











BEFORE the record season just closed; it had always seemed to us that baseball's 154-game sched-ule should have been cut to 140

games. As a gen-eral rule all interest has been withering on the September vine for 12 or 14 of the major league entries. The year 1946 has told a different story in the way of attendance figures, but certainly not enough to justify any 14-game into justify

Ty Cobb crease to 168 contests as proposed by a few club owners.

by a few club owners. With the wild rush to sport after the war, this has been an abnormal year. You get the main idea when the Phillies, a tail-end contender, could approach the million mark at home. Most major league clubs play at least 32 exhibition games. The 168-game menu would therefore give hall players 200 cross to here give ball players 200 games to han-dle between early March and Oc-tober. This is more than most ball players can absorb without going stale. Three hours of baseball each day seems easy work. But three hours of hustling competitive sport each afternoon or night is another story.

Even with the 154-game schedule the number of weary, injured, be-draggled ball players is something greater than you might think. Ty Cobb told me once that 154 games was about all any hard-playing hus-tler could handle. tler could handle.

"In the old days," Ty said, "I wasn't a hold out. I simply didn't need or want all that early training and all of those exhibition games. I hunted all winter and kept my legs in shape. I remember in 1911 I didn't join the Tigers until they reached Evansville, six days before the season opened. That year I hit for .420 and stole 83 bases as I recall it. One answer was that I was still keen and fresh in August and September when a lot of the others were stale and tired."

## **Danger** of Staleness

This seems to make sense. No athlete who has lost his keenness, athlete who has lost his keenness, who has grown stale, can be of much help. The right sort of ball player will keep in shape all win-ter, through golf or hunting. The spring training and the spring ex-hibition campaign has been badly overdone. Add 14 extra ball games to the necesnit list and it mill to the present list and it will mean more baseball than most players could handle-and still retain the badly needed hustle.

badly needed hustle. Also with the additional 14 games suggested, ball players' salaries should be lifted from 10 to 15 per cent over the 154-game pay. With the record attendances 1946 has of-fered, you can look for a rousing scrap on the part of the ball player for a big jump, even at 154 games. But who is going to see that the ball

Keys 12 0 By T. CARTER DODD WNU Features.

S TUBBORNLY Barney Thorpe refused to leave the office or his work until the last estimate was checked and filed away. Refused in the face of the ominous warnings that blared forth from the radio at

his elbow. "Go home at once. The storm is

rising to hurricane proportions. Go home at once. Quickly." "Oh that radio," there was cool disdain in Barney's voice, "they're too nervous. Besides it'll only take a few minutes more here. Go on down like a good fellow and wait in the car for me. You know, the one behind Harry's jalopy."

Downstairs, on the street level, peering through the heavy glass door, the storm appeared worse, if that were possible.

Across the street a light, blurred and faint, showed where Harry Thorpe's cigar store stood. Harry had not gone home. Was he going to ride out the storm in his place?

Or was he too just delaying? Stubborn old fools. All the Thorpes. Just 15 years ago Harry had proposed opening the store. He was going to put all his savings into it because he was sure it would be a grand success

be a grand success. Equally positive it would be a ter-rible blunder Barney told him pro-fanely not to. Warned him he was

courting disaster. Harry was stubborn, opened the store and now still had his original jalopy. Barney was stubborn, swore that his brother was a fool, and bought himself a new car every year, when there were cars. Not because he needed one but because



Safe on an upper landing on the side of the building, I stopped.

And that purpose? Every day he parked that car right behind Harry's jalopy just to prove how right he, Barney, was.

he, Barney, was. A heavy hand on my arm. Not having heard a sound I jumped. It was Barney. "It looks kind of nas-ty," he said soberly. Who waited for it to get nasty, I felt like retorting. We made a dash for the car and were soaked before we had gone ten feet. In the car Barney furbled for the keys

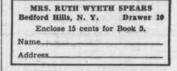
End Table Easily

## Made From Spools

F THERE is a table shortage in your home, here is an easy way to solve the problem. All you need is some plain shelf boards with holes bored in the corners, empty spools, a set of curtain rods and some glue. In a few minutes you can combine these things to make the attractive table shown here.



is just one of more than thirty ideas in BOOK 5. With its aid you need stop you obtained by





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