

SPORTING GOSSIP OF WEEK

Opening of the Base Ball Season Draws Near Apace.

CHAMPIONS WILL SOON REPORT FOR WORK

Omaha's 1906 Team Will Include All But Two of the Bunch that Made the Grand Dash Last Fall.

Three weeks from today the Omaha team of 1905, champions of the Western League, will be gaily carolling around in the bright sunshine down at Vinton park, getting some of the winter's kinks out of their systems. Only two faces will be missed from the bunch that so grandly won the flag last fall. Don't you remember how they did it? If you don't, wait till Papa Bill unfurls that hundred-dollar bill from the top of a hundred-foot pole out in the center field, and then it will all come back to you—that grand rush through the bunch, the days when all players looked alike to the Omahas, and Denver, Colorado Springs, St. Joseph, Des Moines and Sioux City went down like the pins before the charge. Well, Brown and Howard will not be with us, but Glen Liebhart, hero of the Western league, will play for two of the pre-season exhibitions, playing Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2. On the Tuesday following Omaha will go to Lincoln and meet the University of Nebraska team in a series of three games. The first will be on Friday with Frank Seale's Colts. On Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9, the Colts and the Rowkies will wrestle on the Omaha grounds. On the 13th of April Creighton university will take a fall out of the Omaha team at 2 p. m. Saturday and Sunday, April 15 and 16, Joe Cantillon will bring his Brewers over from Milwaukee, and Omaha will get a chance to compare Western league ball with the American association article. On the 22d and 23d Jack Carney will bring his Sioux down for a try-out, and that will wind up the festivities, for on the Wednesday following Omaha will have to go to Colorado Springs to open the season by scalping Tommy Burns' new outfit. It may be that some additional games will be sandwiched in between Sundays, for the team will want all the practice it can get, as the idea is to have it in winning form for the first game, if the weather doesn't interfere as it did last season.

Colorado Springs is affording the mystery this spring. Not a peep has been heard from Millionaire Tommy, other than one little circular utterance to the effect that he hopes the other teams will be as good as his. That means something, too, for Burns has always had a good team, and the nine that won a game from Colorado Springs surely earned it. Denver looks good, and Des Moines and Sioux City are also getting into line, but St. Joe looks like the joke from here. It may be that Percy is getting ready to spring something on us, but the outsiders are going to ask a lot of showing from Missouri this season.

The schedule adopted at the Chicago meeting varies so little from last season's that it hardly calls for comment. It is designed to catch the season as possible, and is probably the best arrangement that can be devised for dividing the 150 games between the six teams. Omaha has fared well in the matter of Sundays and holidays at home, and ought to have a prosperous season. The meeting at which the schedule was adopted was a most harmonious one, and the outlook for the season as far as the magnates are concerned is excellent.

In contradiction to the plans at Harvard and the feeling in other places, Commander W. F. Halsey of the Naval academy makes the suggestion to do away with the system of free tickets for the West Point-Annapolis foot ball game on account of the pressure for them from politicians and the difficulty of making a satisfactory distribution. The game has in late years taken place in the athletic field of the University of Pennsylvania, at Franklin Field. For the use of the field the university receives one-third of the tickets, \$112, and the army and navy the same number. At first all were complimentary, and the demand for them has been so great that it was found impossible to gratify even a large proportion of it. In 1903 the university, finding it impossible to give satisfaction in the free distribution of its allotment, determined to sell its tickets and to devote the net receipts to charities of the army and navy. This plan has worked so satisfactorily that the two service associations seem to be in favor of adopting it.

Five years ago few of the American wrestlers had heard of Frank Gotch in obscure Humboldt, Ia. Then Dan McLeod came along and routed out a farmer boy, whom he told his Chicago friends a week later was "one tough nut." This was Frank Gotch. Two years later Gotch swept all before him on the coast and cleaned up a fortune wrestling and fighting in the Klondike. Then he returned to the west and defeated "Tom" Jenkins for the championship on a foul, and last month in Cleveland repeated the defeat.

Manager M. E. Griffith of the Princeton university base ball team has announced the coaching policy for the line for the coming spring. The material will this year be worked over by a professional coach, but the graduate system will not be abandoned and Art Hillbrand has again been engaged as head coach. Hugh Jennings of the Baltimore Eastern league has been engaged to take the place of Fred Clark of the Pittsburgh Nationals, who did such good work last year, and was largely responsible for the Tigers' championship team. Jennings will reach Princeton about March 21 and will remain with the candidates one month, coaching Princeton in batting. Hillbrand will be with Captain Wells from the commencement of the season and will assist in the selection of the nine. Base ball candidates will be called out from the freshmen class in a few days and two weeks later the "varsity" will be summoned.

At Harvard Coburn and Stevenson are expected to make a strong battery for the base ball nine this year. Coburn shut out both Pennsylvania and Yale last year, and will have to fill Clarkson's place as the foremost pitcher for the Crimson this season. Captain W. C. Randall will cover first base and Hugh Kernan probably will occupy his old position at second. Matthews, the colored player, will doubtless remain at shortstop. Arthur McCarthy and

H. D. Greenough are likely to be in the outfield, with the third man to be picked from D. Mehall, R. E. Sperry and D. J. Nichols. J. B. Mahar is a promising candidate for third base.

The executive committee of the United States Golf association has agreed upon the conditions for the annual championship contest next summer at Wheaton, Ill., and the event will begin with a qualifying round at thirty holes. This change means more fast golf for the finals, which will be at thirty-two holes, eighteen on the first day and eighteen on the second. The thirty-two hole scores will continue at match play at eighteen holes for three days, narrowing down to finals, which will be at thirty-three holes. This change means more fast golf for the finals, which will be at thirty-two holes, eighteen on the first day and eighteen on the second. The thirty-two hole scores will continue at match play at eighteen holes for three days, narrowing down to finals, which will be at thirty-three holes. This change means more fast golf for the finals, which will be at thirty-two holes, eighteen on the first day and eighteen on the second.

Another advantage will be that all the players, no matter how many there may be, will be able to go the eighteen holes on the first day in orderly and careful play, and the same will be true on the second day. With such an entry list as last year, when 133 started, it was necessary for everybody to press in order to get through with thirty-six holes on the first day. Then, too, the committee can, on the second day, weed out those who have no chance to qualify, and those who are left will have ample time to go over the links without being hurried, and will play right up to their game. This will be a great boon to nervous players, who show great skill when they are not hurried, but go all to pieces when someone behind at critics "fore" and they become "rattled" when they think they are in the way of older and more experienced players. The committee has acted wisely in making the change, and while there may be some grumbling from the older men, the youngsters will be gratified to get into the tournament with more confidence. To have the finals in golf tournaments lie between the old players, champions and ex-champions is the worst thing that could happen to the game, and the present plan of the association makes this state of affairs unlikely.

After sending out inquiries for their views to thirty college presidents in the middle west, Prof. Victor H. Lane of the University of Michigan Law school has summarized the feeling in regard to unfortunate tendencies in modern athletics as expressed by them. The opinions bear particularly on the new eligibility rule devised by the western conference, requiring a half year's residence for participation in intercollegiate contests, thus barring freshmen from "varsity" foot ball teams. "I am persuaded," Prof. Lane says, "as in every other person with whom I have corresponded, who has discussed the question at all, that the rule recently adopted by the conference intercollegiate committee at Chicago, requiring a full semester before participation in college contests, will be almost a panacea for the unwise recruiting practices which now exist."

The New Jersey division of the Century Road Club of America is planning an active cycling campaign for the coming season. This encourages riding by club members a number of prizes will be offered. Two prizes to be awarded to those riding the most miles in 1906, first and second prizes, handsome gold medals; one prize awarded to those riding the most mileage during 1905, gold medals; two prizes awarded to those making the most miles during 1905, first and second prizes, handsome gold medals; monthly century competitions, one prize each month to those riding the most miles during the months of March, April, June, July and August; handsome medals and souvenirs to all survivors in century runs; also useful prizes will be awarded at the "Carnival of Sports" and in the novelty runs to be held during the coming season.

All the teams in both the American and National leagues during the coming spring practice intend to pay especial attention to the improvement of batting. There was a remarkable slump in batting last season throughout the base ball world, and various suggestions have been offered as to how it can be improved. In 1903 practically the same rules prevailed as in 1904, and the cause of the batting slump is still unexplained. Several of the managers have adopted the idea of having the pitchers in good condition in advance of regular spring practice, so that batters can be given a thorough try out before the season opens, and by this plan they hope to have slugging at the start. The pitchers were masters of the situation at the beginning of last season, and during the early weeks prospective batting records were knocked into a cocked hat. The result of the new plan will be watched with interest throughout both major and minor leagues.

That Milwaukee did itself proud at the recent national bowling tournament is the consensus of opinion of those who attended the big event. From every standpoint it was the greatest bowling meet ever held in the country. The managers carried out every promise and fulfilled every pledge. Every little grievance and there were a few of them—was listened to courteously and adjusted fairly. As has already been chronicled, the Omaha delegation acquitted itself with honors, particularly that portion of the Gate City bowlers known as the Omaha Bowling team, under the captaincy of "Doc" Huntington. This team brought home \$25, won for rolling eighth place in the five-men team contest, and nearly \$200 won in a special match game after the tournament proper with the All Kansas City team. Then Reed and Huntington and Chandler took \$60 of the money in the double events. In the single events, however, the Omaha boys were not in the money, which does not cause any great surprise when the records are scanned and it is learned that not a few of the best bowlers of the country failed to make good in the singles. It is worthy of passing note that the Omaha Bowling team made a higher score in the five-men contests than did fifty-two of the fifty-four Chicago five-men teams, and defeated most of the Milwaukee five-men teams. In the special match game with the Kansas City team on the closing evening of the tournament the Omaha team came within two pins of the highest score made in the five-men contests.

And Sam Karpf was elected to the secretaryship of the American Bowling congress, to succeed Henry, despite the opposition that was raised against him by the Milwaukee bowlers. It is stated that when the result of the election was made known the political fires of the bowling world were banked and all took hold of hands and danced around in a circle, or something like that. The Omaha boys have toiled hard for the Milwaukee team against the City league in pursuing the even tenor of its way on the association alleys.

Chesbro's latest "split" ball has been called the "fade-away." Ches says this latest creation of his pitching arm makes all the others look like three dimes reduced to cents. Chesbro will not divulge the secret of the fade-away, but assuredly all who need a good start for postage and packing that the fade-away will be the goods. The only clue he will give the authorities is that the only way to break up the fade-away is for the pitcher to be stationed a greater or less distance than he now stands from the batsman. The inference is left us that the ball in question has a tendency to fade away just when the batter is about to swing it with the stick. It may be a sort of hook-pocous deal or a quickness-of-the-hand-deceives-the-eye affair. Let us hope not.

The Chicago National league team is practicing at Santa Monica, near Los Angeles. A practice game was played at the latter place yesterday afternoon. Manager Seale has a staff of twenty-three players from which he will select this year's team. The team opens the season at St. Louis on April 10. Catcher, Fred Davis, who played all the way from Los Angeles to Kansas City, the unsuccessful candidate being dropped at the latter place. Seale's cubs are booked to meet the Omaha team at Lincoln, April 7, and here on April 8 and 9, in exhibition games. Before returning to Chicago again, which will be on April 13, the Chicago National team will have traveled 3,000 miles.

The advance agents of outdoor sports arrived in the city last week and circulated among his constituents. To the small boys he passed out generous donations of marbles and tops, and to the older boys and their parents and mothers he handed the schedule of the Western Base Ball league, which is an important document to nearly every one outside of jails and hospitals and kindred institutions. Even at this distance away from the first schools, when the sun is in the sight of the schedule comes as a soft summer breeze. It reminds one of rain checks, home runs, "you can't put 'em o-o-ver," the little boy on the fence and the Omaha pennant winners.

The thought that the first exhibition game on Vinton street will be seen three weeks from next Saturday is something to live for. After sitting around the fireplace these many months, waiting for the coal ball, playing dominoes and checkers and sighing for a breath of spring, it is soothing to the savage breast to begin to contemplate score cards, removal of storm doors, and getting about in the horse clipped and buying a new lawn mower. Yes, it seems almost too good to be true that in a few short weeks "Pa" Rourke's champions and Comiskey's "cats" will be seen at Vinton street. Eli Perkins would say, "Arise and sing!" "Pa" Rourke says, "Get your money ready!"

Up at Creighton university and down at the Union Pacific shops the sound of base ball talk is in the air, and before you get a meter is read again teams will have been selected. Last week a bunch of the Rangers and a few other base ball players who have been hibernating here came out of their shells, stretched themselves in the sunshine and went out to Vinton street for a little workout.

Two events of some interest in the local amateur athletic world will be the indoor track meets between the Omaha Young Men's Christian association team and the team of Bellevue college. The first meet will be given next Saturday evening at Bellevue, while the collegiate will appear at the association gymnasium on a week hence. The events will include shot put, pole vaulting, half and one-mile runs, twenty and thirty-yard dashes, high kick, dive and jump, broad jump and relay races. The members of the Omaha team will be: P. M. Peterson, W. J. Ryan, S. D. Green, H. Counsman, W. Parker, A. Cleveland, P. Bixton, P. Gillespie, Tom Moore and Raymond Cornwell. The meets will be conducted under the rules of the Athletic League of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America, which rules are similar to those of the Amateur Athletic union.

Neither the high school nor the Creighton university have been doing anything in the way of indoor track teams. The high school athletes will begin the outdoor season the latter part of this month under Captain Paul Benson.

Arrangements for the annual spring shoot of the Omaha Gun club are progressing favorably, the present indications being that the event will be notable one for the gunners. Secretary Townsend of the Gun club has received quite a number of favorable replies to the communications sent out. The members of the club are holding practice shoots, and a week and a delegation will go to Des Moines next week to attend the Iowa shoot and return with a large representation of sportsmen from the Hawkeye state for the Omaha shoot. It is expected that a large male may return from Texas in time for the shoot. A number of letters have been written him asking him to listen his return to his old stamping ground and show the boys whether his eagle eye has lost any of its cunning.

Local automobile dealers are unanimous in the opinion that this season will be an unprecedented one in their line of business. In fact, one dealer has gone so far as to assert that one company is paying some of its agents to cancel some of the orders placed. Be this as it may, the indications are in favor of a busy year for the manufacturers, dealers and chauffeurs. The class of machines most in demand at present range in price from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Some neat cars are being offered for \$750, while a very serviceable machine can be had for \$1,250. There is some talk of organizing an automobile club here this season, but as yet it has not passed the conversational stage.

Eight thousand marriages are annually dissolved in Germany. In England last year out of 1,000 criminals who felt the law's severity only nine were sentenced to be whipped. The diameter of the funnies—there are two—"Doc" Huntington. This team brought home \$25, won for rolling eighth place in the five-men team contest, and nearly \$200 won in a special match game after the tournament proper with the All Kansas City team. Then Reed and Huntington and Chandler took \$60 of the money in the double events. In the single events, however, the Omaha boys were not in the money, which does not cause any great surprise when the records are scanned and it is learned that not a few of the best bowlers of the country failed to make good in the singles. It is worthy of passing note that the Omaha Bowling team made a higher score in the five-men contests than did fifty-two of the fifty-four Chicago five-men teams, and defeated most of the Milwaukee five-men teams. In the special match game with the Kansas City team on the closing evening of the tournament the Omaha team came within two pins of the highest score made in the five-men contests.

the way and 10,000 who started, but did not arrive, are unaccounted for. A former army officer plays a hand organ on the streets of Rheinfeld and between his lectures on the methods of the British War office, which he says, reduced him to penury.

A Turkish newspaper announced recently, in recording various honors conferred on deserving soldiers of the sultan, that Captain Ali Riza Artta of the Zouave regiment of the Imperial Guard had received the title of ottendi for having learned to read and write.

Having taken a dislike to his daughter and her husband, Louis Hung of Basle, Switzerland poisoned 200 apple trees in their orchard with arsenic. The next time they made a pie those who ate it nearly died. Hung confessed and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

During the year 1904 W. Alfred Green, a business man, walked a distance of 3,500 miles, an average of fourteen and one-fourth miles a day. Writing of this in the February Outlook, Mr. Green says: "At the beginning of my walk my weight was 212 pounds in street clothes, while at the end of it my weight was 178 pounds. The loss of fourteen pounds was in every way acceptable."

The French telephone service has just accorded to the public one of those little touches of civilization which might, with obvious advantage, be extended throughout the world. It is a device which will henceforth be hung a white linen handkerchief, treated with a chemical solution, in the telephone booth, to be used to wipe the plate or tube before using it. If he will only do so also after the use of himself for several minutes, so much the better.

The laborer and industry. The journeymen tailors have voted to have a regular convention date once in four years. A machine is being perfected in a Birmingham, England, shop that is to turn out from 50,000 to 100,000 finished wire nails an hour.

A colony of railroad men from this country will go to Japan in the near future to assist in Americanizing the railroads there under Japanese government control. Softening of the brain, brought about by loss of sleep, according to the report of one-third of the rural laborers of England, is a remarkable statement made in a court in London by Dr. Duke.

From the government's latest reports of industrial statistics it appears that the list in the number of children employed under 16 years of age, with 33,135. New York is second, with 10,000.

The total output of the oyster industry in New York during the last year was 4,062,900 bushels, according to the annual report of Superintendent Wood of the shellfish bureau. Their value is estimated at \$7,665,000.

WINTER ECZEMA. Gentlemen—I suffered with Eczema on the hands and face for over a year. It was not only annoying and painful, but very unsightly, and I disliked to go out in the streets. I tried at least a dozen soaps and salves, which did me much harm, and became very much discouraged, until I read in the papers of the cures performed through the use of S. S. S., and determined to give it a month's trial at least. I am pleased to state that I soon noticed a slight improvement, sufficient to decide me to keep it up. After the use of six bottles my skin was as soft and smooth as an infant's. This was a year ago, and I have never had any trouble since. MISS GENIEVA BRIGGS, 215 S. Seventh Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

SSS strong and healthy again. S. S. S. is a purely vegetable remedy, and therefore cures this disease safely as well as surely, and from a condition of torture the patient is brought to one of healthful pleasure. Book on Skin Diseases mailed free, and our physicians will give advice, without charge, to all sufferers.

House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate passed a bill which was signed by the President (March 3rd, 1897) permitting us to bottle our whiskey in its Pure Natural State—under direct supervision of Gov. Officials. SUNNY BROOK DISTILLERY CO., Jefferson County, Ky.

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S. HIRSCH & CO., Kansas City, Mo. Pilgrims to the number of 92,600 from all parts of Islam reached Mecca last year. Five thousand are known to have died on the way.

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