

THE NATIONAL GAME

News of the Week Among the Ball Players.

The annual meeting of the Western Association will convene in Des Moines, January 10th, and as the time draws nearer it is evident that the meeting will be a red hot one. There are at present nine clubs in the league; not counting St. Paul which has been surrendered to the Western League and it is now a question whether the association will take in another city and make it a ten club league or drop one of the cities now holding a franchise. Rockford is wild over base ball and will almost sell its court house, post office, or anything it has got to get into the Western Association, and while it is not a large as some of the other cities the people have raised \$1800 and will send Hugh Nichol to the meeting. They are willing to give a bond as evidence of good faith and promise to finish the season. At present the National League is trying to cut from twelve clubs. Magnates say there are too many tail enders and it does not seem a good thing to have ten clubs in a minor league. Last season the Western Association was the most successful minor organization in the country and it does seem that the best thing to do is to throw out Jacksonville and take in Sioux City.

Dave Rowe is a pretty smooth politician and if he wants anything he is not the least backward about asking for it. He realizes the fact that Lincoln people are after his scalp and he threatens to throw out all cities that do not play Sunday ball. He does not seem to know that the supreme court has decided that it is against the law to play Sunday ball in the state and if he gets real funny some one will stop the Sunday games in Omaha. Dave has both papers in Omaha on his staff so to speak and the *World-Herald* shows how Omaha paid Lincoln \$700 more last season than Lincoln paid Omaha. They do not take into consideration the fact that four Sunday games were transferred to Omaha. The reason the place of meeting was changed to Des Moines is because Dave hoped to get another vote for himself. When he was elected president he promised that he would have nothing to do with any club in the Association, yet he was the individual who got most of Kid Fear's salary last year. If men's word is worth anything the next president of the Western Association will be W. W. Kent. The talk of throwing Lincoln out is all rot. Lincoln was second to the best city in the association last year without Sunday ball and if the directors of the Lincoln club are wise they will not attempt to play Sunday games next season. Sunday games draw out all the tough element and keep the good class of people away and it is hoped for the good of base ball in Lincoln that the season of 1895 will be in one respect like the season just past, viz.—a nice, clean nine of gentlemanly ball players and an audience that a man dare take his wife, daughter or sweetheart among.

Fred Pfeffer, the "blacklisted" second baseman, will coach the Princeton college team this year.

Ed Flannigan, who at one time played first base for the Lincoln club was married last Thursday in Dover, Conn.

The Pittsburg National league club will train for the great race at Hot Springs, Ark. Big Jake Beckley, who was always a favorite in Lincoln will start January 15th to get into condition.

Lincoln and Des Moines are the two cities in the Western Asso-

ciation that are getting their teams signed early. All Des Moines lacks is a catcher and Lincoln absolutely needs no more men. The team next season will not only be a better fielding one than last year, but great care has been taken by Manager Ebright to get players who can hit the ball hard and often. Next week THE COURIER will publish the batting and fielding averages of the men who will represent our city next year.

The two men signed since the last issue are Ernie Gragg, who pitched for Des Moines last season and Lou Myers of the Atlanta club of the Southern league.

Lincoln is particularly fortunate in having so good a manager as Buck Ebright. All of the best players in the Western Association want to come to Lincoln next year and Buck is accomodating as many of them as he can and keep in the limit. While some of the people say that Mr. Ebright is hard man to play ball for he is in reality one of the easiest. He tongue-lashes the boys somewhat stirringly at times, perhaps, but under the same circumstances other managers would deduct a large slice of salary. If a player only puts up an honest, intelligent game Buck will treat him as well as any man in America. He means to give the patrons of the game the worth of their money and it is not his fault when they fail to get it.

Omaha so far has Shaeffer, of last year's Peoria team, O'Brien, a third baseman from Pittsburg, and Slagle, an outfielder who no one knows anything about.

Dave Rowe has seen fit to re-instate Kid Fear and he will probably play in Grand Rapids next season.

The Sunday *Bee* intimates that Pittsburg holds a string on Taylor who will play in our outfield. This is not true. The contract was made with Taylor for the full season of 1895 and he has already received his advance money. If any club wants him they will have to purchase his release from Lincoln.

Jacksonville has not secured a manager for next year.

The Peoria team will be captained and managed by Ed Dugdale who has been with the Washington National league team the past season.

Peoria and Quincy have secured new grounds.

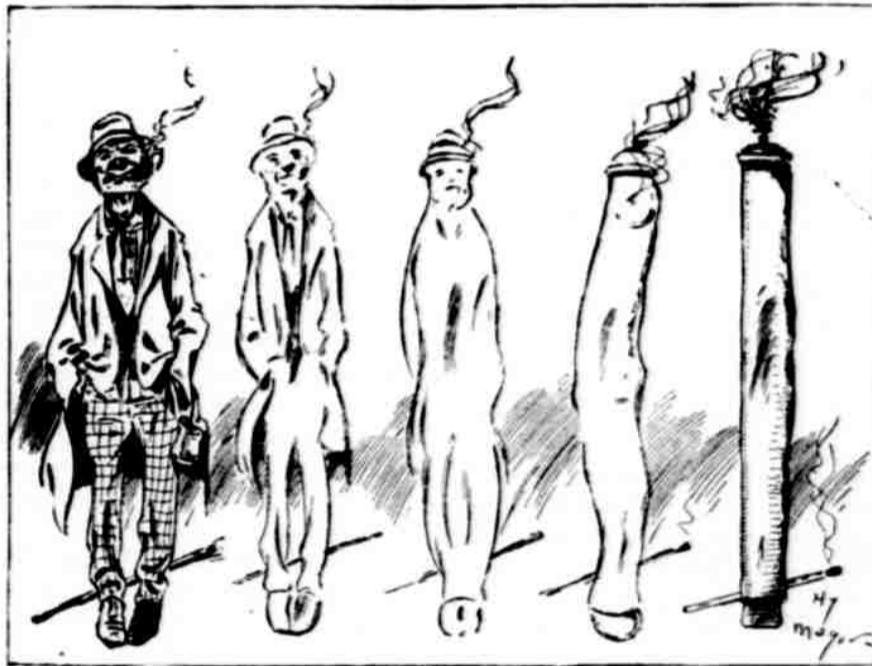
The prospects for the Western Association were never brighter than at present and some of the cities have a good number of players signed though they do not say who the players are. The patrons will be furnished with a little faster ball next season as there are several very fast men in the teams already made up.

The newspapers of each town in the western association are busy these cold days winning the 1895 pennant.

Peoria has signed Flynn to play centerfield for next season.

Billy Turner thinks that Youngy Johnson is the best pitcher who ever "tossed them over" in Lincoln.

Base ball in St. Joe is a sure thing this year.



EVOLUTION OF THE -BUM- TO THE -BOMB.