

THE WORLD OF BASE BALL.

LATE NEWS BY WIRE.

TWO SPLENDID MOVES BY THE BROOKLYN CLUB.

To Play Sunday Ball at Home Once More, Thus Opening up a New Era of Prosperity—A Capital Second Baseman Drafted, Etc.

BROOKLYN'S GOOD MOVES.

The Club Decides Upon Sunday Ball and Secures a Fine Infielder.

Special to "Sporting Life." New York, Dec. 31.—The Brooklyn Baseball Club has at last taken the right step to replenish its depleted treasury. For many years the club has been a losing venture and Ferdinand A. Abell, the practical owner, has been compelled to go down deep in his pockets to make up deficits. The other stockholders wouldn't or couldn't respond to the assessments, and Mr. Abell, a game sportsman, is said to have crossed the \$100,000 line in his losses.

WILL PLAY AT MASPETH. But the Brooklyn Club is to play Sunday ball in this vicinity next season and Mr. Abell will largely recoup. In the old American Association days the Brooklyn Club played Sunday ball at Ridgewood and fairly coined money. When the Brooklyn Club entered the National League it stopped Sunday ball on its grounds, and also stopped making money.

Mr. Abell said to-day that all arrangements have been completed for Sunday championship games next season. The National League schedule will be fixed so as to have Sunday games when the Western Clubs are on the Eastern circuit. Of course the games cannot be played at Eastern Park, as the law forbids. The only place available is a fine plot of ground adjoining the race track at Maspeth, where the authorities, it is said, will stand for anything that is decently conducted and legitimate.

A GOOD INFIELDER CAPTURED. The Brooklyn Club has also drafted Second Baseman James Canavan from the Providence Club. Canavan was a substitute on the Cincinnati team a couple of years ago, and was later transferred to the Indianapolis Club. He was released a year ago and the Providence Club signed him. The Cincinnati Club officials declared that Canavan belonged to them, but when President Byrne of the Brooklyn Club, asked N. E. Young about it he was informed that Canavan was open to a draft. Consequently the Brooklyn Club sent a check for \$500 to the President of the League with the request that Canavan's release be turned over forthwith.

HE WILL DO. Good judges have no doubt that Canavan will hold his own with the Leaguers. Last season he had a batting average of .350. He was at bat 493 times, made 121 runs, 173 safe hits, and stole 64 bases, leading the Eastern League in this respect. In fielding Canavan had an average of .941. He participated in 119 games, had 333 put outs, 325 assists and 41 errors. This is a record equaled by few second basemen in or out of the League. Canavan is by no means unknown to National League circles, having played with Chicago and Cincinnati, and thus has the great advantage of experience.

A PLAYER'S SALARY.

An Interesting Question Settled by a Common Pleas Jury.

Special to "Sporting Life." Philadelphia, Jan. 31.—In Common Pleas Court, No. 1, Tuesday, before Judge Beiler, a jury rendered a verdict in favor of John A. Newell against the Sportsmen's Park and Club, a Missouri corporation which controls the St. Louis Base Ball Club. The case developed some interesting points with reference to the management of professional base ball clubs and the contracts with players. The plaintiff was employed by Von Der Ahe to play shortstop for the St. Louis Club during the season of 1903. His salary was to be \$300 per month, commencing on April 1.

PUT OUT BY ACCIDENT. On that day the St. Louis Club played an exhibition game with a local club, and Newell while batting had a bone in his wrist broken by a pitched ball. He retired from the game and did not play for some weeks. The manager then asked him to play in one of the championship games, but in the preliminary practice Newell, in endeavoring to catch a high fly fell and again broke his wrist. He continued, therefore, unable to play until May 21, when Von Der Ahe gave him ten days' notice of his release. Von Der Ahe claimed that his company had the power to suspend the plaintiff for any cause without pay, and that he was the exclusive judge of what was sufficient cause.

THE CLUB MUST PAY. He claimed that on April 27 he had suspended Newell for inability to throw and run the bases, and that his pay ceased from that date. Newell claimed that he could not be suspended without being served with a written notice as to the

cause of his suspension, and further that he could not forfeit his pay because of inability to play when such inability was due to an accident sustained in the course of his duties as a member of the club. He therefore claimed the balance of his salary to May 31, when he was released. The jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount of his claim. William F. Harrity and James M. Beck represented the plaintiff, and Frank S. Elliott appeared for Von Der Ahe.

HICKEY'S OFFICIAL BOND.

The Western Association President Out of a Dilemma.

Special to "Sporting Life." St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 1.—President T. J. Hickey, of the Western Association, yesterday forwarded to E. M. Wesner, vice president of the Association, at Burlington, his official bond for \$6000 as custodian of the forfeit money put up under a ruling of the association at the Des Moines meeting. The bond was received by President Hickey yesterday morning from the National Surety Company, of Kansas City, and lifts quite a load from his mind, as he had been in a quandary for the past ten days about this very matter. He at once notified the different clubs by wire and thus relieved the tension in that direction.

A PRECIPITATION. If each of the eight clubs makes the required deposit of \$500, to be forfeited on failure to finish the season, Mr. Hickey would be official custodian of \$4000. He naturally expected to be called upon to furnish a bond to assure the paying clubs that it would be intact if called for. The difficulty encountered arose from the fact that the association's business relations are spread over three States, each with a different law regarding such bonds. As a possible solution of the problem Mr. Hickey suggested that the \$4000 be deposited in a national bank, at Cedar Rapids, to be withdrawn in whole or in part only upon the order of a board of trustees. His idea was that this board should consist of five members appointed from the directorate of the eight clubs, no one club to have more than one representative on the board. This would take the whole responsibility of the final disposition of the pledge money off his hands, the bank becoming responsible for its safety until released by the board of trustees.

SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. Mr. Hickey was in correspondence with three surety companies in regard to the matter, and his references were conceded to be unexceptionable. One of the companies, however, while confessing that it had not the slightest doubt of his personal integrity, has adopted the policy of refusing to go on the bonds of any official in the position occupied by Mr. Hickey, and he was beginning to feel rather anxious when the bond came from Kansas City yesterday.

RUCKSTUHL DEAD. The Ex-President of the Louisville Club Passes Away. Special to "Sporting Life." Louisville, Ky., Dec. 29.—J. G. Ruckstuhl, the largest stockholder in the Louisville Base Ball Club, and prominent in local business circles, died yesterday, aged 59 years. Mr. Ruckstuhl was largely instrumental in securing the admission of Louisville to the National League, and has been an enthusiastic supporter of the game for many years.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Special to "Sporting Life." Pitcher Carsey has re-signed with the Philadelphia Club.

Second baseman Jack Farrell, late of Roanoke, has signed with New Bedford.

Pitcher Ad Gumbert has been appointed clerk of Common Pleas Court, No. 1, in Pittsburg.

The Springfield Club has under consideration a proffer of a new ground for five years free of rent and taxes.

Manager Barrie is dickering with Cleveland for Jack O'Connor. Mike Griffin will probably be exchanged for O'Connor.

The Buffalo Club is negotiating for a renewal of the lease of Olympic Park, the present lease expiring in the near future.

Manager Cantillon, of the Dubuque Club, has signed outfielder Martin McQuade, first baseman Tom Morrissey and catcher Joe Otten.

The Lancaster Club has released first baseman Charlie Hamburg. He will sign with the Columbus, Ga., Club, as captain-manager.

Chief Consul Isaac B. Potter, of New York, in an open letter to the press announces himself as a candidate for the L. A. W. presidency.

Ben Zerr, of Reading, and Phil Connel, of Pottsville, are working to organize a league composed of Pottsville, Reading, Allentown and Harrisburg.

A benefit was given at Toronto, December 28, by local minstrel talent in the opera house to the Toronto Ball Club, and a handsome sum was realized.

Manager Hanlon has sent a letter to President Hart, of Chicago, approving of the latter's suggestion for a meeting of the Rules Committee in Philadelphia in Jan. to rewrite some of the League rules and eliminate ambiguous language from them.

The Norfolk Club has signed first baseman Birmingham, outfielders Armour and Hargrove, pitchers Lampe and Stockdale, and second baseman Reiman. The club has released outfielder Cleve and infielder Jenkins, and has sold pitcher Gilroy and catcher Snyder to Houston and outfielder McCann to Detroit.

WHAT FORCE IS THIS?

A PLAYER OF THAT NAME WANTED FOR MURDER.

And Yet the Only Simon-Pure Ex-Short Stop Davy Force is Said to be in New York Engaged in Peaceable Vocation.

While the message of peace on earth, good will to men, re-echoed from zone to zone the news was flashed from San Francisco that "Davy" Force was a murderer. Here is the story as told by wire:

"San Francisco, Dec. 24.—Joseph Manning, an ex-baseball player, who was shot by David Force, also a professional ball player, died today. The police are looking for Force. Force played in the big league of the East at various times, was the star of the St. Louis, Cincinnati and Buffalo Clubs. He was a high-salaried man. His position was at shortstop, though he filled almost any position on the diamond. He dropped out of the baseball world some years ago, and it is said he had been leading a wild, reckless life. Of Manning, the ball players know little."

Among the League players of the 70's and early 80's few were better known than short stop Davy Force, and all old-time patrons of the game will recall the short, squat, bow-legged little short stop, who in his day was considered the champion shortstop of the profession. His last professional engagement was with Cincinnati. After 1886 he dropped out of public view. Some years ago he was in the employ of the Otis Elevator Company, of which Mr. A. G. Mills, ex-president of the League, is secretary, and we were not aware that he had lost his position and drifted to California.

By the way, there must be something in the air of that glorious climate of the Golden State to arouse the spirit of combativeness, for Charley Sweeney, who helped Providence land a pennant, is at San Quentin, serving a sentence for manslaughter. Joseph Manning as a ball player was not known to the profession at large, while the real Davy Force is reported to be working quietly in New York, as will be seen from the dispatch below.

There Must be a Mistake.

Special to "Sporting Life." New York, Jan. 31.—A. G. Mills, who as president of the National League rescued base ball from the infamous gambling fraternity and placed the national pastime upon a solid foundation, and who was also the author of the original National Agreement, yesterday issued the following public statement to relieve the minds of the friends of Davy Force, the veteran ball player, who was reported to have killed a man in San Francisco:

New York, Dec. 28.—I have been shown an item in a recent Philadelphia paper, purporting to be a dispatch from San Francisco, under date of December 24, in which it is stated that Joseph Manning, an ex-base ball player, who was shot by David Force, died that day; also that the police are looking for Force.

From the further description of Force in the dispatch it might be inferred that the person against whom this serious charge is made is Davy Force, who was well and favorably known for many years in professional base ball circles as one of the star short stops of the profession.

I have known Davy Force almost continuously since I engaged him in 1867 to play in the Olympic Base Ball Club, of Washington. For the last seven years he has been in the employ of the company of which I am an officer, and is a steady, hard-working man, and I fully believe his statement that he never knew a Joseph Manning, and that he has never had any serious difficulty with or made an assault of any kind upon any ball player either during or since his professional career.

It is quite evident that this is a case of mistaken identity so far as Davy Force is concerned, and I deem it due to him to make this statement.

A. G. MILLS.
Ex-President National League P. B. E. C.

MONTGOMERY MENTION.

R. L. Gorman to Manage Despite Lyons' Claim to Him.

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 28.—Editor "Sporting Life."—The cranks are worked up to a pitch, owing to the Lyons, N. Y., dispatch, which appeared in "Sporting Life" of the 25th inst. Now, it's a well known fact that Lyons has the right to sign Gorman or anybody else, owing to that club being in an independent league, but Mr. Gorman will be found in Montgomery (providing Mr. Holt puts up the money), and a letter from Gorman states that if we don't have a league in the South he will go to Lyons.

The Southern League meeting will be held here on the 4th of Jan., and some hot times are expected, as most of the cities are anxious to know what they are going to do. President Powers has promised great things, but what he will do can only be told after the meeting. I trust that he will put things in some kind of shape. At present nobody can tell what league, if any, Montgomery will be in. In a conversation with the president of our club he says that if the street car company will not help the prospects for ball are indeed slim.

Stallings is after Bailey, our pitcher, and writes him that if he can get his release he will sign him for the Phillies. May he come up to expectations. Some people and ball players are anxious to know if the Southern League can hold them on its reserve list if a member of the Southern League joins the Southeastern League. A letter from President Young says they can

hold them if it don't injure them (reduce their salary for instance). All we have got to do is to join some league in order to sell certain players that are on the market. Consequently something has got to be done at an early date.

JNO. W. BAILEY.

LOUISVILLE LINES.

The Managerial Question Still Unsettled—Probability That McGunnigle Will Again be at the Helm—The Question of Spring Practice.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 28.—If my letter could wait until after Tuesday night to be sent to you, I could probably give you the particulars of the Directors' meeting, which is to be held Tuesday night, and which has been looked forward to with considerable interest. The question of a manager naturally remains the principal topic of conversation among the base ball cranks, and there is considerable guessing at the outcome. It begins to look now like it would be Manager McGunnigle again. However, it would be mere guess work to attempt to say who will be in the position next year, as it is just as well to await the short time of the meeting and know definitely.

PRESIDENT STUCKY has returned home from New York city. He says that there is absolutely no foundation for any rumors in regard to Ward. He says further, upon being asked if anything definite had been decided on in regard to a manager next year, that he has not recently had a conference with his associates in the directory and knew absolutely nothing of their desires or intentions. He has not yet entirely recuperated, and after the holidays will leave home again expecting to further improve in his health.

THE PROBABLE MANAGER. A deal that was known to be on hand for the past several weeks, but just given publicity recently, has created considerable surprise, the nature of which was that first baseman Rogers has been seriously considered for the position of manager and captain of the team, and it was this that I had reference to in my last week's letter when I spoke of the surprise that would be in store for the public. Apparently yet a while there seems to be a division of sentiment in the directory as to the outcome of such an experiment, and some of the more conservative directors do not favor so radical a change. On the other hand others are enthusiastically in favor of the idea, and believe it to be the one thing that will make Louisville take a good position in the championship race. For myself I regard it with considerable favor. Rogers is a quick player, and may be a diamond in the rough. When you look back and see how Tebeau developed when he gave no more promise than does Rogers it makes me think we might be successful in developing a man that will be a tower of strength to the team in his position. Rogers at first was not in favor of assuming so much responsibility, but I understand that he has agreed to accept the position if it is tendered him, and if Manager McGunnigle is not retained I believe the club would make a serious mistake not to make the change contemplated.

BEN SANDERS. Ex-pitcher Ben Sanders, who has been in the South for the last couple of months, is at home to spend the holidays. As I told you before, Sanders submitted his terms to President Stucky as manager and captain of the team. He tells me the more he thinks of the proposition the more favorably he regards it. If he finds that he is not able to do himself or the club justice as an active player he agrees to resign as a player and simply manage; if he is not satisfactory as a manager he could be dispensed with on 30 days' notice. Sanders is doing excellently well in his engineering and contracting work, and has several valuable waterworks contracts on hand now down in Mississippi, and is in a position entirely independent of base ball in so far as his livelihood is concerned, and it was only his love for the game that prompted him to consent to submit his terms to the Louisville Club. It might be said, however, that from present appearances there is little likelihood of his becoming manager for this season, at least with the Louisville Club.

SPRING PRACTICE. The question of spring practice is already being agitated, and according to the "Courier Journal" Mr. Pulliam wants to take the team down to the City of Mexico, owing to the special inducements in the way of climate, accommodation, etc., that can be offered. It seems to me that would come pretty near eating up the year's profit in railroad fare, and is about the most impracticable scheme that I ever heard of. Why the club officials seem determined to throw away money, take the club away from Louisville for spring practice is more than I have ever been able to understand. The climate of Louisville, which is geographically a Southern city, is seldom much colder than the climate further South, and my opinion always has been that the players could practice right here at Louisville with much more benefit to themselves than to do so on foreign ground and a little further South.

JOHN J. SAUNDERS.

PFEFFER'S VENGEANCE

On the Man Who Dared Tamper With a Keepsake.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 26.—Fred Pfeffer, the ball player, succeeded in having John Brown fined \$85 and costs and sent to the Bidewell for stealing a picture of the "Stonewall Infield," in which Captain Anson, Ed Williamson, Tom Burns and Pfeffer appear. The latter had engaged Brown to move a number of pictures to Adams and Halsted streets. Brown took a fancy to the "Stonewall Infield" picture, and before completing his work he secreted it in an alley. Later he sold it to a saloon keeper on West Madison street. The picture was recovered.

Compensation in All Things.

From New York "Herald." The ship Salier, which recently foundered off the Spanish coast, carried the base ball tourists of 1889 from Melbourne to Port Said. Had it foundered seven years sooner there might have been no Players' League. But then we should have no Anson, either. These things always happen for the best.

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