



## Visiting a Baseball Factory

The representative of *BASEBALL MAGAZINE* spent a very pleasant time inspecting the great plant of P. Goldsmith's Sons, Cincinnati.

It was the good fortune of the *BASEBALL MAGAZINE* representative, during a recent visit to that city, to be shown through the factory of P. Goldsmith's Sons, one of the largest sporting goods manufacturers in the United States.

This firm consists of Oscar, Edgar and Hugo Goldsmith.

Oscar Goldsmith takes charge of the financial and correspondence end, Edgar J. Goldsmith has charge of the manufacturing department, Hugo Goldsmith has charge of the advertising, mechanical and sales departments.

It is a most peculiar coincidence that this firm consists of all young men, the oldest not being over forty, and the youngest thirty-five.

This concern manufactures 6,500 baseballs every day, varying in grades from the 5 cent to the Goldsmith's \$1.25 Official League Ball.

In the manufacturing of the cheaper balls, the operation is so fast that it requires two men to operate the machines that compress the substance into shape. This is done on presses which have a compression force equal to twenty tons. At the time one ball is compressing, by means of mechanical devices, the finished ball is knocked out in front of the operator, so you can readily see this machine is compressing and finishing the ball at the same time.

The better grade of baseballs are wound on special winding machines with wonderful accuracy and facility. In the manufacturing of a league ball, there are a great many operations that the ball passes through before the cover is sewed on. Starting from the rubber center, which is of an exceptionally fine quality pure para rubber, the four ply wool yarn is wrapped with a heavy tension.

It is then placed into a machine, but not until after the yarn has passed through what is

called "tension devices." This is an arrangement of springs and flat steel discs. By this method the yarn winds tight and hard. The gray wool yarn is first used, the ball is wrapped to a certain exact size, and for this size must weigh a certain exact amount. This operation places upon the ball four ply gray wool yarn. The next operation is winding the three ply white wool yarn, following out the same procedure, each individual machine performing that operation and nothing else.

It is weighed and measured for size the same as before, following a certain set standard. The next operation the ball passes through another machine, which winds an extra fine grade of three ply gray wool yarn, and then into another machine on which the finishing yarn is wrapped. This is very fine yarn, so as to smooth the exterior surface of the ball, on which the cover is to lay.

The inspector receives this ball, it is then weighed and measured, and if there is the slightest variation from the standard these balls are returned to the machine and re-wrapped, until the operator makes the ball of the exact standard.

The ball is now ready for the cement room, where they are thoroughly covered with cement, and from there pass to the stitchers who sew on the cover, weigh each pair of covers carefully to exact weight. After they leave the stitchers they are again inspected, to see that the sewing and general appearance, the weight, and size are absolutely correct.

They are then passed into the polishing machine, and the covers and stitches smoothed down, and from there they go to the stamping department.

In the Glove and Mitt Department, and Leather Goods, this is operated under a separate superintendent, who is a specialist in

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his line. The same attention is paid to detail, and special machinery turns out each and every item. The same system of inspection and care is followed in this department.

A very large and heavy power press is on this floor, and this cuts out the felt linings for fielders' gloves and catchers' mitts. Heavy steel dies are used, which cut out as high as two dozen linings in one stroke. The better grade of goods are cut by expert hand cutters, who sort the best part of the hides from the various grades.

In the Clothing Department, which is also equipped with special machinery, and in charge of a separate superintendent, who is an expert in his line, we find the machinery busy making baseball uniforms, athletic shirts, running pants, college pennants, etc.

In this department, we found two electric revolving blade cutting machines, busy at work cutting the cheaper grade of baseball uniforms, as high as two dozen thicknesses at a time. The better grade of uniforms are each and every one cut to exact measurement, as sent in on the measurement blank, just the same as the tailors making clothing. The same care and attention is given to the measurements, and that the uniforms fit the wearer.

There are special operators, just for this grade of work alone, and they are kept busy making these uniforms, as there seems to be plenty of orders, as a great number of the League Clubs have standing orders for their uniforms.

One of the features so noticeable in these various departments, is the arrangement of motors, each and every department being absolutely separate from the others. Mr. Goldsmith who showed me through, stated they found this a very great convenience, as it facilitates the work, and the quality of production.

These goods are being shipped to Europe, Australia, South America, Philippine and Hawaiian Islands, and during the past few years, the Goldsmith firm has entered the professional field, and have been successful in getting a great number of leagues to adopt their Official Ball, and a great many of the clubs, scattered from Coast to Coast, including the National League, American Association, Pacific Coast League, International League, Western League, etc., use their uniforms.

The words of praise, and letters of recommendation which they have received, certainly speak very highly of the Goldsmith boys, for their untiring energy, and ability, and the great organization they have built up.

*Cincinnati Gets the Contract—*

P. Goldsmith's Sons, of Cincinnati, Ohio, were awarded the contract for equipping the Cincinnati Baseball Club with their uniforms, and coats for the season of 1913.

This firm is fast progressing toward the front, and in the course of a few years are already on the top of the ladder, supplying from the smallest clubs, up to the major

leagues, their uniforms now being worn from Coast to Coast.

*Winchester*

"Jimmie" Lavender of the Cubs, says:

"In regard to the Winchester rifle, I shot a .351 caliber Winchester Automatic last winter at both deer and geese, and it was the only gun I could kill with. The geese were so wild I couldn't get within 350 yards of them, but killed several with that rifle at that distance."

