

BASE BALL GOSSIP.

CURRENT SAYINGS AND DOINGS ON THE DIAMOND.

The Controversy Over the Sunday Playing Problem—Manager Schmelz Says That There Is No Plan on Foot Among Eastern Managers.



MANAGER Schmelz, of the Washington Club, is very enthusiastic over the outlook for baseball at the Capitol City the coming season, and predicts that his team will hold a good position in the major league race for the pennant at the end of next season.

He says: "If three men on the Washington team do as well next season as they did last, our club will land in the first division. By three men I mean Mercer, McJames and King. With these men in the pitcher's position, and in good condition, we can hold our own with any team. Cartwright is the best fielding baseman in the business. His batting last year was not as strong as was expected, but at the same time it was not as weak as is generally supposed. O'Brien was handicapped last year at second base. By that I mean he came to Washington with a big reputation, and the public expected too much of him from the start. But he is all right, and will do some clever work at that point of the diamond this year. Young Smith will not be able to join the team until the first of June, as his studies will keep him at school until then. If he could begin the season with us, we would not want any other third baseman. But, knowing he could not do so, we engaged Reilly. If the latter can play anything like as well as he did when he made his reputation with me in 1895, as a member of the Columbus team, of the American Association, Smith's absence will not hurt us to any extent. It would be singular if Reilly should jump in this year and play again as he did in 1899. That year he ranked nineteenth in a field of one hundred and thirty-two batsmen, and third as a third baseman, according to the official averages of the American Association. However, I wouldn't have the slightest hesitancy in putting young Wrigley at third base in case Reilly's work was not satisfactory. Wrigley's playing in the in-field last year was almost unprecedented for a new man in such fast company as the major league is. In left field we have Selbach, and there is no better man playing that position in any club. Tom Brown, in center field, seems good for many years yet. If he hadn't played the latter part of last season with the 'Charley horse,' his batting average would have been better than it was. Many an in-field hit that he was retired on he would have beaten out had he been in perfect health, for there are few if any faster runners in the business than Brown is. We have fortunately two men who can jump in and play what we call at Washington 'our sun field,' in Lush and Abbey. It is a very difficult position. Many fine fielders almost go blind when they first attempt to play in right field at our ball park. We had another star outfielder under consideration, and tried hard to get him, but failed. The club he was with would not part with him."

A Clever Young Pitcher. 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 baseball 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 played 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 1895 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.

Diamond Dust. An item is going the rounds of the press to the effect that "President Byrne says that city ordinances, and not morality, prevents four of the members of the Big Five playing Sunday games." How absurd! What city ordinance is it that prevents them from playing Sunday games in the West, as other Eastern teams do? Manager Tebeau of the Cleveland club says he has received a letter from President Hart of the Chicago, in which the latter has made the former flattering offers regarding a Western trip of the Chicago and Cleveland teams. It is to be a series of exhibition games to be played in March while the two teams are traveling through Arkansas and Texas.

It is announced that the officials of the Brooklyn club will make an effort at the annual spring meeting to have a rule passed to allow them to charge twenty-five and fifty cents admission to their grounds. They have an idea that the plan will work to as great an advantage as it does at Philadelphia. At popular prices Brooklyn is looked upon as one of the best baseball cities in the Union. The Cleveland club has rented ball grounds near that city for the purpose of playing Sunday games during the coming season. Of all the baseball writers in the country not one outside of the city of Louisville commends the action of the Louisville directors in voting \$500 to be devoted to five prizes of \$100 each to be given to the local players excelling in batting, base running, fielding, sacrifice hits and winning pitching. If the Western league managers continue to rob each other of players, after the fashion in which Comiskey looted Minneapolis and Detroit sand-bagged



PRESIDENT BYRNE. Milwaukee, their lovely little coterie will be split into factions and their neat and compact league drift onto the rocks of discord and dissolution. For twenty years Anson managed, captained and played for the Chicago team, and there was never a scratch of a pen or a piece of paper to show that he was in the employ of the Chicago club. Last year the rules made it imperative that every player should sign, and for the first time in his long years of service with the Chicago club his contract was sent on to President Young for promulgation.

Sunday Games in the East. Colonel John I. Rogers, treasurer of the Philadelphia Club, when spoken to about the story emanating from Cleveland to the effect that Messrs. Abell, Byrne, Brush and Robison were preparing to fight for Sunday ball games, even if it means the disruption of the major league, said: "There is absolutely no fight in the major league at present regarding the playing of Sunday games, nor will there be one. That question was settled finally at the annual Fall meeting of the major league in 1895. As matters now stand, it is optional with the clubs whether or not they play Sunday games. Personally, we are opposed to Sunday baseball, and the Philadelphia will not be permitted to play either exhibition or championship games on the Sabbath. However, if other clubs choose to play it is none of our business, and we do not propose to make it such. I do not believe that Sunday baseball was ever broached at the conference which Abell, Byrne and Robison attended while at Cleveland recently. In fact, I know the meeting was called for another purpose altogether. All these stories in regard to dissension and dissatisfaction in the major league are groundless. In the first place, there is no such organization as the 'Big Five,' Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Chicago and Pittsburgh voted together at the last meeting at Chicago, but we have no interests in common, nor have we ever held a caucus of any kind. From all indications the February meeting of the major league will be harmonious in every way, and those persons who are expecting something sensational to occur will be disappointed. Beyond the adoption of a schedule of championship games, which has already been made out, and the usual harmless tinkering with the playing rules, there will be nothing of importance done at the meeting."

Lord Nelson on the Stage. Lord Nelson is the latest historical character to be put on the English stage, and Forbes Robertson will appear as that hero in a play based on his relations with Lady Hamilton. The action of the play is said to commence after Lady Hamilton has ceased her relationship with Dr. Graham. The principal theme of the new play is Lady Hamilton's connection with Lord Nelson and her good influence over him. Charles Greville and Sir William Hamilton are other personages in the play.

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MAY RUIN TAMMANY.

PURROY-SHEEHAN FEUD IS LIKELY TO END ORGANIZATION.

Its Political Influence Endangered by the Factional Quarrel Ambition of the Former to Be Grand Sachem Causes Great Trouble.



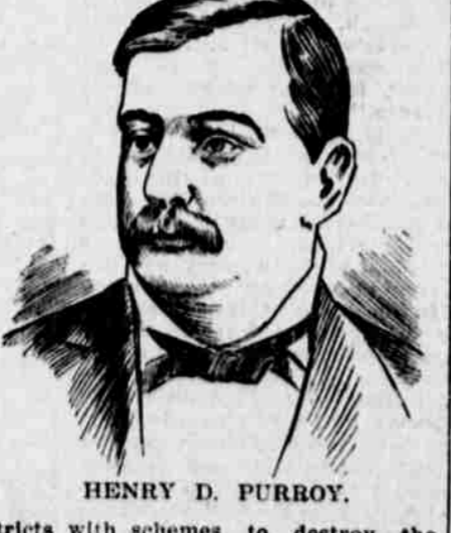
(New York Letter.) HE recent split in Tammany hall may prove to be the beginning of the end of that organization as a political factor in this city. The Tammany society will go on as before, for it should be remembered that it is not in politics and never was. A little digression from the purpose of this article, just at the outset, will be useful in getting straight the popular conception of this far-famed organization.

The Society of Tammany, or Columbian Order, was formed in 1789, and was the result of a popular movement in New York which sought to counteract the so-called aristocratic Society of the Cincinnati. It was anti-federalist in its character. Its founder was William Mooney, an upholsterer, of Irish descent, not born in America. The society took its name from a noted chief of the Delaware tribe of Indians, who had been canonized by the soldiers of the revolution as the American patron saint. The first meeting of the society was held on May 12, 1789, and it was incorporated in 1805. The society is now, as it always has been, a charitable and social organization. It is governed by a grand sachem, who is assisted by thirteen sachems, suggested by the thirteen original states of the union.

The general committee, which constitutes the political organization of the Tammany society, is permitted to occupy the latter's rooms in its building on Fourteenth street, but is really in no other way associated with it. It is in this general committee that the Purroy-Sheehan feud has at last reached a crisis and promises to wreck that once all-powerful political body. Henry D. Purroy is county clerk. He is ambitious to reach the position in the general committee once occupied by the "great" Croker—all powerful he was there—for it is only by the aid of the authority and influence of such a position that he can hope for anything in the future politically. John C. Sheehan occupies this coveted position now. As the organization has not been at all successful since Sheehan was placed at the head, Purroy has conceived the idea that it would not be difficult to overthrow him and step into his shoes. So he has been intriguing and working for a long time to this end. Open warfare was declared the other day when Purroy and his followers rejected the plans of the executive committee for the primaries in the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth assembly districts.

The hostility between Purroy and Sheehan has been growing for a year and a half. It began to take tangible form soon after the Chicago convention. Purroy went to the convention as a "sound money" man, but he switched over to the silver men and was one of the ardent supporters of Bryan after the convention. When he returned from Chicago he did not wait for Tammany to declare itself, but tried to take the local campaign out of the hands of Sheehan by organizing the Bryan and Sewall Central association. He sent broadcast marked copies of papers containing copies of his speeches, especially to Bryan. He confidently expected that Bryan would be elected, and he wanted to make sure that the control of patronage in this vicinity would be placed in his hands.

Failing in this direction, Purroy and his followers took steps which led up to the formal withdrawal from Tammany. They claimed that Sheehan invaded the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth districts with schemes to destroy the principle of home rule. These districts are loyal to Purroy and are controlled by him. Sheehan, Purroy says, caused the defeat of the regular democratic nominees for the assembly in these districts and fomented opposition to the regular organization in them. The anti-Purroy leaders in these districts recommended open primaries, lasting seven hours, although they were restricted to two hours in the other districts, the object being, it was said, to give everybody, whatever his politics, a chance to vote, provided he was a friend of Sheehan's. The Tammany executive committee approved this plan, as did the committee on organization. Protests were filed against the regular committees in the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth districts, signed by several thousand Tammany democrats.



Henry D. Purroy. The members of the regular committees of these districts, under the leadership of Purroy, then met at their district headquarters and defied the tiger. The meeting in the Thirty-fifth district, at which Purroy spoke, was by far the livelier of the two. Purroy there threw off the mask and paid his compliments to Sheehan. One of his lieutenants moved the appointment of John P. Reilly, Henry Trotter and Chas. Sotoloso as inspectors of the district primary, and the motion was carried by a vote of 300 to 3. The designation of these inspectors had been the bone of contention at the afternoon meeting in Tammany hall. The Purroy men were convinced that the Tammany executive committee, acting on the advice of Mr. Sheehan, would take the selection out of their hands, and they resolved to forestall the wigwag leader. "This resolution is proper," said Purroy, "but it will not avail in Fourteenth street, where the putative leader, John C. Sheehan, has determined you shall be disfranchised in the primaries. He intends to use the methods of a highwayman, and your resolution will be hurled when it reaches the men he controls in Tammany. Sheehan started in to wreck the Tammany organization in this district. The voters who are in the democratic party in this city will not tolerate a defaulter at the head of Tammany Hall. Sheehan's knowledge of theft in Buffalo, which caused him to flee that city, may point him the way to steal primaries here, but while he can win here by might in setting up a so-called leadership of his own making, it is our duty to resist his every step until no one in Tammany hall will own the dishonored leadership of a discredited man."

NEW CABINET SWORN.

ALL OATHS TAKEN BEFORE THE PRESIDENT.

The Ceremony Performed in the White House—The New Secretary of the Treasury Announces the Chief Justice's Words.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—President McKinley was at his desk at 9 o'clock this morning and after attending to some public business he signed the commissions of members of the new cabinet. General Alger, Cornelius N. Bliss and Mr. Gary, members of the new cabinet, arrived at 10:15 o'clock and went directly to the President's apartments, where Mr. Wilson of Iowa preceded them. All of the others except Mr. Gage appeared soon afterward and at 11:30 o'clock, after a brief exchange of courtesies, were led by Mr. McKinley and Mr. Sherman to the blue room, looking southward toward the Potomac river. Here Chief Justice Fuller and the justices of the Supreme court were assembled. The President and his advisers greeted the justices and the formalities of administering the oaths were begun at once.

Mr. Sherman was first, the chief justice administering the oath, while the venerable statesman held up his right hand and repeated the constitutional obligation. Then followed the other cabinet officers in the order of their rank. Justice Gray of Massachusetts administered the oath to John D. Long, secretary of the navy, and also a citizen of the old Bay state. For this same reason of locality, Justice Brown, formerly of Michigan, administered the oath to General Alger as secretary of war. All the other oaths were administered by the chief justice. The new cabinet did not return upstairs, but separated without the formality of a cabinet meeting.

MR. GAGE'S OATH OF OFFICE. Mr. Gage took the oath in the secretary's office in the treasury department at noon, Chief Justice Fuller of the supreme court, another Chicagoan, administering the oath in the presence of a distinguished company, which included the relatives and friends of Mr. Gage, part of the Illinois delegation in Congress, and the principal officers of the treasury. The secretary's room was opened at 11 o'clock to the guests who had been invited to witness the ceremony. They were received by Secretary Carlisle and Mr. Gage and Private Secretaries Van Selden and Vanderlip. Many ladies were in the party, and it had the semblance of a social gathering during the time of waiting for the chief justice. Chief Justice Fuller appeared a few minutes before noon, accompanied by Mr. McKenny, the clerk of the supreme court, who carried the new Secretary's commission. Mr. Gage and the chief justice stood behind the Secretary's desk facing the spectators, with Secretary Carlisle in the background. Both Mr. Gage and Chief Justice Fuller raised their right hands, the chief justice read the oath and Mr. Gage repeated it after him, sentence by sentence. The first sentence was, "I, Lyman J. Gage of Illinois, do solemnly swear," but Mr. Gage declared, "I, Lyman J. Gage of Chicago, Illinois," the emphasis which he put on the added word, "Chicago," inspiring a smile.

When the oath had been repeated Secretary Carlisle stepped forward and took his successor's hand, saying: "I want to congratulate you and wish you every success."

CALLERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE. During the morning Mr. McKinley received calls from many public men, including Senators Proctor of Vermont, Allison and Gear of Iowa, Quay of Pennsylvania, Mills of Texas, Davis and Nelson of Minnesota and Spooner of Wisconsin, ex-Senators Sawyer of Wisconsin and Brown of Utah; Representatives Hopkins, Reeves and Murphy of Illinois, Lacey of Iowa, C. W. Stone and Beyburn of Pennsylvania, Walker of Massachusetts, Dolliver of Iowa and Grosvenor of Ohio. Senators and members of the House were ushered into Secretary Porter's office and thence to the President as fast as business would permit. The calls were mainly those of courtesy. The Fifteenth Ward Republican club of Philadelphia, in silk hats and drab coats, arrived about 10 o'clock and were received by the President in the East room.

Read Certain to Be Speaker Again. WASHINGTON, March 8.—It is certain that there will be no opposition whatever to the re-election of Speaker Reed by the Republicans of the new House. Neither Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio nor Mr. Hopkins of Illinois desires to run. So well assured is Mr. Reed's election that members are already presenting to him their requests for committee assignments.

TORNADO IN KENTUCKY. A Number of Towns Struck and Much Damage Done. WINCHESTER, Ky., March 8.—A terrific wind storm struck Winchester at noon to-day. William Clayton's residence was demolished, a business house at the corner of Maple and Washington streets was torn apart and along May street chimneys and shutters flew before the gale. Many buildings were unroofed. At Mount Sterling the McBrier distillery building was entirely unroofed and great damage was done. A negro suburban town to the southeast was in the way of the storm and several houses were blown away.

KING GEORGE DEFIANT.

Refuses to Obey the Formal Warning of the Powers.

ATHENS, March 8.—A statement made by King George is probably a forecast of the reply Greece will make to the identical notes of the powers, insisting upon the withdrawal of the Greek fleet and troops from Crete within the six days from noon on Monday last, the time the note was delivered. His majesty said: "Nothing will prosper in Greece until the question is definitely settled. The autonomy of Crete is out of the question, because the Cretans reject it and have lost faith in the promises of the powers. They prefer to die in their own defense rather than be slaughtered like the Armenians."

"The recall of the Greek troops from Crete would mean the signal for new massacres on a large scale, owing to the fierce fanaticism of the Mussulmans, who see they have the support of six great powers since the latter covered the Turkish attack on Christians and shelled the victorious Cretans, who were fighting for freedom and the cross, and at a moment when the Turks were compelled to retire."

Premier Delyannis, in an interview, is reported to have reiterated that the Greek troops would not be withdrawn from Crete, and to have expressed the fear that national clamor would compel the government to invade Turkey. Greece, he is quoted as having added, has not accepted the scheme for the autonomy of Crete which had been promised by the powers. The premier added that Greece would prefer to disappear from the map rather than withdraw her forces from Crete in the face of threats.

WITHOUT PARALLEL. Never Such a Storm Before as That on Thursday Night. CHICAGO, March 8.—The storm which raged throughout the Middle West on Thursday night stands unparalleled, not only for the great extent of territory over which it raged, but for the amount of water precipitated. At Cincinnati, the rainfall reported by the weather bureau of this city amounted to 5.38 inches, and floods are reported from every telegraphic station, from Pittsburg on the east to Kansas City on the west, and from the lakes to the northern boundary of Tennessee. At Cairo, Ill., several buildings were unroofed, and one dwelling was blown down, causing the death of an infant inmate.

Throughout southern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio the damage to railroad property, in the form of washouts, making traffic impossible, and in the wrecks caused by the softening of the roadbeds, is immense. A not inconsiderable loss to the people, as a whole, will be the washing away of bridges and roadways, which have been built up in the rural districts at a cost of millions of dollars, and which in many cases have been totally destroyed.

TRADE REVIEW. Bradstreet's Reports Better Feeling Throughout the Country. NEW YORK, March 8.—Bradstreet's says: "The new administration, the certainty of an extra session of congress within a fortnight, and the promise of a new tariff at an early day which shall provide adequate revenue and protection, have done much to stimulate a better feeling in trade circles and increase confidence in the near approach of an improvement in business. Favorable features are found in higher prices for wheat, corn, pork, lard and spirits of turpentine, as well as for steel billets. Steel mills are fairly well filled with orders, and in some lines are inclined to advance prices. Recent low quotations for various forms of iron and steel have been withdrawn, notably for wire and structural material. Confidence is expressed in an early advance of prices for tin, and for shoes and leather, based on the activity in hides."

THE POCKET VEToes. Will Entail Great Inconvenience Unless Extra Session Makes Appropriations. WASHINGTON, March 8.—The failure of President Cleveland to sign three appropriation bills, the sundry civil, agricultural and Indian, and the inability of Congress to agree upon the general deficiency bill, will entail much unexpected work upon the extra session of the new Congress and possibly may delay, to some extent, the enactment of the new tariff law. The regular appropriations for government service and public works carried by all of these bills except the deficiency are for the fiscal year beginning July 1, so that to repair the failure of the bills it will be necessary that they be re-enacted before that time, or that resolutions be passed continuing for a stated time the allowances for the current year.

Cut in Passenger Rates. KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 8.—The Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf railway has notified the interstate commerce commission that beginning on March 10 it will place in effect new short line passenger rates from Kansas City to Texas and Louisiana points. This action on the part of the Pittsburg & Gulf has been expected by competing lines when it gained entrance to Shreveport. The present passenger rates to many points in the south and southwest from Kansas City will be cut from \$2 to \$5 by the Pittsburg & Gulf. The reductions will average about \$2 on first class tickets and \$3 on second class.

Criminal Libel Charged. ST. JOSEPH, Mo., March 8.—Claude White, a reporter for the Herald, was arrested to-day on the charge of criminal libel for writing an article which appeared in the Herald practically accusing Prosecuting Attorney W. B. Norris of corruption on a statement made by a woman, who said she had paid him \$20 as a fine and costs in the case of her husband, under arrest for obtaining money under false pretenses. The prosecuting attorney will sue the Herald for defamation of character and other arrests may be made.

NO MORE BLANKET BALLOTS.

Senator Seaber's Bill Doing Away with Blanket Ballots and Substituting Separate Ballots for Each Party's Candidates Passed the House to-day.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 8.—Senator Seaber's bill doing away with blanket ballots and substituting separate ballots for each party's candidates passed the House to-day. It is said that the governor will sign the bill.

Famous Ball Player Dead. BALTIMORE, Md., March 8.—David L. Foutz, the great pitcher and right fielder, died here to-day at his home of asthma. Foutz managed the Brooklyn team last season. It was to get Foutz that St. Louis bought out the whole Bay City, Mich., team, stock, franchise and all.

St. Joseph, Mo., March 8.—Claude White, a reporter for the Herald, was arrested to-day on the charge of criminal libel for writing an article which appeared in the Herald practically accusing Prosecuting Attorney W. B. Norris of corruption on a statement made by a woman, who said she had paid him \$20 as a fine and costs in the case of her husband, under arrest for obtaining money under false pretenses. The prosecuting attorney will sue the Herald for defamation of character and other arrests may be made.

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