



NEWS AND COMMENT.

The Committee on Rules, consisting of Messrs. Hart, Hanlon and Reach, is wholly a practical one. All the members have expressed the opinion that the present code should be let alone. There are three rules—namely, the balk rule, the coaching rule and the anti-kicking rule, which heretofore have been dead letters, because umpires refused to enforce them as written. It is probable that the existing committee will recommend that President Young compel his umpires next season to carry out these rules literally. If that be done there will be much better base running, no word from coaches except what is necessary to direct base runners, and no disputing of an umpire's decision, where the interpretation of a rule is not involved. The great evil of the past has not been found in a lack of proper rules, but rather in a lack of their enforcement.

The notorious Carver, memorable as one of the forever blacklisted trio of '77, is now a Troy policeman.

Despite the long-winded discussion that the coaching rule has been receiving, it is a good bet that the amendment to the coaching rules will be briefly dismissed by the Rules Committee at the meeting in the spring, as the players and the patrons are almost unanimous in favor of retaining the rule as it stands.

The latest about pitcher Elton Chamberlain is that he is studying veterinary surgery.

There are many base ball men who would like to secure the St. Louis franchise and pay a pretty penny therefor, but it is doubtful if it can be obtained. It is quite likely, however, that the League is forearmed against any break in the Mound City, and that a club will be maintained in that excellent ball town, no matter how Mr. Von der Ahe's private affairs terminate.

Savannah, Atlanta, Augusta and Mobile are all bidding for the Pittsburgs' spring practicing.

Glenalvin, who is one of the new owners of the Detroit franchise, in the Western League, is the son of a St. Louis minister, and covered second base on Anson's League team during Brotherhood year. Glenalvin is his nom de diamond. His family name is Dowling.

Director Abell ventures the observation that "people who put on airs often come to blows."

Tom Brown is an all-round sport and quite a dog fancier. When he disposed of his Louisville emporium he also parted with a valuable kennel of fox terriers and English hounds at a good stiff price, and now he feels sort of lonesome.

More star ball players have been developed in New England during the last six years than in any other section.

Frank De Haas Robison rises to remark that he is not half so desirous of abolishing coaching as he is of abolishing "persecution" of Tebeau for his coaching, while others who are just as aggressive are allowed to go free.

Jimmy Manning is regarded as the wealthiest magnate in the Western League.

The annual effort is being made to secure Gaffney's return to the League umpire staff. It is not likely to succeed for various reasons, among which is that the staff is virtually completed, the appointees being Hurst, McDonald, Emslie, Lynch, Sheridan and Curry. There is now room only for one or more substitutes.

Jimmy Rodgers, of Louisville, and Jack Truby, of Baltimore, will be the oldest of the minor leaguers in the big League next season. Jimmy played in the minors nine years, and Truby was in minor league company seven years.

M. J. McCarroll, a one-time Pennsylvania League umpire, died at Mahanoy City Dec. 21 of pneumonia.

Chairman Hart's objections to rule changes apply only to the playing rules and not to those pertaining to scoring. The Chicago magnate has no objection, he says, to modifying scoring rules if they are defective, and it is probable that some of them will be changed, at the February meeting in Baltimore.

Business Manager Bancroft, of Cincinnati, is at present engaged in working up a steamboat excursion for Mardi Gras week in New Orleans.

The franchise of the New Castle Club has been sold for \$2000 to George W. Lamoree, who will at once secure additional players.

Through the death of Mr. George Ruckstahl, the Louisville Club is deprived of its chief leader, the National League is minus a valued member and the national game loses a sincere friend. For all these reasons his untimely taking-off is to be deplored. The deceased was one of the most

popular and wealthy Germans in Louisville. He was greatly devoted to base ball, and he had aided the Louisville Club very materially.

Third baseman William O'Brien, brother of the late "Darby" O'Brien, of the Brooklyn Club, has signed to play with the Texas League.

Pitcher Carsey has re-signed with Philadelphia, but nevertheless until the season opens Carsey proposes to attend to his newly leased grounds for Sunday ball. They are located between Union Hill and Guttenburg, in that part of New Jersey known as West New York. The opening game will be played on April 11 with a National League team, provided President Freedman, of the New York League Club, consents.

The Pittsburg Club is happy over having received the signed contracts of pitcher Tannehill and third baseman Donnelly.

Big Bill Lange has a good thing for the spring. He was so successful in coaching the Leland Stanford University base ball players last year that he has been re-engaged in that capacity.

Almost at the last moment the Pittsburg Club made up its mind to draft catcher Tom Lealy from Springfield.

Douglass, of the St. Louis Browns, is something of a utility man. He was signed as a catcher, but played the outfield most of last season. Next spring if Roger Connor doesn't materialize Douglass will be tried at first base.

The Toledo Club has re-signed catcher Bade Meyers, of the Jackson team.

Billy Hamilton, according to Frank Selee, has a leary eye for a rainy day, and during his nine years as a professional ball player has accumulated \$15,000 worth of property that yields him an excellent dividend. Hughey Duffy, Tom Tucker and Herman Long, of the Beaneaters, have comfortable nest-eggs that hatch out good percentages.

Decker, of the Chicagos, has had his mangled arm rebroken and reset, and thinks it will be as good for throwing now as ever.

Pitcher Cunningham, of the Louisvilles, can be seen quite frequently in the Falls City holding the reins over a high-stepper on the boulevard. Bert thinks the exercise received from the head of a fiery steed is beneficial to the pitching arm.

Atlanta has made a move by signing Catcher Kalkoff, of the Texas League.

For three years Clark Griffith has ranked up at the top of the Chicago Club's pitchers. His percentage of victories won has been almost a uniform .650 per cent. during three successive years. Seldom, when Eastern critics make out their lists of star pitchers, do they mention Griffith as one of the leaders—yet who is there in all the tribe who can show such a record for the past three years? Just Nichols, Young and Cuppy. That's all.

Jimmy McAleer touts Pitcher Bert Briggs of the Chicagos to become the best pitcher in the League.

There is a movement under way to establish a new minor league, to be known as the Kansas State League. It will be made up of six cities, to be chosen from the following: Wichita, Leavenworth, Topeka, Coffeyville, Independence, Atchison, Emporia and Junction City.

"Cupid" Childs is said to be stouter than ever this winter and still growing. He'll have a lovely time in the spring.

Catcher George Staltz is the latest addition to the Richmond team.

David W. Force, the original and only "Dave" force, of base ball fame, writes a denial of the report that he had shot a man out in Frisco. Says he: "I have not been on the Pacific coast since the winter of 1879, when I visited there with a team of Eastern professionals. The party who used my name in that shooting affair is an impostor. I have been working in this city ever since I retired from the national game as an umpire, that being my last professional engagement." It turns out that the murderer is a man named Joe Farrell.

Hugh Duffy will get \$2400 for playing and \$600 extra for acting as captain of the Bostons next season.

The English actor, H. Beerbohm Tree, is said to look like Uncle Anson's double, but he is a better actor than the G. O. M. By the way, this will be Anson's twenty-seventh consecutive season as a professional ball player.

Manager Hanlon says the champions will not go farther South next spring than Macon, Ga., their old stamping ground.

Peter Weckbecker and not Johnnie Godar will manage Mobile's possible Southern League club. He has already signed Win Clark, second baseman; Webber, a pitcher; Griffin, shortstop; Bambert, an infielder, and first baseman, Shane Meyers.

Scott Stratton writes us from Taylorsville, Ky., requesting a denial of his reported retirement. He is in fine shape and expects to play ball for years to come.

Tommy Dowd, manager of der Browns, has a repertoire of dappled vests and aurora borealis neckties that emit more din than a calliope. At last accounts he was sporting a lap-streaked Melton that is more vociferous than a Wagnerian overture. Tommy is a good thing—for tailors.

Dad Clarke sagely observes that "blondes who go to ball games should sit on the bleachers."

President Pat Powers and Empire Hurst are arranging a series of two-day bicycle races in the principal cities of the Eastern League. The attractions will be

the long-distance champion Teddy Hale and the foreign riders brought over by Ed. Plummer. It is likely that the series will begin at Wilkesbarre next week.

Joe Corbett isn't taking any chances with his pitching arm out in California, but is playing third base for Stockton.

Young pitcher Denzer has received the alternative to be expected from Chicago. "Denzer will accept \$1200 for next season or not play" is the way Anson treats his new twirler's demand for a \$2400 contract for next season.

The sale of Lezotte makes it certain that either Harry Davis or Denny Lyons will guard Pittsburg's first base.

The fact that Jay Faatz is running a Syracuse hotel leads a Cincinnati contemporary to remark: "During his ball playing days Jay was an 18-carat kicker, and if he makes as much fuss about his own table as he did about the menus offered on the road, his chef must have a perfectly lovely berth."

A deal is believed to be on for the release of George Miller from Louisville to his old love, St. Louis.

A "damper" has been thrown on Nashville base ball enthusiasts by the announcement that Dr. R. L. C. White has retired from the business. The doctor has been "a sort of angel" in base ball. He was not in the game for pecuniary benefit, but from love for the sport.

Syracuse is out with a demand that the Eastern League spring meeting be held in the Salt City.

A man who is seldom talked about, but who will cut plenty of ice next season just the same, is Jones, of Brooklyn. The Springfield boy led the Brooklyn by a wide margin in batting last summer and is by far the most valuable man on the team.

The Cleveland Club has released catcher O'Meara to Columbus and signed Louis Criger, of the Fort Wayne team for 1897.

Eastern League Umpire Herman Doescher is keeping the wolf from the door this winter by working as a drummer for a Cincinnati chewing gum house. His territory covers New York State, with which he is thoroughly familiar.

Harry Raymond and Billy Earle, the globe trotter, were applicants for the management berth of the Detroit team.

Captain Charley Comiskey has the right idea about bringing up young pitchers, and has developed many stars in his day. If a youngster is wild or ineffective Comiskey will jolly him along, and he never allows his fielders to roast a beginner in the box.

Newark has signed the hard hitting little catcher Kid Fear.

Deacon Ellis is credited with being the best whist player now identified with base ball. He is a very pleasant fellow to sit in a game with, for he never raises his voice above the ordinary tone and he always gives in on a contested play. He likes to play for lemonade or rock candy and he generally goes home loaded with both.

Joe Quinn has expressed a willingness to go to Louisville.

To date but two Cincinnati players, Breitenstein and Keboe, have signed '97 contracts. All the rest are looking for salary increases on the strength of the big run, and consequent fattening of the club treasury, last season.

Macon, Ga., has seen three champion Baltimore teams in spring training. Will it see another?

Catcher Frank Bowerman has signed a contract with Baltimore for next season. He has been with the Orioles for more than a season and has not taken part in a dozen games.

Jimmy Manning says he received most of his base ball knowledge under Manager Watkins, now of Minneapolis.

Dave Foutz may be found on President Young's staff of umpires next season. Dave would have exceptional qualifications for the position in not having to move around to keep players from obstructing his view, inasmuch as he will simply look over them; then, too, he is so thin that there is no danger of his interfering with the ball.

Bobby Wheelock has signed to play short for Grand Rapids next season.

The big first baseman, Perry Werden, formerly of St. Louis, will have a chance to shake hands and exchange hunting tales next season with his old side partner, Ten-thousand-dollar Breitenstein. Perry has been drafted by Louisville, to which team he will bring some much-needed batting strength.

W. J. Moran, of Rochester, claims to have been appointed New England League umpire.

The Cincinnati Club at the eleventh hour drafted the Atlantic League's star second baseman, Mc Intyre, of Wilmington. He will replace Billy Gray as utility man. The new men on the Cincinnati team this year will be pitchers Breitenstein and Daman, infielders Corcoran and McIntyre and catchers Shriver and Keboe.

Pitcher Thomas, the "coming Western League Rusie," has re-signed with Detroit.

At last we are to have some definite move by the Interstate League. President Charles Powers has sent out notices for a meeting of the League to be held at the Hotel Madison, Toledo, O., Jan. 27.

Leaf by leaf the roses fall. During the past two seasons the following once-fa-

mous players have dropped out of the big League: Burns, Hutchison, Wilmot, Latham, Jack Ryan, Charley Reilly, Con Lucid, Brouters, Shorty Fuller, Geo. Tebeau, Frank Foreman, Billy Gray, Arthur Clarkson, Jack Crooks, Connie Mack and Dave Foutz.

The man who is to play the game of his life is still in concealment. He will likely come forth after he has shattered a dozen or two of New Year's pledges.

Mr. O. P. Caylor suggests that there is an opening in Cuba for a pitcher about Rusie's size. A "war correspondent" about the build of Mr. Caylor also would fit nicely in the "Queen of the Antilles." He would soon learn the difference between a mild, in-offensive and forgiving base ball magnate and the bloodthirsty despot Weyler.

Pittsburg is reported as trying to get up a trade for Denny Lyons.

It is stated that the veteran manager, Charles H. Cushman, can have the Birmingham franchise for the asking. All he needs to make the game go down there is the money. That isn't much—for some men.

George Van Haltren has capitulated and re-signed with New York at the club's terms.

General E. A. McAlpin, who was President of the ill-starred Players' League, is under fire in New York. Inspector General Frederick C. McLewee, in his report to ex-Governor Morton, led in the attack by charging McAlpin with neglect of duty and violation of rules; in fact, McLewee makes McAlpin appear to be as much of a military ornamental figurehead as he was a base ball nonentity.

Clubs looking for a capable utility man need go no further than Joe Quinn, whom Baltimore can afford to dispose of.

Edwin Crayford, an enthusiastic base ball roofer in the old American Association days, died last week in Pittsburg, having been struck by a locomotive while driving across a railroad track. Crayford used to drive daily to Union Park on his queer contrivance known as the "Royal Umbrella Hospital."

Infielder Tim O'Rourke, the voiceless wonder, of the St. Paul Club, was recently married to a Hudson, Wis., young lady.

During a managerial career of 22 years Manager McGunnigle, of Louisville, has handled nine champion teams and any number of two-three-four teams. Never was he connected with a tailender until he struck luckless Louisville last year.

Jack O'Connor has retired from the grocery business, having sold his St. Louis store.

Jack Chapman states that while he would accept the Louisville management if McGunnigle were not to be re-engaged, he has made no application for the position, as he would not turn a hair to beat any other man out of a job.

It is now stated that the Virginia League this season will consist of Roanoke, Lynchburg, Danville and a club from Winston, N. C.

President Kerr, of Pittsburg, is out with the statement that this is Pittsburg's year to capture the League championship, and that Manager Donovan is getting together a team that will win the coveted bunting. We greatly fear that the estimable Mr. Kerr is in for sore disappointment. Pittsburg and pennant go together in alliteration only.

The Roanoke Club has signed two Washington amateur players, first baseman Dan Gifford and second baseman Maurice Conner.

Robinson, Kelley and McGraw, three of the Orioles who are spending their winter in Baltimore, are negotiating for, and will probably secure, the Cyclorama Building, in which they propose to have indoor base ball games. They will also get up a six days' bicycle race.

The Washington "Post" alleges that a deal is on for the transfer of Pitcher Mercer to New York.

Manager Buckenberger, of Syracuse, has closed a deal with Denny Long, by which third baseman Minnehan, pitcher Delaney and outfielder Hill, all of Syracuse, go to Wilmington. In exchange for short stop Gallagher, of that team.

First baseman Goeckle, of Wilkesbarre, says he is considering a \$2000 offer from Pittsburg.

Denny Long, by the way, hasn't been in base ball so very long, but has nevertheless developed and sold more players in a short time than any man ever connected with base ball, with the possible exception of Ted Sullivan.

Lancaster has signed an excellent second baseman in Sam Laroque.

Women and base ball managers have the privilege of changing their minds. Manager Selee has exercised his prerogative, and instead of taking the Bostons to Hot Springs for spring practice, will ship them to Augusta, Ga., about the middle of March. They will linger there about ten days playing games with Southeastern League teams.

Charlie Snyder on a wheel is one of the sights in Washington.

Catcher Bill Wilson, of the Columbus Club, of the Western League, has been drafted by Louisville. This gives Louisville four backstops—little Charlie Dexter, "Calliope" George Miller, Butler and Wilson. One or more will be traded.

"Bobby" Lowe and Mrs. Lowe can now be addressed at Beaver Falls, Pa., where he is giving his entire attention to his new hotel property.