

SPORTING



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WILL WORK'S WORK

CROWNED AT LAST WITH GRATIFYING SUCCESS.

His Proposed Central League Becomes a Reality—The League Effects Organization at a Meeting in Evansville—Five Cities Already Gathered in.

Evansville, Ind., Jan. 22.—Editor "Sporting Life":—"The Central Base Ball League was organized at the Acme Hotel last Monday night. Evansville will hold a franchise in the organization, and will be represented by a club, as there seems to be more than ordinary interest in the game in this city. Five cities were represented at the meeting, namely, Nashville, by W. L. Work; Terre Haute, by H. F. Schmidt; Cairo, by A. Steifel; Washington, by a local gentleman holding a proxy, and Evansville, by Marx Gumberts. Representatives from Memphis and Little Rock were expected, but failed to put in an appearance.

Gabe Simons, of this city, was elected president-secretary-treasurer of the League. This is a very wise selection as Mr. Simons is a hustler, and will undoubtedly make a success of the League. The work of completing the circuit will not be delayed as Mr. Simons will give the matter his personal and immediate attention. The salary limit was fixed at \$300. The season will open Saturday, May 1, and close some time in September, the date yet to be fixed.

The guarantee of the various clubs of the League to remain to the end of the season was placed at \$300, half of this money to be deposited in the treasurer's hands at the next meeting of the League, and the balance one month later.

Memphis and Little Rock are applicants, and Washington's request will be held open until the two named are communicated with. Messrs. W. L. Work, H. F. Schmidt, A. Steifel and Marx Gumberts, were made the Board of Directors. President Simons was instructed to make application for national protection. Another meeting will be called soon by the president, at which final action will be taken.

After the adjournment of the meeting, President Simons had the delegates as his guests at a supper at the Acme Dining Room.

The fact that Mr. Marx Gumberts has taken an interest in base ball and will be at the head of the Evansville Club this year will be exceedingly good news to the local admirers of the game. It means that there is to be a business man at the head of the organization, for they know that he is a man who seldom fails when he takes an interest in any business transaction, and he will undoubtedly place a good club in Nashville.

LOS ANGELES PLAYERS.

Men Who Will Doubtless Play on Eastern Diamonds.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 15.—Editor "Sporting Life":—"Pitcher Harvey, of the Tufts-Lyons Club, is the most talked of ball player on the Pacific coast, and is beyond question the best pitcher, with a good brainy catcher to support him. He is a comer. As he has plenty of speed, good curves, a very deceptive drop, and is left handed, he would be a valuable man for some club.

Jay Smith, the Tufts-Lyons third baseman, would be another good man for some state league team. He is a good hitter, an elegant fielder and fast on bases.

Whaling, of last season's Wheeling's team, will probably go to Des Moines.

Charles Franck, the clever shortstop of the Francis Wilson team, has had an offer from Pete Lohman, manager of the Des Moines team.

Bob Shaw, the crack (colored) pitcher of the Thrills, has accepted terms with the Page Fence Giants. He will prove a find for them, as he is not only a great pitcher, but a wonderful batter.

Billy Carroll, the catcher (colored), is negotiating with the Chicago Unions, and will in all probability go to that city.

Ed and Jack Moore, third base and outfielder respectively, have made no arrangements as yet. These two men would strengthen any minor league.

Milo Whitehead has had an offer from Des Moines, but will not go if he is able to get work in this city.



JAMES J. CALLAHAN

James J. Callahan, the clever young pitcher who has been drafted from the Kansas City Club by the Chicago Club, has a bright future before him, as he should develop into one of the crack pitchers of the League. He was born March 18, 1874, at Fitchburg, Mass., and learned to play ball with amateur teams of his native place at such times as he could get away from his work, which was that of plumbing, he having practiced pitching after working hours, and made such headway that he finally, strange to say, adopted base ball as a more suitable occupation than that of plumbing. His professional career began with the Northampton (Mass.) team, in 1892. It was his excellent work while with that club that led to his engagement with the New Bedford, an independent professional team located at New Bedford, Mass., during the season of 1893, and it was while connected with the latter club that Manager Irwin's attention was drawn to his work. Callahan began the season of 1894 with the Philadelphia team, of the National League and American Association, but finished it with the Philadelphia Club, of the Pennsylvania State League. In 1896 he played with the Kansas City Club, and was one of the star pitchers of the Western League. He has excellent speed, good command of the ball, and is cool headed at critical stages of the game. He is also a good batsman and clever base runner.

THE SCORING RULES.

President Young in Sympathy With the Reform Move.

Syracuse, N. Y., Jan. 26.—President Young has taken the pains to write to E. H. McBride, secretary-treasurer of the Eastern League of Sporting Writers, that he is in sympathy with the League's effort to have the scoring rules rewritten. If President Young will now impress upon the Rules Committee that same he will do well. Mr. Hart, of Chicago, and Mr. Hanlon, of Baltimore, have both sent out interviews saying that they want the scoring rules brought up to date and amplified. The sporting writers of forty papers have asked that just this be done—and it is the sporting writers who are most interested in this reform and whose word should go farthest. The Eastern League of Sporting Writers will meet in New York this spring, but if the National League rules committee shall do the work they promise to do, the meeting will be purely social.

WON'T GIVE IN.

Von Der Ahe Still Striving to Stave Off the Inevitable.

It would never do for Chris Von der Ahe to have his legal docket cleaned off, so he has resolved to fight for another trial of that suit of Mark Baldwin's. On the 21st inst., J. S. and E. G. Ferguson, representing Chris Von der Ahe, against whom Mark Baldwin, the former base ball pitcher, recovered \$2525 as damages last week for false arrest, made a motion for a new trial. They allege certain errors upon the Court, that the verdict was against the weight of the evidence, and should have been in favor of the defendant; that it is contrary to the charge of the Court, and must be assumed to have been based upon a deliberate disregard of the uncontradicted testimony, and that in any event the damages awarded are excessive. A rule was granted upon the plaintiff to show cause why a new trial should not be granted.

LEAGUE PROBLEMS.

ONE SENSATION RAPIDLY SUPPLEMENTED BY ANOTHER.

Mr. Brush Aply Gives the League Disruption Story Its Quietus Whereupon Pittsburg Advances Another Tale Calculated to Keep up a Ruction.

The excitement over the recent Cleveland conference has died out, and base ball people have settled down to the belief that the subject of the Cleveland conference was mainly ancient affairs of the Brooklyn Club, with a possible allusion to the subject of Sunday ball. The idea of a possible split in the big League and the formation of a new league in the near future is generally scouted, and with good reason.

President Brush, one of the great trio, Brush, Byrne and Robison, who conceived and built the present great 12-club league, and thus gave base ball peace and prosperity, regarding the possibility of a break in that organization said the other day:

"You cannot drop one club in the West without dropping another in the East, and that leaves you with ten clubs, an unwieldy organization. In order, then, to get an eight-club basis you must throw two more cities overboard, and that leaves four towns outside the League, and all so important in baseball as to constitute a standing menace to the major organization.

"They are left in a position to precipitate a base ball war, and can organize an opposition league with the greatest ease. Then players' salaries would jump in the proportion of 3 to 5, and the conditions prevailing in 1890 would again be in force.

"As now arranged all the important cities are under cover, and nearly all make money. The larger cities do not make so much as in the days when the home club retained its receipts, but on the other hand the large clubs are not called on every season to subscribe for the heavy losses of some of the smaller clubs.

"This satisfactory state of affairs should, in my opinion, appeal to all who have money invested in the game and cause them to hesitate before doing anything to disrupt the present organization. I don't want another experience in a base ball war, and I don't believe anybody who has been through one does."

One More Sensation.

Now comes editor Pringle, of the "Pittsburg Dispatch," with another weird tale of the wildly improbable. He makes the astonishing statement that the four non-Sunday-playing clubs, which have always stoutly maintained that their opposition to Sunday playing was based on purely moral grounds, have agreed to enter into the Sunday-playing game for the object of breaking it down and killing it by surfeit in one season. Here is Pringle's preposterous proposition:

"It is now very probable that there will be a sensation at the meeting of the National Base Ball League magnates at Baltimore next month that the 'little seven' are not looking for. It may be that all of the 'big five' will resolve to play Sunday games, and this will prevent the 'seven' from getting almost all the money there is in the West, as they have been doing. This is no idle talk, nor imagination, for there is a desire among the four clubs that do not now play Sunday games to start in and have a share of what is going. There is no doubt whatever about the existence of this desire, no matter how it may be denied, and this desire has been prompted by the fact that the Cleveland Club is going to resume Sunday games.

"Some of the 'big five' reason this way: Here we are, four of us, entirely opposed to Sunday base ball playing, and yet it is not only getting a stronger hold than it ever had, but these games are becoming a very serious loss to the clubs that do not take part in them. If our holding aloof from the Sunday games would kill them, this we would certainly be prepared to do, but this will not accomplish our object. We have tried it, and it has failed; in fact, the clubs that have been playing Sunday ball have only been too anxious to have us not play these

Continued on Third Page.