

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

DEVOTED TO BASE BALL MEN AND MEASURES "WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE AND CHARITY FOR ALL"—Editor Francis C. Richter.

## SPORTING LIFE

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

DEVOTED TO

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General Sports

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### DON'T OPEN DOORS.

During the recent agitation over the blacklisting controversy no one was more vociferous in support of the application of the extreme penalty of perpetual expulsion from organized ball of all contract-jumpers than Mr. Murnane, president of the New England League and member of the National Association's Board of Arbitration, yet we now find the man who openly criticized the reinstatement of certain Tri-State League ineligible, censuring the National Commission for keeping up the bars against an offender of blackest hue and deepest dye. In the Boston "Globe" the other day, Mr. Murnane made this surprising statement:

"The national commission went a step too far when it made a mark of Jimmy Callahan by preventing the old player from taking part in ball games with National agreement clubs. Callahan is no contract jumper. He quit major league ball after filling his contract with the White Sox and started an independent club in Chicago. The decision of the National Commission in making an outlaw of Callahan will act as a boomerang and make more friends for Jimmy in Chicago, where at the present time he is a great favorite."

In view of Callahan's many offenses against organized ball—such as harboring ineligible men, tempting National Agreement players, and openly defying all the constituted authorities of base ball—compared to which the simple contract-breaking offences of most of the Tri-State League ineligible are as nothing, how can Mr. Murnane's sudden change of mind and reversal of position be accounted for? Considering Mr. Murnane's several official positions, and his influence as a press-writer, we fear that he is doing himself and the game an injury merely out of goodness of heart or to please and help an old friend.

Just at this time the one thing needful to prevent the little rivulets in the base ball bulwarks from becoming dyke-destroying floods is consistency and stern adherence to the law. Now more than ever it behooves all base ball officials, and all having influence with players and public, to hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may.

### 'WARE THE WEED.

The veteran pitcher, "Cy" Young, of the Boston Club, declares that the most baneful habit young players can indulge in is cigarette-smoking. Cigars in moderation are not harmful, declares Young, but cigarettes are deadly to the physical qualities most necessary to success in the strenuous base ball game. As Young has pitched 19 years in the major leagues and is still as good physically and professionally as in his halcyon days, his opinion is entitled to at least respectful consideration by all young men

who have entered, or expect to enter, upon base ball playing as a vocation. The fact that excessive cigarette-smoking is conducive to that most wearing and destructive physical aberration, insomnia, alone should cause the noxious weed to be shunned by all ball players.

### THE 1908 UMPIRES.

The much-abused umpire is an indispensable adjunct of the game of base ball. He is necessarily the autocrat of the diamond, and upon his ability, judgment and knowledge depends the successful conduct of every game played, no matter what the class or condition. Furthermore, upon the umpire's integrity chiefly rests the good repute of base ball because he, more than any one player, or many players combined, has the opportunity for successful crooked work were he disposed to yield to temptation for financial or other reasons.

It is a wonderful tribute to umpires as a class, to be able to state that among the hundreds of men who have officiated as umpires in "organized ball" within the past three decades, only one (Dick Highan) was convicted of crookedness, and against no other umpire was there even a suspicion of wrong-doing. We doubt if the same thing could be said of any other body of men of equal numbers and under similar conditions of temptation and comparative immunity from detection. This applies to the umpires of the present as well as of the past, therefore we deem it fitting to give a list of the men who have been selected to officiate in the various leagues operating this season under the protection of the National Agreement:

National League—Robert Emslie, William Johnstone, William Klem, Frank Rudderham, Henry O'Day, William Rigler.  
American League—John Sheridan, Frank O'Loughlin, Thomas Connolly, Timothy Hurst, John W. Eagan, William Evans.  
Eastern League—John Stafford, W. J. Sullivan, Thos. B. Kelly, J. H. Conway, August Moran.  
American Association—Gerald Hayes, William List, John Kerins, W. Bierhalter, Stephen Kane, Clarence Owens.  
Southern League—W. B. Carpenter, J. J. O'Brien, Dan Pfenniger, D. K. Fitzsimmons.  
Tri-State League—William Connors, James Fineran, James Bannon, Thomas Walker.  
Connecticut League—Charles Kennedy, R. Rorty, H. K. McCloud, John Wilkinson.  
New York League—William Cusack, James Brady, William Hoffer, B. Pfeffer.  
New England League—M. J. Steckdale, Edward J. Murphy, Michael O'Brien, Frank Connolly, Joseph O'Brien.  
Virginia League—Harry Mace, Fred Westerveldt, William Bryan.  
Central League—Frank Killen, John McKenzie, Ollie Chill, John Connolly, Charles Wesson.  
I. I. I. League—John Walsh, William Setley, Eugene McCreary, Maurice Danily.  
Ohio-Pennsylvania League—William Bannon, Frank Hardy, Al. Weddigs, H. Pastorious.  
Ohio League—E. S. Hindboe, O. E. Sheldon, Robert Hart, F. J. Milligan.  
South Atlantic League—W. J. Buckley, W. Finley, J. W. Langan.  
Western League—J. Haskell, W. Brennan, Ira Davis.  
Cotton States League—Lewis C. Hall, J. J. Banimer, Sam Larocque.  
Wisconsin League—John Flynn, L. Kehlen, Joseph Walker, James H. Elder, John Otelle.  
Texas League—Wirt Spencer, W. H. Severs, Chris Ohio, Frank Barrett.  
Western Association—Joseph Burke, Edward Pokorney, P. Shuster, C. Alloway, A. Finnie, H. Hoffman.  
Wisconsin-Illinois League—John Flynn, John Miller, S. J. Killen, Joseph Miller.

There is quite a little army of indicator-handlers, all officially appointed and regularly salaried, and all men of more or less ability and experience for their onerous and difficult tasks. Doubtless not one in a hundred of our readers ever, before perusal of the above list, realized that there were so many professional umpires employed in the great base ball field. This one item of unavoidable league obligation, including salaries and traveling expenses, alone mounts to formidable proportions, and illustrates strikingly what a huge thing professional base ball has grown to be. May it grow still larger and greater!

### STRAINING FOR POINTS.

Detroit "Journal."

In Wednesday's game Manager Jones, of Chicago, tried a play that brought to light another obsolete rule in the joke code which governs the national pastime, and resulted in a protest of the game. The result of the battle made the protest non-essential, but it may be brought to the attention of the league authorities for the sake of establishing whether or not the interpretation of the ruling made by Umpire O'Loughlin is correct. Dougherty

WAS ON THIRD

with two out, in the third inning. He had reached that station by way of a hit, a steal and Jones' out. Davis was swinging his war club, and had two strikes and three balls called. As soon as Siever perched on the slab ready for another delivery Pat started for the plate on the run. Siever fired the ball home and Payne jumped in front of the plate, preventing any possible swat at the leather by Davis. The Tiger backstop caught the ball, and of course,

touched Pat out. The Sox made the claim that Payne had interfered with the batsman by jumping in front of him and that the play was illegal. O'Loughlin ruled the runner out on the ground that Siever had not pitched the ball, but had thrown it home, and therefore the catcher had the same right as in the case of a throw from any other infielder.

### RATHER COMPLICATED.

The rules penalize interference with a batsman seriously, but it now will be up to the authorities to declare when a pitcher is a pitcher, and when he is an infielder, also when the catcher is a backstop and not a fourth baseman. With a pitcher standing on his slab, ready to pitch, it will be necessary to use the red and green semaphore of the block system. So long as the pitcher stands motionless the red light could be made to show, warning the runner that the plate is "set" against him, but as soon as the pitcher starts his motion to deliver the ball the green light would indicate a clear path.

### WISE SAYINGS OF GREAT MEN.

\*Laugh and the world laughs with you, which is much better than being laughed at.—W. J. Shettsline.

\*You never find a watchmaker talking against time.—"Chief" Bender.

\*The only advantage about looking for trouble, is that you may be prepared to dodge it when it comes.—Walter Burnham.

\*The luck that seems to come easiest is hard luck.—John I. Taylor.

\*The secretary of a meeting keeps the minutes, but may take his own time about it.—Joe McCready.

\*We are never to old to learn the latest wrinkle.—N. E. Young.

\*The trouble with luck is that it seldom comes back to play a return engagement.—Edwin Hyemman.

\*Even the most accomplished hustler can't catch up with to-morrow.—Harry Stevens.

\*It's when a man gets on top that he can write his name at the bottom of a check.—Charles W. Murphy.

\*The shoe dealer should be the sole owner of his business.—Waldo Clafin.

\*Nature's handicaps may be overcome. Even the fellow who is bald may become a man of many parts.—Frank Isbell.

\*The cashier of a bank, as well as the janitor, looks out for the dust.—John K. Tener.

\*It's a good thing to bottle your wrath and then lose the corkscrew.—George T. Stallings.

### FIELD-DAY EVENTS.

Cincinnati "Times-Star."

Looks a trifle hazy for the world's championship field day this year. Nobody wants to take the initiative in proposing a plan for these events. Chairman Herrmann, of the National Commission, says it's not his job to start the ball rolling. President Pulliam, of the National League, doesn't see where he comes in as the projector of the events for 1908. President Johnson, of the American League, seems to feel that there should be somebody, not of the name of Johnson, to set the scheme in motion. And so there has been

### ABSOLUTELY NOTHING DONE

toward having another series of contests to determine who are the best individual performers in certain inside departments of base ball. Meanwhile the season is slipping along and it is decidedly necessary that some steps be taken at once to pull off the sports this season, if they are to be perpetuated at all. "While there has been some desultory talk about the world's championship field events for this year," said Chairman Herrmann, of the National Commission, the other day, "no definite action has been taken. It's up to somebody

### TO START THE THING GOING,

and then the Commission can act. The plan that has found the most favor is to hold the games in some city where all the teams of the leagues can send their representatives with as little trouble as possible and as little loss of time. Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit or Buffalo, I should judge, would be good cities. But until some one takes the initiative in starting the thing going there will be no action by the Commission as a Commission in fathering the events."

### PUBLIC OPINION.

A Tribute To "Sporting Life" And Its Editor From Afar.

San Francisco, Cal., May 4.—Editor "Sporting Life."—Enclosed please find check for renewal of my subscription to dear old "Sporting Life." As you must know I am not one of the "new subscribers," but am getting to be an old timer. Cannot get along very well without my regular weekly visitor. I was sorry to hear of Father Chadwick's death. He was a grand old man, and we shall all miss him and his timely words of warning and advice, as published in your valuable paper. It is now up to you, Mr. Richter, to fill his place, as I can recall no other individual to whom the game owes so much. I believe a movement should be started looking to the erection of a monument to the "Father of Base Ball," and I, for one, am ready to contribute my share at any time. Wonder if "Sporting Life" will undertake such a task? Kind regards, and congratulations on your recent anniversary. Yours truly,

G. E. WILSON.

### A New York Voice.

Irrington, N. Y., May 2.—Editor "Sporting Life."—Dear Sir:—I take great pleasure to thank you for that valuable schedule, which you kindly for-

warded me during the past week. Being a constant reader of your valuable paper for the last five years, I can safely say it is the best paper ever printed on base ball (that great and only game). Long may "Sporting Life" live and prosper. Yours respectfully,

J. F. CONNOLLY.

### PRESS POINTERS.

Another View of the Mooted Double-Steal Question.

From Cincinnati "Commercial."

In a recent interview regarding the scoring rules President Pulliam has been quoted as giving a stolen base to the man running from first to second on a double steal, even though the man running from second to third is caught. This is by no means fair to the catcher, and it does not advance the team's chances in the least. In case the man running to third is not caught, then it is reasonable to suppose that the man on first base stands an excellent chance of reaching second by stealing anyway, thus it is reasonable to give him a stolen base. It is unfair in the other case, however, for it is impossible for the catcher to throw to both sacks at the same time, and the penalty of having a stolen base registered against him when it is absolutely no fault of his does not seem just, when the fact is considered that he has held the team to the same relative position on the bases, and, at the same time, advanced his own team's chance by putting the man out at third. It is indeed hard to believe that Mr. Pulliam really made this decision.

### Home Runs Differentiated.

From New York "Times."

The kind of home runs that the cranks like to see most are not those which will sail over a convenient fence, but the sort that keep in the field, roll and roll and offer some sort of a chance for the fielder to get the ball in and head off the runner. The wallops that clear the ramparts are all one sided.

### Not In Accord With The Rule.

From Memphis "Appeal."

Scorers from several sections in the Southern States, especially from the organized leagues, are writing to Judge W. M. Kavanaugh, asking for enlightenment on rules of scoring. The new sacrifice has come in for attention from many who have asked whether the batter should be credited with a sacrifice for his long fly to an outfielder on which the runner from third comes home—after the outfielder drops the ball. President Kavanaugh says that common sense judgment should govern this play; that if the scorer is of opinion that the runner could have beaten the throw in, that the batter is entitled to the credit of sending the ball far enough away from the plate to have made the run possible; therefore he is entitled to a sacrifice, and is exempted from a time at bat.

### Perhaps They Didn't Say It.

From New York "American."

There's nothing like candor. Manager McCloskey and McAleer practically agree that neither St. Louis team has a chance for a pennant by picking the Chicago clubs to duplicate the feat of 1906.

### Lesson of Cy Young's Career.

From Boston "Globe."

The season is only three weeks old and the following facts have come to light. Denton Tomsen Young, with his 18th straight year in the field, is not only as good as ever, but actually more effective in the box than for several years. Lou Criger, who has caught Young's pitching for 10 years, says that his old partner has cut out some of that fierce speed and crosses the batsmen with slows and benders. Isn't that a great lesson to the players to look out for their health and get the big money? The fan who says, "Oh, they couldn't play ball 15 or 20 years ago," is cornered when Young's name is mentioned, for the old war horse has no superior at the present time, and is there in warm as well as cold weather and goes from start to finish each season.

### This is a Very Old Story.

From Philadelphia "Inquirer."

As a rule ball players and managers do not keep very close tabs on the progress of the sport. In a Southern hotel 12 players of the St. Louis National and Washington American teams were gathered, with Managers McCloskey and Cantillon also present, and not one of the bunch could tell the exact year in which the foul strike rule was first in force.

### Detroit In Embarrassing Position.

From Cleveland "Leader."

A peculiar situation is going to confront the Tigers in the near future. Instead of hoisting the 1907 pennant at the beginning of the season, the thrifty Detroit owners thought to pluck two good things and opened with Cleveland and some ball throwing stunts by the Governor and Mayor. Thereupon hangs the peculiar sit. When the "pennant proudly floats," as the artistic are wont to write, Detroit will be somewhere in the second division, not far from Washington, which is as little as can be said of any ball club. Oh, grief!

### "PLAY BALL," THE CRY.

E. A. Eaton in Harper's Weekly.

The Small Boy is shrieking, "Play ball!"  
Through knot-holes he's peering, "Play ball!"  
With ecstatic features—  
Like most rooting creatures—  
At this time of year—  
He's fled toward the bleachers,  
Half crazy to hear  
The praising, the blaming,  
The fans all exclaiming,  
"Play ball! Play ball!"

That Boy how he rubbers—"One strike!"  
And then almost blubbers—"Two strikes!"  
And fear stills his chatting,  
For Sluggo is batting.  
"Cheer! Will he strike out?"  
His heart's pit-a-patting,  
And then there's a shout.  
The pitcher they're guying,  
The horsehide goes skyling,  
"Well done! Well done!"  
From third Sluggo's flying—"Home run!"

The Cop's movements timing with sense,  
That Boy now is climbing the fence,  
He swiftly drops over,  
And thinks he's in clover—  
The Land of the Rest—  
But naughty young rover,  
He gets little rest,  
For while he is sitting,  
Concerning not paying,  
"It's cinched! It's cinched!"  
The big Cop is braying, "You're pinched!"

That Boy soon goes hence with his nerve,  
Sails back o'er the fence with a curve,  
While rooters are cheering,  
His little game's queering,  
"You're out!" "He's out!"  
While rooters are jeering, "One out!"