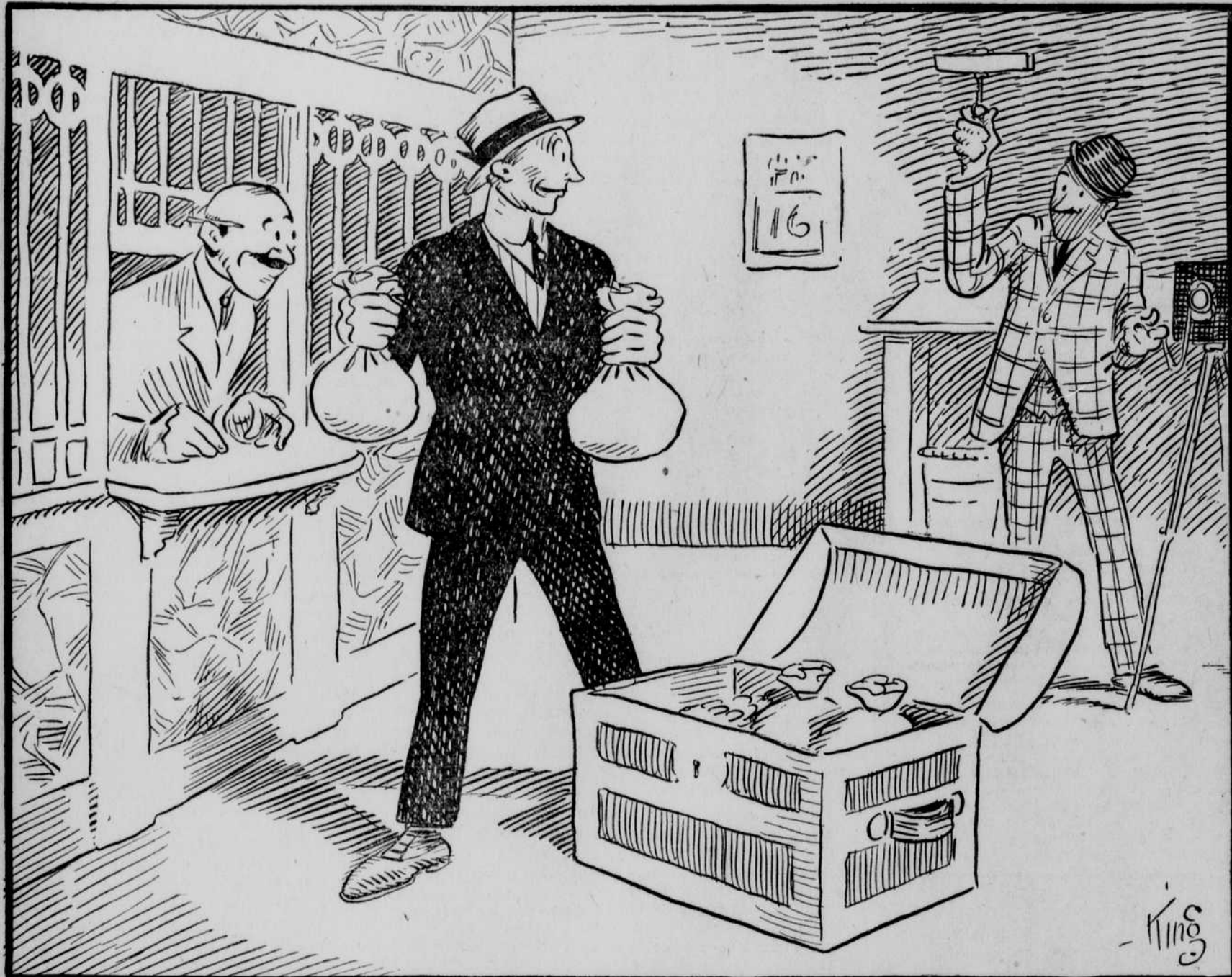
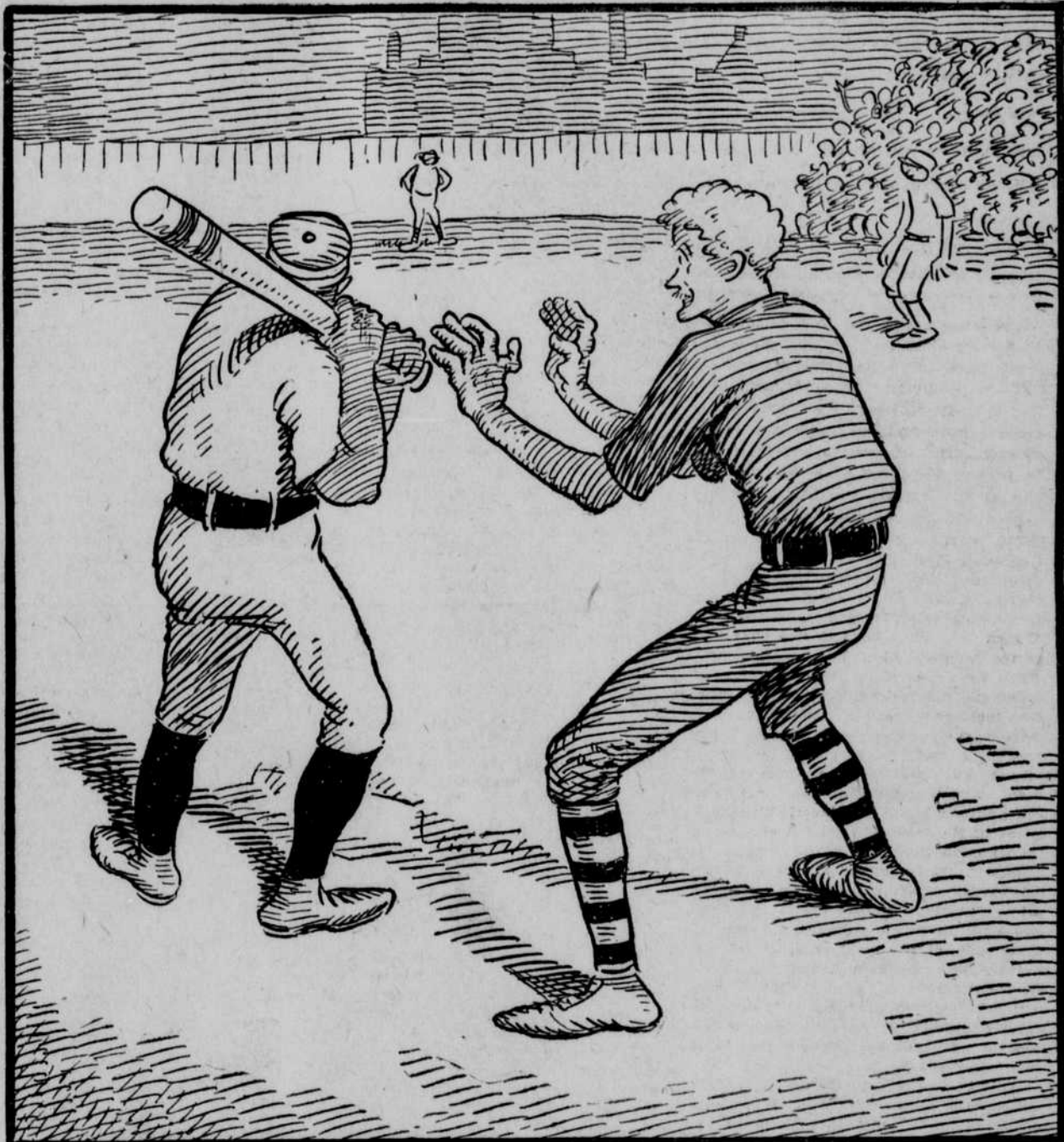


MR. DOOLEY • On The Crisis •

BY FINLEY PETER DUNNE



"Th' prisidint iv th' bank has a flashlight picture took iv th' scene to show that th' consarn is solvent."



"He used to ketch with his naked hands until his hands got so busted that ye cudden't screen soft coal with thim."

"DON'T know," said Mr. Dooley, "I don't know whether we ought to interfere or not."

"In Mexico?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Don't talk like a congressman," said Mr. Dooley. "I'm not half as much bothered about Mexico as I am about th' quarls an' love affairs iv th' cats in th' backyard next dure. It's sthrange what thim fellows down in Wash'nton thinks is inthrestin' to th' American people. Whin they're thyrin' to injoocce us to save thim fr'm th' privations iv life at home they tell us that if they land they'll devote thimselves entirely to our inthrests. But whin they get into th' innervatin' atmosphere, as Hogan says, iv a Wash'nton boordin' house they f'get all about us an' spind their time solvin' picture puzzles iv high fi-nance an' high di-plomacy that are no more use to me thim so much aljibbera, be hivens."

"Th' nex' time that long haired Prince Albert coat an' white necktie that thinks it riprisits me in congress comes in here an' thinks to wheedle me out iv a vote that ought to be worth \$2 iv anny man's money I'm goin' to say: 'Whin I put ye where ye are ye promised to devote ye'er time to makin' life more merry fr'me. An' what have ye done beyant movin' out iv me neighborhood? Have ye shook th' furnace, or looked after th' plumbin', or mended th' beer pump, or swept th' snow off th' sidewalk, or carried in th' coal or stopped th' dhraft under th' front dure, or fixed th' broken spring iv th' matthress, or kilt th' organ grinder, or thawed out th' wather pipe? Thim are th' things that affect me life, not th' controversy between William Jennings Bryan an' th' Frinch sicerity iv state fr' affairs—that're none-iv-his-business-ayether over th' troubles iv Beloochistan. Don't tell me about ye'er vote on th' income tax. Th' on'y people that are bothered about th' income tax ar-re th' few that have incomes so large that they're not bothered about annything. I received an income tax blank to fill out meself fr'm a jocose government among me other mail on th' fourteenth iv Feb'ry. I will say this, that, though, like all comic valentines, 'twas a little vulgar an' personal an' touched on wan iv me principal deformities, I got a hearty laugh out iv it before I thrun it away with th' others that joshed me about me bald head an' th' size iv me feet. But other people might be more sensitiv. I can aasily understand that this coarse pleasanthy might not be relished be a man that had th' misfortune to be born without an income an' hadn't been able to make wan grow on him since. I must say that half th' pleasure I have had thinkin' iv Jawn D. gettin' a cramp in his wrist makin' th' return has been spiled be th' thought iv hundreds iv onforchnits who have had to explain to a collector iv eternal rev'noos that they never see that all th' time they have been pretindin' to have a rale income they've been stumpin' around on an artificial wan."

"No, sir, th' things that people talk about in Wash'nton an' th' things they talk about where they have a vote are not th' same. It

pains me to see Dock Wilson agytatin' his mind an' wastin' his time writin' letters to Sir Ed Grey about Pancho Villa an' other gunmen whin our own counthry is on th' brink iv civil war over th' base-ball situation. Ye don't catch th' King iv England wastin' his time on such thrivyalities. No, sir; he's at his post iv jooty in th' front seat iv th' gran'stand with a bottle iv pop in wan hand an' a chunk iv cracker-jack in th' other, yellin' 'Rotten!' at th' empire an' callin' on Mike Donlin to jump feet first into th' shortstop's lap. He's a smart little king, that same George th' Fifth. He knows how to cement th' Anglo-Saxon alliance whin it begins to crack at th' jints. We'll niver fight with a monarch that can figure out a double play, Collins to Barry, to McGinnis. He understands better thim th' hired hands under him what institution we're proudest iv, an' that there'd be more ginooeyne grief in th' homes iv America if Joe Tinker sprained his ankle thim if Cole Blease broke his neck.

"There's no wan prouder iv th' growth iv base-ball thim meself, an' faith I ought to be, fr' haven't I watched it fr'm its infancy, whin th' Forest Citys bate th' Pecatonica Blues be a scor iv two hundred an' eight to nawthin'? I remember whin seven mibbers iv th' champagne team wore side whiskers an' whin wan iv thim, Harry Wright be name, had as complete a beard as th' wan that gives Jim Ham Lewis th' on'y privacy he has iver enj'ied. I've seen Jim White pitch in spectacles, an' I remember whin th' best base stealer in th' league had a club fut. I've known ivry pitcher fr'm Al Spalding to Eddie Welsh. This very re-threat where ye are standin' now used to be th' thrainin' quarters fr' Mike Kelly, th' grandest player iv thim all an' th' on'y man that cud make an error so laughable that ye wudden't be able to scoot it fr' merrymint. I remember whin Cap Anson, a raw counthry boy, come to Chicago fr'm Marshalltown, Ioway—"

"D'ye remember Wash'nton at Valley Forge?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Valley Forge was in th' Pennsylvania State league, an' we didn't pay anny attention to th' bushers in thim days," said Mr. Dooley. "I remember whin th' ketcher used to stand behind th' plate, without mask or chist protector or gloves, an' take thim all, high an' low, in or out. Ye cudden't get Old Hoss Flint to put on that armor anny more thim he wud a diver's suit. He used to ketch with his naked hands until his hands got so busted that ye cudden't screen soft coal with thim, an' thim he caught with his nose or his stomach. He didn't care."

"In thim days I niver expicted to see base-ball become th' fi-nancyal institution it is today. Th' season was shorter. About th' middle iv May th' great atheleet turned over th' reins iv th' grocery team to other hands an' wint down to th' ball park an' reported to th' cap. He played until th' ear muffs blossomed in th' gran'stand an' thim resoomed his civic jooties. Durin' th' winter he was just like th' rest iv us. Ye niver heard iv him unless he got into trouble with th' polis. Nowadays th' winter is th' peeryod iv his greatest activity. There's more

base-ball news whin th' snow is on th' ground thim there is in th' summertime. Most base-ball players show little inthrest in th' game until th' season is over. But whin th' cold weather comes they begin to warm up, an' manny a sturdy fellow that had to be led away fr'm first base be th' ear makes a record as th' spryest contract jumper in ayether league. Some iv thim go on th' stage an' become great authors. Others take up lithrachoer as a pro-fission, an' manny iv th' best articles in th' pa-apers is wrote be ball players without th' aid iv a mask. If Horace Greeley was to return to 'arth, th'



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chances are th' foreman iv th' composin' room wud come to his desk some night an' shiake a proof under his nose an' say, 'Look here, ol' hoss, ye'll have to cut this editorial on "Th' Fate iv th' Nation" down to a stick. We've just got in a article on fungo hittin' be Stuffy McGinnis.' I wint by th' office iv a magazine th' other day an' see a crowd standin' at th' dure. 'What's th' excitement?' says I. 'We're waitin' fr' him to come out,' says a man. 'Who? Roodyard Kiplin?' says I. 'No,' says he; 'Ping Bodie. He's signin' an article on th' "Neo-Platonic Theory iv th' Spit Ball,"' he says. 'Th' iditor has offered him forty thousand dollars, but he says if he don't get fifty he'll jump to th' Quarterly Review.'

"It's a great change fr'm my day. Th' heroes I knew cudden't feel a pen in their hands unless it was as big as a paint brush an' had nails in th' handle. An' I niver heard iv a pro-fissional ball player enthrin' a bank—at laste in th' daytime. Now, whin Ty Cobb goes down to wan iv these hardware stores with a thrunk containin' his weekly wages th' prisidint iv th' bank has a flashlight picture took iv th' scene to show that

th' consarn is solvent. Jawnny Evers wishes us to deny th' story circulated fr' its effect on th' stock exchange that he has consinted to jine th' board iv th' Standard Ile comp'ny. It is reported that Josh Devore will give his entire collection iv rare paintings, Chinese porcelains, an' Pershyan rugs to th' art museum. If ye see a young fellow modestly dhressed in a pink an' green checked suit, with an acetylene headlight in his shirt front, hurryin' down th' sthreet an' peevishly rejectin' an' effort iv a tear stained man in a tattered sealskin overcoat to stick money into his pocket, don't think they are rehearsin' a scene in a loonytick asylum fr' th' movies. No, sir. Ye ar-re witnessin' an attempt iv a Fedhral league magnate to lure a white slave into captivity.

"It's time our government stepped in an' made an investigation iv this thraffic. It was bad enough a few years ago, whin th' slave raiders fr'm th' ol' leagues used to descind on th' peaceful hamlets iv th' west an' seize an' carry off th' finest an' sthrongest iv their young men. Far away fr'm his home in Cedar Rapids th' poor chattel pined away th' long summer afternoons in th' scorchin' outfield iv Shibe park, whither he was dhruven in an autumobile be a harsh taskmaster. Ivry day fr'm three to five he toiled most iv th' time in th' blazing sun, sometimes bein' compelled to run thirty or forty feet over th' parched grass to overtake th' crool an' tantalin' base hit. An' whin he left this post iv torture, was he allowed to relax his achin' limbs in sleep? No, sir; as he set on a hard bench, buryin' his head in his hands, which he cud aasily do, th' harsh cry iv 'Cassidy up!' dhrove him to th' plate, where he was compelled to stand sometimes fr' a whole minyit iv agony, sthrikin' at a ball hurled be another gladiator. If be anny chance he shut his eyes an' hit it he was obliged to stagger a distance iv ninety feet, an' if his faintin' limbs refused to carry him at great speed he was saluted with foul epithets, such as 'Ice wagon!' an' th' like be th' onfeelin' multichood. An' ye must remember, Hinnessy, that these serfs ar-re immature young men, condemned to this brutal an' degradin' toil at an age whin more favored youths are carryin' th' hod. An' what compensation did they get fr' it? Sildom more thim tin thousand dollars a year, with what they cud pick up as thrajecdyans an' authors."

"Thim come this here Fedhral league an' made their condition aven worse. It appears, Hinnessy, that a number iv men who have grown rich in th' quick lunch business, not satisfied with their inhuman wurruck, has been attracted be th' hope iv gain to take a hand in th' thraffic in human souls. In many cases high-handed vilence has been used. I pick up th' pa-aper an' read: 'Exthry—Jiggs Mulcahy Kidnaped!—At tin thirty-two this mornin', as Mulcahy, th' cillybrated, second baseman iv th' Scorpions, was proceedin' in his autumobile to breakfast, he was set upon be ruffians in th' employ iv th' Fedhral league, who bate his chauffeur into insinibility an' overpowered Mulcahy be stuffin' his mouth with goold certificates, thus preventin' his outcries fr'm bein' heard. A darin' attempt be agents iv th' other

league to rescue him was foiled be his desprit captors, who carried their victim to a neighborin' caffy, where he was rendered unconscious with champagne. While in this condition he was injooced to sign a contract surrenderin' himsilf into captivity fr' thirty thousand dollars a year, provided he was allowed to use an autumobile in runnin' bases. It is feared that he has been spirited away to Brooklyn, where he is locked up in a safety deposit vault."

"No wonder th' counthry is all wurrucked up over th' situation. Here's something that congress an' th' prisidint ought to get busy about. There ought to be a federal commission to invistigate th' condition an' housin' iv pro-fissional base-ball players. I'm no Socyalist, Hinnessy, but whin an institution gets to be so important to th' counthry as base-ball it ought to be took over be th' naytional government. Yes, sir. It is time fr' Dock Wilson to quit foolin' with such pollytickal croshtayin' as th' revolution in Mexico an' th' anti-thrust legislachion an' do somethin' that appeals to th' heart iv th' American people."

"Some people think there's too much business in base-ball. They think a ball player ought to be like a pote or a lawyer an' have anny money he gets secreted in a bunch iv viles that's handed to him be his admirers. I don't agree with thim. Divvle a bit do I care whether a man is playin' ball fr' th' fun iv it or fr' a retainer that Elihu Root wud be ashamed to take before he quit th' game, so long as he pastes thim on th' thrade-mark whin he's up an' hauls thim down with wan hand whin he's in th' field. Ye'll see me in a front seat at th' first game, watchin' th' nimble young fi-nanceers at play an' yellin', 'Take him off!' at th' fellow who ain't got nawthin' on th' ball but his good intentions, regardless iv his ratin' in ol' man Bradstreet's dithnary iv merit. Between you an' me, I'd just as soon watch a white slave playin' as a bould freeman. An' if he played better ball, I'd sooner. I haven't a care in th' wurruld whether his constitootynal rights is guaranteed, so long as he gets down to second ahead iv th' ball."

"I see be th' pa-aper that it's a shame that a base-ball player shud get three times as much sal'ry as a colledge pro-fessor," said Mr. Hennessy.

"He may be worth three times as much," said Mr. Dooley. "If a man's value to th' wurruld was measured be his wages, a sthreet sprinkler wud get more thim a bank prisidint. But it ain't."

"But d'ye honestly think Tris Speaker ought to get more thim th' prisidint iv Harvard colledge?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"That," said Mr. Dooley, "is a matter I can't give an opinyon on. I niver see Dock Lowell play. I'd lave th' matter to a vote iv th' students iv that great an' fash-nable resort. I'd let thim decide which athleet it gives thim more pleasure to see perform."

"D'ye think they'd raise Speaker's sal-ry?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"No," said Mr. Dooley, "but they might cut down Prisidint Lowell's."

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