

The World In Baseball Up to Date

The Latest Word from the Councils of the National Game

By E. D. Soden

THERE'S little going on in the baseball world, except the receiving of players' contracts for the coming season at the headquarters of the various clubs. The big league moguls have had their confab, the schedule for the season of 1912 has been decided upon, the major league clubs have completed their arrangements for their annual spring trip, and all that is lacking is the opening day of the season. That, however, will be here before you realize it. Just three months. Seems kind of long, doesn't it? But then the world series was played more than two months ago and it seems as though it were but yesterday that the Philadelphia Athletics and the New York Giants clashed. Yes, dear reader, in another month the big league teams will be off for their training grounds. Then it is but a step to the opening of the season. How you long to see a game. Well, be patient and in a few weeks your wish will be gratified.

In the meantime, however, we have to keep our eye on the baseball world, for once you take it off there's no telling what will slip by. Just now the principal topic seems to be, what will be done with the Boston National franchise? Who will be the men to buy the team? What is going to happen to Mike Donlin? Will he go back to New York? Is there any truth in the report that John T. Brush, owner of the New York Giants, is also the owner of the Rustlers?

THE OWNERSHIP OF THE BOSTON NATIONALS

LET'S take the last question first. It cannot be denied that the ownership of the Boston Nationals has been the mystery of the National

League for the past few years. Several people have claimed at different times that Barney Dreyfuss, president of the Pittsburg Pirates, was the real owner of the Boston National League team. This was at the time the team was in the hands of the Dovey brothers. The next person to step into the limelight as part owner of the Boston team was Mr. Harris, a theatrical man, of Pittsburg, Pa. Harris did not remain in control of the club very long, for he sold his interests to the late William Hepburn Russell and his associates. Russell did not have charge of the club's affairs very long before it began to be whispered about that the real owner of the team was John T. Brush. This was denied, of course, but then Barney Dreyfuss came out with a statement that was published in the various sporting papers of the country, which shed a little light on the deal. Dreyfuss stated that he would challenge the vote of Mr. Russell at the next meeting of the National League, on the grounds that the Boston National League club was owned by John T. Brush, president of the New York National team. The death of Mr. Russell, a few weeks ago, left the club without a nominal head, and the desire of the National League to unload the club on someone who would spend his money right and left in order to put a winning team in the Hub robbed the public of the opportunity of knowing who the real owner of the Rustlers was, for Dreyfuss would have to make good his statements.

The remarks made by Dreyfuss in regard to the ownership of the Boston club followed right upon the heels of the trade between Boston and New York, whereby Bridwell and Gowdy came to

Boston and Herzog went to New York. Dreyfuss at the time claimed that he offered Tenney and Russell a better trade than New York, but was turned down. That we have nothing to do with. The belief that New York capital controlled the local club was further strengthened when Mike Donlin came to the Rustlers. Just why he came to Boston and just why New York let him go, no one has been able to understand. It was stated at the time that he was simply loaned to Boston in order to help that team defeat the rivals of the Giants. Now comes the report that New York is anxious to get Donlin. It is said that the Giants are willing to give Jack Murray and \$3500 for the hard-hitting outfielder. It has been stated by some critics that Donlin came to Boston as a result of the Boston club's refusal to waive on Groh, a youngster whom the Giants wanted to ship to Buffalo. They forgot, however, that McDonald, who played third base for the Rustlers after the Herzog deal went through, came from Buffalo. The Donlin case is one of the many baseball problems which are never solved.

MANAGERS, NEW AND OLD

FRED TENNEY, manager of the Rustlers last season, may not be seen at the helm next year. He has no contract for the season of 1912, and whoever the new owners are it is up to them to keep him in charge or drop him. Several other teams will take the field on the opening day under the leadership of a new manager, notably the New York Highlanders, Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Naps, Washington Senators and the Cincinnati Reds. There is a possibility that the Philadelphia Quakers and the St. Louis Browns will have a new man. Charlie Dooin, the plucky backstop, who led the Quakers last season and who made a gallant fight for the League honors until he had to quit the game owing to a broken ankle, is on the outs with Horace Fogel, president of the Philadelphia National League team. Dooin is said to have refused to sign a contract for this season

unless he is given the same salary which Billy Murray commanded, which is nothing short of \$10,000. Fogel says he will not pay it, and unless Dooin comes to terms a new manager will be selected, and Dooin traded. Dooin is anxious to become a major league magnate and has offered President Fogel the sum of \$25,000 for his release. Dooin, although he has not signed a contract to manage the Phillies next year, is under contract to the Philadelphia club for the next two years. Dooin claims that he has the necessary backing to buy the Boston team and that the only thing which prevents the deal from going through is the refusal of Fogel to allow him, Dooin, to buy his release. In case Dooin and Fogel are unable to patch up their argument, Otto Knabe or Mike Doolin will lead the team next year. Doolin acted as manager of the team last season after the injury to Dooin. Knabe has been recommended to Fogel as manager by Charlie Dooin.

Harry Wolverton, the former Boston National third sacker and late manager of the Oakland team of the Pacific Coast League, will lead the Highlanders, and Hank O'Day will pilot the Cincinnati Reds.

NEW ERA FOR THE BOSTON RED SOX

THE Boston Red Sox are now in the hands of a new regime. Messrs. McAleer and McRoy, president and treasurer respectively, took up their new duties the first of the year. John I. Taylor, for many years president of the team, is now vice-president. The worrying he leaves to others. Jake Stahl, the former first sacker and catcher of the Boston Red Sox, is back in the game after a year's layoff. This time, however, it is as manager of the Red Sox, the team with which he played his first professional game. This is the third time that Jake, or Garland, Stahl has made his debut with the fans of Boston. The first time was back in 1903, the year the Boston Red Sox defeated Pittsburg for the world championship title. Jake was soon after traded to

Washington and later made manager of the Senators, branching out as a first sacker. He made a good showing with the material he had to work with, and at one time during the season he had his team at the top of the league. Soon after he quit the game for a while, and when he returned he did duty in the outfield for the Highlanders, being traded by the team to Boston Red Sox in 1908. He covered first for the Red Sox until the close of the 1910 season. This past year he gave up baseball for the banking business, but once again he is back.

Now let us take a look at the clubs which will be under the same leaders next season. They are the Philadelphia Athletics, New York Giants, Chicago Cubs, Detroit Tigers, Brooklyn Dodgers, St. Louis Cardinals and Pittsburg Pirates.

AFFAIRS IN PHILADELPHIA

CONNIE MACK seems to have the best material to work with. The Athletics from this distance look good to repeat their pennant-winning stunt. The entire team with one or two exceptions is composed of youngsters. Take the infield, for instance: at the first bag we have "Stuffy" McInnes, one of the youngest men in the game today; at second we find Eddie Collins, who is far from being a veteran in any sense of the word. On his right we have Jack Barry and Frank Baker; both men have been playing the game but a few years. With the exception of Bender, Plank, Morgan and Coombs, the pitching staff is composed of youngsters. Many will claim that these men are going back, the pace has begun to tell on them. Even were this true, which it is isn't by a long shot, don't overlook the fact that Mack has three good men in Martin, Danforth and Krause. What Krause can do when he is right is known to every fan in the country. Martin and Danforth, in the few games they worked last season, gave every indication of having the class necessary to keep the Athletics in the race. "Lefty" Russell, the \$12,000 beauty should also make good. The re-

fusal of Mack to allow the youngster to share in the world's series money as a result of the attitude he assumed when presented with a Philadelphia contract early last spring, has been the means of teaching him a lesson that he will never forget. It's one best bet that he will be working his head off for the Athletics next year. Russell, if he gets going right, will be a big help to the Athletics. The youngster is a real pitcher. He has shown this upon more than one occasion. As for the Athletics' outfield, it compares favorably with any in the league.

The National League fans of the Quaker City look to see the Phillies set the pace in the National League. The showing they made this past season was the surprise of the year, and nothing but a series of serious accidents prevented them from being in the fight until the closing day. When Doolin refused to sign the contract which Fogel offered him some weeks ago he is said to have told Fogel to get Doolin or Knabe to manage the team. Doolin managed the Phillies last season, from the day that Doolin broke his leg until the close of the season, and made a good showing. In case Doolin should fail to come to terms with Fogel, Horace would make a wise move in signing the shortstop. He is well liked by the players, and that is half a manager's success. The Phillies, barring accidents, if they put up the article of ball next season which they played last year, are going to have something to say in regard to the National League pennant.

PENNANT HOPES IN THE HUB

THE dark horse of the American League is the Boston American team. This statement may seem far-fetched, but keep your eye on the Red Sox. Last season, without a first baseman and badly crippled at all times, they managed to keep in the first division, when every critic in the country picked them to finish about sixth. With Jake back on first base, the infield will be fully one hundred per cent, stronger. The outfield composed of Hooper,

Speaker and Lewis, is without a superior in the country today. Then there is Olaf Henriksen, the youngster who broke into the game last fall, when Hooper was out sick, and made good from the jump. How they are going to keep this youngster from playing regularly next season is a mystery. In the few games he played he showed that he can hit and run the bases with the best of them. The Sox have a wonder in Johnny Beall, the outfielder secured from Denver of the Western League. Beall is a Washington, D. C., boy and is rated by Doc White of the Chicago Americans as one of the best youngsters he has seen in a long time. Beall was with the Chicago American team in the spring of 1909 and farmed out to Sacramento. The youngster is regarded by the Western League scribes as the most wonderful hitter that has ever worn the uniform of a team in that circuit. He is a six-footer and tips the beam at 185 pounds. Another fast youngster whom the Sox have secured for next season is Martin Krug, drafted from the Columbus team of the South Atlantic League. This youngster played in 138 games this past season and hit for an average of .297, and stands second in the number of stolen bases. It looks as though he will give Steve Yerkes a run for the shortstop job next season.

The New York team just now is about as badly disorganized a bunch of players as could be found in the country. Towards the close of the season the team was torn by friction. The players were fighting among themselves. Their infield is shot to pieces, and the same thing is true of their outfield. Charlie Hemphill, for many years one of the leading lights of the Highlanders, has been let go. There is a possible chance that he will lead the Atlanta team of the Southern League. Jack Knight may be seen in the uniform of some other American League team. The Philadelphia boy is dissatisfied with his job and would like a change. He fell down badly last year, but it was not his fault. If Knight is retained by the Highlanders he may be

sent to cover first and Hal Chase to second, the weak spot in the Highland infield for the past few years. Third base is none too strong, and unless some of the youngsters develop for this position the Yankees are going to be without a first-class third-sacker.

Vice-President Arthur Irwin has completed arrangements for the spring training trip of the team. The squad will leave for Atlanta, Ga., the first week in March and remain there until March 26, playing a series of games with the Atlanta team of the Southern League. The Highlanders will have the honor of opening the new park of the Cincinnati Reds, as they are scheduled to play a series of interleague games with the Cincinnati National League team on March 30, 31 and April 1. From Cincinnati the Highlanders will journey to Indianapolis, Ind., and clash with the Indianapolis team in a series of three games, April 2, 3 and 4. The next stopping place of the Highlanders is with Dayton, the champions of the Central League. April 6 and 7 the Highlanders will have the Columbus team of the American Association for their opponents.

BASEBALL IN GOTHAM

THE New York Giants will have to work to win the pennant of the National League next season. Their playing in the world series plainly showed that McGraw would have to make several new additions to his outfit to repeat. The chief weakness of the Giants is in the box. Outside of Matty and Crandall, the team has not got a man that can go in and have the confidence of his fellow team-mates. Marquard made a splendid record last year, but he lacked the confidence of the men in the field. The Giants must strengthen their pitching staff to repeat. Their outfield is none too strong, either, and Murray is liable to be shifted to another uniform. The veteran George Wiltse is about done, and Leon Ames is in the same boat. The Giants seem to have picked up a wonder in Groh, the young-

ster who was farmed out to Buffalo last season.

The Giants have a bunch of ineligible on their reserve list for next season. Among them are A. J. Shafer, the infielder who was traded to Boston last season, but the deal fell through owing to the refusal of Louis Coues Page, then one of the owners, to sanction the trade. Shafer last winter went to Japan and acted as coach at one of the Japanese universities. Upon his return to this country he announced that he was through with professional baseball and refused to report to the Giants, and it looks as though he intended to keep his word. The Giants lose a youngster who looked to have all the earmarks of a first-class player; as well as W. A. Torry, Harry E. McCormick, the veteran outfielder; Edward Hendricks and A. L. (Bugs) Raymond, the eccentric twirler of the Giants, who deserted the team last season.

The Brooklyn team has started its weeding-out process. Al Burch, for many years one of the regular members of the Dodgers, off and on, has been sold outright to the Louisville team of the American Association. Burch is one of the finest fielders in the league, and when right, a speedy man. The last few years he has been suffering from a case of "charlie horse" in his right leg and this has caused him to slow up toward the close of the season. Jake Daubert, the sensational first-sacker, and regarded by many as the premier first baseman in the National League, is mentioned as the next captain of the Dodgers in place of "Silent" John Hummell. Bill Dahlen will cut some figure in the National League next season if the reports sent out about young Allen, drafted from Mobile, can be taken into account. The Mobile fans are loud in their praise of this young southpaw and say he is the greatest ever. If he can make good, Dahlen will have two stars in Rucker and Allen. Jerry Downs, with the Detroit Tigers a few seasons ago, will be given a tryout next spring and should make good at second base.

OLD FACES IN NEW PLACES

JUMPING down to Washington, we find our old friend, Clark Griffith, in command of affairs. Grif evidently means business and will give the Washington club something which it never had before, and that is an office in the heart of the city. This move has made a hit with the Washington scribes and it looks as though Grif is in right at last. Grif just now is taking it easy on his ranch in Montana and except for drawing up the spring training plans of the Nationals he is forgetting all about baseball. While in Chicago a few weeks ago he denied the rumor that he was to become president and manager of the Washington team, but admitted that he had bought a large percentage of the stock. The advent of the "Old Fox," it is believed, means the passing of Kid Elberfeld and the veteran Tom Hughes. Elberfeld is reported to have asked the Washington team for his unconditional release. The rumor that Germany Schaefer was to be traded to Detroit was also denied by Grif, who stated that the comedian of the American League would be found in the lineup of the Senators next year.

The Cleveland fans are anxiously awaiting the opening of the 1912 season. They want to get a line on the methods of Harry Davis, the new manager, for many years one of Connie Mack's standbys. Davis has a tough job ahead of him in the Forest City. He is taking the place of George Stovall, a player who made a name for himself this past season as leader of the Naps. The success of the Naps under the leadership of Stovall was the sensation of the year. Davis has got to keep the team in the fight from the start to the close of the year to make good. Stovall, the former manager, is just now on the market. Chicago White Sox are said to be after him and have made the Cleveland club an offer for his services. Stovall is also slated to go to Toledo of the American Association as manager, which club is reported to be owned by Charlie Somers of Cleveland. George was mentioned as the next manager of the Browns, but

the signing of first baseman Tennant seems to kill this rumor, for if Stovall went there it would be as playing manager. Dode Birmingham of the Naps is also talked of as the next manager of the Toledo club, but there is little chance that Cleveland will allow him to go, for his playing this past season was of the highest calibre. Dode, it is rumored, will be the next captain of the Cleveland team. Davis, the new manager, is now reported to be working on a deal with the Philadelphia Athletics which will bring Paddy Livingstone to Cleveland. Just who the Athletics will get in exchange is not known.

Pittsburg is the deadest place on the baseball maps these days. Except for the rumor that Tommy Leach is due for the can there has been nothing from the Smoky City in an age. Even the old chestnut that Hans Wagner had decided to retire has not been worked. The latest Wagner story is to the effect that he and his partners have struck the richest vein of natural gas in the State of Pennsylvania. Barney Dreyfuss, the Pirates' owner, is determined to put a stop to ticket speculation in the Smoky City and will have an order introduced in the city council to that effect. He must be figuring on having the world series games played at Pittsburg next year.

CUBS AND WHITE SOX

THE Chicago White Sox are a team that will have to be figured on when it comes to deciding the pennant of the American League. Duffy, the late manager, has got together a bunch of ball tossers who demonstrated last year that they are there. With the veteran Callahan at the helm, the White Sox should be a big factor in the race. Their one weak point is first base. Callahan realizes this and is endeavoring to land George Stovall. The outfield will also need a little patching up. Callahan, now that he is manager, will hardly get into the game as a player. Then again, although he came back this year, there is little chance that he will set the league afire by his playing next year.

The same thing is true of McIntire, the former Detroit outfielder.

The Chicago Cubs are up against a tough proposition. Chance's great machine is gone to smash; it needs rebuilding and the Peerless Leader is without the material with which to work. His pitching staff is broken up. The refusal of Orvie Overall to return to the Cubs was a bitter pill for Chance. Reulbach is about done and it will be hard to get a twirler that will fill his shoes. The catching department of the Cubs, outside of Archer, is weak. The infield is all broken up. Schulte and Sheckard are the only men sure of their job in the outfield.

DETROIT AND ST. LOUIS

DETROIT is going to have work to keep in the first division next year. The only thing that saved the Tigers from falling into the second division this past season was the jump they secured on the other teams at the outset. The infield of the Tigers next season will be composed of Gainor, Delahanty, Bush and Moriarty, while the outfield will have Cobb, Crawford, with Jones and Drake alternating. The Tigers' weakness seems to be in the box. Donovan and Mullin are going back and Jennings has not two men as yet to fill their place. Covington looks like a fair man, but whether he can stand the pace remains to be seen.

The St. Louis Browns look good to hold the cellar position once again. Bobby Wallace has a poor pitching staff outside of Joe Lake and Peltz. Nelson and Lefty George, who looked so good at the outset of the season, will hardly do. Wallace has failed to land any promising youngster by the draft route with the exception of Meldon Wolfgang of the New England League. He is a real ball player. Magee, also drafted from the New England League, will not do. The infield of the Browns is purely a matter of guesswork. Their weakness at first base has not been bolstered up; in fact, shortstop is about the only position on the team that looks any way strong.