

# CREAHAN'SCHAT

ABOUT MEN AND AFFAIRS IN  
THE BILLIARD WORLD.

A Tribute to Edward M'Laughlin  
—Billiards as a Youth-Preserv-  
er—The "Large Room" as a  
Factor in the Billiard Business.

BY JOHN CREAHAN.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 4.—Editor "Sporting Life."—It is difficult to understand, unless it is for the sake of publicity, notoriety, and a craze for being talked about, how any number of intelligent and honorable amateur billiard players, such as are to take part in the international amateur tournament in New York, should find any objection to such a man as Edward McLaughlin for referee. The greatest professional experts of this country—and probably all of them—have chosen this man in preference to all others to fill such a position, knowing as they do from experience that it would practically be impossible to find any other man in this country, or in any other, to fill the position any better—if indeed as well as he does.

Thoroughly honest and honorable by nature, instinct, and professional, as well as private, life, it would be an utter impossibility for this man, knowingly, willingly, or intentionally, to wrong any one, whether in refereeing a contest at billiards, or in any other transaction. Edward McLaughlin is the creation of an era in billiards which practically exists no longer in this country, unless in rare or isolated cases. He belongs, as a professional, to the days of Michael Phelan and H. W. Collender. As a room keeper, to the days of Charles E. Mussey, Major Walker, John Miller, of New Orleans, Thomas Foley, of Chicago, W. M. Dodds, of Pittsburgh, Christopher O'Connor, of New York, Matt Hewins, of Hartford, Conn., Christian Bird, Victor Estephe and James Palmer, of this city. It is an honor and distinction which McLaughlin may well feel proud of, as he is "a chip of the old block." Two or three of the great men referred to here, are still living and in business—Foley and Miller. May they long continue so; to continue to honor the business which they have done so much to honor. Palmer, Hewins and Dodds are living in retirement; while McLaughlin, who is still practically a youngster, is not only respected by the public in general, but more than respected by all who have the pleasure of knowing him personally.

As I write, on the night of April 12, Albert Young, of Brooklyn, has been at Atlantic City for about a week for the benefit of his health. As Mr. Young is a man who can go to Europe for the summer, and take his family with him if he feels so disposed, there is no reason to suppose that he will not remain at Atlantic City until after the Easter season there. It is only the wealthy of the present day who can afford to get sick.

Talking about invalids, to be in the fashion, that youngster, my old friend Samuel May, of Toronto, has found it necessary to spend part of the winter at Hot Springs, Ark., to drink the waters there. During the Centennial year of '76, when we first had the pleasure of meeting Mr. May, he was a tolerably healthy looking man. About a year ago when he called to see me in this city he was but little changed, although probably considerably richer. Twenty-five years hence he may be an old man, providing that his money does not convert him into an invalid.

Louis Abrams, of New Orleans, is another of the fortunate men who enjoys periodically the luxury of a vacation "for the benefit of his health." It has been nearly a quarter of a century since I had the great pleasure of meeting John Miller, of the same city. Mr. Miller was not then a young man by any means—which may account for his physical ability to attend to business. I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Abrams, but presumably, like Mr. May, of Toronto, he is one of those reckless and imprudent youngsters who must pay the price of indiscretion, and later on in years, as he becomes older, his physical condition may be like that of most of us who work 365 days to the year.

Pincus Levy is another of the rich (?) professionals who manages periodically to retire on the sick list for the benefit of his health. Poor Levy! A chronic victim of muscular or inflammatory rheumatism, he is the most helpless of human beings while suffering from that disease, as he has been for a month past or more. At present he is sojourning in some part of Maryland, with the hope of returning to business at an early date. As Mr. Levy is but a mere youngster of some sixty years he should be good for thirty or forty years yet, providing rheumatism does not touch the largest part of his body—his heart.

It was generally supposed by professionals throughout the country, as well as by the public in general, that a recently noted match game played in Chicago, was won, lost, and played on its merits as far as it was possible for the experts to do so. This seems to be where the public in general, but professionals in particular, have made donkeys (?) of themselves in supposing that the victor should not have been the vanquished, and the vanquished the victor, had not the bold and glaring hand of conspiracy (?) played a prominent part "in the management," by giving the loser "the double cross" in the matter of cloth put on the table—which was so different from

Cabinet Size  
Phototypes of

## Base Ball Players...

Edward Abbatichio  
Charles A. Alperman  
Nick Altrock  
Leon Ames  
John Anderson  
Charles Armbruster  
Harry Arndt  
Harry J. Aubrey

Henry Batch  
Joseph Bates  
James Barrett  
Charles Babb  
J. Barbeau  
G. O. Barclay  
Harry Barton  
John C. Barry  
Harry Bay  
Harry Bemis  
William Bergen  
Clarence N. Beaumont  
Charles Bender  
William Bernhardt  
Jacob Beckley  
W. Beville  
Charles Berger  
Fred L. Beebe  
Justin J. Bennett  
Mordecai Brown  
William Bransfield  
Charles E. Brown  
Roger Bresnahan  
George Browne  
David L. Brain  
Albert Bridwell  
Samuel Brown  
William J. Bradley  
Herbert Briggs  
James T. Burke

James Casey  
Joseph Cantillon  
Wirt V. Cannell  
James J. Callahan  
George Carey  
P. J. Carney  
Charles C. Carr  
Joseph Cassidy  
Louis Castro  
Jack Chesbro  
Frank Chance  
Harold Chase  
Walter Clarkson  
Fred Clarke  
Otis Clymer  
Justin J. Clarke  
Ernest Courtney  
Frank J. Corridon  
Andrew Coakley  
Tyrus W. Cobb  
William Coughlin  
James J. Collins  
Edward Collins  
William Conroy  
W. W. Congalton  
Thomas W. Corcoran  
Richard Cooley  
Samuel Crawford  
Monte Cross  
Louis Cziger  
Lafayette N. Cross  
J. Cronin  
Charles Currie

Thomas Daly  
George Davis  
Harry Davis  
William Dahlen  
James Delehanty  
Charles Dexter  
Arthur Devlin  
William Dineen  
Frank Dillon  
Charles Doolin  
Michael Doolin  
Michael Donlin  
Harry Dolan  
Patrick J. Donovan  
August Dornier  
William Donovan  
J. ("Jiggs") Donohue  
P. A. Donoherty  
Joe Doyle  
John Dobbs  
Frank Donohue  
J. W. Downs  
Thomas Doran  
William Douglas  
John Doyle

Louis Drill  
Edward Dunkle  
August Dundon  
John Dunleavy  
Hugh Duffy  
William Duggeby  
James H. Dygert

Malcolm Eason  
Harry Eels  
Norman Elberfeld  
Claude Elliott  
John Eubanks  
John Evers  
Robert Ewing

Frederick Falkenberg  
Charles Farrell  
John S. Farrell  
William Gleason  
Hobe Ferris  
Tom S. Fisher  
Patrick J. Flaherty  
Elmer Flicet  
William Friel  
Charles Fraser  
David L. Fultz

John Ganzel  
Robert S. Ganley  
Virgil Garvin  
Philip Geler  
Harry Gessler  
George Gibson  
William Gilbert  
Norwood Gibson  
William Gleason  
Harry Gleason  
Frederick Glade  
William Gochnauer  
Clark Griffith  
Daniel Green  
E. W. Greminger  
Myron Grimshaw  
Michael Grady

Edward Hanlon  
Charles Hall  
Frederick T. Hartsel  
Edgar Hahn  
Harry Hart  
Joseph Harris  
Roy A. Hartzell  
James Hackett  
William Hallman  
Richard Harter  
Charles Harper  
Frank Hahn  
William Hargis  
J. E. Heldrick  
C. Hemphill  
Otto Hess  
Edward Heydon  
Charles Hickman  
Homer Hillebrand  
William Hinchman  
Harry Hinchman  
Hunter Hill  
George Howard  
Arthur Hoffman  
Louis Hogg  
Arthur Holskoetter  
Daniel Hoffman  
Harry Howell  
William Holmes  
John H. Hummel  
Thomas Hughes  
John Hulsman  
Jay Hughes  
Rudolph Hulswit  
Berthold Hustings  
Miller Huggins  
Frank Isbell

Harry Jacobson  
James Jackson  
Fred Jacklisch  
Homer Jennings  
Charles Jones  
Thomas Jones  
Fleider Jones  
David Jones  
Oscar Jones  
Adrian Joss  
Jim Jordan  
Otto Jordan

Michael Kahoe  
Robert Keefe  
William Keeler



"SPORTING LIFE" has had reproduced cabinet size phototypes of celebrated base ball players and offers to send to any of its readers, by mail, postpaid, photos of their favorite base ball players for ten (10) cents each; by the dozen one dollar (\$1.00), assorted or all of one kind.

The photos are regular cabinet size (5x7 1/2 inches) mounted on heavy Mantello mats and packed carefully to insure safe delivery in the mails.

Here is an opportunity to ornament your room with photos of your favorite base ball players at small expense. Each photo in a separate transparent envelope to protect and keep it clean.

The following photos are now ready for immediate delivery. Others will be added:

William Kelster  
William Kennedy  
Joseph J. Kelley  
Frank Kitson  
Edward Killian  
Joseph Kissinger  
Edmund Kittredge  
John Kling  
John Kleinow  
John Knight  
Edward Konetely  
Bernard Kehler  
Otto Kruger

Frank Laporte  
Louis Laro  
William Lauder  
Napoleon Lafolte  
Thomas Leach  
Samuel Leaver  
Vive A. Lindaman  
Briscoe Lord  
Robert L. Lowe  
John Lobert  
Herman Long  
Harry Lumley  
Carl Lundgren  
Will L. Lush  
Michael J. Lynch

William R. Marshall  
Sherwood Magee  
Connie Mack  
Christopher Mathewson  
William Maloney  
George Magoon  
John Maloney  
James McGuire  
Matty McIntyre  
Edward McFarland  
John J. McGraw  
Joseph McGinnis  
John J. McGinnis  
Harry McIntyre  
D. L. McGinnis  
John McCarthy  
Barry McCormick  
Eddie McCormick  
Charles McFarland  
Louis McAllister  
Herman McFarland  
John McFarland  
Eugene Moriarty  
John Menefee  
James R. McAleer  
Roscoe Miller  
William Milligan  
Fred Mitchell  
Patrick J. Moran  
Charles Moran  
John Morrissey  
Earl Moore  
Michael Mowrey  
John J. Murray  
George Mullin  
Daniel F. Murphy  
William J. Murray

Daniel Needham  
Joseph Nealon  
Eustace J. Newton  
Simon Nicholls  
Harry Niles  
Harry Nowell  
Peter Noonan

Peter O'Brien  
John O'Brien  
John O'Connor  
Reuben Oldring  
Charles O'Leary  
John J. O'Neill  
M. J. O'Neill  
Albert Orth  
Orville Overall  
Frank Owens

Frederick Parent  
Case Patten  
Richard Padden  
James Pastorious  
Frederick Payne  
Roy Patterson  
Helen Peltz  
Barney Peltz  
Frank Pfeiffer  
John Pfeister  
William Phillips  
Charles Philpott  
Edward Phelps

Charles Pittinger  
Oliver Pickering  
Wiley Platt  
Edward S. Plank  
Maurice R. Powers  
John Powell  
Edward Pools  
Ambrose Puttmann

Thomas Raub  
Frederick C. Raymer  
William Reddy  
Edward Reulbach  
R. S. Rhoades  
Louis Ritter  
Claude Ritchey  
George Rohe  
Claude Rossman  
Clyde Robinson  
Frank Roth  
James Ryan

Oscar F. Schreckengost  
Harry Schmidt  
Frank Schulte  
George Schiel  
Herman Schaefer  
Charles Schmidt  
Ralph O. Seybold  
J. Bentley Seymour  
Albert Selbach  
James Sebring  
W. P. Shannon  
Daniel Shea  
James Sheekard  
Ed. Siever  
James Slagle  
John Slattery  
Frank Smith  
Alexander Smith  
Edward Smith  
Homer Smoot  
Frank Sparks  
George Stone  
Harry Steinfield  
Samuel Strang  
Elmer Stricklett  
George Storall  
Jesse Storall  
J. R. Stanley  
William D. Sullivan  
William Sudhoff  
Joseph Surgen

John Taylor  
Luther H. Taylor  
Lee Tannehill  
Jesse Tannehill  
Fred Tenney  
Roy Thomas  
John Thoney  
Ira Thomas  
Joseph B. Tinker  
John Townsend  
Terrence Turner

Robert Unglaug  
G. Van Halten  
Fred Vell  
Ernest Vinson  
Hans Wagner  
George Edward Waddell  
Edward A. Walsh  
Robert Wallace  
J. Warner  
Jacob Welmer  
Arthur Weaver  
G. Harry White  
Robert Wicker  
Howard Wilson  
Victor Willis  
George Witte  
Edgar Willets  
James Williams  
George Winters  
Frederick Wilhelm  
Otto Williams  
Harry Wolpert  
William Wolfe  
R. Wood  
Eugene Wright

Joseph Yeager  
Irving Young  
Denton Young  
David Zearfess  
Charles Zimmer

THE ABOVE IS OUR COMPLETE LIST. WE HAVE NO OTHERS

that on his practice table, that it was impossible to win under such double cross "villainy (!)"

I have never been entirely familiar or conversant with the meaning of "double cross"—or its history and relation to business. I first heard the phrase in '76, during the Centennial tournament in this city. Since then my life has been too busy to pay any attention to slang or vulgar phrases. I strongly suspect, however, that its meaning is suggestive of the history of Guy Fawkes, Judge Jeffries, Castlereagh, the gun powder plot, and other such villainies so prominent in the history of England. If I am not in error, I think it was the great Dominican Friar, orator and Irishman—Father Tom Burke—who said that the only respectable thing that Castlereagh ever did was, when he drew the keen edge of a razor across his throat, and ended his miserable existence.

A month or two ago, probably longer, Moses Yatter, of Boston, published a letter in the "Billiardist" that, owing to the success of his room, which now contains some eighteen or twenty tables, if my memory is not at fault, it was his intention in the very near future to enlarge his establishment to the extent of forty tables. "Punch's" advice to the young man about to get married—"don't"—would be more than applicable to Mr. Yatter at the present time, providing the panic has not hit him over the head with a financial axe, as it has most, if in reality not all, of the room keepers of this country. Should Mr. Yatter not be any exception to the rule, it is more than probable by this time that he has changed his mind, and is most fortu-

nate in having his room its present size, instead of having one with forty tables.

There has been a sort of professional craze in this country, among a certain class of people, mostly those without much professional experience, for some years past, to open large or huge rooms—but notably so since W. P. Mussey, of Chicago, opened one of the largest billiard plants in this country, if not in the world. This class of people have forgotten two things—that Mr. Mussey was practically born in the business, received his professional education from his father, who was in his day one of the foremost room keepers of this country, to make no reference to the fact that W. P. Mussey was for years salesman and manager for one of the houses of the late H. W. Collender. I refer to this now to show the schooling which William P. Mussey has had, even if he is but now a very young man in years—although so old in professional experience.

In the second place, Mr. Mussey's Chicago plant is practically more of a hotel, pure and simple, than it is literally a billiard room, for if I am not mistaken he has every accommodation that a hotel has—with the exception of sleeping rooms for his patrons. The Mussey plant, however, has passed into a proverb as a billiard room, or series of rooms with some forty tables, which resulted in Pittsburgh "going one better" in the matter of hugeness, where, if I am not in error, they have one room with about eighty tables.

Mr. Mussey's plant, if I have not been wrongly informed, is a stock company whose members are largely if not entirely the Mussey family. As W. P. Mussey personally, is said to be worth more than half a

million dollars, it is easy to understand how so experienced a man, with such a capital, could handle and manage his plant.

There are but two cities in this country where it is possible to have huge rooms—or such plants as I now refer to—Chicago and Pittsburgh. Chicago, if I am not in error, has been the greatest city in this country for public rooms during the past forty years or more. They are not restricted there with the cast iron, or iron-clad, laws which are the rule and not the exception here in the East.

Pittsburg is the richest city in the world of its size, which probably accounts for the moral corruption among the rich people there, although it is a question if they are any more corrupt morally than rich people as a rule are everywhere. The smallness of the place, and the vast wealth there, has probably attracted more attention than in large cities, but notably so in the matter of scandal.

All men, or presumably most of them there, seem to play billiards or pool—probably more of the latter than the former, if which accounts for the number of large, if not huge, plants to be found there. Gambling there in the past has undoubtedly had much to do with the success of very many rooms. The largest plant there, if I have not been wrongly informed, is owned by a syndicate, which is vastly different from a single individual being the owner.

There are practically no very large rooms in New York, certainly no huge or startling ones, which may account for the conservative success of the moderately sized rooms there—in the metropolis of the country. The rooms are singularly clean and free from the scandal of gambling, such as has, in a large measure, tainted and made foul so many of the rooms in this city during the past few years, while the Pittsburg rooms, or many of them, have had a monopoly of such infamy for very many years past.

With the exception of one plant, three of the largest rooms in this city are "on the market." The largest one contains nearly 25 tables. The second less than 20, and the third not fifteen. No experienced man, conversant with the history of the business in this city at the present day, would give fifty cents for the three rooms, if he had to assume the responsibility of the expenses.

"Large billiard rooms are a very unprofitable investment," said the foremost professional of this country to-day to the writer, in a conversation on this subject some few months ago. Did I care to enter into details on this subject of huge rooms—which I do not, to make no reference to the fact that it is a question in my mind if it would be prudent or proper to do so—I could make the hair on Mr. Yatter's head, "like the quills on the fretful porcupine" stand on end.

A "gold mine" here, which opened about three years ago with twelve tables, which cost \$325 each, as I have been informed, sold the tables recently for \$100 each. The man who purchased them for another much larger room, did so for a speculation, and with the intention, as I have been informed, of selling the room in the event of its financial failure! A local professional, who is rather remarkable for being able to see through stone walls at the proper time, assured me that "he is crazy." "That is very fortunate," was my reply, "as it might prevent him from becoming more crazy later on."

Thomas A. Dwyer, of the B. B. Collender Co., of N. Y., was in town recently on professional business connected with his firm. Mr. Dwyer informs me that his house has moved into their new ware rooms, 29 to 35 West Thirty-second Street. Some idea of the magnitude of this place can be formed by its size, which covers 3,500 square feet. The cost of fitting out this new location was nearly \$40,000, as Mr. Dwyer informed me. There is nothing slow about the B. B. Co., as this money was spent at a time when most of us were eating off our own heads about dull times in business.

Sutton Gets Schaeffer's Title.

CHICAGO, Ill., May 1.—George Sutton became 18.1 balk line champion of the world to-day. He did not have to pick up a cue to gain the title. The trophy, emblematic of the title, was turned over to the donors by Jake Schaefer, and by them presented to Sutton. Schaefer forfeited it by illness. This is the third time Sutton has secured the 18.1 emblem through forfeiture.

Valuable Utility Player.

Hostetter, of the Cardinals, is easily the best all around player in the game to-day, being better than Bresnahan, for he can go in the box and pitch as good a game as half the twirlers in the National League. "Hoss" was drafted by Cincinnati from Denver a few years ago and sprained his ankle in spring practice, never getting a thorough try-out. Since he has been with St. Louis he has played every position on the team, and is now doing its catching. He is a pretty good sort of man to have on a team.—Cincinnati Commercial.



FINE TABLES, CAROM,  
COMBINATION AND POOL.

Orders from all parts of the world promptly attended to.  
John Crenahan, Green's Hotel, Philad'a, Pa.  
Over 1,000,000 Noise Subduers Sold.