

Startling Changes in Big League Circles

Many New Faces Among the Major League Managers

Under New Leadership Several Clubs Will Have Better Prospects in the Pennant Race of 1912

By Jacob C. Morse



ROBERT McROY,
BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE
BOSTON RED SOX.

THE announcement that Clark Griffith is to manage the Washington Club of the American League for 1912 has caused more surprise than any other change in major league management. Griffith did so well toward the close with the Cincinnati Club there is no doubt at all he would have been reappointed. All he could expect, however, was a contract for another year. In Washington he will have charge of the club for three seasons if nothing happens to disturb the arrangement. In addition it is said that he will have a block of stock in the extra issue that is to be made. Griffith, it is said, is the only man that Washington had under consideration. If he can make good in the Capitol City he certainly has a splendid future before him.

The departure of Griffith from Cincinnati leaves a gap which is hard to fill. Cincinnati would not object to Bill Sweeney, who is really a local boy, but Bill is tied up with the Boston Nationals and is prized most highly by Manager Fred Tenney. It is difficult to see how he could be weaned away except through a very attractive trade. Of course, Bill would like such a proceeding, for it would keep him near home, and as he is a business man in the off season he

could keep an eye on this other line and still keep his hand in baseball.

Miller Huggins, a former attache of the Cincinnati Club, is another man who could make good for the Cincinnati. This young man is a clever ball-tosser and has done good work for the St. Louis Cardinals. He is a good baseball general and there is every reason in the world to expect that he would do good work as a handler of men. Then Chicago has a couple of men who would be welcomed in Joe Tinker and Jim Sheckard. Joe Tinker was very anxious to have charge of the Boston Nationals at one time, but found it impossible to get away from his present connections. There is no doubt he would make good in that capacity, for he is a worker, a hustler and knows every angle of the game. In fact, he should make one of the best managers the game ever saw, and he will show this some day if he has the opportunity. Sheckard is another man who has the ability to handle a ball team. It will not be at all surprising if a deal results between Chicago and Cincinnati for one of these men.

GRIFFITH was so long with the New York Americans it was thought his berth was permanent. It will be remembered that Griffith start-

ed out with the Chicago White Sox in 1901 when that aspiring young organization made its expansion into the East, and that year the team landed in first place. In 1902 his charges landed fourth. Then he switched to the New York team and he had no easy berth from the very start. The worries and the wear and tear of this position made him old long before his time. If any manager had much with which to contend it was Griffith, but he faced the music with all of that nerve and pluck and spirit for which he is famed, and worked his best all the time. That he made a fine showing, all things considered, cannot be gainsaid. Twice he came very near to a pennant, landing the club that number of times in the second position. In his final year everything seemed to go wrong, and so he was retired and took hold of the Cincinnati Club. It is seldom indeed that a man makes that kind of a jump—from the National League as a player to the American League as a manager, back to the National, only to return again to the American. He will have no easy task in Washington, for the club did not have the best of sledding last year. It is no easy matter to build up a winner in a city that has had a tailender so long, but it will not take very much to turn the Washington Club into a combination that will hold its own against all comers, and that is what the lovers of the game in that city will look for in 1912. Washington did so well in 1910 it was expected to make as good showing in the season past, but things did not eventuate that way. Johnson, of whom so much was hoped, was not at his best at the early part of the year, and it was not until the season was well advanced that all of the pitchers showed the class necessary to enable a club to make a good showing.

THAT Harry Davis will make a gigantic success in Cleveland goes without saying. Davis was but recently appointed manager of the club, but the deal was arranged a long time ago, and even while it lacked official announcement Davis has had his eyes

open with a view to strengthening his team at every conceivable point. It was upon his advice that Catcher Steve O'Neil, last season with the Worcesters of the New England League, was secured. This young man is well thought of. He is a brother of Mike and John O'Neil, once a Chicago National League battery, the catcher afterwards joining the Boston Nationals, from which club he went into minor league service. The youngster has a strong resemblance to his brothers. Cleveland showed up strong under George Stovall last season and George very modestly ascribed this to the splendid spirit of the men. He said that no body of men could have done better for their manager than they did for him and that he appreciated the sportsmanlike spirit they displayed. There is every reason that Davis will get as good work out of the men as his predecessor. No matter how hard work the players of a team do they cannot succeed unless they have the goods, and that Cleveland infield—Stovall, Lajoie, Olson and Turner—did very classy work, comparing well with any in the field.

WHAT is in store in New York is difficult to say. Hal Chase is said to be sick of his task, and no wonder. Few players can tackle their job and handle the managerial end as well, and certainly Chase had enough to worry him. A story was wired that Harry Wolverton, once with the Phillies and the Boston Nationals and lately manager of the Oakland, Cal., club, would have had the job, but President Frank Farrell entered a most emphatic denial of this. If a change is made in New York there will be three Eastern teams of the American League to have new managers, which certainly is nothing if not a clean sweep. In the Western section, Chicago, Cleveland and St. Louis will have new men to handle the teams, which makes three new men in that section, or six in the eight clubs of the organization, which is going some to say the least. It is all guesswork to name the man who will handle the St. Louis Club.

Boston Notes

THE Boston Red Sox have undergone a complete transformation since the close of the past season. John I. Taylor, tiring of the responsibility and the many cares of a big league magnate, has stepped down from his high position in the baseball world, and divided his cares and his authority with another. James McAleer, the new part owner and president of the Boston American team, will have active control of the Red Sox during the season of 1912. McAleer has served a long and faithful apprenticeship in every department of baseball. After many years as a player in which he won high honors as a brilliant and consistent outfielder, McAleer was offered the berth of a big league manager where he for a decade served in the highest capacity on various clubs. He has now reached the highest goal of all—a major club owner. In the capacity of active manager the Boston fans will be treated to a sight of their old friend Jake Stahl. Stahl could not resist the lure of the diamond which is indeed a stirring life compared with the respectable, but staid, career of a bank official. Stahl will fill in admirably at first base, which was at best a source of disappointment throughout the past season and as a manager he is not without previous experience and should make an able and capable leader. The Red Sox team possesses great intrinsic strength and under the new and greatly improved conditions for 1912 should acquit themselves admirably.

Robert McRoy will be business manager. This is a role of vital importance to the prosperity of the club and Mr. McRoy is eminently fitted to fill his difficult and responsible position. The new park which is being erected for the Red Sox will be a notable achievement in baseball architecture. It has been needed for some time in Boston, which has always been famed for its baseball enthusiasm and the enormous crowds which support its favorite team. Baseball in general and Boston in particular are to be congratulated



JAMES MCALEER,
THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOSTON
RED SOX.

on their fine equipment and the personnel of their new owners and directors.

ONE may expect only the best from Jimmy Callahan in Chicago. He is no tyro in managing and it can be depended upon right here that he will have a club that will be in the game from the start to the finish. Chicago showed great speed at the close of the season and should open in 1912 faster than ever.

WHEN it comes to the National League we find but one change to chronicle, Cincinnati. Fred Tenney will remain in charge in Boston and after the showing of his club, particularly at the close of the season, should give a better account of his stewardship in 1912 than he did last year. Charley Dooin hopes to make a better showing in Philadelphia the coming season than he did last. His own retirement most of the season, owing to accident, and the enforced retirement of Magee put his club out of the running.

The club opened the season splendidly and but for the mishaps aforesaid would have made the running a deal better than was chronicled. Roger Bresnahan covered himself with glory by his fine work for the St. Louis team last year, but found the pace a bit hot from the start and had to be content to leave the running to New York and Chicago by the end of the season. Bresnahan cofounded the know-it-alls by the work he got out of the club, and he has every reason to expect that the good showing he made in 1911 will be continued in another season, and if he does as well he will have no reason to complain, while if he does better it will be just so much more profit. Of course, McGraw will hold forth in New York, but will have to recruit his club to repeat, so far as championship honors are concerned. It was not the lack of pitchers that militated so much against his success in the World's Series as it was the absence of hitting, and when outfielders and infielders fail to hit, success cannot be secured. Depend upon it, Mac will have a team in the field that will cause the others to sit up and take notice. McGraw is not the kind of man to fail to see the handwriting on the wall, and if he does not astonish some by having a faster team this coming season it will be surprising indeed.

Bill Dahlen hopes to make a bid for the pennant with his Brooklyn aggregation. President Charley Ebbetts had good reason to feel pleased with the way the Dahlen bunch comported themselves last season and there is no reason why the showing should not be even better another year. The Brooklyn aggrega-

tion is one of the best all-around teams in the country and contrived to make matters uncomfortable for all of the other clubs in the league. The retention of Dahlen showed the faith that Mr. Ebbetts placed in him was not undeserved, and Mr. Ebbetts knows full well how difficult it is to get a manager who can handle men satisfactorily. Certainly Dahlen does not lack experience and has had ample opportunity to watch closely some of the past masters of the art of running ball clubs, his first being that great baseball light, Adrian C. Anson, whose name will never be forgotten. Ebbetts deserves credit for the strides he has made in baseball, for the Brooklyn Club was not much of a money-maker until he took hold of it.

Of course, in looking over the field of managers one cannot forget the man who would not find it very difficult to get a mighty handsome cash bonus in his hands if he placed himself on the market—Hughey Jennings. Just fancy how they would take to a man of his calibre in New York! There would be nothing to it at all. Jennings is still on the map and had he none other than Cobb to star with, the combination would not lack drawing powers.

Fred Clarke never did better work in his career than he did last season, and if the others of the Pittsburg team had measured as well the club would have made a better showing. The splendid work of the manager deserved a far better recognition than it received at the hands of the public, for the turnout was very poor at the close of the season. All this will be forgotten, however, when the next campaign begins.

