

# SPORTING



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## THE LEHIGH VALLEY

### WILL HAVE A NEAT LITTLE LEAGUE THIS YEAR.

A Meeting For Organization Will be Held at Allentown Next Week at Which Six or Eight Good Base Ball Towns Will be Represented.

Easton, Jan. 20.—Editor "Sporting Life":—A movement is under way to form a semi-professional base ball league in the Lehigh Valley. In furtherance of this project a meeting will be held at the Merchants' Hotel, Allentown, on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 10 A. M., for the purpose of consultation and, if deemed advisable, of effecting an organization. There are promises of delegates representing base ball enthusiasts in Pen Argyl, Easton, Allentown, Cata-sauqua, Lehigh, Mauch Chunk, Hazleton and other points in this State and Washington, N. J.

There is a very general desire among base ball loving people in Easton to see a good local team here. There is no sentiment worth considering that looks to a professional team. Loose playing, poor playing and indifferent playing together with high salaries for incompetents have disgusted the people here with professional ball and they will not support it until they outgrow this feeling. A good amateur nine would enlist much interest, however. The same is true of other places in this section of the State that have tried professional ball. For this reason it is thought a semi-professional league in this valley will be a success. It was demonstrated last year that an amateur club in Easton would be a drawing card. There is excellent material here.

### Hazleton In For It.

Hazleton, Jan. 16.—A meeting will soon be called for the purpose of perfecting arrangements whereby Hazleton will be represented on the diamond as it has been in the past. Enthusiasm will be centered on an amateur aggregation, the failure of the professionals last year and the subsequent success of the local nine demonstrating that fact. The Anthracite League will be reorganized on a stronger footing, and also with the addition of two more towns to the circuit, making eight clubs in all. The Athletics, of this city, will be in the race again. The Board of Directors will convene in Hazleton the latter part of the month.

There seems to be a demand for the organization of a semi-professional club here, and with that in view, an effort will be made in the spring toward placing a team in the city to play Wednesday and Saturday games only. George Mayer, who was with Detroit last year; Christ Pforn, whose debut into State League circles occurred under the management of Billy Sharsig; Edward Turnbach, who made such an excellent record with the Athletics in the Anthracite League; Burke, last season with Drifton, and others will be signed. Bryan Crossin, who was famous in the days of Tiernan and Van Halren in Newark and Jersey City, and who was once signed for a short time by the Phillies, has been suggested as manager. He resides in this city.

### NEW CASTLE IN IT.

#### The Ball Club Reorganized With George Lamoree as President.

New Castle, Jan. 18.—The New Castle base ball stockholders met Friday evening and 45 members subscribed \$25 each to put the team on its feet. A number of resignations were received and accepted, and the following officers now head the organization: President, George W. Lamoree; secretary, A. W. Treadwell; treasurer, Scott Paisley; directors, Isaac D. Hughes, John C. Offutt, Harry Lusk and John Holloway.

A manager whose name will not be made known now will be signed within a week. The town was never in such excellent form in a base ball way as at the present, the reorganization being considered the strongest yet had here. Within ten days the other six players will be signed, giving New Castle 12 players, all considered fast. President Lamoree and John A. McKee will represent New Castle at Toledo January 27.



WILLIAM DAMMAN.  
The New Pitcher Drafted by Cincinnati From Indianapolis.

### CATERING TO M'KINLEY.

#### Wagner Places a Box at the President-Elect's Disposal.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 20.—President-elect McKinley is a devoted lover of the national game. He frequently attended the games in Cincinnati and Cleveland, and upon his arrival in Washington he will find that Earl Wagner knows how to do the honors for the distinguished men of the nation. Mr. Wagner intends to place one of the private boxes at National Park at the disposal of President McKinley for the entire season. The members of the cabinet will also be provided with similar accommodations by Mr. Wagner.

The late President Garfield was a regular attendant at the ball games before and after he became chief executive of the nation. President Harrison also took a keen interest in base ball and frequently viewed the sport from the Washington grandstand. President Cleveland does not enjoy field games or sports, but at least two members of his cabinet—Secretary of State Olney and Attorney General Harmon—are base ball rooters of the thirty-third degree.

Secretary Olney never misses a game when he is in the city, and he gets all the fun and excitement that goes with a closely contested game. He declines to be a special guest of the management, but prefers to sit on the left-field bleachers, where he can eat peanuts, kick at the umpire and root for the home team.

Attorney General Harmon is even more enthusiastic in his devotion to base ball and out-door games than Secretary Olney. The Attorney General is an active member of the Columbia Athletic Club, and can be counted upon to be present at every game of base ball or football that takes place within the city of Washington.

### Making Himself Useful.

Marty Hogan, the little centerfielder of the Indianapolis Club, is running an advertising distribution agency at the Hoosier Capital. He goes about the streets dressed much like an English costermonger. Marty can be daily seen with a little red wagon full of signs and advertising matter chasing up and down streets nailing the signs to buildings and convenient places and distributing advertising literature in the residence portion of Indianapolis.

### "INFLUENCE" FAILED.

#### Even Congressmen Can't Move Uncle Nick on the Umpire Question.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.—The scramble for appointment on the League staff of umpires has reached that stage where Congressional influence is invoked in behalf of applicants. A few days ago "Uncle Nick" was sitting in his office at League headquarters, going over the recently completed playing schedule for the coming season. He was counting up to see whether Chicago or Cincinnati will have the greater number of Sunday games. Both of those cities are hot after Sunday games. St. Louis is also one of the best Sunday-game cities in the League.

While thus engaged two New York Congressmen were announced. They said that they were Republicans, and, therefore, had no influence with the present Administration. Besides, they added that the civil service law has cut off the supply of political patronage to a beggarly degree. They announced that they were both ardent admirers of the national game, and one of them stated that he has figured as a minor league magnate in the upper part of New York State.

They concluded their interview by urging the appointment of George Weidman to the League staff. "Uncle Nick" informed his Congressional callers that Weidman had a trial in the League last year, but he did not show up in good form. He was a pretty good umpire in some respects, but he apparently lacked the necessary "sund," as was demonstrated at Louisville, when he "cut sticks and run" without notifying headquarters. At the time he claimed that he was injured during the game, but the indications are that he was rattled by the row that ensued between the Louisville and Cleveland players. He will not do for the staff this season.

### Imitating Big League Methods.

The clubs of the Western League have been asked to give to the Schedule Committee their ideas on holiday dates. They are also asked to present special dates during the season when it would be profitable to switch games, so as to make it possible to play at times when large crowds are expected in the different cities for special occasions.

## INTER-STATE IDEAS

### AS TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE LEAGUE.

#### Only Four Cities at Present Sure of Membership, But No Lack of Applications With Which to Make up an Excellent Eight-Club Circuit.

After two or three false alarms a meeting for the purpose of reorganizing the Interstate League has been called for the Hotel Madison, in Toledo, on the 27th of this month. As the League now exists there are really but four out of the eight original clubs entitled to membership. These are the clubs in Toledo, Youngstown, New Castle and Saginaw. The circuit last season was a fair one, with the exception of Washington, Pa., which was too small, and nothing but the backing of the young millionaire, Byron McKee, kept it going until near the completion of the schedule when even he became tired putting up continual guarantees. Jackson would have been all right, but for miserable management.

### THE TOLEDO CLUB

was originally owned by J. W. Gunnels, then it was purchased by Charles J. Strobel, who had piloted the Tecoma team to the pennant on the Pacific coast the year before. A few weeks ago Strobel sold the team back to Gunnels, and subsequently he bought it back again, so the Findlay magnate is now in full possession. Bobby Gilks, of the Grand Rapids team, has been bargained for to captain the team and play short. Third baseman Cecil, of Kentucky, a young pitcher and \$250 go to Glen-alvin and Leadley for Bobby.

### SOME MUDDLES.

Delaplaine has the lease on the only park to be had in Wheeling under any circumstances. He is out with President Charles B. Power, the Pittsburg newspaper man, and Power's friends say Delaplaine cannot re-enter the League. The Wheeling man says he will burn up the whole business before he lets Power's crowd handle things in the Nail City.

The New Castle Club, which was owned by forty-five stockholders last year, all of whom paid their guarantees and said a final farewell to it, has been sold to a citizen of that place who will go it alone.

### PROBABLE MEMBERS.

Frank W. Torreyson, of McKeesport, Pa., will probably manage and handle the Dayton team, with Fred Cooke, of Paulding, as field captain and shortstop.

It. Wayne isn't really wanted this year, but the big clothing merchant, William Meyer, Jr., has already engaged Gus Weyhing, the old Philadelphia pitcher, to manage the team, and Pete Browning to play first base; with this sort of a business air Ft. Wayne may get in again, although the stockholders in that town had a dear experience last season.

### DOUBTFUL QUANTITIES.

A couple of young fellows in Findlay will make a strong pull for a franchise in that place, but a sentiment appears to prevail against it. Findlay will scarcely be admitted.

The Akron Street Railway Company was at first disposed to back a team there, but have changed their minds. A. A. Anderson and the street railway company of Youngstown will remain back of the team in that place, which is perhaps the best base ball town of its size in Ohio in point of attendance.

Bradford and Erie are clamoring for admission, but will scarcely get in. The franchise of the Saginaw Club has just been sold to W. H. Saltostall, W. H. Pearson and Fred Symington, and they have signed George Black to manage the aggregation.

### POWER ALL RIGHT.

Some Mansfield talent want a franchise for that place, but it is a question if they can raise the necessary funds. Lansing is clamoring for a franchise, but the place is regarded as too small, and Sunday ball cannot be played there. Terre Haute and Evansville have both asked for franchises, but it is the desire to form as compact a circuit as possible. Power will probably be re-elected president, despite the opposition.

### A Blow at Coaching.

A sign in one of the public libraries reads: "Noise annoys the readers. No talking aloud allowed."