James Tibbitts, the Tartar's captain, was transmitted from his papa, will be demonstrated when the deputy provincial secretary and "printer to the King's most excellent majesty" takes the field on Dominion Day. Mr. Tibbitts knows all the points of the game, but theory and practice are not synonymous. Mr. Tibbitts made a great run in a Victoria Co. election some years ago, and



Foster delivering a deceptive curve.

is counted a strong member of the team. Mr. Babbitt carries no surplus flesh and is generally credited with great athletic powers. He used to play cricket before he became a grand-father and is depended upon as short stop (at the bat.) Having charge of the provincial treasury, Mr. Babbitt is the favorite of the newspaper members of the team for captain, and will probably be elected if Mr. Hilyard can be put aside.

Mr. Crocket is great on (political) strikes. In his last game he made a home run from Hazen street to the government pasture. He is frequently caught off his base, but is strong on slides and fouls.

Somewhere up in Prince William Mr. Palmer gained his rudimentary education in base ball, and his experience has cost him a lot of money. Mr. Palmer's career as a base ballist in recent years has been principally to put up the stuff and see the other fellows play. Everybody from the captain of the Hoodoos to the professionals have struck Mr. Palmer for a subscription, so that he really knows a lot about the game. He is a trifle corpulent but that will all wear off when he gets stripped for the conflict. If the afternoon is fine and cool, Mr. Palmer confidently expects to make at least one circuit of the bases on errors.



Capt. Hilyard proclaiming victory.

Mr. Winslow is a veteran at the game. Many years ago he and Collector Street, between the marble and penny pitching seasons, led a club at Woodstock against the choice of Hardscrabble, and won. In later years Mr. Winslow distinguished himself with the Hip Tongs against the Titwillows. He is a very hard man to get out. Once when three strikes were called on him he declared he wasn't out, as he had never touched the ball. The "Citizen Champion nine" are very lucky in securing Mr. Winslow's services for the approaching game.

The Challengers are not going into this enterprise without the best of financial backing, and besides having the watchdog of the government treasury, they have enlisted the services of Banker R. P. Foster who is said to be a perfect hurricane pitcher. Mr. Foster has eight kinds of curves that would puzzle a Chinaman, and his drops—well tooth ache drops are nothing to them. The report that Mr. Foster has a glass arm is an invention of the hospital people, and should be given no credence.

Of course the ninth member of the team is too modest to blow his own trumpet, but it is said to be a fact that the residents in the locality of Scully's field are already crying "lost ball" in anticipation of his coming to bat.

The spare men are "beauts," Mr.



Dr. George resting at 1st.

Dibblee could have been on the regular nine if he had disposed somehow of his surplus avoirdupois, but he will make a great "rooter." It is said that the enemy are planning to have the whole police force on the grounds to keep Mr. Dibblee quiet, and they will have a nice job.

Mr. Chestnut could hit a balloon if its position were properly indicated on the map, and will be a great addition to the team if his services are required. There is some fear that one or more of the regular nine may become winded after the first round, and the spare men, though they are both fat, may be necessary to the successful issue of the game.



Deputy Receiver General intercepting a fly to left.

About the umpires, we have some doubt. The "Collector" and Capt. Hawthorn were such persistent seekers for the job that it was finally decided to adopt the double umpire system and give them both a chance. Their ability as dodgers was taken into account, and they have taken out extra risks on their lives. Both were very much pleased when it was mentioned to them that there might be a lunch at the close of the game provided any of the players are able to sit up.

These hurried sketches, of course, fail to do justice to the members of the team



Umpire Hawthorn at the Lunch counter.

who have issued the bold challenge to the administrators of the sick, but they are offered as a tribute to the base ball and other worth of gentlemen who from philanthropic motives have consented to face victory and perhaps death.

Now let the hospital people come on. Let the Mayor, the Clerk of the Pleas, the Senator, the whiskered Seery, the mighty McNally, short stop Vanwart and all the rest of them dare accept the challenge, and even the X-ray instrument will be useless in attempting to discover their base ball remains.



"Rooter" Dibblee Disputing with the Umpires.

Notes.

The hospital ambulance and the People's Bus will be on hand to convey the victims off the grounds.

The Champions have selected their suits, but the color and cut will not be revealed just now.

Operating tables will be placed at intervals between the bases.

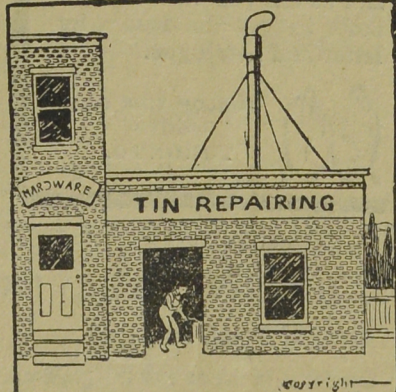
The hospital folk are putting up a lot of bluff about the great sprinting ability of Dr. George McNally, but the Champions are not to be frightened by such tactics.

There is some talk of putting up a barbed wire fence to separate the diamond from the lunch counter.

Dogs and book agents will not be allowed on the grounds.

The doctors may try to work an electric battery.

Members of the city council will not be permitted to climb the fences to see the game.



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