

## NOTES OF THE WHEEL

### MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DEVOTEEES OF THE BICYCLE.

**A Successful Circuit—National Circuit of the L. A. W. Proving Profitable to Promoters—Spirited Competition for the Championship.**

#### A Successful Circuit.

Reports having been circulated to the effect that the L. A. W. national circuit has not been a success to date, the facts may be of interest to wheelmen. The circuit started the latter part of June at Indianapolis, and has been taking in the cycling centers of the Middle States. Every meet but one has resulted in a profit to the promoter. The exception was not disappointing, for it was the Fourth of July week at St. Louis, which had to be postponed to a week night. St. Louis is a notoriously bad town for cycle racing on other days than a Saturday or holiday, and the promoters carried out the program rather than disappoint the circuit chasers. The meet at Janesville made money the first day, but on the second day it rained and the races were called off. There was a dispute about the prizes, and the professionals had to leave with \$245 still due them. Then it was that the league showed how it protects its riders. The men made complaint to Chairman Gerlach, who at once placed the case in the hands of a lawyer, with orders to collect. The promoters have withdrawn from their position, and have promised to settle without carrying the case to the courts. Chicago had a most successful meet at the old Parkside track, which has not paid expenses for five or six years, but on the occasion of this meet was packed to its capacity; in fact, people were turned away. Ottumwa, Iowa, drew 3,000 people, and the promoters were so well pleased that they put on another meet for last week, which was equally successful. At St. Paul the L. A. W. meet was the first cycle racing meet in several years that netted a profit. Over 5,000 people attended the second Chicago meet at the Ravenswood track, and other meets have been just as successful. From this unprejudiced statement it will be seen that the circuit this year is fully as successful in attendance as those of other years.

#### Looking for Quick Returns.

Now that the novelty of the fight between the N. C. A. and the L. A. W. has worn off, the professionals under the N. C. A. have gone on the warpath against themselves. It is not a war of extermination, nor a war against control, nor a war of one class against another, but it is the competitive war of the prominent men against each other, the spoils of which will be the honors of the season. There is blood in the eye of every one of the prominent professionals. Match race talk is everywhere abundant, and match races are being arranged with side bets which a few years ago would have been out of the question. Many of the men back themselves; others have backing, but all are seemingly possessed of money with which to bet any fair amount.

Orlando Stevens really inaugurated the game. His mate, McFarland, was disqualified after winning the Zimmy handicap. McFarland then went to Buffalo, and while thinking it all over he decided to put a stopper on the talk about the inability of Stevens to beat other men unaided. He deposited \$400 with the Buffalo member of the board of control for a wager on his team mate against anyone in mile heats, best two in three, one paced, another unpaced, and the third to be decided by the toss of a coin.

#### Championship Competition Spirited.

The championship battle of '99 will be one of few competitors but with all those competitors likely men. The half mile championship of Buffalo had but ten entries, seven of which were men likely to qualify. The riders of the second class have learned that in these championship races there is nothing for them. Meet promoters along the grand circuit wonder at the scarcity of entries of the professional events.



WALTER KIMBLE.

but do not stop to figure that with but one handicap race in addition to the championship, and with no class race, they give the leaders the best of the argument and the second raters but a bare chance. The present status of the championship race is an interesting one. Stevens by his win at Buffalo gained ten points and the lead. Cooper with his win at Berkeley and third at Buffalo has nine points. Kimble has secured one second and a fourth and so has seven points. Kiser gained second at Berkeley and fourth at Buffalo and has five points, and Walthous has two for his third at Berkeley Oval. Bald and McFarland qualified but finished last in the finals of their respective races at Berkeley Oval and Buffalo. These riders with Downing Freeman, Gardiner and Newhouse, will un-

doubtedly fight out the championship of the year. Fifty races lie before them and the hardest season of several years is theirs before the struggle is settled.

#### Jehonasy Between Riders.

The battle which is being carried on between the three New Haven riders in the amateur class, all of whom rank among the top notchers this season, is being watched with no little interest by the cycling fraternity. Hausman and Collett were mates last year, and the name of one was seldom heard except in connection with that of the other. The pair won the tandem championship of America at Indianapolis and hold most of the competition tandem records for a long time. W. A. Rutz entered the field as a most active rider this spring. Collett was engaged at the outset of the season as coach of the Yale college team, which finally won the international championship. When he returned to the track regularly he found Rutz and Hausman practically tied up and there was some friction. One day at New Haven while in training Collett cut down to the pole on the other two and threw them. There was a fight, with Rutz as the aggressor, for Hausman was too seriously injured to make trouble. Collett won the battle, and since that time has been carrying on the fight on the track. At New Haven he protected the team work of the other two after being beaten by Rutz



W. A. RUTZ.

in one event, and the prizes were withheld pending an investigation. At New Haven recently Collett won both the amateur races, the open and the handicap, defeating Rutz in both. The unpleasantness between the three riders, who rule the roost always when Kramer, the amateur champion, is not present, is being watched with a great amount of interest throughout the country as all are of national reputation.

#### Counsels Peace.

Dave Shafer, Jimmy Michael's ex-manager and one of the shrewdest men in the cycle racing business, commenting on the "outlaws," says: "The men are on the wrong tack, and they will find it out soon, if they do not know it now. The L. A. W. stands for respectability and is not a money-making institution. You can always be assured of fair treatment at the hands of the league. The other fellows are out for the coin, and if they ever get things their own way the riders would have to knuckle down and put their necks in the collar. It is a wrong idea to allow track-owners to have anything to say about the governing of the sport, and the outlaws will soon find themselves riding for meager purses or else have to quit the game. When the movement was first started I was asked to take a hand in it, but I told the men they were foolish and they would be sorry for the step they have taken. And I am going to live to see them in that condition. Hardly a week passes without a letter from some of the men beseeching me to join them, but I tell them the L. A. W. is good enough for me. But I counsel peace. This fighting hurts everybody in the business."

#### Some Self Praise.

Few unattached wheelmen realize what the League of American Wheelmen has accomplished, unselfishly, for the good of all cyclists since its organization twenty years ago. Some of the most important are the right to use the common roads (which at first was not conceded, railroads are required to carry bicycles as baggage, wheels are given all the privileges of other vehicles, cycle paths are being built in numerous parts of the country, and cyclists are not subject to a special tax. These are some of the things of national importance. In addition the state divisions are constantly working for special legislation affecting their respective states. All these and much more are due to wheelmen in general, and there should be more support given the organization, that the work may be carried on and extended. Besides the things enumerated as accomplished, the league has special privileges and accommodations for members only, and that can be secured in no other way than through membership. Every wheelman in the country should be a member of the league.—L. A. W. Bulletin.

#### Fireworks Every Sunday.

In the old Brazilian town of Bahia fireworks form a part of the regular Sunday ceremonies. The town has a number of churches, and they fiercely compete for patronage. First, the deep-toned bells remind the townspeople that Sunday is come. Then the crash of fireworks reminds them that their attendance at service is earnestly desired. So every Sunday morning and evening witnesses a small Fourth of July celebration—from an American standpoint—in the queer old town of Bahia.

## THEATRICAL TOPICS.

### SAVINGS AND DOINGS OF THE PLAYERFOLK.

**Julia Arthur's Itinerary—An Authoritative Statement of Her Plans for Next Season—A Large Assortment of New Plays.**

Mr. W. J. Thorold, who is acting in the capacity of prime minister for Miss Julia Arthur, sends the Detroit Free Press this outline of that lady's plan of campaign for the season of 1899-1900:

Miss Arthur will continue to play "A Lady of Quality" occasionally, as it is demanded by managers and the public, though her personal preference is for the higher examples of the drama. Therefore, her production of "Romeo and Juliet" will be presented frequently in the cities of the tour, as Miss Arthur is very fond of the character of Juliet and agrees with the larger body of Shakespearean critics that this tragedy is the greatest love story ever written in any language.

Miss Arthur will also present "Hamlet," playing herself the role of the philosophic Dane. Her beauty, temperament, style, voice—her whole histrionic equipment—all will lend themselves portly to this ambitious and novel portrayal which will no doubt afford brilliant opportunities for the display of her remarkable tragic gifts. Of course, some of the New York newspapers treat frivolously most Shakespearean productions, and hence have spoken with lightness about Miss Arthur ordering a ton of the finest imported melancholy and a pair of black silk tights to help her out in this. Nevertheless Miss Arthur will present a dignified and scholarly conception of the prince, and it may be added that she has devoted much time to the critical study of this sublime tragedy since Sir Henry Irving suggested at rehearsal in London one day that she play Hamlet.

However, Julia Arthur's piece de resistance for next season will be the spectacular Parisian success, "More Than Queen," by Emile Bergerat, first produced in the French metropolis by Louis Hadjig and Coquelin. This is a romance of the time of Josephine and Napoleon. Miss Arthur will present

pointed out to the king as his wife. In the fourth act the king taxes Marie Antoinette with her conduct, and then the plot against her is unraveled. Cagliostro is represented as a hypnotist.

Manager Al E. Davidson has surrendered the management of Wood's Opera House in Bay City and organized the Davidson Stock Company, which he will take on tour. Associated with Mr. Davidson in this venture are Mr. James F. Kelly and Miss Dorothy Kent, the dashing soubrette lately with Andrew Mack in "Miles Aroon." Mr. Kelly is a singing comedian of established reputation. Among the players engaged are J. P. Clark, Richardson Cotton, John A. Mellow, George A. Ott, Harry Antrim, Jr., Jane Alden, Emma Whitte and Frances Bates. The repertory will include "Love and Law," "The Sultan's



JULIA MARLOWE.

Daughter," "An Irish American," "On the Rio Grande," "Chimmie Fadden," "A True Yankee Girl," and "The Hand of Fate." The route will comprehend Northern Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The majority of the stars will use new plays next season, as may be gathered from the following: Julia Arthur, in "Plus Que Reine;" Odette Tyler, in "Phroso;" Nat Goodwin, in "The Cowboy and the Lady;" Julia Marlowe, in "Barbara Frisch;" E. H. Sothern, in "The Sunken Bell;" Lewis Morrison, in "Frederick the Great;" Anna Held, in "Papa's Wife;" Edwin Arden, in "Zorah;" Andrew



JULIA ARTHUR.

this drama on a most elaborate and sumptuous scale. In fact, it will be almost an exact duplicate of the presentation made at the Theater de la Porte Saint Martin in Paris. The Empire costumes to be worn by Miss Arthur and her coadjutors will be modeled on those actually worn by the empress. The jewelry that Miss Arthur will use is now being made for her by a skilled workman in the Museum of the Louvre, who has obtained permission to copy the crown jewelry of Napoleon. The scenery for "More Than Queen" will be archeological and beautiful to a degree perhaps hitherto unattempted except by Sir Henry Irving. What constitutes part of the attractiveness of this Imperial idyl is that it exhibits the distinctly human side of that majestic personality whom men's imaginations, reading between the lines of history, have invested with something of the mystic, and the supernatural, and his relations to the irresistible Josephine, the woman behind the throne, who, through the heart of the sovereign always kept a finger-tip upon the scepter.

The following details are published of the new play on the subject of "The Queen's Necklace," which Robert Buchanan and "Charles Marlowe" have written for Mrs. Langtry. The first act occurs at the royal palace, the second at the house of Cagliostro; the third at a great ball given by the king; the fourth at Versailles. In the second act is shown the inception of the Cagliostro plot, to induce Cardinal De Rohan—who is in love with the queen—to purchase the necklace for her and so compromise her in the eyes of her husband. But the fact is that her double, Gal d'Olive, is to be substituted for her, and then De Rohan is deceived. In the third act Gal d'Olive is wearing the necklace at the ball, and is

Mack, in "The Last of the Robans;" W. H. Crane, in "Peter Stuyvesant, the Governor of New York;" John Drew "The Tyranny of Tears;" Mrs. Fiske in "Becky Sharp;" Aubrey Bouicault in "A Court Scandal;" Frederick Warde, in a new play by Henry Guy Carleton; Henry Miller, in a new play as yet unnamed; Annie Russell, in two new plays unselected; George C. Boniface, Jr., in "Dear Old Charley;" James K. Hackett, a new play unselected; the Kendals, in "The Elder Miss Blossom;" Herbert Keiley and Emie Shannon, in a new play; the Rogers brothers, in "Rogers Brothers in Wall Street;" William Gillette, in "Sherlock Holmes;" Edna Wallace Hopper, in "Chris and the Wonderful Lamp."

Wagenhals and Kemper have engaged the veteran John Ellsler for the James-Kidder-Hanford combination. They will retain the services of Harry Langdon, thus associating two "grand old men" of the American stage. Both Mr. Ellsler and Mr. Langdon will have important parts in "The Winter's Tale," which will be the feature bill of the James-Kidder-Hanford repertoire.

The Star theater, formerly Wal-lack's, at the northeast corner of Broadway and Thirteenth street, in New York, is to be torn down and on the site of it is to be erected a six-story business structure. The theater was built in 1861.

The long season of prosperity at the Empire theater in New York closed the other night. The bill was "His Excellency the Governor," which play will comprise the opening attraction on the same stage for the season of 1899-1900.

## BASE BALL TOPICS

### CURRENT NEWS AND NOTES OF THE GAME.

**Chicago is Able to Support a Western League Team—The Retirement of Ewing from the Management of the Reds—Little Sympathy for Bergen.**

#### Westerners Want Concessions.

The Western league magnates want important concessions from the National league. They wish to add Cleveland and probably Louisville to their circuit, and are desirous of locating a club in South Chicago. The officials of the Chicago club, it is stated, will not consent to the presence of a rival club even in an inferior organization unless they are interested in its ownership. President Hart and his associates are within their rights under baseball law, and it is to be hoped that the parties interested can reach an understanding. Chicago is capable of supporting two clubs and it would be an easy matter to avoid a clash in schedule dates. There is no better baseball city in the country than Chicago, and the at-home Sunday patronage of the Western League club would more than pay its operating expenses for the season. The only way for the Western league to get a footing in Chicago without bringing on a baseball war is through an arrangement with those in control of the territory under baseball law. President Vanderbeck would not permit a Michigan league club to be located within five miles of Detroit, nor would President Franklin assent to the operation of a New York State league club within the prescribed distance of Buffalo. The Western league magnates are accorded the same territorial rights that they are asked to respect. If they should come to the conclusion that they can do business more satisfactorily and profitably by breaking away from the National agreement, and locating an opposition club in Chicago, there is nothing in their way. But men of the ability and experience of Messrs. Manning, Comiskey, Loftis and other owners of clubs in the Western league want to live at peace with each other and their neighbors. Their interests are too large to be sacrificed even in a fight for principle, unless it is forced upon them. War would depreciate their property and might wreck the savings of a lifetime. The Western league has grown in strength and importance in spite of handicaps by the major league magnates. Year after year its teams have had to contend for championship honors with a team composed, in the main, of National league talent, forcing the less favored clubs to increase their salary lists beyond the limit set by prudence. The Indianapolis club is of late run in a far less objectionable manner. Mr. Brush, the most powerful personage in baseball, sought to confiscate the plants of six clubs of the Western league in 1896, but was checkmated for the first time in his baseball experience. The Western league asked for an amendment to the National agreement, permitting its clubs to retain a player for two years. The National league was willing to make this concession provided it was given the right of trying out a drafted player before his purchase. This brought about friction and there was no change in the reserve rule.

#### Bank O'Day Empire.

Henry O'Day, one of the best umpires of the National league, is a Chicagoan by birth. Honest, fearless and intelligent in the discharge of the trying duties of his onerous position, he gives the plays as he sees them regardless of consequences and influences. Before beginning his career with the indicator, O'Day was one of the most prominent pitchers of the game, and this experience has made him an expert in judging balls and strikes. His retirement as a player was not due to trouble with his arm, but the hardships of training down to weight. In addition to long and honorable service on the National league staff of umpires, O'Day made a creditable record in the Western league. Partisan patrons and players do not always agree with the decisions given by Umpire O'Day, but they unite in paying tribute to his integrity and impartiality. He insists on the players conducting themselves becomingly, and while tolerant to a degree, when the zeal of the players inspires them to protest, he rules the kickers with a firm hand and removes them from the game when their actions justify it. Ted Sullivan, who managed the Washington club of which team O'Day was a member, declares that he had the best "break" ball ever pitched. His record as a pitcher entitled him to class as a top-notch among the twirlers.



UMPIRE O'DAY.

Bergen Without Sympathy. Those who protest against the treatment of Amos Rusie by the New York club, have no sympathy for Martin Bergen, the erratic catcher of the Boston club, who has deserted that club annually since his connection with it

and always at a time when his services were most needed. His grievances are fanciful. Of a moody disposition he imagines that his fellow players are leagued against him and are intent on bringing about his downfall. The contrary is the case. Manager Selee and his players have treated the great backstop with unusual consideration. This has given him an undue appreciation of his importance and encouraged him to make an exhibition of himself with almost a certainty that his offenses would be condoned. His eccentricities were known to Manager Selee before he bought his release from the Kansas City club. It will be remembered that he deserted Manning's Western League club, while that team was in Indianapolis and returned home. At the close of that season, his release was purchased by Boston. Suspension for 1899 would bring him to his senses. It is gratifying to know that his brother, who is making such a good record as a catcher with the Port Wayne club of the Interstate league, is without any of the bad traits of his relative, who is the hardest man in the National league to manage.

#### Brooklyn's Right Fielder.

William H. Keeler, the cleyer right fielder of the Brooklyn club, who has for two successive seasons been the National league's champion batter, began his professional career with the Troy Eastern league team in 1892. Before the season was over his fine fielding and great stickwork caught the eye



WILLIAM KEELER.

of Manager Pat Powers, of the New York club, and he finished the season in that city. He was utility man for the Giants for several months, and was then sold to Brooklyn for \$800. Owing to his being handicapped by his left-handed throwing, he was farmed out, and he closed that season with Binghamton in the Eastern league. Manager Hanlon traded Shindie and Treadway for Keeler and Dan Brothers. Keeler developed into one of the most artistic and valuable players in the profession, and his great fielding, superior base running, and fine stickwork were of great value to the Orioles and contributed largely to the success of the Brooklyn Superbas. He is earnest, but well behaved on the diamond, and during his career with the scrappy Orioles, has never been accused of dirty ball playing.

#### Retirement of Ewing.

The retirement of Buck Ewing from the management of the Reds is positively settled. In all probability, he will not be displaced before the close of the season, but it is reasonably sure that his successor will begin the reorganization of the Reds for the 1900 campaign. His opposition to young blood and his inability to control the older players have brought about his undoing. He lacks the initiative faculty and is content to follow theories that have long been out of date. His one great failing as a manager is utter helplessness when his team gets in the rut of defeat. Instead of enthusing his men, he resorts to charges of robbery against the umpires and seeks refuge behind threadbare hard luck stories. His policy of playing favorites creates trouble in the ranks and handicaps his team. He has had all the cordial support of that great quartet of baseball writers, Messrs. Grillo, Mulford, Zuber and Weldon, until his maladministration of the management became so palpable that the three former deserted his standard and demanded his retirement. They have shown to the satisfaction of patrons that he is incompetent and the indications are that Messrs. Brush and Lloyd have reached the same conclusion. W. H. Watkins will, it is said, be entrusted with the control of the players, but neither Mr. Brush or Mr. Lloyd will confirm or deny this. R. G. Allen, the manager of the Indianapolis club and Walter H. Wilmot, the manager of the Minneapolis club, have also been mentioned as Ewing's successor, but there is little ground for belief that the latter has been seriously considered. Cincinnati is not the only National league club that could advance its interests by changing its manager.

#### East and West.

The western clubs won 21 and lost 24 of the games played on their last eastern trip, leaving a balance of 13 games to the credit of sectional rivals. St. Louis made the creditable record of five victories and four defeats, but the Louisvilles did even better, as the Colonels captured five and lost only two games. Cincinnati came next with an even break in eight games. Chicago made a capital start at Boston, but fell down badly at Brooklyn and New York and dropped six of the nine games. Pittsburg did even worse, the Pirates' record being seven defeats and two victories. Cleveland had 13 chances to win, but only took advantage of two of them. Brooklyn and Philadelphia did the best of the eastern clubs, each winning seven and losing two games. Boston, Washington and New York each put five in their win and four in their lost column respectively and the Baltimores made a standoff with their western visitors in 10 games.