Ross-Ade

Robert C. Kriebel

Published by Purdue University Press

Kriebel, Robert C.
Ross-Ade: Their Purdue Stories, Stadium, and Legacies.
Purdue University Press, 2019.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/76762.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/76762

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2710020
Plays and more plays

Next from George Ade’s creative mind, in 1904, came the completed Sho-Gun, a satirical drama about American commercial expansion. In this story a promoter from Michigan named William Henry Spangler lands on an island near Korea and starts trying to change commercial life. He meets characters named Sho-Gun, Hi-Faloot, Omee-Omi, Tah-Tah, Hanki-Panki, and so on. The M. Witmark Company in New York City published the two acts of Sho-Gun. After a few weeks in Chicago, Sho-Gun opened in New York on October 4, 1904. Dislodging The County Chairman, Sho-Gun stayed for one hundred twenty-five performances.

Ade then wrote a series of syndicated newspaper pieces under the running title “Old Stories Revised.” In them he modernized the Rip Van Winkle, Enoch Arden, Vicar of Wakefield, Gulliver, and other legends. Collier’s Weekly printed his essay “To Make a Hoosier Holiday.”

Harper and Brothers, New York City, published two more collections. In 1904, Breaking into Society and True Bills contained reprints of a total of forty-five syndicated “Fables.”

Ade named his next play The College Widow. He based it on, and gave it the same name as, his poem from 1900. “During the first three weeks after I entered my new home [Hazelden] and reveled, for the first time, in wide expanses of elbow-room and a real sense of proprietorship,” Ade recalled. “I made up for lost time and
turned out a play called *The College Widow*. It was approved by the public and never had to be revised and it did over two million dollars at the box-office before it went to the stock companies” (Russo 95).

The success of the play was in some ways phenomenal. It first was performed, in August 1905, in Boston’s Tremont Theatre and taken later to London and even Australia. The actress Dolores Costello starred in a movie version. Warner Brothers named its 1930 talking movie *The Widow from Chicago* and titled a 1936 remake *Freshman Love*. Samuel French Company in New York City published the play on January 31, 1924.

By 1905, three of Ade’s plays were running on Broadway—*Sho-Gun*, *The College Widow*, and *The County Chairman*. Pearson’s Magazine printed Ade’s timely article “How I Came to Butt Into the Drama” in November. It was timely because, at one point, Ade’s Broadway play royalties alone exceeded five thousand dollars per week.

In 1905, Ade created two more works for the stage: *The Bad Samaritan* and *Just Out of College*. But some critics considered *Samaritan* Ade’s first setback in theater. “It was all wrong,” Ade conceded after a while. “It had a bad title and people wouldn’t come out to see it even the first night” (Kelly, *Ade*, 199). It went under after only fifteen shows in New York City.

*Just Out of College* made a better run in New York, toured for more than two years, and then became a motion picture. In that plot, young Edward Worthington Swinger falls in love with the daughter of a wealthy “pickle king.” The “king” gives Swinger twenty thousand dollars if he will leave the daughter alone for three months and show sound business sense. With the twenty grand, Swinger buys a rival pickle business that the “pickle king” ends up having to buy to stay competitive.
By mid-June 1905, financial pledges at Purdue toward the Memorial Gymnasium had reached forty thousand dollars, of which fifteen thousand had come from the guilt-ridden Big Four Railroad. Purdue’s Board of Trustees voted to budget twenty-five thousand dollars more to the campaign as soon as donations totaled fifty thousand. Ade pledged twenty-five hundred dollars. This pushed the campaign past fifty thousand and activated the Trustees’ pledge of twenty-five thousand more. Lafayette contractor Joshua Chew won the job to build the gym in 1908, and Purdue dedicated it on May 29, 1909.

In the winter of 1905-1906, Ade sailed to Egypt. From that experience he wrote a series of syndicated travel letters for American newspapers. Then McClure, Phillips and Company, New York City, published those letters as a book, *In Pastures New*, in October 1906. Ade wrote “many were printed in a syndicate of newspapers in the early months of 1906. With these letters have been incorporated extracts from letters written to the *Record* in 1895 and 1898.” Altogether, there were twenty chapters grouped into sections titled “In London,” “In Paris,” “In Naples,” “In Cairo,” and “On the Nile.” Both Fable-less and largely Slang-less, the letters satirized the American tourist abroad. Vaguely copying from the character “Brown” in Mark Twain’s *Innocents Abroad*, Ade created a “Mr. Peasley of Iowa” to be the protagonist for antics, comedy, and comments. In one sketch, Peasley declares:

I can take a hundred pounds of dynamite and a gang of [Italians] and go anywhere along the Hudson and blow out a tomb in a week’s time that will beat anything we’ve seen in Egypt. Then I’ll hire a boy with a markin’ brush to draw some one-legged men and some tall women with their heads turned the wrong way, and I’ll charge six dollars to go in, and make my fortune. (Coyle, 134)
On June 16, 1906, *Collier’s* published Ade’s story “The First Night,” and during the year, Ade dashed off a one-act play he titled *Marse Covington*.

At Purdue, students starry-eyed over stagecraft and endeavors dealing with the theater and performing arts formed the Harlequin Club in 1906. Ade became almost an immediate supporter with his talent, experience, reputation, and money.

Early in 1907, Ade’s mother died. During that busy year, he guided his grieving father on a tour of California and Salt Lake City. Next, he finished writing *Artie*, a stage version of his eleven-year-old book. *Artie* as a play struggled through a short run in New York City and toured only for part of one season. Ade gave up on it as “one of our children that didn’t live” (Kelly, *Ade*, 200).

Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, published Ade’s first and only long story, *The Slim Princess*, in May 1907. Ade had stretched it to novel length from its printing in installments in *The Saturday Evening Post* of November 24 and December 1, 1906, but book critics shrugged off this story as a burlesque of then-popular “Graustarkian” tales. In 1901, Ade encouraged John T.’s brother George Barr McCutcheon to publish the original *Graustark*. However, such plots of court intrigue, mythical lands, and American Youth versus Effete Old World Royalty dated back to Anthony Hope’s *The Prisoner of Zenda* in 1894. Criticism aside, Ade converted the *Slim Princess* story to a play presented by the Indianapolis Dramatic Club in the spring of 1908. Two collaborators then made it a musical for Elsie Janis that opened in New York City early in 1909.

Ade paid a short but pleasant spring visit to Purdue for a program of readings. The honoree on May 22, 1907 was Evaleen Stein, forty-four, a Lafayette poet and children’s author. Ade said that his and Stein’s mutual friend James Whitcomb Riley had recruited the talent for the campus program in Fowler Hall. President Stone in-
introduced Ade, Riley, Stein, and Hoosier novelists Meredith Nicholson and Charles Major. Ade read his essay “College Days.”

There was a national convention of the Sigma Chi fraternity in August 1907 in Jamestown, Virginia. For the occasion, Ade wrote and recited a poem, “The Fountain of Youth.”

Politics and partying figured in Ade’s life in 1908 when he served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. Later, U.S. Secretary of War William Howard Taft, the convention nominee, opened his presidential campaign in September with an address at Hazelden Farm. Ade and his hired help arranged for bands, fold-up seats in the front yard, and twenty acres of parking space for cars and buggies east of the house. There were two hundred luncheon guests and thousands of spectators. For those who came on trains for the rally, Ade provided horse-drawn hay wagons for rides from the Brook depot out to the farm.

Taft’s was the biggest affair yet at Hazelden Farm. In _Drawn from Memory_, McCutcheon remembered how “the Sigma Chis, the Purdue Alumni, the Indiana Society of Chicago and many other organizations” also made merry at Hazelden Farm (McCutcheon, 45).

“These big parties,” Ade told friends, “are a little hard on the lawn and shrubbery, but they’re a great thing for the community.”

After Ade wrote _Father and the Boys_ in 1908, and it made the New York City stage, some reviewers called it the best comedy in town. The veteran actor and producer William H. Crane (1845-1928) played it for three years. _Father_ was about how The Old Man gets the better of the Young Folks instead of the other way around. However, some complained that in this play Ade’s characters were beginning to be “unoriginal.” The play, one critic said, was “cluttered with stock types, obvious relationships, trite situations and tired witticisms. It has moments of freshness but they cannot redeem the comedy from the list of potboilers written by Ade since
The College Widow.” Ade, they claimed, was “a fading playwright” (Coyle, 104).

Nevertheless, Ade wrote The Fair Co-ed, a stage play in three acts. The still-infant Harlequin Club tested it out in a Purdue show first. Having again re-worked that old, old College Widow plot, Ade called The Fair Co-ed “a kind of happy-go-lucky musical play.” Witmark published The Fair Co-ed in November 1908.

By now, Ade’s growing fame was raising his value as a Purdue alumnus. On July 1, 1909, with alumni support, he accepted prestigious membership on the Purdue University Board of Trustees by appointment of Governor Thomas R. Marshall.

A theatrical friend from Chicago named Charles Dillingham talked Ade into producing The Fair Co-ed on Broadway. Ade’s first musical comedy since Sho-Gun opened on February 1, 1909 for a run of 136 performances. Its plot omitted an important football game scene from the original College Widow play script. However, one critic complained that “it never makes good on the sprightly promise of the first act; the humor is watered; the story collapses in the second act; the dialogue is often silly; the incidents uninspired; the lyrics banal and sticky...and even Ade’s genius for observation is curiously limited” (Coyle, 106).

There was one other hostile response. Purdue President Stone seemed to have taken umbrage at the way Ade caricatured him—or appeared to be spoofing him—in the College Widow character of the “college president.”

Ade finished another play in 1910 and titled it U.S. Minister Bedloe. In this story, Bedloe from “Springfield U.S.A.” becomes U.S. Minister to San Quito, in a mythical Central American republic of Caribay. Bedloe has just landed when a revolution breaks out.

Bedloe opened in Chicago but never reached New York City. “I knew it was a goner ten minutes after the curtain went up,” Ade
groaned, “but I had to stay there all evening while the blood slowly froze in my veins” (Kelly, Ade, 201).

Ade’s last full-length play, *The Old Town*, opened January 10, 1910 in New York City and remained for 171 performances. It marked the end of Ade’s ten-year run as a big-time playwright. Ade did write a short play—*The City Chap*—for the Harlequin Club for performances on March 28-30, 1910. H. Remick and Company, New York, published the script later that year.

Out at Hazelden Farm, Ade laid out a golf course consisting of nine approach-and-putt holes. He intended it for weekend guests, but he sensed that it did not seem neighborly to limit its use to special pals, so Ade formed the Hazelden Country Club with about forty members from around Brook and Kentland. When he enlarged the course in 1913 and made it one of the better nine-hole layouts in Indiana, the Country Club membership rose to 150. Ade said:

I began to try to play golf in the 1890s...I remember that every fellow was trying to use a “cleek” and some of us had “baffies,” and the mashie was usually described as a “lofter.”

I remember that as late as 1913 when I laid out my first long course I had Tom Bendelow help me. He was well known as a pro and a designer of courses and was plenty capable but a lot of country courses were being opened about that time and the clubs out in the country could not afford to pay for blueprints and expensive construction and Tom would lay out a course in one day. He would pick out a likely spot for No. 1 tee and put a stake in the ground and mark it then walk out until he thought he had come to a good place for a cross bunker and he would put down another stake and then go ahead and mark another bunker and then decide where to put his green and where to put the traps around it. As his services came to $25 a day the country clubs seldom kept him longer than one day because after he had given them a rough
sketch and a few directions they were ready to begin work on their course. (Tobin, 188-189)

Ade each day visited a barbershop in Brook, shaving himself only on Sundays. He knew the barbershop was a good place to hear what the neighbors were talking about. His nephew-by-marriage, Jim Rathbun, his farm manager, held that job for thirty-five years. The morning mail became a highlight of Hazelden life. Stacks of letters arrived from readers or theater patrons who were strangers, but Ade felt duty bound to answer. “Early to bed and early to rise,” he used to say, gently poking fun at farm life, “and you’ll meet very few prominent people” (Kelly, Ade, 230).

Finding rest, semi-retirement, and rejuvenation in his forties in the friendly fields around Hazelden Farm, Ade worked on more book collections, magazine stories, and syndicated newspaper yarns. He elevated his involvement in the affairs of Sigma Chi and the fun-loving, irreverent Indiana Society of Chicago. He took long trips and basked in Florida winters. Ade sailed much of the way around the world. He touched Hong Kong, India, and Europe with Orson “Ort” Wells, a wealthy friend since their Lafayette days. Years later, when asked whether he ever met the noted actor Orson Welles (different spelling), Ade revealed:

He was named after me and Ort Wells. Ort and I were on a West Indies trip with Mr. and Mrs. Dick Welles of Kenosha [Wisconsin.] We became very friendly. Mrs. Welles said she was expecting a little stranger and if it turned out to be a boy she would name him after us or for us, take your choice. In due time we received word that the baby was a boy christened George Orson Welles. We did not suspect that [he] would turn out to be a celebrity. (Tobin 209-210)

A rare publication titled I Knew Him When showed up in December 1910 as a souvenir, limited to one thousand copies, of the annual dinner of the Indiana Society of Chicago. The Society credited the
presswork to A. D. Winthrop and Company, Chicago. There was a subtitle, too: “A Hoosier Fable Dealing With the Happy Days of Away Back Yonder by George Ade,” with cartoons by McCutch-eon, Kin Hubbard, and other Hoosier talents.

Then there appeared Hoosier Hand Book that dated to June 1911 for the members and guests of the Indiana Society of Chicago. These people rode on a special train down into Indiana from the Dearborn Street Station in Chicago on June 23. Hand Book contained humorous and factual data about places between Chicago and Indianap-olis, such as Whiting, Hammond, Dyer, St. John, Cedar Lake, Lowell, Rose Lawn, Fair Oaks, Rensselaer, Monon, Monticello, Delphi, Rossville, Frankfort, Kirklin, and Terhune. The Society published Hand Book with the subtitle: “A Compilation of Facts and Near-Facts concerning Objects of Interest Along the Monon Line between Chicago and Indianapolis, garnered for the use of members and guests of the Indiana Society of Chicago.”

The Society leaned upon Ade again on December 11, 1911. For the membership the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, pro-duced Verses and Jingles for a dinner in Chicago. Ade’s part was Volume IV of twelve called “The Hoosier Set.” Most of these con-trIBUTions from Ade had been published before, including material from his Chicago Record days in 1893 and his “Fountain of Youth” poem from 1907.

Early in the twentieth century his fans considered George Ade one of the best-known writers of humor and drama in the United States. In the relative quiet of West Lafayette, he was a Big Man on Campus at Purdue as well. It helped any organization—the Purdue Trustees, Sigma Chi, the Purdue Alumni Association, or any other—to have a link with George Ade’s name.

Purdue alumni began calling themselves an “Association” in 1912, but already, in 1911, they were emerging as a strong entity. At the end of Purdue’s annual Gala Week just before commence-ment in June 1911, the Alumni Association made known it would
co-sponsor an “air show.” An “aeroplane” would fly to Stuart Field, which was spectator-friendly with its bleacher seats and parking spaces for horses, carriages, buggies, and a few newfangled motorcars.

Tippecanoe County’s aviation history began on that June day barely seven and one-half years after the Wright brothers’ first flight late in 1903. Many advances in aeronautics were taking place by the spring of 1911. Employees of Glenn Curtiss’s Herring-Curtiss Aeroplane Company factory in Hammondsport, New York, were building and selling spindly but roaring loud “aeroplanes,” recruiting and training pilots, and touring at air shows scheduled by the Curtiss Exhibition Company.

On May 17, the Lafayette Journal revealed that, with the Purdue Alumni Association, the paper would co-sponsor the city’s first “aviation exhibition.” It would take place on Tuesday, June 13. The level grounds and grandstands of Stuart Field still served as the home turf for Boilermaker football games. In its advance blurbs, the Journal disclosed that aviator J. A. D. McCurdy would fly a Curtiss and Wright biplane with a sixty-horsepower, eight-cylinder gasoline engine. Follow-up stories raised hope that a second pilot and biplane and as many as three mechanics might show up, too. Railroads scheduled excursion trains so that the curious could see the air show. The sponsors decided to charge fifty cents for seats in the Stuart Field bleachers. Car owners would pay a dollar for parking places. On June 12, the paper reported that C. C. Witmer, rather an unknown, would fly the second biplane.

Newspapers ranked the Aviation Day crowd the “greatest in Lafayette history” even though it did take place in West Lafayette. Converging hordes of horses, wagons, buggies, bicycles, motorcycles, and cars jammed West Lafayette’s narrow streets. An estimated seventeen thousand people crowded about Stuart Field, some clinging to telephone poles or perched in trees. About seventy-five hundred of them occupied the stadium proper, overflowing the bleachers built to hold five thousand. Drivers parked an estimated two hundred fifty automobiles—as much a novelty as
“aeroplanes” in 1911—all about the premises. Purdue’s Debris yearbook proclaimed:

The aeroplane exhibition was a splendid success. Thousands of people saw for the first time machines able to convey man through the air, circling about, and finally coming to earth again. (Topping, 165)

George Ade’s name, fame, and money helped the Sigma Chis, too. “The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi” was being penned at Albion College in Ohio in 1911. There was a Delta Delta chapter house of Sigma Chi on Waldron Street near the Purdue campus. Edward J. Wotawa, a senior science major, wrote the music for a “Purdue War Song” in 1912. James Morrison, a science sophomore, composed words leading to renaming the war song. Wotawa, student director of the Purdue Glee and Mandolin Club, dedicated the new song to the Glee and Mandolin Club’s members. Wotawa and Morrison published “Hail Purdue” in 1913.

Writing plays and playing politics was not all the ammunition in Ade’s arsenal. His syndicated articles printed in the newspapers in Chicago, Indianapolis, and elsewhere continued to bring chuckles, especially to college types who had endured events like one described in February 1912 in “The Night Given Over to Revelry.” Here are a few excerpts:

All those who had Done Time at a certain endowed Institution for shaping and polishing Highbrows had to close in once a Year for a Banquet. They called it a banquet because it would have been a Joke to call it a Dinner....
To insure a Riot of spontaneous Gaiety the following Organization was effected: Committee on Invitation. Committee on Reception, Committee on Lights and Music. Committee on Speakers. Committee on Decorations. Committee on Police Protection. Committee on First Aid to Injured. Committee on Liquid Nourishment...

The Frolic was to be perpetrated at a Hotel famous for the number of Electric Lights. The Hour was to be 6:30 Sharp...Along about 7:30 a Sub-Committee wearing Satin Badges was sent downstairs to round up some recent Alumni who were trying to get a Running Start, and at 7:45 a second Detachment was sent out to find the Rescue Party. Finally at 8 o’clock the glad Throng moved into the Main Banquet Hall...

Beside each Plate was a blond Decoction named in honor of the Martini Rifle, which is guaranteed to kill at a Distance of 2,000 Yards. The compounding had been done in a Churn early that morning and the Temperature was that of the Room, in compliance with the Dictates of Fashion.

Those who partook of the Hemlock were given Courage to battle with the Oysters. These came in Sextettes, wearing a slight Ptomaine Pallor...

Luckily the Consommé was not hot enough to scald the Thumbs of the jovial Stevedores who had been brought in as Extras, so the Feast proceeded merrily, many of the Participants devoting their spare Moments to bobbing for Olives or pulling the Twine out of the Celery...

The Fish had a French Name, having been in the Cold Storage Bastille for so long. Each Portion wore a heavy Suit of Armor, was surrounded by Library Paste and served as a Tee for two Golf
Balls billed as *Pommes de Terre*. It was a regular Banquet, so there was no getting away from *Filet de Biff Aux Champignons*. It was brought on merely to show what an American Cook with a Lumber-Camp Training could do to a plain slice of Steer after reading a Book written by a Chef...

Between the Rainbow Ice Cream and the Calcareous Fromage a member of the Class of ‘08 who could not sing arose and did so. Then each Guest had to take a Tablespoonful of Cafe Noir and two Cigars selected by a former student who had promised his Mother never to use Tobacco...

Along about Midnight the Cowards and Quitters began crawling out the Side Doors, but most of the Loyal Sons of Old Bohunkus propped themselves up and tried to be Game. Before 1 o’clock a Member of the Faculty put them on the Ropes with 40 minutes on projected Changes in the Curriculum. At 1:30 the Toastmaster was...getting ready to spring the Oldest Living Graduate.

Protected by all the Gray Hair that was left to him, he began to Reminisce, going back to the Days when it was considered a Great Lark to put a Cow in the Chapel.

The Toastmaster arrived home at 3 a.m. and aroused his Wife to tell her it had been a Great Success.

MORAL: If they were *paid* $3 a Head...no one would attend.

The more time and thought Ade devoted to the Purdue students and alumni, however, the more he detected a sullen, unspoken resentment of President Stone. Campus affairs and Stone’s grip on them kept pulling at Ade’s conscience, and so did politics.
The lifelong Republican broke away from the regulars and hosted a rally at Hazelden Farm for Theodore Roosevelt’s Bull Moose Party in 1912. There was even some talk of Ade running for Governor of Indiana that year.

Out in New York City, Doubleday, Page and Company selected thirty-three of Ade’s syndicated newspaper stories from 1910 and 1911 and published *Knocking the Neighbors*. The Company next began preparing for an *Ade’s Fables* collection.

Ade gave Sigma Chi funds for a new Purdue chapter house that fronted on 202 Littleton Street in West Lafayette. The “Sigs” had outgrown their house on Waldron. The rear of the new house looked east across the Wabash River valley and North River Road with front-door access from Littleton. For the architect, Ade engaged William Mann, Purdue Sigma Chi, Class of 1893. Working from Chicago, Mann also had designed Ade’s 1905 Hazelden home at Brook and the Lafayette Country Club that overlooked Durkee’s Run in south Lafayette in about 1909.

Ade’s was the talent behind “A Picture Book for Purdue Sigs” that came out in 1912 apparently to inspire “Sigs” to support the new chapter house project.

In September 1913, when his father, John Ade, turned eighty-five, George arranged a celebration at Hazelden Farm. “We had a ball game,” George said. “My brother Will could not circle the bases because he was stiffened up with rheumatism so father ran for him” (Kelly, *Ade*, 215). On April 28, 1914, the venerable John Ade attended the Indiana Republican Congressional Convention in Valparaiso. He even chaired the Resolutions Committee and helped draft a platform, but as he sat in the convention hall listening to someone else read his committee’s report he fell dead. Even at that sad moment George held warm memories: “He and my mother were what they were, which was plenty good enough for this speckled world” (Kelly, *Ade*, 215).
Ade’s Fables featured McCutcheon’s art when it appeared in April 1914. The book offered fifteen syndicated fables from the Indianapolis Star.

In 1915, the three-year-old Purdue Alumni Association and the Stone Administration began to tangle more openly over athletics and regulation of student enterprises. Stone riled the sports crowd when he fired a promising football coach named Andred “Andy” Smith. In the football seasons of 1913, 1914, and 1915, Smith’s teams won an acceptable twelve games, lost six, and tied three. To alumni, Stone compounded the mistake of firing Smith by hiring Cleo O’Donnell whose teams won only five games, lost eight, and tied one in two seasons. Worse, Stone yanked intercollegiate sports from the control of students and alumni in the Purdue Athletic Association and placed it under a new Department of Physical Education that Stone dominated.

No record shows Stone’s motive for this change. The 1903 train disaster in Indianapolis may have been a far-off factor. Professor Oliver F. Cutts had coached the 1903 and 1904 football teams. But starting in 1904, Stone had picked Cutts to be the director of the new Department of Physical Education. Either Cutts or Stone or both then named a new football coach for 1905. He was A. E. Hens-tein. His one team chalked up six victories, one loss, and one tie.

Before Cutts, R. W. Rusterholz had been presiding over the Athletic Association. Its affairs had been in the hands of students—like director Harry Leslie who graduated in 1905—with faculty help. There was much work for Cutts to do to put the various sports on a sound basis and establish a financial system.

It pleased Stone that Purdue could brag about having six baseball diamonds, six football fields, ten tennis courts, a quarter-mile running track, a straight track, and five thousand seats at Stuart Field. Stone supported intramural sports, believing them to be part of the educational maturity of every student.
But then more changes rumbled. Stone replaced Cutts with Hugh Nicol, and Nicol replaced Coach Hernstein for 1906 with M. E. Witham. Nicol enjoyed eight years of reasonable success, but Witham proved to be a flop. His one football team in 1906 scored only five points all season in losses to Chicago, Wabash, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Coach L. C. Turner replaced Witham for 1907 only to lose five more. F. Speik succeeded Turner for football in 1908 and 1909, his teams winning six and losing eight. A coach named M. H. Horr followed Speik, winning eight, losing eleven, and tying once. Then Andy Smith coached three years.

Yet Hugh Nicol did stabilize Purdue sports. Born in Scotland in 1858, the peppy little Nicol had played major league baseball for American teams including the Cincinnati Reds and St. Louis Browns. He was a speedy five feet four inches tall and weighed one hundred forty-five pounds as a player. However, his tenure as Purdue athletic director appears to have ended in dissension. An unnamed and undated newspaper item printed probably in early December 1914 reported:

Alpha P. Jamison will succeed Hugh Nicol as athletic director at Purdue. The athletic board made the announcement tonight [Dec. 7] and it is understood Jamison will accept.

The new director is a Purdue grad and was a noted football player for four years. He was quarterback on the famous team that won the western championship.

After graduation in 1895 Jamison accepted a faculty position and about 10 years ago was elevated to a professorship in the mechanical engineering department. He resigned a year ago to go into business.

Jamison is popular with students, faculty, and alumni and the athletic board’s selection meets with general approval. While on
the faculty, Jamison was admired by the student body because of his tendency to look on college questions from the student viewpoint.

It is believed that Jamison will make an ideal director of athletics and that he will work in absolute harmony with all the coaches. Head football coach Andy Smith is greatly pleased with the appointment. Nicol has retired and possibly will accept a position at some other college.

This article, however, proved to be wrong in its speculation. Purdue records contain no mention of Jamison ever having accepted the directorship. Instead, he appears to have remained treasurer of his wife’s family’s business, the venerable Ruger Baking Company in Lafayette.

Purdue records show instead that President Stone re-hired Professor Cutts to be the adult/faculty athletic director a second time, during 1915-1918. Nicol stayed in West Lafayette and engaged in concrete block sales for a time. Four years later, Nicol and a partner, Harry Ruger, vice president of the bakery, conducted business as “manufacturer’s agents” with an address on Main Street. When Nicol died in 1921, his obituary said he was Purdue athletic director “1906-1916,” both dates being close, but wrong.

More anti-Stone resentment simmered over matters pertaining to the Student Union building idea Stone had espoused since 1902, and to the Purdue Marching Band, *The Exponent* newspaper, and *Purdue Alumnus* magazine. While playing for a student director’s baton at Stuart Field football games, the Band had become popular and grown to more than fifty musicians. In 1904, Stone hired Paul Spotts Emrick to be the Band’s faculty director.

Ade sided with the students in this matter, too. He believed that students and alumni should have a greater voice in forming Purdue policy. There began to be whispers of firing Stone, but he
seemed to ignore—or at least remain above—alumni interests and concerns. Stone discerned too much emphasis on extra activities at Purdue, too much, as he put it, “multiplication and exaggeration of every conceivable form of amusement, distraction and recreation in connection with student life” (Topping, 180). As early as January 4, 1915, Ade addressed a blunt letter to “My dear Dr. Stone” about what Ade perceived to be “the scrapping between the coaches and the Athletic Director”:

I believe that the final and proper solution will be to have the general control vested in a Board in which the faculty, the alumni and the undergraduates will be equally represented. I do not believe that the alumni representation should be members of the faculty. They should be men of sufficient age and experience to permit them to stand as a kind of buffer between the intemperate zeal of the undergraduates and the restraining conservatism of the faculty. I believe you will find out that in colleges that have adopted this plan of control the faculty and alumni usually work together to correct and modify the too-ambitious projects of the students. I believe this Board should select a good coach for each department of sport and that it should have a capable business manager who has no connection with the work of coaching. The plan of having one Athletic Director and giving him supreme control might work out all right if you could accomplish the miracle of getting a man who would command the loyal affection of the students and win a large majority of his games...

I can well understand that faculty members often become discouraged when compelled to abide by student legislation, but we must remember that the men in college average more than 21 years of age and are supposed to be ready to go out and manage important business affairs, and I believe the modern policy will continue to be to give the undergraduates certain legislative powers, even if they do muss things up once in a while...
I think that even in Yale and other eastern schools, where student control is very strong, the faculty would always have the power of a kind of Supreme Court if it cared to assert it. (Tobin 57-58)