



NEWS AND COMMENT.

—So far as the playing rules are concerned President Young says he does not see any reason for making material changes at this time. The players and the public are just getting familiar with the existing rules, and in his judgment it will be unwise to further complicate matters by revising the playing rules. The schedule, the playing rules and the appointment of a supervising inspector of umpires is about all the business the president has on his docket for the February meeting.

—In the opinion of Manager Selee, of Boston, the Cleveland will take a big drop this year, and Cincinnati will finish lower than last season.

—Manager Barnie, of the Brooklyn Club, is to become a Brooklynite in every sense of the word. Not only has he again found a home there, but he is going to transfer his Royal Arcanum allegiance from the Monumental City to the City of Churches. He has taken a transfer card from the Baltimore council of the order, of which he had been a member for years, and on the 14th inst. he will become a member of Fort Greene Council of Brooklyn.

—Patsey Donovan is contesting Tommy Dowd's claims to being the best dressed manager in the League.

—John, alias "Biddy," McPhee has completed his 15th year of continuous service with the Cincinnati team. President Brush says he is the model ball player of the profession; the greatest second baseman that ever lived, one whose equal will never again be produced; and that no money could secure him from Cincinnati. "Biddy" seems good for many years yet.

—The many friends of Frank J. Leonard, the well-known base ball manager of New England, will sympathize with him in the loss by death of his young son.

—Four or five years ago, when Tommy Esterbrook, the once exquisite dude of base ball, was walking around New York with a green parrot on his shoulder, the gang were saying something about being nutty, sorewy and full of tacks. Well, the dude's good looks won him a fortune. He married a rich widow and is now in the dry goods business at New Brighton, N. Y.

—As soon as Captain Coniskey gets all his men signed he will take a trip to Florida to recuperate after his recent sick spell.

—Jack Doyle, first baseman of the Baltimore, and Ted Sullivan have announced that they will be at the ringside when Corbett and Fitz fight, no matter if the ring is pitched in far-off Alaska. Ted lost a big bundle when Corbett met Sullivan. He won some of it back when Corbett beat Mitchell and he is going to try to get it all back when Corbett meets Fitz. He is going to back the Californian.

—It is by no means sure that pitcher Frank Dwyer will accept the offer to coach the University of Virginia team.

—You may not have thought of it, but first-class substitute players are rare in the League. Run over the list of League teams and try to find half a dozen star substitutes. They are as scarce as gentlemen in dress suits in Darkest Africa.

—The Pittsburg Club has about decided to train its team at Roanoke, Va.

—Eastern League umpires are to get \$225 per month next season, but out of this they must pay their own railroad fare. As the jumps between stands in the Eastern League are very short, the umpires ought to have a nice sum left out of that amount, even after paying car fares.

—That European trip is said to have "rounded up" McGraw so that every trace of his attack of typhoid fever has disappeared.

—We are told that President Young has been casting longing eyes toward Chicago with the view of inducing "Adonis" Terry to retire from the pitcher's box and become a member of the staff of League umpires. "Uncle Nick" says he has a vacancy on the staff for Terry whenever he is ready to retire from active work with the Chicago Club.

—Manager McGunnigle is another gentleman who knows "The Hammer Chorus" by heart.

—The more some people get the more they want. The Boston Club has won ten championships since the beginning of professional leagues in 1871. And yet the Beaneaters want it again next season. However, Ned Hanlon doesn't believe in encouraging selfishness.

—Fred Tenney will train the Brown team again this year.

—Frank Sexton, the young college pitcher, who made several attempts in fast company, has decided to remain at college in Philadelphia this time until he becomes a full-fledged M. D. The practice of medicine will pay him better in the long run than ball-playing.

—Manager Selee is very confident that his Boston team will finish one-two the coming season. He thinks that Cleve-

land will take a big drop, and he is confident that Cincinnati won't be within miles of their 1896 finish.

—In New York they are wondering whether "Little Amie" Rusie hires his lawyers by the year.

—While all these tales of the great wealth of ball players are in active winter circulation it may be observed that none of them ever endowed any such institution as the Retreat for Charley-Horsed Back Numbers.

—The Louisville Club now has a new president, experimental manager-captain and 22 players on its hands.

—That weak-hitting but brilliant fielding third baseman, Billy Klingman, made a remarkable record last season. He accepted 70 more chances than any other third baseman in the National League, and was handicapped by being in 30 games less than any of his opponents.

—It seems certain that Mr. John B. Day will be the League's "inspector of umpires."

—The Western League magnates generally are pleased with the way Connie Mack has taken hold of the Brewers. The cause? Well, a good team in Milwaukee means a fatter gate, and consequently larger percentage for the visiting moguls.

—Wilkesbarre feels proud of her contributions to the major League—Hallman, Tommy Corcoran, George LaChance and Billy Hartman.

—President Jim Hart, chairman of the Rules Committee, has again written to Mr. Hanlon, saying he would submit his suggestions on changing the rules to the others of the committee, and take a mail vote on each proposed change. If there was any disagreement or misunderstanding he would call a meeting.

—James Duncan, late of the Springfield Club, is now proprietor of a restaurant in Portland, Me.

—Base ball seems to have a firm hold on the residents of the City of Mexico. At present there are three teams there, and considerable rivalry exists among them. Most of the players are Americans, but the natives take great interest in the game, as they do in all sporting matters.

—Henry Gruber, the old Cleveland, Troy, Springfield and Buffalo pitcher, is wintering at New Haven, his home.

—The Foreman brothers will meet again next season in the Western League. Frank will play in Indianapolis and "Brownie" in Grand Rapids. The two men have never pitched against each other on a professional team, and the cranks will watch with interest the first game in which they meet.

—President Freedman has refused to let the Barnum and Bailey show have Manhattan Field for an exhibition. He says nothing but athletics goes there.

—Archie Latham is given the credit for arousing base ball enthusiasm in Columbus after the city apparently was dead. Lath, however, did not help the team to a higher place in the Western League race, but what single man could have done that?

—Patsy Donovan has established himself in Pittsburg for the remainder of the winter.

—Dr. Harley Parker says that so long as he is able to draw a fat monthly cheque for ball playing he will do so in preference to practicing medicine, because "doctors are usually paid by the weak."

—A Texas club has two pitchers named Partridge and Cauliflower. That club needs little to complete a menu.

—Manager Donovan, of Pittsburg, agrees with Mr. Chadwick that the scoring rules should be so amended that the various pitchers in a game may receive what credit is due them, thus avoiding saddling one pitcher with another pitcher's demerits.

—Pitchers Joe Yeager and John Dolan have re-signed with Lancaster.

—Regular gymnasium work for ball players is becoming more and more obsolete. Bowling, hunting, basket and indoor base ball have taken the place of straight gym work, and it is not noticeable that many ball players get into shape later in the spring on account of the change.

—Al. Maul is one of the few Senators who has not signed for next season. But he will be signed in due season.

—Larry Gatto, the one-time chief stockholder of the Louisville Club back in the old Association days, lately expressed a desire to again enter base ball, but backed down incontinently when he was offered a controlling interest in the Louisville Club at par.

—Elton Chamberlain denies that he is studying veterinary surgery.

—Miles Standish, the pitcher with the historic name, just signed by the New York Club, is eighteen years old. He will be the youngest player in the League next season—if he ever gets a trial. It is possible that the coy New York maiden may have some other John Alden.

—Ren Mulford thinks that "Dust of the Diamond" is out of date as a headline at this time, and wittily suggests "mud" as a substitute.

—Occasionally there appear pitchers who are also great batters. Twice in the history of the National League has a pitcher been the leading batsman of the year. Maul in 1887 and Luby in 1890. Burkett, the premier batter of 1893 and 1896, began his career as a pitcher. Tip O'Neil, the crack hitter of the American Association after the retirement of Dave Orr, began his base ball life in the box.

—Baltimore has four of the six leading batters in the League last season. They

are: Jennings, .397; Keller, .392; Kelly, .370; Stenzel, .366. This is an imposing quartette for a pitcher with a "bum wing" to face.

—Harry Pulliam, the new President of the Louisville Club, is a thoroughly good fellow, and is popular with everybody.

—Louisville's new leader, James Rogers, will receive an increase in salary for managing the Colonels. At that the Louisville Club will save much of that \$2500 which McGunnigle was to have received next season in the event of re-engagement.

—The latest and perhaps final addition to the Buffalo team is outfielder R. G. Gray, from the Inter-State League.

—Hart and Anson have reason to be complacent. With Griffith, Terry, Friend and Briggs, all tried pitchers, and Callahan and Denzer as promising experiments, the Chicago team looks particularly strong in the box for next season.

—The Cincinnati Club has released catcher Billy Earle from reservation, and he can go where he pleases. He is negotiating with Columbus.

—Base ball lovers everywhere deeply regret to hear that Louis Someilian, a Cuban patriot, of Havana, has been unjustly and barbarously condemned by a biased Spanish Court to imprisonment for life for participating in the Cuban rebellion. Mr. Someilian, a wealthy tobacco man, was a lover and active promoter of base ball in Havana, and for many years Havana correspondent of "Sporting Life."

—Umpire Herman Doescher has been appointed official referee of the Empire Athletic Club of Buffalo.

—Manager Billy Barnie, of Brooklyn, says he will not carry more than 17 men next season. He has not yet decided where the team will do its spring practice, but it will be in either North or South Carolina.

—Pitcher Wallace, of the Cleveland team, was almost drowned on the 17th inst. in the Allegheny River, at Pittsburg, while skating. He broke through the thin ice into deep water, and was almost gone before his friends could get a rope to him.

—"Effe" Norton, the new Washington pitcher, has a difference with President Wagner on the salary question.

—Ren Mulford, Jr., the famous Cincinnati base ball scribe, is quite as good a speaker as writer, judging from the favor with which a series of lectures by him, on "journalism," have been received in several Presbyterian Churches in Cincinnati. Mulford is not only a base ball writer, but has filled every editorial chair known to the modern newspaper.

—The Grand Rapids team has been rounded out by the acquisition of third baseman Gil Hatfield, and outfielder Campau; also a wonderful backwoods pitcher named Brando.

—Every player on the Cleveland team has signed his contract for the coming season, with the exception of Clarence Childs, and he it is claimed will sign without a murmur as soon as his contract is forwarded to him.

—Joe Corbett is coming from the Pacific coast to help train brother Jim for his fight with Fitzsimmons.

—The much-vaunted pitching machine of Princeton is not an unqualified success. Members of the "Tigers" base ball team stand before it with as much indifference as they would before a gatling gun. Their faces look very much like flash-light photographs while awaiting the discharge of the gun.

—Pitcher Fraser is following his trade this winter in Chicago. Fraser is an electrician of no mean ability.

—With all those money prizes hung up at Louisville for individual effort, the Bourbon official scorer will need a suit of armor this year. During the season there will be many little passages between him and the Colonels who "don't want the best of anything, only what is coming to them."

—Negotiations between Louisville and Pittsburg for an exchange of McCreery and Bierbauer are on again. Many players say McCreery is as fine a second baseman as outfielder.

—If that Holy Cross youngster, Pappalau, signed by Cleveland, turns out to be a good one the sun gods will call him a paw-paw, not a peach. By the way, how the collection of odd names grows in the base ball profession.

—John M. Ward predicts that Jones, the fine young outfielder of the Trolley Dodgers, will be in Bill Lange's class next season.

—Tom Kinslow wants Boston to give him a trial.

—President Kerr claims to have received a letter from President Freedman, of the New York Club, flatly contradicting a statement made by O. P. Caylor that Pittsburg was a bad card in New York.

—Dahlen bats left-handed indoors, and hits pretty well even in that unaccustomed style.

—President Byrne, of Brooklyn, says that city ordinances and not morality prevent four of the members of the "Big Five" from playing Sunday games. By the way, what does the minority faction think of Chicago's request for as many scheduled Sunday games as possible?

—With Keister as utility man, Baltimore is open to offer for Catcher Bowerman and infielder Joe Quinn.

—When the Cleveland team next season plays in Boston, or vice versa, young Mr.

Pappalau and Mr. Klöbedanz can have lots of sport matching names for the sodas.

—A report comes from Louisville to the effect that the Louisville directors are seriously considering an offer from President Van Derbeck, of Detroit, for the purchase of Louisville's franchise and team, both to be transferred to Detroit. No sleep need be lost over this matter, as the Louisville team and franchise could not be transferred to any other city without the consent of the League, which is not likely to be given. There is no truth in the report anyway, we daresay.

—An unofficial report from St. Louis credits William Jennings Joyce with matrimonial malice aforethought.

—President Young announces that Chicago has prior claim to Perry Verden, claimed also by Louisville through drafting. As far back as the 11th of last September the Chicago management notified Uncle Nick that Verden's release had been purchased from the Minneapolis Club, coupled with a request that the deal be kept quiet until Oct. 1. Mr. Young holds that it was not incumbent on the Chicago Club to announce the deal when it was made.

—Denny Long announces that he has made all arrangements to transfer the Wilmington franchise and team to Reading.

—Fred Pfeffer coyly denies his reported engagement to actress Anna Boyd, and says his friends are merely "kidding" him. Some of the latter still insist, however, upon the correctness of the report, and state that Fred is merely trying to avoid journalistic comment. Fred is not wont to be bashful or averse to newspaper fame. But what does the lady say?

—The Pittsburg Club has for \$600 sold catcher Eddie Boyle to the Columbus Club.

—Since the promulgation of the Anglo-American arbitration treaty a light has dawned on President Young. He now wants the arbitration policy applied to base ball. He says he believes the Rusie-Freedman case can be settled by arbitration if the contention could be brought to that point. In his opinion it would be better for all concerned if that case could be settled out of Court.

—Captain Tom Brown believes in punching the bag. He has purchased a 12-ounce punch bag and will fight it every morning.

—Columbus is not yet sure of securing George Tebeau from the Cleveland Club, as two National League clubs have refused to waive claim to the man whom Loftus counts upon as manager-captain for his team.

—Rockford has signed catcher Tom Donahue, brother of the famous Tim Donahue, of the Chicagos.

—Georgia will be fairly alive with National League talent in March. There will be four clubs within short railroad jumps of each other. The Philadelphias will train at Augusta, the Baltimores at Macon, the Bostons at Savannah and the Pittsburgs at Atlanta.

—George Miller seems slated for a minor league, as Louisville has asked the League clubs to waive claim.

—"Obsolete Prophet Caylor" is what the Pittsburg scribes call the New York "Herald's" base ball man. The Pittsburgers can't get over O. P.'s statement that the Pittsburg team is a poor drawing card in the metropolis.

—Noll Mason, a New Orleans umpire, is an applicant for a position on the Western League's staff.

—Apropos to shortstop Gallagher's announcement in last week's "Sporting Life" that Denny Long has no power or right to transfer him to any club whatever, President Kuntzsch, of Syracuse, says he made the trade for Gallagher in good faith. If the Wilmington Club had no authority to make the trade, of course that club will not claim Delaney, Hill and Minahan.

—McCreery, Frazer and Clarke, of the Louisville, are said to be holding out together for the limit—\$2400.

—Chris. Von der Abe will receive \$8340.96 as his share in the settlement of the Pendleton affair. This includes the amount that Chris. is compelled to pay as his share of the losses. The cash will doubtless come in mighty handy for Chris. just now.

—Chicago and Cleveland are trying to arrange a joint spring exhibition tour.

—Emmett Seery, the once noted outfielder, is a candidate for a place on the Atlantic League umpire staff. Since his retirement as a player, several years ago, Seery has been running an orange orchard at Waveland, Brevard County, Fla., where he at present resides.

—Ted Sullivan's New Jersey League has secured National Agreement protection in Class D.

—Friends of Rusie who are in the big twirler's confidence insist that a deal has been made practically whereby he is to be exchanged for pitcher Mercer, of Washington. Rusie himself is said to believe in this deal and to be pleased with it. According to New York advices, however, Rusie has been offered a New York contract.

—George Weidman has signed to coach the Syracuse University ball team in the spring.

—The Scranton Club has signed two new pitchers—Morse, of the New England League, and Proctor, of the Virginia League. Second baseman Bonner has also accepted terms.

—Walter Wilnot is still chasing around the Western country with the six-day bicyclers, without detriment, he says, to Minneapolis' base ball interests.