

BASE BALL TOPICS

CURRENT NEWS AND NOTES OF THE GAME.

What the Thousand-Dollar Forfeit Rule Does Not Cover—President Hart's Idea Seems to Be a Popular One—Fractional Scoring.

The New York club did not make itself liable to a penalty of \$1,000 by forfeiting a game either at St. Louis or New York, as has been erroneously stated in the daily papers. There are only two instances in which the \$1,000 fine is incurred, to-wit: the withdrawal of a team from a game and failure to report for a game. The penalty for forfeiture for other causes is \$500. The New York team did not withdraw from the game at St. Louis or Brooklyn in a body, but individual members of it refused to leave the field when ordered out of the game by the umpire within one minute, as required by section 6 of rule 25. Section 54 of the National League constitution reads as follows: "Sec. 54. A club shall be entitled to forfeited games—to count in its series as games won by a score of nine runs to none—in cases where the umpire in any championship game shall award the game to such club on account of the violation by the contesting club of any section of this constitution or of any playing rule; and in the event of such forfeiture being caused by the withdrawal of the players during the progress of the game, or by a failure to report with its team at the time fixed for the game, unless written notice has been received from the home club that the game cannot be played, then such forfeiting club shall incur a penalty of one thousand dollars, and in the event of forfeiture for any other cause, five hundred dollars, which shall be payable to the secretary of the league within ten days thereafter for the use and benefit of the non-offending club, but said fine may be remitted or modified upon appeal and a hearing by the board of directors. In addition to the penalty above referred to, the captain or manager, or the person in charge of the offending team leaving the field, shall incur a penalty of one hundred dollars, which shall be paid within five days to the secretary of the league, said penalty not to be remitted under any circumstances. In case such penalties are not paid within the time named, the club and player cannot participate in a championship game."

Accidents on the Field.

The animosities of the ball field are laid aside, as a rule, when an accident occurs, but such was not the case when Wolverton and Nichols of the Chicagoans came together in a collision, which came near putting them out of the game for all time. Not one of their teammates went to their assistance, and Manager Burns showed his indifference by remaining on the players' bench. The St. Louis players, who are frequently alluded to as toughs and rowdies, promptly did everything they could to make the injured players comfortable and improvised a litter from a panel of fencing, which they tore down, on which the sufferers were taken from the field. When a subscription is started among the National League players for a deserving cause Tebeau and his men always respond liberally and promptly, and while they go beyond bounds at times in the excitement of the game, they never lag when they have a chance to do a ball player a good turn and they are not hunting newspaper offices to have their good deeds heralded through the country, either.—Sporting News.

St. Louis' New "Southpaw."

Mike Donlin, the premier pitcher of the California League, who has ac-



MIKE DONLIN.

cepted an offer from Manager Tebeau with the St. Louis club, was born on May 30, 1878, at Erie, Pa., where he made a good reputation as an amateur ball player. He made his California debut in Los Angeles. He signed with the Santa Cruz club this season, and his wonderful work has been a big factor in securing the lead for it. He is the California League's best batsman, his record to date being 421. On the lines he is extremely fast and is a clever outfielder, which position he fills for Santa Cruz when not on the slab. Donlin has lost but one game this season and in that Jay Hughes of Brooklyn, then with the Sacramento club, was pitted against him. Donlin's opponents got but four scattered hits, while nine were placed to the credit of the batsman opposing Hughes. Santa Cruz lost the game by rank errors. Since that game Donlin has held his opponents down to from two to six

hits, striking out from seven to fifteen men a game. The great southpaw weighs 172 pounds and stands five feet nine inches.

Fractional Scoring.

A Chicago contemporary who suggests a system of fractional scoring of ball games advances this argument among others in support of the scheme: "The idea of fractional scoring is receiving serious attention from more than one follower of the national game. A present the puzzled scorer is compelled to select some player and assign him an error, perhaps awarding an assist to an almost equally guilty fielder; or he omits the error altogether because he cannot determine the guilty party. The case of a low throw to a base, which the baseman ought to stop, yet which cannot be charged against him, is the most common instance of this divided error. The fault of allowing a fluke hit to drop beyond the infield also might be divided between the pursuing fielders. The present scoring rules, as far as fielding goes, are an absolute absurdity. Except as regards the number of chances offered, whether accepted or not, they are never referred to. A reform in the scoring rules is needed if fielding is to be judged correctly, and perhaps the fractional allotment of errors might be serviceable."

A Supple Perfecto.

Jack O'Connor is an earnest, conscientious player of the aggressive type, whose playing has been praised by his critics. He became a professional when a youth of 17, and is yet in his prime. O'Connor not only excels as a catcher, but ranks high as a first baseman, acquits himself creditably as an outfield-

er and is a reliable batsman. A close student of the game and always alert to secure an advantage, Jack is classed among the best "inside" workers in the profession. For years he has been Manager Tebeau's lieutenant, and when the Perfectos' leader is not in the game O'Connor captains the St. Louis team. Several clubs have tried to secure his release, but the Robisons, acting on the advice of Manager Tebeau, have refused to even consider an offer for him.

Slagel a Coming Man.

From a conversation that J. Ed Grillo had with Comiskey in Chicago recently it would seem that the Cincinnati club threw away an excellent chance of securing Slagel, the little outfielder, whose clever work for Washington this season is the talk of all critics. "I thought so well of Slagel," said Comiskey, "that I paid something over \$700 for him very late in the season, when it was very likely that he would be drafted just as our season was over. As the drafting time approached, and I felt that I would lose my man, I went to President Brush of the Cincinnati club and begged him to take Slagel off my hands. I felt sure that he would have been a valuable addition to the Reds, but Mr. Brush couldn't see it. I then went to Hart of Chicago and tried to get him to take him, but he thought he was too small. Look at Slagel today. He is the most promising looking youngster in the league, and in another year will be regarded in the same class with Keeler and the other top-notchers. I think that Mr. Brush has regretted many times since that he did not accept my offer."

Eagan's Mishap Season.

Bad Bill Eagan met with a mishap which will put him out of the game for many days. After he saw that his hit to center in the Columbus game had jumped over Frank's head he kept on for third. Frank feided the ball cleanly and quickly and it was a case of "hoss and hoss" which would win out, the runner or the sphere. Ten feet from the base Eagan threw himself feet foremost toward the bag. His spike caught in the base sack and his right leg was given a terrible wrench. Bad Bill screamed with pain and in an instant was surrounded by the members of both teams, play having been suspended. Dr. Charles A. Bird, the club physician, happened to be in the grand stand and he found that Eagan had thrown out his kneecap. He pushed the cap back and then the injured player was carried to the bench, where Dr. Bird attended him. The knee was tightly bandaged and fifteen minutes later Eagan limped painfully to the clubhouse.

New York's Melancholy Days.

All records pertaining to small attendance in any series of league games played at the Polo grounds were broken last week. Only 1,000 persons witnessed the four games between the New Yorks and Cleveland, and the visiting club hardly got enough money from their share of the receipts to pay their expenses during their stay in the city.—Boston Globe.

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS OF THE PLAYERS.

The Past Season Was a Successful One from the Business Standpoint—Mrs. Carter Is a Many Sided Actress—Virginia Earl and Della Fox.

Last season was prolific in sensations. More than ever before have the leading stars and productions been favored with unqualified success, and it is doubtful if any previous theatrical season has involved the passage of such vast sums of money from populace to box office. Reports of an unprecedented interest in the theater have come from every section of the United States. Traveling combinations, stock companies and stars have alike been favored with tremendous patronage. To be sure, there has been an occasional failure, but disaster in one place has merely resulted in increased success in a dozen others. The leading cities of the country have witnessed the unusual sight of nightly crowded houses at all the leading theaters, and it is safe to say that thousands of play-goers have been deprived of the pleasure of seeing many a popular production simply because the seating capacity and standing room were taxed to the utmost. The vaudeville houses have also had their full share of the golden rain from the theater-going public. In New York the condition of affairs is representative of the entire country. The long runs of "Cyrano de Bergerac," "The Christian" and "Trelawny of the Wells" have already been commented upon here, and in the cities visited by these plays since their departure from New York the treasurer has been

ing in "The Heart of Maryland," there have been many critical, many censorious observers of the American theater who have looked upon her as one of the very few women whose place in the first rank is already assured. There is no dissenting voice as to her dramatic ability; opinions differ merely as to the height she has attained, and as to the height it is possible for her to attain. One thing not always remembered is in her favor. Her public career in the past eight years has been one of steadily upward progress. She began, and she did not succeed. She tried again, and again she failed, first in "The Ugly Duckling," then in "Miss Helyet." Then she subjected herself to a severe course of dramatic training under David Belasco's tuition, and emerged an actress who had won her way by sheer hard work, and an irrevocable determination to conquer. "Zaza" has shown that her Maryland Calvert was richer in its promise than in its actual achievement, and more than all that, Mrs. Carter is a many-sided actress as well as a many-sided woman. If we take exception to some points in Mrs. Carter's present style of acting it is because they are capable of removal through experience and study, and because they simply accentuate the many brilliant elements of her personality and artistic capacity, which even the most casual theater-goer can discern without having his attention directed to them.

"Variety turns" were not always as remunerative as at present. It is true that a few years ago there were a few teams that received large salaries, but not until the continuous performance theaters came into vogue did salaries for this kind of work take a rise. Now there are several teams receiving salaries so large that the "variety" actor of a decade ago would scarce believe it

NOTES OF THE WHEEL.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DEVOTEES OF THE BICYCLE.

Great Gathering of Wheelmen—National Meet at Boston to Be One of the Best Ever Held—Tours Through New England Added to Program.

Boston is to have the greatest meeting of wheelmen this country has ever seen, when the League of American Wheelmen holds its national meet there in August. Although this annual meeting of the members of the organization is usually successful in every respect, the conditions surrounding the coming one are even more auspicious than any of its predecessors. The principal reasons for this are the historic surroundings of the city, the fine roads and the many beautiful resorts. Besides, Boston is the pioneer cycling city of the United States; the pastime first got an enthusiastic welcome there and its wheelmen have always been in the front ranks of the great cycling organization. The program of entertainment for the week, abounding in attractions, is already well known to wheelmen, but the "bean-caters" are going even further to make the meet a success. They are now arranging for a series of tours to places of interest in New England, and the touring department of the L. A. W. will have direct charge of them, insuring their success. This addition to the meet will be appreciated by the wheelmen from other parts of the country, for it will enable them to see many of the places of historic interest and those that are famous for beautiful scenery and other attractions. The tours will be of from two to six days' duration each, and will commence immediately after the close of the meet. One tour will probably be to the White mountains, and another to the Berkshires, while several will include the many summer resorts in the vicinity. These tours will in no way interfere with the one-day trips planned to take place during the meet proper, but will take the riders farther away from the city of Boston. The American Cycling association's national meet will be held at Waltham on the same date.

Wheelmen a Power.

Ten years ago a bicycle rider was considered a crank, or at best a nuisance. To-day, as a class, they are one of the powerful factors of our national advancement. The "cranks" or "nuisances" have proven to everybody that cycling is productive of health, because of its exercise and recreation; that it facilitates travel; that it is economical (the poor man's carriage), and that it enables people to see something of the vicinity in which they live. But in addition they have awakened the country to the knowledge that our country roads are in such disgraceful condition as to be almost impracticable for the purposes of transportation. They have shown, through the League of American Wheelmen, that millions of dollars are wasted every year because of trying to run wheels over surfaces not intended for them.

Will He Jockey.

Jimmy Michael will be a jockey after all, having signed with one of the prominent horsemen for a long season starting Aug. 1 next. Michael has been waiting for this, and has been joggling along twice daily upon his horse Flying Jib, who is said to be now a pretty well worn old nag as the



JIMMY MICHAEL.

result of the hard training to which the midget cyclist has put him while himself preparing to ride better horses.

Church for King Pin.

Charles Church was the whole thing at the race meet at the Point Breeze track Saturday afternoon, June 17. Not only did he win his heat and the final of the professional mile handicap (from scratch), but in five-mile pursuit race, with Aker as his mate, rode down Starbuck and Turville in fine style. Aker was more of a hindrance than a help to him, and, after pegging away for a mile and a half, Church, who perceived that the other team was holding its own, cut loose, and, riding un-paced, while his opponents took turn-and-turn-about, gained over 200 yards upon them before the referee's whistle sounded the finish of the race. His time for the five miles was 11:21, which

is 1 3-5 seconds better than the un-paced record, but is not regular, owing to the fact that Aker started in the race with him.

The final heat of the mile handicap was a beauty, the limit man having 120 yards on Church, who started from scratch. It was hammer-and-tongs, from the pistol, and not until the head of the stretch was reached on the last lap did Church catch the field, and then he let out a few more links and came away like a fresh one, winning by three lengths in 2:05 3-5.

To settle a dispute of long standing two of the fastest local amateurs, Kusel and Cutbert, met in a match race, best two in three heats, and to everybody's surprise the latter won in straight heats (the first un-paced, the second paced) in 2:18 and 2:57.

Egloff's Wonderful Road Ride.

As a recommendation for ice-cream as a diet for athletes under arduous physical strain the 1,000-mile record ride of Gus Egloff in 108 hours 20 minutes on the roads of Long Island, was a distinct success. Perhaps, however, if he had confined himself to egg-nog instead, which would have been more appropriate, he might have done even better and broken the world's road record of 1,000 miles in 105 hours 19 minutes, made by T. A. Edge in England in 1896. But Egloff can console himself with the knowledge that he has won distinction for accomplishing something which nobody else has yet attempted in this country, just as Teddy Edwards is "the only" in his line. Egloff was paced over the ma-



GUS EGLOFF.

cadam roads by a number of other wheelmen who also ran up their mileage by several hundred miles each. The fact that Egloff broke the multiple century record from 300 to 600 and from 700 to 1,000 miles, pales into insignificance, however, in view of his diet of strawberry ice-cream and ginger crackers. He ought to be hailed as a coming rival of "Oysters" Waller. But history sayeth not that his remarkable freedom from punctures and accidents was attributable to the innocent character of his diet.—The Cycle Age.

The McDuffee-Taylor Pizzle.

Seventeen thousand people left Charles River park track recently disappointed and angry. Major Taylor and Eddie McDuffee had been scheduled for a twenty-five-mile paced race. Manager Ducker spent \$2,800 in advertising and snowed Waltham completely under by his liberal expenditures. The race was a fizzle from the very outset, however. The steam motor machine which was to pace Taylor did not arrive, and he used Frank Waller's petroleum machine. McDuffee's steam engine went a mile and one-half and then spit out cold water. He quit and went to his dressing room. Taylor's petroleum machine went wrong, too, but he carried the game on for fifteen miles and then quit himself. The people left the ground with a bad taste in their mouths.

When Major Taylor was seen in Boston after his contest he promised some news of interest in a short time. Birdie Munger, who is managing Taylor, also said there would be something to tell, and the major said earlier in the evening that he would like to have just one more chance at the prominent white men before—and then he quit. Later in the same evening it was whispered in certain quarters that the major intended forsaking the American shores for Europe, and that he would take an early departure.

"Outlaw" and L. A. W.

The "outlaw" cycle racing leaders are finding that the L. A. W. is not so easy as they thought. They forgot that the league has successfully combated several very strong combinations in its agitation for good roads and wheelmen's rights, and thought they could do something that some of the strongest organizations in the country could not do. And those who know say that these same leaders wish some one would show them a graceful way of dropping a very hot potato.

News in Brief.

Tom Linton defeated Champion by three laps in a fifty-kilometer race in Berlin, incidentally breaking all German records from the twentieth kilometer up.

All Belgian records up to thirty kilometers were broken by Luyten, a Belgian rider, in an interesting meet given at Antwerp on June 4. At that distance he had a fall, while Digeon had much trouble with his pacing machine. The race was finally won by an outsider, who covered 49 kilometers 100 meters during the hour.

Our own happiness would make a wilderness bloom like the rose.



JACK O'CONNOR.



JOSEPHINE COHAN.