



Baseball

LEAGUES MAY JOIN.

Significant and half-developed hints concerning a possible amalgamation of the two major baseball leagues of the country, when the magnates of the great organizations meet next fall to consider their plans for the following year, as being given circulation with a frequency that forebodes realization. Enough proof has been given the leader of both bodies that all of the big teams, whether they belong to the American or the National League, will finish the present year with plenty of money in the treasuries. This is enough to give assurance that both are permanent organizations, unless one voluntarily gives way to the other. Thus far there is not a team this year that has not made a handsome profit when the expenditures and the receipts are counted up. With this state of affairs outlined before them the magnates of the rival organizations are not going to allow any foolish war to spoil their chances of raking in the dollars. They have their eyes opened to the fact now that the players are the persons who are being benefited by the rivalry, and they see, too, where thousands of dollars in expense money may be eliminated by a coalition. As things now stand every player of any ability is at a premium. Whenever a good one wants to jump from one league to the other there is always a tempting bit of salary awaiting him and he has only to say that he wants it in order to get it. The magnates are too wise not to see that this is a useless burden to carry, and although it is highly probable no such thing has ever been discussed by the officials of the two organizations with one another it cannot be said that such a movement has been unthought of. There may never be an open amalgamation. Manifestly this would be a foolish move, since the supporters of each league, especially where the teams come into conflict in the same cities, would lose their interest. But there can easily be a secret understanding through which league will be careful not to encroach upon the rights of the other.

York can try all four umpires, and then take any one it wants and object to all the rest. If New York can do that with one umpire I can see nothing to prevent it going through the list. I'm in a hopeless minority. All that is left is to shut my eyes and hold my nose. I said before the season started I hoped everything would be bunched this year. I guess we are getting everything that is coming."

A GREAT CATCHER.

The base ball profession has no better known or more interesting figure in its ranks than Aleck Smith. "Broadway" Aleck, as he is known, Smith is one of the best catchers in the country and is now winning new laurels by the manner in which he is handling the shoots of that pitching thunderbolt, Christie Matthewson, on the New York team. It is no easy matter for any backstop to stand the cannonading of a pitcher like this wonderful young collegian, who is characterized by many base ball experts as the best twirler that the diamond has ever known. His speed is said to surpass that of the great Rusie in his palmiest days. New York is therefore exceedingly fortunate in having a catcher like Smith to back him up. Aleck has been a member of the Brooklyn team for several years. He was farmed to the Hartford club in '95 and caught in 107 consecutive games for that team. He was one of the crowd of base ball players who took the trip to the Pacific coast in 1897. New York secured his services this year. Smith is well known in all sporting circles, being a regular attendant at all the big fights, horse races, etc. He is a familiar figure



ALECK SMITH.

along Broadway in New York, and as far as dress goes is a regular fashion plate.

PLAYERS ON THE ALERT.

The first meeting of the Players Protective Association since it ratified the agreement entered into between the National League and its representatives in regard to contracts for the present season, will be held this month. The fact that the players succeeded so well in bringing the National League around to their terms has made some of the more flighty members of the organization bolder, and they are now advocating that when the League meets next fall a resolution of the players shall be presented to the magnates in which the players shall insist that the salaries which are in force this season shall hold over for next—in other words, there shall be no enforcement of the salary limit rule in 1902, and that there shall be no reduction in salaries. An insistence on this point will do more than anything that the magnates can devise to bring about a speedy settlement of the differences between the National League and the American League. Neither organization can afford to pay for another year the salaries that players are drawing this season. As a matter of self-protection they must get together, so that salaries may again be brought to an equitable basis, and base ball at least saved from being a losing venture for the men who have invested thousands in it. Let but the players insist on this legislation concerning salaries and they are certain to see peace between the National and the American, also a decided shrinkage in their pay in 1902.—Sporting Life.

DIAMOND GLINTS.

Jesse Hoffmeister, who was all the rage at Pittsburg a few years ago, has been let out by Terre Haute and has joined the New Orleans team.

Joe Quinn has been playing major league ball continuously for seventeen years. He is now thirty-six years of age, and can put up as good an all-round game as any of them.

Joe Hornung, the veteran base ball player, is unimpaired in the Western Association. Joe is said to be doing good work with the indicator and is receiving words of praise on all sides.

Four of the American League players have a batting average of over .400—Lajoie, Keister, Seybold and Freeman—while but two of the National League batters are at present over this mark—Strang and Heidrick.

Pitcher Waddell, the eccentric left-hander of the Chicago, got his title of "Rube" while in Franklin, Pa., in 1896. He was knocked senseless in a game by a high line ball, but recovered and won his game. That night the manager of the opposing team met him and said: "No one but a 'Rube' could recover from an injury like that, and finish the game." The name "Rube" stuck to him from that out.



FRANK HAHN.

of the Western League. A. the close of the season of 1897 he was purchased by the Cincinnati club but refused to report in that city, the salary being below the Cincinnati and did good work. Last year he did not show up as well as expected, lack of control being the principal reason for his ineffectiveness. This year his pitching arm appears to be all right and he was sent into the box on every possible occasion before the other Cincinnati pitchers were able to get into any kind of form.

FREEDMANISM CONDEMNED.

James A. Hart, beaten in his attempt to prevent A. Freedman from installing himself as dictator to the National League, broke loose in Chicago the other day and gave out one of the choicest interviews of his baseball career. Apropos of the failure of six league magnates to support him in his attempt to fight Freedman in the Nash case, Hart said:

"It is a sacrilege to say anything against Nick Young. It is mutiny to say anything against Freedman. So I am constrained to say nothing."

"I take off my hat to A. Freedman. He is it. He can get six votes on any proposition. I can't see anything under the heavens to prevent New York from winning the championship. New



LADY GOLF CHAMPION.



Molly A. Graham.

Miss Molly A. Graham of the Royal Liverpool Golfers has, by winning the lady's open golf championship of England, added another honor to a family long known and respected in the world of sport. Her father was a splendid tennis player, and one of her brothers was a famous also, one for his golfing prowess and the other as a racquet player. Taught golfing chiefly by her father and watching others, Miss Graham has an easy style and a pretty swing. She has carried off prizes at Hoylake, where she learned to play, ever since

she was 5 years old, and is at present the holder of two scratch medals won at the West Lancashire Ladies' club and at Moreton. Miss Graham has also distinguished herself as a mountaineer, having made the first ascent of the season of the Piz-Bernina, in the Engadine, in July, 1900, a climb of seventeen hours. Miss Graham prides herself on being Scotch, but as the championship cup is in the keeping of the Hoylake club, both Scotch and English golfers proudly claim her as one of themselves.

of Corbett attempting to best John L. then believed to be invincible. One blow of Sullivan's terrible right, they argued, and Corbett would be a dead one. Events proved differently. Corbett was boomed for the next few years as only Brady could do it and both made money. Then came Corbett's defeat at Carson City by Fitz. Brady then attached himself to Jeffries, who also proved a champion. The decline in pugilism Brady ascribes as his reason for retiring. He will in future devote his attention to theatricals.

He looks upon him as an exquisite and delicate mechanism which requires infinite subtlety. He is therefore exacting in his demands for the wants physical and mental that go to make what he calls a good mechanic. The boy must be worthy of the horse. The trainer's test is so severe that 10,000 boys who apply yearly for admission to the racing stables of the country not more than a few hundred are accepted. Of these probably 10 win a jockey's license.

Shuts World Behind Him.

When a boy enters a jockey school he shuts the world behind him, like a nun who walls herself within a convent. All energy of body and soul is consecrated to his craft. To him life means the clank of the bridle, the hoof-thud, the smell of straw and the bookmaker's cry. He never learns anything unrelated to this life. Of a dozen stableboys I found only two who could name the governors of their respective states.

What they do develop is a savage grit that lets them nudge death familiarly with a smiling face, a forearm and leg of flexible steel and wits unnaturally keen on a single line. And also, that pitiful legacy of the veteran trainer, crabbed age of mind behind a baby face. You have the living picture of it all in 14-year-old Johnny Reiff, who earns in a year more than a dozen college professors.

JACQUELIN MAY COME

Jacquelin, the speedy French cyclist, may soon be seen in this country. "Pop" Elkes, father, trainer and manager of Harry Elkes, has entered into a combination with W. A. Brady to get Jacquelin over here and give him a run for their money. Brady and "Pop" think that Harry can beat the Frenchman even though Taylor did not. Brady has cabled an offer to Jacquelin to come here which should make him think twice before refusing as it was the biggest inducement ever offered to a foreign rider. The idea is to have him ride against Elkes and Taylor at Manhattan Beach in a paced race, a short sprint and a third race to be decided by a toss. Jacquelin is a demon behind pace for a short distance.

The team record for pacers now held by Robert J., 2:01½, and John R. Gentry, 2:00½, at 2:08, is likely to take a tumble this summer, as Connor, 2:03½, and Daniel, 2:07½, are to be booked together for the attempt, and good judges think they are good for better than 2:07 in double harness.

Paris has many beautiful women and when it comes to selecting the handsomest of the lot the judges are confronted by no small task. Recently there was a "beauty show" at the French capital and the judges awarded the prize to Mile. D'Azar. They have been severely criticised since then, as there seems to be a general belief that

Mile. De Vere is more entitled to the honor than the woman who received it. Mile. De Vere is not only the possessor of a beautiful face and form, but she is also intellectually brilliant. She is one of the brightest young writers of the French capital, possessing a piquant, sparkling style, and it is said she will soon issue a book.

ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF THE FRENCH CAPITAL.



MAKING A JOCKEY. To the current number of *Aluslee's Magazine* Allen Sangree, the well-known writer, contributes an interesting article on "the making of a jockey," wherein a clear light is thrown upon the heroes of the turf. Canal boatmen, farmers, newsboys, even bootblacks, says the writer,



LESTER REIFF.

[One of two brothers who have made \$250,000 in a few years, riding.] achieve eminence; jockeys never. Not one has become President, a senator or a congressman. But a great jockey wins a peculiar fame. Comet-like he shoots into view, is blazoned in print and picture for a decade, then comet-like, sinks into extinction. In the meridian a great jockey lives like a prince. All luxuries that money can buy are his; servants bow to him at every side, and a groom carries his one-pound saddle to the stable. He is the pet of multitudes and world celebrities seek his acquaintance. Such is the jockey who triumphed. He is one in 500. The 499 are undersized, peak-faced boys who wither away among

BRADY'S RETIREMENT. The announced retirement of Billy Brady from the fighting game has removed an interesting figure who while he was in the business never neglected an opportunity of keeping his name and the names of the fighters whom he managed prominently before the public. He first came into prominence as a fight promoter when he looked after the interests of Jim Corbett in his famous battle with John L. Sullivan. Brady's judgment of a fighter's abilities proved better than that of a large percentage of the sporting fraternity, who were amused at the idea

horses, saddles and straw piles, ever hoping against hope for their day. Training a Jockey. To understand the making of a jockey one must go to the stableboy. He is the jockey germ. His development is begun as early as his fourth year. The three Daly boys who are riding this year are instances. From their fourth to their eighth year they did nothing but lead horses around the track. Never in that time were they allowed to sit on a horse. The modern trainer holds such tedious apprenticeship indispensable. He has an exalted regard for the horse.

IRENE VANBRUGH SIGNS.

Both Miss Irene Vanbrugh and her future husband, Dion Boucicault, have joined the forces of Manager Charles Frohman. Information received yesterday was that Miss Vanbrugh would succeed Miss Evelyn Millard as leading woman of the stock company of Mr. Frohman's London theater, the Duke of York's, and that Mr. Boucicault would become the stage manager at the same house, appearing also as actor of character parts. The first production of the fall will be made at another theater, as Miss Edna May is to return to the Duke of York's in the autumn, but the company will be installed at its regular theater by January. It may be that the organization will be brought to New York for the first four months of the season.

NEW PINERO PLAY FOR DANIEL FROHMAN.

Daniel Frohman is to offer the next of Arthur Wing Pinero's plays to the American public. He has purchased the American right to the new comedy, as yet unnamed, to be produced in London by Arthur Bourchier in September. The New York presentation will be made at about the same time, probably by Mr. Frohman's stock company. At what theater the play will be seen in New York is a matter of some conjecture. Mr. Frohman did not prosper at Daly's Theater last year, and rumor has been insistent for several weeks in saying he would not control the house the coming season. The managers named as the future proprietors of the theater are Klaw & Erlanger, comprising a firm which the late Augustin Daly hated with deep intensity. If the gossip proves to be based on truth, the situation will be almost unparalleled for bitter irony.

NOTED ENGLISH ACTRESS.

Natalie Brande, who has been engaged as a member of F. F. Proctor's Stock Co., is an English girl who studied singing under Sims Reeves, who wished her to appear as a ballad singer at the St. James Hall afternoon concerts, a project that was rendered abortive owing to her father's lack of consent. Still desiring to enter upon a stage career she awaited her opportunity, which came when Mr. Chasemore, the artist on duty, gave her a letter to Willie Edouin's manager. This secured her first engagement, which was with Mr. Edouin at the Avenue Theater, London, where she



NATALIE BRANDE.

in stock, her South African experience serving her in good stead. She returned to London under the management of Isaac Cohen, and afterwards went to the Prince of Wales Theater, where Wm. Greet was acting manager. She next went on a tour, playing Clairette in "La Fille de Madame Angot." Every Christmas season she has either been principal boy or girl in provincial pantomimes, her last boy's role having been Robinson Crusoe, and last girl's Rosabel, the Princess with the Golden Locks. Miss Brande came to this country upon a visit, and being pleased with the land has lingered here with her Proctor engagement as the result.

McLean, the tallest man playing baseball, probably will be dropped by the Boston American league team. He is a catcher, but needs considerable experience to make him a first-class man.