

# Changes in the World of Baseball

## *Trades and Sales*

By J. C. Morse

THE baseball writers have not yet exhausted the deal by which the Chicago National League club awarded Kling, Kaiser, Weaver and Griffin for Graham, Goode, Collins and Curtis of the Boston Nationals.

Boston needed strengthening in the box and was willing to go to almost any length in securing material. Chicago wanted Goode.

It will be remembered that there had been trouble in getting Graham to sign last spring and it was a long time before he was induced to append his name to a contract. This may have had some influence on the perpetration of the deal.

In Goode Boston had one of the best outfielders in the country. He was very speedy, an excellent batsman and base runner and a most desirable man for any team.

Graham ranked high in the category of catchers. He was one of the best batting catchers in the country. Events have already shown that he was not in the class of Kling as a man behind the bat or to coach pitchers.

Curtis was rated among the best as a pitcher in 1909. He was not in good form last season and evidently lacked vigor and strength but this season he was going decidedly better and was regarded as one of the best pitchers on the staff.

In Collins Boston parted with a fast man who will fit in very well indeed with such a club as Chicago.

According to the veteran critic, Mr. I. E. Sanborn of the Chicago "Tribune," Boston did not get a good man when it secured Outfielder Kaiser and he stated this player misjudged too many fly balls and missed too many grounders to fit in a team that is mak-

ing a battle for the pennant.

Both Weaver and Griffin had failed to make good for the Cubs. The former had proven too erratic and the latter was to have been sent back to Atlanta.

There is this to be said: A good deal in this trade has not seen the light of day. Evidently there has been much on the inside which has not been made public. If everything were known perhaps the opinions of the critics would be modified. As it is no deal that was ever consummated came in for such scathing denunciation and such withering criticism.

The effect of this deal was easily seen upon the arrival of the Boston club on its own grounds with such a strong attraction as the New York Nationals. The turn out was far from what should have been the case. The club must now begin its fight all over again to build up a team. There is no question but that the value of Kling will be shown. That has been done already. It was evident in the game in Philadelphia on Saturday, June 24, when Weaver held the Phillies down to three hits. Two of the passes of Weaver proved costly but the game he pitched was essentially of the winning order, and in six of the eight innings he pitched the Phillies did not find him for a safety. He has skill and curve and nerve and this augurs well for his success with the Bostons. If he can keep up this kind of work the deal will be stamped all right and those who have clouted it so unmercifully will be compelled to take back water.

There is no doubt too that the outfield was unmercifully weakened when Goode was allowed to go. His loss made a big hole in the team and with

weakness in the box and in the outfield how was the club to win games. A youngster named Jones has been secured but he is by no means a fit substitute for Goode. One of the staff of umpires of the National League who worked behind Goode said he considered him in the very front rank of the outfielders of the National League. There is no doubt at all that the Chicago people managed to get what they wanted and compelled the Boston club to give up material they wished to keep. A pretty way, indeed, to weaken the weak and strengthen the strong. That sort of thing pertains to the National League a deal more than it does to the other organization. If such a deal had to be passed upon by the league itself or by the Board of Directors it is safe to say it would have never succeeded in getting by. The weakening of a weak club should never be allowed by any organization.

There is commendation in Chicago over the work that Shean, Goode and Graham are doing and there would doubtless be the same story to tell if Collins and Curtis were in the game. Why not. Chicago has another former Boston player in Richie and he is pitching excellent ball, surely a deal better than several on the Boston staff.

This must be confessed, a player cannot but improve with a club in the first division when transferred from a tail-ender. No matter how hard a player will try it is the most nerve-racking kind of uphill work to make any kind of a showing in a club where things are going wrong.

### BIG DEALS AND THEIR RESULTS.

**T**HERE is no question too that many a time a change could be made in players where both clubs would benefit but for some reason or other the deal does not go through. If the deal is between a top-notch and a tail-ender the top-notch always wants to bunco the other team. It is rare that one sees a club low in the race obtain any kind of a show.

Clubs forwarded from a strong rarely make good in a weak aggregation. Clarence Beaumont, once one of

the best in the country, did not make good for long with Boston and when he joined that club already showed signs of lack of that old speed and spirit that characterized his work when with the Pittsburg club. Claude Ritchey was another case in point—a fine fielder but not there with the bat or on the bases.

Bobby Byrne, however, is an exception. He found himself in well when the St. Louis turned him over to the Pittsburg club and he has done splendid work for that team.

The deal between Cincinnati and Philadelphia this year that caused a lot of howling owing to the action of the Philadelphia manager, Charley Dooin, and caused considerable of a ruction in the club, turned out to be pretty good for the Philadelphia team which started out in the race with a rush and continued at a pace far better than the one of last season. On the other hand Cincinnati is far from the percentage of a year ago and instead of getting the better of the deal has secured the small end.

A club is lucky indeed that has in it no disgruntled element but it would be odd if such an element were allowed to run a ball club. It has happened, however, that a club has won a pennant despite the fact that there was lack of harmony in a team. This was simply because the players buried all their differences on the ball field. Such a state of things can occur only when the material is of the highest character. Otherwise demoralization will set in and the results be fatal to the success of the organization.

It is often a mistake to cater to the demoralizing factor in a club. Once give in to him and the seed of disruption and anarchy is sown. Such an agent should be dealt with firmly and with determination and no quarter should be given. Again and again has a club compromised with a man who should be treated this way and the result has been most unsatisfactory. If a club yields to such a man he is sure to make his influence felt and that influence will not be for the good of the organization.

The Boston Nationals had a well-

rounded club outside of its pitchers when the deal was made with Chicago. The people were well satisfied with the spirit shown by the manager and the players. The club was steadily getting better and there was no question at all that the time was fast approaching when the team would hold its own with the other clubs in the league. The attendance too had been very good. The club was drawing better than it had at any time since the American League entered the field in competition, and what better could the owners have desired. It showed full well that everybody was content with the way things were running and appreciated the efforts that had been made to give the city a first-class ball team. There was every indication this sort of thing would continue, and it goes without saying that any move in a trade ought to be carefully considered from the viewpoint of the public and the pulse of the patrons felt before action is taken. Boston has been so long with a tail-end National League representative that any approach to a winning combination would be hailed by crowds who would test the seating capacity. A near to win combination will not do. Boston has been too thoroughly schooled in the game to stand for anything of that description. It must be the real thing or nothing.

A mighty good deal was pulled off with Chicago when Ingerton was annexed to the Boston club. He did not set the world afire as an infielder but he gave excellent satisfaction as an outfielder, and with Goode and Miller made an outfield that challenged comparison with most of those in major league company. That was a combination in itself well calculated to bring about many a victory.

President Russell of the Boston club has been advised by many well-meaning individuals to get out of the game. There is no doubt at all he could if he desired to. He could obtain for his holding's a deal more than he expended for them, but thus far he has shown no indication of any desire to profit by their doubtless well meant advice. Mr. Russell is extremely optimistic and thinks that he has the

makings of a great ball club in the present array. Time will tell the tale.

### THE GREAT RACE IN THE AMERICAN LEAGUE.

WHAT promised to be a walk over in the American League has turned into a splendid struggle for first honors. At the beginning the Detroit made one of the finest spurts ever seen at the opening of a struggle but they soon suffered a handicap in the crippling of their first baseman, Gainor, and that gave the Athletic champions an opportunity to creep upon the leaders. Meanwhile New York and Chicago were doing some very fine work, the latter despite the fact that the club was weakened by injuries, but so well was the team equipped against emergencies that very little ground was lost. The changes made in this team were for the better and it looks as if the day were not far distant when Comiskey's bunch would hang another bunting from the flag staff. Boston too did some fine work on the occasion of the first visit of the westerners to eastern grounds but suffered a decided reverse in the double-headed defeat at the hands of the Clevelands, a team which is doing far better under the management of George Stovall than it did under his predecessor. It looks as if this man might do as well in the position as any one that could be found. Cleveland again showed its mettle in taking a double-header from St. Louis in which the defeated club made but one run in both games. Boston did one of the finest pieces of work it has done for a very long time when it took both games of a double-header from the Athletics in Boston. Doubtless no one was more astonished at this feat than Connie Mack himself. Such is baseball. Joe Wood fooled the champions. This young man is one of the best pitchers in the country when in condition and many assert he has quite as much speed as any pitcher that ever handled a ball. At any rate he has sufficient to please the most captious batsman who faces him. Wood promises to have one of the best records in the country by the close of the season.

He is decidedly the stand-by of the Boston club. It was but natural that a lot of switching should be done in the Boston lineup after the departure of Jake Stahl. It was thought at first that Williams, the former catcher, would make good, but it was seen that he was not of the calibre to do justice to the team and so Engle who had served at third base was given a trial, showed most acceptably in the position and strengthened the infield a good deal. If Boston had a third man of the calibre of Wood and Karger it could force its opponents much more than has been the case and efforts are not lacking to land such a man. Otherwise the club is in fine shape. A first-class backstop has been annexed in the person of Nunamaker who is all there is to be desired behind the bat and his throwing has been a feature of the games in which he has competed. Boston will doubtless make a pretty struggle to land in the first division and it will not be at all astonishing if it succeeds in so doing as the club ought to be better as the season progresses. Washington, which did so well last season, has found the pace a deal hotter than was expected and the club will find it a difficult matter to finish better than seventh while it looks a sure thing for the St. Louis American to end the battle in the last position.

#### THE NATIONAL LEAGUE STRUGGLE.

**T**HE National League struggle is the best for years and ought to be close to the very end. Five clubs have made a very good showing—New York, Chicago, Pittsburg, Philadelphia and St. Louis. The knowing ones were confounded that the St. Louis bunch should do so much better than the Cincinnati Reds. It looks as if the weaklings of the league were Cincinnati, Brooklyn and Boston and that they will finish in that order. Brooklyn has some of the finest material in the country but somehow fails to land. The Phillies have aroused the most enthusiasm in years in their own city by the fine work they have been doing. Pittsburg has made

some sweeping changes in its team yet has found itself strong enough to make matters warm for its opponents. We are now threatened with Honus Wagner as a first baseman, and if that is done a position that has been weak long enough will be strengthened. Honus is still fast enough to make a good showing at short, and, thanks to the care he has taken of himself, ought to be able to do so for some time to come. The German can play almost anywhere. Had he been an outfielder he would have made one of the finest in the land owing to his wonderful ground covering ability and that great arm of his. Manager Fred Clarke still continues in the game and still figures as one of the finest outfielders in the country.

In the American League Ty Cobb has not only succeeded in doing superb work in all departments but is playing faster ball than ever and never has done more work to win games for his club than this season. He is fairly in a class by himself, and top-notch that he is, plays with the same reckless disregard of results as ever. A man of the speed of Ty is bound to cause trouble for someone, but it is sheer nonsense that he will consent to slow up for some player who fails to get out of the way. It is nothing if not dangerous to catch a man like Cobb when he is making for a base under full headway and any fielder who attempts to stop him does so at his own peril and need not wait for apologies from Ty if he comes to grief. Attempts galore have been made to prove that Ty is a dirty ball player, and those who howl the loudest at him are the ones who would do the same for him were he a member of the team in the city for which they root. It all depends whose ox is gored. Talking about Ty it must not be forgotten that his side partner, Sam Crawford, is also doing some superb ball tossing for the Detroit team. Crawford is another member of the old guard who has no difficulty in making good year after year. Detroit will find it a difficult matter to replace him when his playing days are over.

## AFFAIRS IN THE EASTERN LEAGUE.

THE Eastern League has had a fine battle this season. Rochester has been in the lead most of the season, thanks to the splendid team that represents that city. Salaries are high in the Eastern League but so strong is the desire to have teams which can appeal to patrons in the highest degree that money is expended like water and the result is the people turn out to see the games. The American people want the best and will pay for it. The clubs at the foot of the ladder are the ones that suffer. Providence made so poor a showing that it was compelled to make a change of managers and the veteran Jimmy Collins, so long the head centre of the Boston American League champions, twice pennant winners, had to abandon his position and yield it to Jakey Atz, the former Chicago White Sox player. Atz has done as well as could be expected. Providence is one of the best cities in the Eastern circuit with any kind of a winning team and without doubt a club will be built up for that city that will attract the crowds in hordes as used to be the case when the city had a team in the thick of the race. In the New England League four former major league stars are handling teams in as pretty a race as the league ever had. These are Jess Burkett in Worcester, who though just entering the forties, can still wield the stick in a way that challenges the admiration of many; Frank Connaughton, who played with the Boston and New York National League teams and who for twenty seasons or more has been in baseball, is handling the playing end of the Brockton team; Jimmy Bannon, who once played in the same outfield for the Boston Nationals with such a pair as Tom McCarthy and Hugh Duffy, who pilots the Haverhill club, while in New Bedford is Tom Dowd, in his day one of the fleetest of ball tossers, who last season headed the champion club of the league. In Lawrence is Louis Pieper, so long the coach of the Harvard University team, who has made a great success in his new field and promises

to have a winner and a money-maker.

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

IN the American Association Columbus has been making such rapid progress as to overtake the former Kansas City leaders. Columbus has some very good ball tossers, including the former Yale star, young Jimmy O'Rourke, the son of the veteran who could still go in at a pinch. It will be a long time if ever when father and son have been connected with the game for so long a period as this pair. May they continue to shine for many years to come. Congalton, formerly with the Boston Americans, is with this club and is showing up well with the stick, and the former Cleveland deliverers, Liebhardt and Berger, are members of the pitching staff and are doing well. Another pitcher, Lessard, was formerly connected with the New England League and is booked to take his place in the fastest company next season. This league is fairly studded with the heroes of many a major league battle and most of them are doing very well, while some are evidently fully as fast as the men who have replaced them. Young Butler and Josh Clarke traded by the Boston Nationals for Steinfeldt have shown that the trade was all to the benefit of the St. Paul club.

The veteran Elmer Flick continues in the outfield for Toledo, which has not found the sledding very fast. Harry Niles is in the same team and heads the batting order and "Happy" Charley Hickman is a member of the same array. The veteran Jimmy Williams still ornaments second base for the Minneapolis team. Homer Cravath, Killifer, Rossman and Barry McCormick are also with this team and make it a contender for a leading position. Minneapolis misses Tom Hughes seriously, however.

In the Louisville team are such well-known names as Del Howard, Robinson, Lennox, Hayden, Stanley, Grimshaw, Floyd Kroh, Orendorff and Pfeister.

The veteran Frank Bowerman is in the Kansas City collection, also Denny

Sullivan, Barbeau, Corriden, Hyatt, Smoot and "Dusty" Rhoades.

### IN THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

**I**N the Southern League New Orleans has been showing well in front. In this league one finds the names of some former major leaguers. Among them are Frank Sparks who once played with the Boston Americans and the Phillies, now with Montgomery, one of his fine performances being a shut-out of Nashville with two hits, Courtney with Memphis, who once played with the Boston Nationals and the Phillies, Harry Bay, the fleet man, once with Cleveland and still with Nashville, leading off in the batting order, New Orleans also has Manush, once with the Athletics, Mobile has Gus Rohe, formerly with the White Sox, also Champ Osteen, Birmingham has the noted Jess Tannehill who has not lost his cunning, Memphis has Pitcher Finlayson, once on the Brooklyn payroll, Chattanooga has Sentell, Murch and Nillwhile, Montgomery has McElveen, late of Brooklyn.

Bill Clymer is showing his value as a manager by the way he is piloting the Wilkesbarre club of the New York State League. The veteran Monte Cross, so long with the Athletics, is handling the Scranton club in this league, but his material has not been of the top-notch order although he has a pitcher named Slaughter. Other former major league material is Jerry Freeman, formerly of Washington, Schlafly, formerly with the same club, Harry Gleason, Armbruster the outfielder, Harry Arndt of Wilkesbarre, Loudenschlager, formerly of Brooklyn, Hanifin, formerly of the Boston Nationals, Lumley, formerly of Brooklyn, and Bachman, formerly of the St. Louis Nationals.

It was nothing if not a shock to many that the Connecticut League was compelled to drop two of its clubs—Northampton and Holyoke and

go on with six clubs. Worse than that, the players of the defunct clubs failed to get the money that was coming to them and the other clubs of the league refused to see that this money was paid. It certainly is no easy matter to make both ends meet in most of the minor leagues. In some cases the reason for financial backsliding is the desire to win at any cost and to secure first-class players no matter what the cost to secure them. This sort of thing is sure to cause financial loss all along the line. A careful study should be made of the situation in each minor league and the clubs should guide themselves accordingly. A salary limit ought to be adopted, based on exactly what the league as a whole can pay and the most stringent rules should be adopted to enforce this limit. In order to see that this salary limit is carried out there ought to be also an individual salary limit. This will cause the club salary limit to be lived up to as can be done in no other way.

This desire to win at any cost has been the ruin, of only too many leagues. Some clubs will have a winner no matter what the cost, and rather than have a loser will pull the whole league down about their ears. There is no particular glory in winning a pennant where rules are broken to bring that about.

Then another cause of failure to make both ends meet in the minor leagues is the poor handling and incompetent management. In but too many clubs is it the case that those who handle the clubs are entirely unfit for the position, but they have an ambition to be officials on a ball team and the result is they are an expensive luxury. It is not the highest salaried man who makes the best manager any more than it is the highest salaried player who is the best player. One does not find men of the calibre of Ty Cobb on every bush and the number of first-class players who obtain very modest stipends is large indeed.