



ARMED HIMSELF TO UMPIRE GAME

**John T. Powers, Former President
of the Wisconsin League,
Causes Sensation.**

Six years prior to his founding of the Federal League, John T. Powers III, appears on a ball field in Goldfield, Nevada, (above) to umpire a game between two teams of miners armed with two revolvers strapped to his waist.

With a reported \$5,000 bet on the game, Powers, a gunner's mate on the USS Indiana during the Spanish-American War, is eventually disarmed by the town's sheriff before the game is allowed to begin.

In 1895, at the age of 21, Powers is considered the "moving spirit," in the first attempt to organize many of Chicago's commercial trolley and independent teams into substantial leagues. It was said that as fast as one league would fold, Powers would just as quickly form another so that the total output per summer was 10 leagues per year for 10 years.

Powers founds and is President of the Wisconsin League from 1905 to 1907. In 1912, Powers forms the Columbian League, an independent professional circuit. However, the league doesn't get off the ground because one of its principal investors, Otto, E. Stifel, a wealthy St. Louis brewer, withdraws his support.

A couple of months later, Powers is back with more investors and has enough support to start the Federal League, which would begin playing in 1913 and would compete for three seasons.

GOLDFIELD, Nev., Aug. 7.—John T. Powers of Chicago, who was formerly president of the Wisconsin State Baseball league, figured in a sensational capacity here yesterday when he appeared on the field to umpire a game of ball between two teams of miners with revolvers strapped around waist.

He was disarmed by the sheriff and then the game proceeded. The contest was for a \$5,000 side bet, but Powers escaped with his life.