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Sovereign Commander, W. O. W. Bldg., Omaha, Neb.

JOHN T. YATES,

Sovereign Clerk, W. O. W. Bldg. Omaha, Neb.

LEAGUE OF VANISHED STARS

Luminous Hasbeens Hold Interesting Meeting and Tell Old Tales.

HOW VON DER AHE TABOODED POCKETS

Der Foss Manager Tells It Himself and Bill Gleason Relates the Fish-Colored Stocking Story.

This Saturday night's meeting of the National League of Vanished Stars was late in being called to order because an hour before meeting time President Anson was accosted on his way to Bourke's place on Fifteenth street, where the league meets, by a country cousin from the old farm in Iowa, who insisted on securing the promise of "Ans" to dine with him Sunday.

For this meeting a goodly gathering of the old boys had come from different cities. Besides Cap. Anson and Jimmy Ryan from Chicago, both Bill and Jack Gleason, old George McInnis and the inimitable Chris, von Der Ahe of St. Louis, Johnny Ward of New York, Duck Ewing of Cincinnati, Stovey of Philadelphia and many other vanished stars were present. It was to be an "experience" meeting and the old fellows had come cooked and primed with yarn which they were eager to reel off.

"The meeting will come to order," announced President Anson, as he glanced over his "specs" at the round form of "Der Foss Manager" that had just rolled in.

"I have here a telegram from Mr.

Comiskey in which he sends his regrets at being unable to attend," said the president; "he says for me to tell you he is too busy winning the American league pennant to come."

"Ach, dat's him, dat's Charley for you," exclaimed von Der Ahe in subdued tones; "whust like von ve vas der four dime winners already, shust der same. He's always winning somethin'."

And then old Chris reached for his "stein."

"Well, our time is short and I must ask each gent to be brief in his remarks," continued Anson. "First, I will call on Mr. Von Der Ahe to tell us something of the old St. Louis Browns' days. And the veteran owner of that great ball team went away back to the days when Cliff Carroll was playing center, even before the late Curtis Welsh, 'King of Fielders,' joined the team."

"Did you ever hear why it was I prohibited der use of pockets in shirts?" asked Chris. Seeing a look of ignorance on the faces of all save the Gleason brothers and McInnis, he added, "Vell, I see you don't. Von day a ball is knocked out to center field and Carroll, he scoops it up somehow, but forgets where it went and after der runner makes a home run, Cliff he finds der ball in his shirt pocket. Dat settled it. Der next day all dem d-d pockets is somewhere else and dat vas der last u dem der der Browns."

Fish Colored Stockings.
The story was much enjoyed and after taking a few around Bill Gleason, the once famous short stop of the Browns, who got rich and then lost all on the races and is today back on the St. Louis fire department, arose. Everybody cheered. The dignity and popularity which attached to that great short stop of former days, were still present.

"I wish Chris had gone further in his

reminiscences about the wearing apparel reforms he effected and told you how near he came to substituting fish-colored stockings for the brown, worn by the team," observed Gleason. "I'll tell you." And then he glanced over McInnis' way, but the big ex-pitcher was asleep, which elicited a remonstrance from Gleason that every man should remain awake, or at least conscious, while business was being transacted. McInnis came to and the narrator continued:

"It was McInnis' day to pitch. We used to march out from the dressing room beyond the right field to first base, when each man would go to his position for practice. McInnis didn't march out that day. Comiskey had to go back to the room and remind him that it was time to get on the diamond. Finally, just before play was called, George came out and walked to the box. Instantly an uproar came from the grandstand and von Der Ahe burst through the little gate opening onto the diamond by the home team players' bench. He was ferriely agitated and was calling to Comiskey, but Comiskey was on first and he merely waved him back when Chris started out to speak to him. The umpire had called 'play ball' and McInnis proceeded to pitch, unmindful of the fact that he only had on one sock. At the end of the first inning he was sent back to the dressing room."

"Von Der Ahe insisted on the team wearing fish-colored socks after that, but with Comiskey's aid we convinced him even that attempt at deceiving the fans would not do, and, securing a pledge of reform from Max, we continued to wear the brown."

Makes Chris Sore.
"Ach, gif us a rest," protested Chris. "It's on the square, all right," put in McInnis.

And then Jimmie Ryan told of the time big Bill Lange sent George Van Halteren

three feet under earth for a batted ball. Van was in center, Lange at the bat, and one Chicago man on first. The game was with New York on the West Side grounds in Chicago. The score was 1 to 0 in favor of New York and there were two outs in the ninth inning. Lange hit the ball and it headed for center. Van ran up and stopped it on the ground with one hand. It looked like it might be good for a double, but as the man who was on first turned third and tore for home and Lange was approaching third the crowd was amazed to see Van Halteren lying prostrate on his face. Both runners scored before Van could touch the ball that had sunk to the bottom of a hole which, by some strange means, had been made in the ground.

"And yousse fellows von der game," interrupted the irrepressible von Der Ahe, drawing away from his stein for the moment. "Yell, I be —, don't dat beat der dickens?"

Pinochle President Bats In.
"I would like to state —" But the speaker, who was McInnis, was interrupted by President Griswold of the Omaha Pinochle club, which also holds its meetings here, with the announcement that his club had scheduled a tea party for the evening and desired to know if "you wind-jammers" were going to smoke all night.

"The Vanished Stars did not take kindly to this sort of attack, but generously refrained from insisting on a riot. President Anson declared the meeting adjourned, announcing that Mr. Ward and others not allowed to speak this time would be put at the head of the batting list a week hence."

AUTOMATIC TRAIN CONTROL

Description of a Remarkable and Useful Invention Brought Out in England.

Consul J. L. Griffith of Liverpool, in a report to the Department of Commerce and Labor, calls attention to an exceedingly timely, and from all accounts successful, system of arresting trains automatically. It is said to be of great value in cases of danger. While no description, except one with drawings and photographs ever does justice to machinery, the following report of Mr. Griffith may serve to excite interested parties to send for full description, or, better still, to cause the machinery to be examined by a competent engineer. The consul writes:

For about two years a system of automatic train control has been in use on a portion of the lines of the North Staffordshire Railway company. The officials of the company were so pleased with the efficiency of the system that they determined recently to test it in a larger way by placing it in service at one of their most important junction points where the traffic is unusually heavy. Representatives of several of the leading railroads in England were present at this test, and expressed great satisfaction with the result. Whenever it is prudent, on account of a dangerous curve, such as caused the recent disaster at Salisbury, or for any other reason, to permanently reduce the speed of trains, it is claimed that this can be automatically accomplished so that the safety of passengers will not be jeopardized by careless or reckless engineers. The following description of the invention was published in the Liverpool Post and Mercury:

"The system, of which Mr. Thomas E. Raymond Phillips, of Liverpool, is the inventor, is remarkable for its ingenuity and simplicity. Its most commending merit is its reliability."

"For a long time a system of signaling has been almost universally in use which respects in the signal cabin the condition of the signals which are controlled from

that cabin. So many signals are not visible from the cabins from which they are operated that the value of this safeguard is quite obvious. The Raymond Phillips invention carries this principle a further stage, and achieves an even more notable and important precaution by repeating the state of the signals not only in the signal box but also in the cab of the locomotive, and so insures that the driver shall at all times have a clear view of the condition of the signals governing the road over which his engine is to run. This is accomplished by means of pneumatically operated miniature semaphores fitted up in the cab of the locomotive. Opposite each line signal a set of 'trippers' in duplicate is placed in the four-foot way. The trippers are mechanically and electrically connected with the ordinary signaling apparatus, and stand erect or lie flat according as the signals show 'danger' or 'line clear.' Beneath the locomotive there are two striking levers moving either way, which project such a distance as to meet the trippers when they are erect and to pass over them altogether when they are lowered. When 'danger' is signaled, therefore, the striking lever is thrown back by the upstanding trippers, with the instant effect that the semaphores in the cab of the engine faithfully reproduce the signal, and the levers, after striking the trippers, remain securely locked until released by the driver. But that is not all. Should the driver for any reason disregard the signal his train is automatically pulled up quite independently of his own operations, and simultaneously a warning note is sounded by a horn on the

locomotive, so that he is warned of his position both by visual and audible signals. At the same moment the signalman is warned of the irregularity by means of a special repeater fitted in the signal box, and an alarm bell is set going and continues ringing until he acknowledges it by pressing a plunger in the repeater.

"In actual operation all this is very much simpler than perhaps appears from the description. So easily and with such prompt response does every part of the apparatus work that the probability of any portion of it being thrown out of gear is, to say the least of it, exceedingly remote. But in the event of such a contingency occurring, either from accidental breakage or deliberate tampering, the mishap can scarcely be attended with any element of danger. Complete provision is made for a countercheck of that sort. The immediate effect of the failure of any part of the apparatus to fulfill its appointed task would be that both the driver and signalman would be warned, and the line upon which the accident occurred would be blocked. If the tripper mechanism, for instance, were to be put out of action, the signalman would be given instant warning—a disk would fall on the repeater in front of him, disclosing the words, 'Out of order,' and at the same time an alarm bell would ring. Moreover, if any breakage should take place, its rectification would be a matter of very little time and very little trouble, as all parts of the system are interchangeable. Breakages, indeed, would be very rare, judged by the working of the system up to the present. For nearly two years the Phillips Syndicate have had a locomotive fitted up

with their apparatus, and although it has been in constant use there has been no occasion to replace a striking lever, and every part of the mechanism is still in first-class order."

Weather Wisdom of Fishes.
"In their way," said the old fisherman, "fishes are good weather prophets. If a storm is approaching the fish stop biting and they won't bite again until the storm is well over. They appear to know when a storm is coming and when it has really passed. And to fishermen and farmers living along the shore, fish foretell the near approach of cold weather. Hours before it comes fishes leave the shallow waters inshore and seek deeper water, which in its depths will stay warm and keep an equable temperature after the shallower and surface waters have turned cold. Oh, yes, fishes know a thing or two about the weather."—New York Sun.

Crossing the Line.
One of the most persistent of popular fallacies is the belief in the "line storm," or great gale which always appears on or about September 22, to mark the autumnal equinox.

In spite of weather bureau records the oldest inhabitant recounts the equinoctial gales of the past, and among the people in general there is a deep rooted belief that the line which separates summer from autumn is crossed by the sun only after a struggle with threes, the effect of which reaches even this far-away planet—Youth's Companion.

Balduff Gold Medal Chocolates

This illustrates the plain box in which Balduff Gold Medal Chocolates are packed.

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Gund's Peerless Beer

is a most wholesome and delicious beverage. Gund's Peerless Beer being made from malted barley, is essentially a "food stuff" of high nutritive value. It drinks regularly with meals it clears the liver, enriches the blood, brightens the skin, stimulates the gastric secretions and wonderfully promotes the digestive process. Thus it is that the beer drinking race of man are the healthiest and in the forefront of the world's progress. Peerless Beer was the Gold Medal at the St. Louis Exposition for highest excellence. Contains about 4 per cent of alcohol, just enough to promote digestion. Doctors prescribe it for the weak and sick. Used at all high-class health resorts. Delivered at homes on request by phone or mail. Sold at all cafes, saloons, hotels and buffets. Bottled only at brewery.

JOHN GUND BREWING CO., La Crosse, Wis.

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