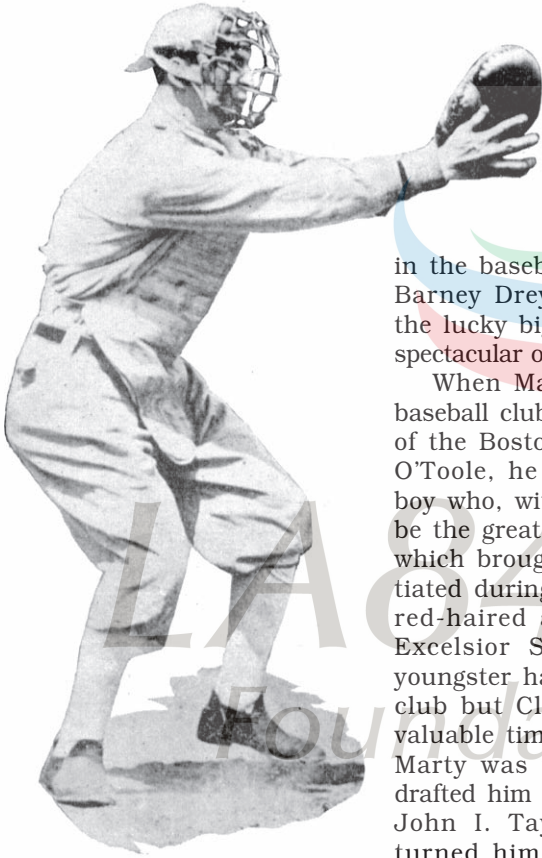


\$25,000 "Marty" O'Toole and

The Famous Pitcher for Whom Barney Dreyfus the Owner of the



Since the days of Mike Kelley there has been a long list of \$10,000 beauties, that rare exotic in the big league floral display, but it remained for the present to produce the \$25,000 beauty. The deal involving Marty O'Toole, the pitching phenomenon of the American Association, created a furore

in the baseball world when it was learned that Barney Dreyfus, of the Pittsburg Pirates, was the lucky big league magnate to land this most spectacular of pitching prizes.

When Manager Mike Kelley of the St. Paul baseball club closed the deal with John I. Taylor of the Boston American League club for Marty O'Toole, he announced that he had landed a boy who, with proper training, would some day be the greatest pitcher in the country. The deal which brought O'Toole to the Saints was negotiated during the early spring of 1910, and the red-haired athlete joined the Kelley camp at Excelsior Springs, Mo., on March 18. The youngster had been tried out by the Cincinnati club but Clarke Griffith refused to waste his valuable time "nursing" along a youngster, and Marty was turned back to the bush. Boston drafted him from the Brockton, Mass., club, and John I. Taylor, owner of the Boston team, turned him over to Kelley as the wind-up of the trade which brought Chech, Stelle and Ryan

to St. Paul and sent Hall and Karger to Boston. O'Toole, owing to lack of confidence in himself, failed to get into the win column as often as he would have liked, and after "blowing up" in several games, he approached Manager Kelley one day and asked the club leader to send him to some minor league club where he could work in his regular turn and where he might overcome the nervousness that had overtaken him. Accordingly Kelley sent him to the Sioux City club of the Western League. After joining that club, the red-haired athlete experienced but little trouble in striking his gait, and it was less than two weeks after this that he struck out eighteen batters, establishing a record. He won game after game for Sioux City and is credited with winning the pennant for that organization.

Manager Kelley had sold him with an optional clause in the "bill of sale," and the opening of the 1911 season found him back with the Saints. He started

His Catcher, Billy Kelly

Pittsburg Nationals Paid \$25,000, the Highest Price on Record

in to pitch a wonderful article of ball and has kept this up, until to-day he is considered one of the greatest finds in the history of the game. He established an American Association record and tied up the world's mark when he fanned seventeen Milwaukee players in a Sunday game at Lexington Park, St. Paul, on July 9. This feat opened the eyes of the big league scouts and Manager Kelley soon found himself buried under a pile of telegrams offering him big money for the pitcher and his battery partner, William Kelly.

Billy Kelly, the second party of the \$20,000 battery, is easily the greatest catcher in the American Association this season and is another student of the Mike Kelley school. Billy started his professional baseball career on the Springfield club of the Three I League, and although he caught only fair ball with the minor league club, his hitting won for him the honor of a rise into major league company. He was drafted by the St. Louis National League club, but Roger Bresnahan, like Clarke Griffith of the Cincinnati club, failed to see anything valuable in the makeup of the young athlete, and he sold him outright to the St. Paul club. Kelly was second catcher last season, playing substitute to "Tubby" Spencer, but the opening of the present season found him catching wonderful ball and hitting at a .300 clip, so it took Manager Kelley only a few weeks to reach the decision that Kelly was a more valuable man to his club than was Spencer. Kelly was accordingly given the position of first catcher, and to-day he is the talk of the country.

Marty O'Toole was born and reared at South Framingham, Mass., and he received his early training on amateur teams in the little Massachusetts town. When but fifteen years old he worked wonders on the mound, and was offered a position on the Dennison Manufacturing team of South Framingham. He pitched for the tag company's team for four years and finally broke into professional ball. He is twenty-one years old.

