

EDITORIALS



HE passing of John T. Brush is a distinct loss to the game. For more than two decades Mr. Brush has been a dominating figure in baseball. His position has been unique. In all these years a spirit of harmony has seldom presided over the councils of the National League where various factions have clashed with unvarying regularity and no small show of bitterness. No one man has been in a position to exert a commanding influence such as the power which Ban Johnson wields in the American. But in so far as there has been one magnate of more importance than others, that man has been John T. Brush.

It was not alone his many years of service that gave to Mr. Brush his well won influence. It was not alone the great and brilliant achievements which had made his career one of the most genuinely successful in the annals of the sport. It was not alone the fact that he was the head of the costliest baseball property in the world. For with all these things Mr. Brush combined a rare talent for executive work, a business ability which would have won for him a place among the highest, in any pursuit.

Mr. Brush has gone, but he has left behind him substantial proof of a most useful life. The reforms which he instituted in baseball remain as a fundamental part of its code of law. The influence he exerted on its councils has become its settled policy. And the magnificent stadium which he erected in Manhattan as the crowning act of a lifetime in the service of baseball is a lasting monument to his work.

Mr. Brush will inevitably be missed. His place cannot be filled immediately. But the remarkable success he attained in the face of the most discouraging circumstances, including a long and painful bodily illness, stand as a model of achievement for his successors to follow.



HE unanimous re-election of Thomas J. Lynch was a striking victory for all that is best in baseball. While many people regretted the unfortunate altercation between Mr. Lynch and Mr. Fogel, fairminded supporters of the game realized the truth of Mr. Lynch's contentions and the justness of his cause. Baseball had been severely criticized. Its integrity had been assailed and it needed a complete overhauling of old ideals, and a courageous stand for fairness and justness in the future.

There can be no doubt that the measures adopted by the National League magnates were rendered necessary by circumstances. The best interests of baseball urged a drastic and sweeping reform. The various factions in the National League, whatever their personal differences, could not fail

to realize the gravity of the occasion nor well refuse to rally to the standard of President Lynch in the determined fight he was making for the welfare of the game. Having established a precedent which should act as a warning in any similar contingency that might arise in the future, the magnates very wisely set the seal of approval to Mr. Lynch's conduct by re-electing him to the Presidency.

While this honor has been well deserved by Mr. Lynch for his unusually good work as an official, it, nevertheless, serves as a special tribute to the effective campaign he has carried on in the last few months to uphold the high standard of the game he represents.



IN the beautiful offices of the National League in New York City there is a motto which greets the visitor's eye from every angle of approach. Neatly framed, simple but expressive, it overlooks the desk of President Lynch, faces John A. Heydler when he sits down to figure batting averages—in fact confronts the gaze everywhere. An idea of the late Harry Pulliann's when he was president of the National League, this motto was the expression of his long experience in baseball affairs and it remains as true to-day as it was when he had it displayed so conspicuously in his offices on the thirteenth floor of the Metropolitan Tower. And the one sentence on this motto reads as follows: "Take nothing for granted in baseball."

One short year ago the name of Frank Chance would have disputed leadership with the highest in the game. It was not a question whether Chance could rival other great managers. It was rather a question whether any other manager could rival him. But since that time the peerless leader has been cast adrift like a rudderless ship and as we go to press no settled scheme has yet materialized as to his future career.

The troubles which have convulsed the St. Louis Cardinals still present one of the knottiest problems baseball has ever had to solve. And Bresnahan who inspired the Cardinals with a fighting spirit such as they have not known for years is himself a man without a position or settled prospects. A sweeping change has altered the entire personnel of the Giants' club. The passing of John T. Brush and the resignation of Joseph D. O'Brien, the popular and capable secretary of that club, have at once removed the man who was the guiding genius of the National League and the man whose achievements in minor league baseball were a revelation of the fortunes to be made in that department of the game. Wolverton has gone from the Highlanders, The hard task which he essayed and failed to accomplish is reserved for another. Kling has passed from the Boston Nationals and O'Day from Cincinnati, while Fogel, the unfortunate president of the Philadelphia Nationals, has yielded his place to a successor.

The changing panorama of baseball ushers out old friends, but new ones come to fill their places. Evers has taken up the mantle of Frank Chance and has begun the work which confronts him with characteristic energy. Huggins, whose genial personality has already won for him many friends, is striving to the best of his ability to carry out the policies laid down by Bresnahan. Stallings has tackled the almost hopeless task of hoisting the Boston Nationals from the cellar. In this laudable pursuit the baseball world wishes him well. Tinker has at last attained his ambition of becoming a full fledged manager, and there is no one better fitted for the difficult undertaking than he. In the Giants' city Messrs. Hempstead and McCutcheon now handle the destinies of the National League pennant winners. The public has every faith in their ability to carry out the large task which

awaits them and feels that the immense property built up by Mr. Brush may be safely left to their charge.

It is true that you can take nothing for granted in baseball. Its leaders pass one by one from the scene of their former activities. But for everyone who goes another is found to fill the vacant place. New faces appear where old ones were long familiar. And through it all baseball continues on its unvarying career of expansion and progress.



FAVORITE argument by critics of the Baseball Players' Fraternity has been that the players themselves would never agree. The stars, those who are in a position to exert a telling influence on the owners, receive (so it is asserted) terms so liberal as to be entirely satisfactory. Having no complaints themselves these players could not be interested in the welfare of the rank and file, the men whose work while good is not brilliant enough to raise them above mediocrity. Selfishness, then, in the mind of the critics is the prevailing sentiment among ball players.

It is true that many stars receive liberal salaries. It is true that most of them are satisfied with the terms of their contracts. But it is not true as has been asserted that these stars, secure in their own welfare, are unmindful of the prospects of their less fortunate team mates.

The ball players have shown a remarkable unity in their approval of the fraternity. There has been an entire harmony in their deliberations which augurs well for future achievements and the stars, the men of standing in the baseball world, far from being half-hearted in their allegiance to the order, have been foremost in its councils, the leaders in its organization, and the directors of its policies.

There is nothing in baseball celebrity to add to the fame of Christy Mathewson's exploits. There is nothing that could give him higher honor than he has already achieved. But Mathewson with the same unselfish purpose which has characterized the leaders of this fraternity from the beginning, has been one of its strongest supporters.

Jake Daubert, on the strength of his remarkable record, has signed an eminently satisfactory three-years' contract with the Brooklyn club. In a conversation I had with Daubert some time since, he said: "If I was a millionaire (which I am not) I would be as much interested in the fraternity as ever. It makes no difference to my relations to the organization how well I may get along personally. I know there are many players who are not getting along well, and it is for their interests that we have organized." Ed Walsh, the famous Chicago star, speaking of the fraternity had this to say: "I don't know that I have much interest in the organization so far as I am concerned, personally I don't think there is anything they could do for me, but I consider that there are things that I might be able to do for some of the others in the game who have not been so fortunate as I have, and it is those others that we plan to help. I consider the fraternity has a great work to do and I shall be only too glad to give it my full share of support." Ty Cobb's allegiance to the organization is well known. He was one of the first to champion the common cause in which the ball players are banded together and from the first he has been a leader in the new movement. The opinions expressed by these representative stars would apply to practically all the great players in baseball to-day.

The new movement is not as its critics say founded upon a mercenary basis. It is not actuated by selfish motives. The men who give it its greatest

strength have little or nothing to gain through their connection with the organization. Their very commendable work has been impelled solely by a desire to better the lot of the average player, the man who lacks the influence to gain a recognition for his grievances. And in a wider sense they aim to better conditions throughout all departments of baseball. For, in the long run, anything which tends to better the player tends to better the game.



FT repeated statements that the Ball Players' Fraternity menaces the power of the National Commission are entirely without foundation. It is obvious that a minority representation on that commission could exert little if any influence on its decisions. On any matters of moment it would no doubt be outvoted. Realizing the fact that such representation would at the best be of doubtful utility, the fraternity has never seriously considered asking for any recognition at all. It has been content, in the main, with the rulings of the commission and believes its members are actuated throughout by a sincere desire to be eminently fair. Where differences do arise, and with all due respect to the National Commission, no deliberative body ever yet existed from the Supreme Court of the United States down, which was always right, the fraternity believes it can exert a stronger influence through the channels which naturally offer themselves.

A sample of the method in which this influence may be brought to bear upon the commission appears upon another page of this issue in a letter to the National Commission by David L. Fultz, president of the Ball Players' Fraternity. We might add that to our certain, definite knowledge all requests made by the Fraternity to the Commission have been entirely fair and in every way worthy of the consideration of that important body.



HE method of rating pitchers' averages has been severely criticized of late. This method is at best an arbitrary and inaccurate one. Its fatal defect has been that it ranked a pitcher solely upon his percentage of victories irrespective of the strength or weakness of the club with which he was connected. It followed, as a matter of course, that such records received scant respect from the observant public, for their absurdities were all too apparent.

Some time since THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE pointed out the necessity of some measure of reform in this department and we are pleased to note that an effort is on foot to substantially modify the present rules.

John Heydler, secretary of the National League, has long been engaged on a system designed to give a more accurate rating to pitchers' averages. His method, incorporated in the reports of the National League, has been generally accepted as a marked improvement over existing conditions. Inasmuch, however, as the National League can but do half the labor of remodeling a system so complicated as that of baseball statistics, we are pleased to note that Ban Johnson has approved substantially the same system for the records of the American League.

Baseball figures may be of secondary importance as compared with certain vital problems of the game. But they have certainly merited far more attention than has been given them. The present effort to install a long needed reform marks a distinct step in progress.