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The Counter Attack

Britain's Struggle to Regain Her Lost Trophies Will Be the Feature of the Year

By GRANTLAND RICE

HAVING seen the international pantry shelf sadly depleted in the way of cups during the stirring campaign of 1921, extended preparations, now under way beneath the Union Jack, indicate a counter attack of no slight proportions this coming summer.

Last season Great Britain lost more than her share of these international trophies. In the course of events Tilden and Johnston, among others, went to Australia and brought back the Davis Cup. The Polo Four headed by Devereux Milburn went to Hurlingham and returned with the Polo Cup. Jock Hutchison stopped off at St. Andrews and picked up the British Open Golf Championship, bringing it to Glenview, Chicago. Tilden returned and defended his tennis championship at Wimbledon. The sole British Bulwarks among the larger events were Willie Hunter and Cecil Leitch, who defended British amateur golf with rare skill at Hoylake and Turnberry. But in the main the count against Great Britain was almost overwhelming.

What then about the counter charge of 1922 which is waiting just beyond the border of spring?

From early indications it will be the most serious Uncle Sam has been called on to meet for some time. There will be no Polo sector to defend for at least another year, but, in golf and tennis, the campaign will be notable. This applies especially to the Davis Cup, where the United States, even with Tilden, Johnston and Richards, will need all it has to meet the issue.

The main shadow is drifting in again from Australia. Back in 1908 Norman Brookes and Anthony Wilding, one of the most formidable Davis Cup teams of all time, conquered Fred Alexander and Beals Wright in the challenge round and took the big trophy to the other side

of the world. Ever since that triumph, Australia has been a strength to reckon with in Davis Cup affairs. Her teams were victorious in 1908, 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1914 with the great Brookes in each instance a vital factor. Now the word has gone forth that Brookes, well up in the forties, is organizing his forces again for a final drive. He has been grooming Patterson and Anderson for the singles, while he with O'Hara Wood will take care of the doubles in the strongest combination that is to come this way.

The Strongest Team

ANDERSON is the brilliant young player who made a fine impression by his play last summer over here, finally defeating Tilden out west, in one of the most sensational matches of the year. He needed just that year's experience to take his place among the ranking players of the game and, by late summer, he will be a formidable opponent to head off. Coupled with Anderson in singles play, is Patterson who made his first appearance in the United States three years ago. His game then had pace and power, but no great amount of finesse. He had vital weak spots to work on, and, for two years, under the watchful eye of Brookes, he has been getting ready for the new assault. With Patterson and Anderson in improved form, Australia will be able to make a hard fight in the singles, with at least an outside chance of breaking through. With these two in charge of the singles, Brookes and Wood, a veteran combination, will then be left to wage war in the doubles. Brookes has now passed beyond championship stamina for the singles' test, but he is still one of the greatest doubles' star in the game, when it comes to looking after his part of the play. This combination will be stronger than the Japanese challengers of last fall at Forest Hills.