

upon him, and unless he rises above the sea of mediocrity, he, too, is destined to join the ever swelling squad of ex-Cleveland managers.

**Wm. R. Armour** was the first manager of the Cleveland club when the American league was organized by Ban Johnson. He had captured pennants with his Dayton, O., club, and had developed Earl Moore, Gene Wright and Johnny Gochnauer, who went with him to Cleveland. He grabbed Addie Joss from Toledo and made the big deal which took Lajoie, Flick and Bernhard to Cleveland. Armour started well, but the players did not fancy being dictated to by a man who had never played ball in the league, and petticoat politics played a hand in forcing Armour out.

**Napoleon Lajoie**, idolized by the fans, succeeded Armour. The greatest natural player the game ever saw, Larry was anything but a great leader. Too easy going, he proved a poor disciplinarian, and although the team made one great pennant fight, it was torn asunder by cliques, and Lajoie gave up the ghost.

**Jim McGuire** followed. A player of the old school, he had failed to keep up with the game. He ran the club by signals, directing every offensive play, until the team's efforts became humorous. Individual initiative was choked and players lost heart. The team was a joke and McGuire resigned under criticism, in mid-season, to act as scout until the expiration of his contract.

**McGuire's resignation** threw the burden of the team upon the shoulders of hustling George Stovall, and the club forged ahead. Stovall, it is said, gave one order—"Play ball, fellows!", and they responded like magic, jumping from sixth place to third. The public clamored for Stovall as manager this year, but long before McGuire had become disgusted Owner Charlie Somers had signed Harry Davis of the Athletics to act as manager, and Stovall was sent to St. Louis. Somers would have been money ahead had he handed Davis a year's salary and retained Stovall, for Davis has quit before the wave of criticism and humor by press and fans, and has been succeeded by Joe Birmingham.

**Ball players and umpires** say Birmingham is the brains of the club. A graduate of Cornell, "Strong Arm" is a student of the game and more than once it was said that it was his head behind the aggressive Stovall that made the latter a success.

Birmingham's big task is to convince Charlie Somers that HE is to be the MANAGER. Interference has handicapped the Naps more than managerial blunders. A McGraw or Chance could have won pennants with the Cleveland club, because a McGraw or a Chance would brook no interference.

**Vice President E. S. Bernard** is said to be the man responsible for the poor showing. An ex-sporting writer, Bernard is one of the game's shrewd men, but as a