LONG SCHEDULE WILL WIN

Western League Will Play 168 Games This Year.

SEASON APRIL 20 TO OCTOBER 4

Committee is Having Hard Time to Straighten Out Sunday Schedules, Denver Causing the Mixup.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—The Western League was unable to decide upon a schedule at today's meeting and adjourned until tomorrow morning. It is almost certain that 168 games will be played and the season will probably begin about April 21 and end October 4.

This was practically decided upon at today's meeting, but the schedule committee was unable to adjust certain dates to the satisfaction of all the club owners. The general outline of the draft submitted by the committee proved satisfactory and the Sunday dates were said to be the rock upon which the split came. The isolated geographical location of Denver caused the schedule committee trouble in the apportionment of the Sundays at home. The committee again went into session and it is expected that all the objectionable features will be eliminated by tomorrow.

Des Moines sold five men to the Green Bay club in the Wisconsin-Illinois league. The Western leaguers held several conferences with the American league and American Association club owners and magnates.

Manager Jack Hendricks of Denver announced that his club will train at Excelsior Springs, Mo., beginning March 18.

Contracts Approved.

President N. L. O'Neill today approved the following contracts:

Des Moines: John Cavanaugh.
Denver: Barney Schriber, A. J. Nolan, Robert McCabe, Earh A. Herbert, A. R. Mitchell, Oscar E. Knolls.
Omaha: W. H. Fox.
Wichita: R. M. Middleton, Ira A. Belden, Nick Allen, Louis A. Fretter, Edward F. Jockerst, E. F. Lock, H. K. Elder, Robert Hassler, J. C. Shackleford, "Nig" Shaner, Clyde E. Knight, Clyde Euslay.
Topeka: G. W. Fraseier, "Dusty" Bullock, Yeos Roberts, T. M. Hinde, M. L. Schmidt, E. Woolet, J. F. Roach, F. Haxey, S. A. Abbott, George Laudreth.
St. Joseph: A. McNeil, J. Galzano, H. McLear, E. S. Martin, O. W. Meier, R. R. Wolfe, W. R. Jones, R. E. Williams.

TWO SCHOOL RECORDS BROKEN

Nonfraternity Men Win Track Meet at Lincoln.

LINCOLN, Feb. 16.—(Special Telegram.)—The annual charter day barb-frat indoor athletic meet at the State university was won by nonfraternity men yesterday, by a score of 42 to 40. The absence of Sidney Collins from the shot-put event gave the nonfraternity men a chance to take second place and win the contest. Collins claimed he was too ill to compete.

Two university records were broken in the shot-put. B. Funkhauser heaved the weight forty-four feet, three and one-half inches, this mark being three and a half inches better than the record put made by Sidney Collins last year.

In the high kick, Hansen raised the record mark by half an inch, going to nine feet, four and one-half inches. This mark is within three and a half inches of the world's record. Hansen tried for the world's record, but his kick, although going as high as nine feet eight inches, missed the leather plaster.

The big surprise of the meet was the defeat suffered by Swanson in the twenty-five-yard dash. Last year Swanson won that event with ease, and looked like a sure winner for this winter. He was defeated by May, a freshman athlete, who dashed the twenty-five yards in record time. Minor, a fast university sprinter, failed to get a place in this event.

In the pole vault, Nebraska'n two star vaulters, tied for first place at ten feet six inches. Both were out of form and their exhibition was not up to the standard that they have set in the past.

Graham won the individual medal with a total of nine points. Funkhauser crowded him closely, with eight points. Hansen was next, with seven points. Hummell, the star individual athlete of the school was not entered because of a sprained ankle.

In the Pershing rifle competitive drill held before the track meet, Carl C. Lord of Randolph, was awarded the medal for the best individual work. Summaries:

Twenty-five Yards Dash—May, first; Powers, second; Swanson, third. Time: 0:23½.

Pole Vault—Russell and Graham, tied for first place; Lindstrom, third. Height: 10 feet six inches.

Twelve-Pound Shot-Put — Funkhauser, first; Elliott, second; Hansen, third. Distance: 44 feet 3½ inches.

Fence Vault—Burke, first; Villars, second; Davis, third. Height: 6 feet 5 inches.

Running High Jump—Graham, first; Funkhauser, second; Hansen, third. Distance: 5 feet 8 inches.

Running High Kick—Hansen, first; Long, second; Pearse, third. Height: 9 feet 4½ inches.

Rope Climb—Barnes, first; Hammond, second; Clark, third. Time: 0:06⅘.

Tug-of-War—Won by Fraternity team, composed of Ewing, Pearse, Clark, McDonald, Minor and Russell.

Relay Race—Won by Fraternity team, composed of Davis, Reed, Minor and McDonald.

Of the winners in the various events the following were fraternity men: Swanson, Russell, Hansen-Davis, Hansen, Pearse, Clark, Barnes and Minor.

Likes Change in Omaha Date.

IOWA CITY, Ia., Feb. 16.—(Special.)—Coach "Sphinx" Delaney of the University of Iowa track is pleased that the date of the Omaha indoor meet has been set forward to April 1, and it is not unlikely that the Hawkeyes will be represented at this meet. Originally the date of the big indoor carnival was set for March 4, which would have been too early for the Iowans to round into shape.

Grinnell has made plans to send four men and Drake university at Des Moines will have a relay team and other athletes in the event. It is not known whether Trainer Jack Watson at Ames will be able to send a team at the later date, owing to the inadequate accommodations for indoor training at Ames.

Rowing Club Increases Dues

Decision Reached at Annual Meeting Last Night—H. Z. Haas Re-Elected Director.

At the annual meeting of the Council Bluffs Rowing association held last evening in the ball room of the Grand hotel at Council Bluffs H. Z. Haas, the veteran commodore of the boat club was re-elected a director to succeed himself despite his protest that he was not a candidate. Perry Badollet and Charles R. Hanan, jr., were elected directors to succeed C. T. Stewart and E. H. Louges, whose terms expired and who were not candidates for re-election. Others placed in nomination for directors were Will Schnorr, George Wheeler, C. E. Walters and J. H. Clark, jr. The directors postponed election of officers, owing to the absence of a few members.

In view of the need of an increased income to meet the expenses of properly maintaining the club house, golf links and other appurtenances it was decided to raise the annual dues from $21 to $25, but to lower the entrance fee from $40 to $25. This was in accordance with the suggestion contained in President Tinley's annual address.

The reports showed that there are 366 members in good standing, as against 397 at the beginning of last year. Of the 366 members seventy-three are from Omaha.

The financial condition of the association is good. While it has an indebtedness of $12,000, it owns property at Lake Manawa of the total value of $36,000. The expenses last year amounted to $11,207.32, of which amount about $1,000 was for the caring of the golf links.

The extreme cold weather last night was held responsible for a smaller attendance than usual at the annual meeting, only 117 members being present. As a matter of economy the lunch, which heretofore has followed the meeting, was dispensed this year.

NATIONAL LEAGUE DEADLOCK

Magnates Again Fail to Agree on Length of Schedule.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The National league magnates are still deadlocked on the schedule question. As was the case yesterday, they convened at 2 o'clock this afternoon and remained in session until tonight, unable to decide on either the 168 or the 154-game proposals. Accordingly, at the night session it was decided to turn to a decision of the rules and to resume the schedule debate at 2 p. m. tomorrow.

BRESNAHAN KNOCKS OUT CAIN

Sioux City Fighter Goes Down in the Thirteenth Round.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 16.—Tommy Bresnahan of South Omaha last night knocked out Jimmy Cain of Sioux City in the thirteenth round.

Drake Fixes Kansas Date.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 16.—(Special.)—Coach John L. Griffith of Drake university has received the signed contract for the Kansas game which is to be played in Des Moines next fall, on October 29. All of the contracts have been received now with the exception of Iowa's. It is expected that this document will arrive soon. The date for this contest has been settled on November 12.

Newspaper Verdict for Howell.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 16.—By an unwritten law in local boxing circles, according to which the decision of a majority of the morning newspapers is accepted after a prize fight, Lew Howell gained the verdict over George Mensic last night in their ten-round battle. Two of the three morning papers declared today that Howell was entitled to the decision, the other gave the honors to Mensic by a wide margin. Bets are paid here on the majority ruling.

O'Loughrey Given Decision.

BOSTON, Feb. 16.—"Young" O'Loughrey of Philadelphia received the decision over Tommy Quill of Brockton in a fast twelve-round bout at the Armory Athletic association last night. Loughrey was in great form and showed surprising speed, outpunching his opponent in every round.

Weston Nears Grand Canyon.

GRAND CANYON, Ariz., Feb. 16.—Edward Payson Weston, the aged pedestrian who is making an ocean to ocean walking trip against time from Los Angeles to New York City, is expected to arrive here tonight. The pedestrian arrived at Williams, Ariz., last night.

Omaha Business Men Win.

At the Young Men's Christian association last night the Omaha Business Men's indoor base ball team won, 27 to 29. Score by innings:

Omaha	6	2	4	6	3	2	1	1	4	—29
Lincoln	0	0	14	5	2	0	0	4	2	—27

Umpire Haskell to Chicago.

Jack Haskell, chief of umpires of the Western league, left last evening for Chicago to be in attendance at the meeting of the Western league today. Haskell left in response to a telegram from O'Neil.

Ames Wins from Missouri.

AMES, Ia., Feb. 16.—Ames, 13; University of Missouri, 11.

AMERICAN LEAGUE CONTRACT

Agreement Among the Eight Clubs is Renewed for Twenty Years.

JOHNSON AGAIN PRESIDENT

He is Re-elected for Term of Contract and His Salary Advanced to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars a Year.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Byron Bancroft Johnson was re-elected president, secretary and treasurer of the American league at a salary said to be $25,000 a year at the closing session of the annual schedule meeting today.

The agreement under which the league has existed since November, 1900, was renewed for a period of twenty years. In the new agreement is a clause forbidding any club owner or holder of stock in any club to hold shares in any other club in the league except as an "emergency measure."

All the other articles of the agreement were retained in the new one.

Uniform tickets with rain check coupons, practically the same as now in use in the National league, were adopted.

A schedule of 154 games, opening on April 14 and closing on October 9, was unanimously adopted. This schedule was the only one submitted to the meeting and was chosen without change. It was announced that the dates selected would be retained whether the National league plays 154 or 168 games. If the National league selects the shorter season there will only be ten conflicting dates between the two leagues. Eight of these will be in Chicago and the two others in St. Louis.

Johnson's Salary Increased.

While no official announcement was made that Mr. Johnson's salary had been increased from $15,000 to $25,000 it was said on good authority that such was the case. Mr. Johnson refused to talk of the reported salary increase, but smilingly said that it was a personal matter. He also returned the same answer as to the question as to how old he would be when his term of office will expire. This is the longest tenure in office to which any base ball president was ever elected.

It was made co-existent with the National agreement. It is said that Charles A. Comiskey of Chicago and Benjamin S. Shive of Philadelphia were the men behind this signal tribute to Mr. Johnson as a league leader. The adoption of a twenty-year agreement was said to be in the nature of a compromise. Some of the club owners favored the renewal for ten years, while others spoke for a perpetual agreement, such as now exists in the National league. This was the main subject of debate in yesterday's meeting and the voting on it was postponed until today.

Syndicate Ball Prohibited.

The article added to the agreement forbidding "syndicate base ball" reads as follows:

Syndicate base ball is prohibited except as an emergency measure and then only with the consent of the league's president and directors, shall a stockholder in one club own or control stock in another club in the American league, under penalty of being voted and dealt with as an undesirable associate and barred from all connections with the league.

The expected big trade in which the St. Louis club was to be a party had not developed up to a late hour. Several conferences were held by the various managers, but nothing of importance developed. The Saginaw club of the Southern Michigan league secured two American recruits. It purchased Second Baseman Weaver from Cleveland and Pitcher Arnold from Philadelphia. The same club also bought Pitcher Burgess from the Sprinfield (Mo.) club. The majority of the club owners and managers left for their homes tonight.

Robert L. Hedges, president of the St. Louis Americans, denied that he had any intention of trading Outfielder George Stone and Shortstop Bobby Wallace to Cleveland for Catcher Clarke and First Baseman Stovall.

The following telegram was received by Mr. B. B. Johnson from August Herrmann, chairman of the National commission, today:

All articles having been offered as coming from me with reference to Kling are false. Have made no statement excepting that the case will be taken up soon.

BUCKLES' FIGHT IS A DRAW

Omaha Man Has Much the Better of the Argument All the Way, However.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 16.—The fight between Guy Buckles of Omaha and Jacks Robinson of New York was declared a draw here yesterday. Buckles had the best of the battle throughout, but by agreement the fight was to be declared a draw if both men were on their feet at the end of the tenth round.

STUDENTS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Two Hundred from Lincoln Off on Annual Jaunt Through Packingtown.

"What's the matter with South Omaha? It's all right! What's the matter with Buckingham? He's all right."

So shouted 200 students from the Nebraska State School of Agriculture as they rose from a lunch table Wednesday at noon in the dining hall of the Omaha Live Stock exchange. The students were up on their annual trip of inspection through the packing plants.

They faced the cold and passed rapidly through the various departments, enjoying the rapid movements which mark the morning sales. Of special interest was the hog yards, where every hundred pounds of pork was worth nearly $9.

The boys on their way through the packing houses found many sights to attract them and the various branches of the industry were unfolded by a squad of guides and demonstrators. The managers of the packing houses in several instances personally led the party. At Swift & Co. and Armour & Co.'s plant the usual complete exhibit was inspected.

The professors with the students were H. R. Smith, head of the Department of Agriculture, and Assistants Robert Ashby and Ellis Rall. Instructor S. McKelvie and S. W. Perin, the farm superintendents, were also present. L. S. Heron of the Nebraska Farmer made one of the party.

This visit marks the close of the shorter course in agriculture, thus allowing the boys to return to their homes for spring work.

A banquet was served for the students at 5:30 p. m. at the Exchange building, after which the management entertained them until 9 o'clock.

Suits Against Estate of Late General Palmer

Government Seeks to Recover Value of 362,000 Tons of Coal Mined on Public Land.

DENVER, Feb. 16.—Suit was filed in the federal court yesterday against David C. Dodge, George Foster Peabody, George Kraus and George Mellen, as executors of the will of the late General William J. Palmer, charging extensive coal land frauds. The action is in equity to recover $542,000, the value of 362,000 tons of coal. Attorney General Wickersham and Frederick A. Maynard, assistant to the attorney general, with headquarters at Salt Lake City, filed the complaints.

It is alleged that between January 1, 1899 and June 30, 1900, Peabody and Palmer mined coal on 1,123 acres of government land that had been illegally acquired.

The lands are said to have been part of a tract controlled by the Ute Coal company, a subsidiary corporation of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, and were involved in charges against prominent western men in the federal courts recently. The cases were dismissed in the higher courts.

General Palmer died March 13, 1909, at Colorado Springs, Colo.

Insurgents Driven From Matagalpa

Bombardment is Renewed and General Chamorra Abandons the City Early in Day.

MANAGUA, Feb. 16.—The forces of President Madriz have again taken possession of Matagalpa, which on February 10 was occupied by General Chamorro, one of the insurgent leaders. The bombardment of the city, which was begun Sunday night, after notification had been given to the non-combatants to withdraw, was abandoned for some hours and begun again yesterday. The government forces had heavy guns on the hills, but the insurgents were without means to reply at long range. Chamorro therefore deemed it advisable to retreat and under the cover of darkness evacuated Matagalpa at an early hour this morning.

Generals Lara, Chivarria, Martinez and Rivas, each of whom commanded sections of the government troops, reoccupied the city at noon. Chamorro did not escape any too soon, as he was nearly surrounded by the government forces, which had not been brought as quickly as the condition of the country would permit during the last few days.

It is reported here that General Chamorro has broken away from General Estrada and proclaimed himself president. Overtures have been made to President Madriz by Chamorro through the medium of the American consular agent, W. H. Desavigny, at Matagalpa, for the re-establishment of peace. Chamorro's offer, embodied in a letter, is now in the hands of Vice Consul Caldera, and President Madriz has as yet been only unofficially informed of the proposal, but he has already given his answer, which is the unconditional surrender and imprisonment of Chamorro are the only terms acceptable.

Strange Will of General Ballance

Unusual Provisions of Testament of Army Officer May Start Contest for Big Estate.

PEORIA, Ill., Feb. 16.—Because of a clause in the strange will of General John Green Ballance, Spanish war veteran and one of the wealthiest men in this state, a great contest may be started by his heirs.

Characteristic of the other paragraphs in the will, the testator, who had an estate of several hundred thousand dollars, provided that "twenty-one years after the death of my last surviving nephew or niece, my estate shall be divided among my grand-nephews and grand-nieces, who are descendants, in such a way that the share of each shall be equal."

General Ballance died at Miami, Fla., last Thursday night. Since his service in the Philippines during the Spanish-American war he has suffered from beriberi, a mysterious disease.

In the first clause of his will he commands that his body be given to some medical society to be dissected in the interest of medical science.

END OF WATER WORKS CASE STILL AN UNCERTAIN DATE

Attorney for Water Company Says He is Doubtful—A. B. Hunt Casts Out Anchor to Windward.

Richard S. Hall, attorney for the Omaha Water company, says he is looking for the argument in the water works ownership case to come up in the United States supreme court some time between March 1 and 15.

"There is nothing certain about the date, however," said Mr. Hall.

"When do you look for a decision after argument?"

"Oh, man, that's beyond telling by anybody."

Superintendent A. B. Hunt of the water company has already cast an anchor to windward by becoming treasurer of a new life insurance company formed by Omaha and Nebraska men, with head office in Omaha. He makes little secret of the fact that he would not serve in any capacity with the plant should it pass into the ownership of the city. Other employes of the company feel very much the same as Hunt about taking chances with a city board in control of the water works, but they are saying little.

"What's the use of talking about the future?" asked Stockton Heth. "The United States supreme court is slow and methodical. No man can tell when a decision is likely to be handed down. Even then, it would require time, and be something of a chore, to make a transfer and put the city in possession.

ADAMS & KELLY TO ENLARGE

Sash and Door Manufacturers Build an Addition Costing $50,000 to $75,000.

Early next week Adams & Kelly, sash and door manufacturers, on Nicholas street, will break ground for an addition to their warehouse and factory buildings. The new addition will be built on the vacant ground between the present warehouse and the factory. It will be 106 by 155 feet in size, four stories high, and when completed will make the firm's plant 155 by 304 feet in dimensions, one of the very largest of the kind in the western country. The cost of the new building, which is to be of brick and mill construction, will be between $50,000 and $75,000.

OMAHANS IN MERGER CASE

Mohler and Seger Go to New York to Testify.

LATTER WILL PRODUCE FIGURES

Vice President Will Say that Southern and Union Pacific Roads Are Not Competitive, Hence Not Violating Law.

Two Harriman officials in Omaha—A. L. Mohler, vice president and general manager of the Union Pacific, and C. B. Seger, general auditor of the Harriman system—have been summoned to New York as witnesses in the government's suit to dissolve the so-called merger.

Nelson H. Loomis of Omaha, general solicitor of the Union Pacific, has been east since the filing of the suit and will remain as railroad counsel until the proceedings close. He was with President Lovett at the time the answer was made to the government's action at Washington.

Mr. Seger probably will be called upon the witness stand to produce figures showing the relative amount of trade over the Harriman lines since the merger. Of the decrease from 79 per cent to 39 per cent in the freight traffic over the Sunset Route in 1891, the year of the consolidation, the government insists that only a small part of this amount was due to legitimate competition.

If called upon the stand it is understood that Mr. Mohler will emphasize that the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific merger is in no wise a combine of competing lines and therefore is not operating in restraint of trade.

Coming at the same time as the hearing in New York is the decision of the federal court at San Antonio, Tex., to the effect that the lease of the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio road is illegal and that the relation shall be dissolved. This road is one of the subsidiary lines of the Southern Pacific.

If other subsidiary lines of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific are dissolved as a result of the hearing in New York it will not come as as a big surprise to local railroad officials.

SMALL HOTEL MEN TESTIFY BEFORE THE GRAND JURY

Proprietors and Clerks Are Quizzed About Admitting Boys and Girls to Rooms.

Several proprietors and clerks of small hotels have testified before the grand jury, which is investigating charges that boys and girls are wrongfully admitted to such places.

Those who came in answer to summonses Wednesday and who testified were these:

Samuel Nathan, proprietor of the Brunswick, Dodge and State hotels.

Joseph S. Bixler, of Bixler & Sideny, proprietors of the Arcade hotel.

L. W. Panica, proprietor of the Oma hotel.

Frank Johnson, clerk at the Arcade.

Thomas McAvoy, clerk at the Oma.

One after another these men were called singly into the grand jury room, where each remained for at least half an hour. Inside the locked doors they are understood to have been quizzed at length about what scrutiny couples who wish to rent rooms are subjected to. And without exception each hotel man asserted that care and precaution is taken that no suspicious couple gets a room.

While waiting his turn before the inquisitors, L. W. Panica of the Oma asserted that "they are making a great fuss over nothing at all," and one of the Arcade hotel men present declared that only last Sunday the police had been notified when a couple looked suspicious to the clerk. An arrest was made by the police following the notification.

"Why are they jumping on us poor fellows only?" inquired one of the witnesses. "There are other hotels in Omaha that are bad, if we are bad. But they seem just to be picking on us."

NEWS OF THE ARMY CIRCLES

Brigadier General Morton is Making Inspection of All His Posts.

The leave of absence for ten days granted to Captain James A. Cole of the Sixth cavalry, Fort Des Moines, has been extended twenty days.

Leave of absence for two months has been granted Second Lieutenant F. K. Chapin of the Ninth cavalry.

Contract Dental Surgeon George D. Graham of Fort Leavenworth has been assigned to Fort Crook for temporary duty.

Private L. N. Cody of Battery A, Sixth field artillery, has been granted an honorable discharge from the army by purchase.

Brigadier General Charles Morton, commanding the Department of the Missouri; First Lieutenant O. E. Michaelis, aide de camp, and Major D. E. McCarthy, chief quartermaster of the Department of the Missouri, are in Fort Des Moines making the annual inspection of that post. General Morton will make the annual inspection of all the posts of the department before his retirement, on March 18.

HOW'S THIS FOR BUSINESS?

One New Industry in Omaha Multiplies Its Capital Five Times in One Year.

One of the new industries secured by the Commercial club with a capital of $10,000 did a business of $50,000 last year, or in other words, turned over its capital five times. For lack of sufficient funds this concern is forced to turn down numerous local and foreign orders and it now wants to increase its capital stock by placing a limited amount of stock. The credit of the concern is good and Commissioner Guild would be glad to give any information on the subject.

MILLIONS IN BANK BUT IS SLOWLY STARVING TO DEATH

Rich Man Who Amassed a Fortune, But Lost Delight in Life, Tells Pitiful Tale of Wasted Career.

A heartrending story was related yesterday by the Cooper "stomach man." He said:

"A man came to see me the other day who had a tale that touched my heart. This man was a millionaire, a self-made one. For more than forty years this man had toiled and struggled and pinched and saved to amass his millions. He drove up to the Brandeis stores, where I am making my headquarters in this city, in an automobile. He told me that he was the victim of a wornout stomach. He said that he had spent thousands of dollars with specialists in America and Europe, but that in spite of all his stomach had grown less and less active.

"In short, he was literally starving to death. His stomach was fast becoming so that it would not retain a single particle of food. He had read of my work in the east, and when he learned that I was here he decided to call on me.

"What did I do for him? I gave him the same medicine that I give to the humblest working man that calls on me. For the millionaire's stomach is the same as the stomach of any other mortal—a truth this man was just beginning to find out after years of suffering. While he was amassing his wealth he lived plainly and had good health. When he had become rich, luxurious living had been too much for him. He had abused his body, broken all the laws of nature—and now it could stand no more. He was paying the penalty of his folly."

One of those among others who consented to talk about benefits derived from the Cooper treatment yesterday was W. F. [illegible] 30 West Eleventh street, Grand Island Neb. Mr. Fent is a brakeman on the Union Pacific railroad. He said:

"I have been suffering with stomach trouble for a year and a half. I had gas on the stomach, was constipated, and was restless and found it difficult to sleep. I tried many remedies, but nothing seemed to benefit me until I took this Cooper treatment. It is the best thing I know of and did me more good than all other medicines put together."

SERIAL STORY IN THE BEE

Publication of a Charming Novel Will Begin on Sunday.

"MAN IN LOWER TEN" IS SELECTED

Absorbing Tale of Love and Mystery, Complicated with Crime and Adventure, Will be Given Our Readers.

"The Man In Lower Ten," by Mary Roberts Rinehart, author of "The Circular Staircase," and published by the Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis, will be published as a serial story by The Bee.

"The Circular Staircase" was one of the happy surprises of 1908. Here was a mystery by an author practically unknown, which combined elements of humor and mystery in such entertaining proportions that the reading public was immediately captivated. The combination was something new, piquant and different, like the first taste of grape fruit dressed with oil.

In "The Man In Lower Ten" Mrs. Rinehart tells an even better story, with even greater gayety, and even more intense humor. This incessant, spontaneous, irrepressible humor of hers may be taken as her distinctive contribution to detective fiction, the very essence of her true delightfulness. It has its source in an optimism as natural as the welling of water from the rock. It has the tonic quality of sunshine. Even in the moments of their direst predicaments the characters are able to laugh at themselves, and the reader laughs with them.

Now, one might reasonably suppose that this incorrigible comic perception would take the edge off the excitement. But it doesn't. On the contrary, it adds to the sense of reality, makes the characters seem more natural, human and sympathetic, supplies ozone to the air of plausibility, gives a zest to the criminal chase and whets the appetite for mystery.

And as for the mystery—the plot of "The Man in Lower Ten" so deeply engrosses the reader that he forgets meals, sleep, the toothache, appendicitis, duns and all other insistent distractions. We shan't give it away; we should not be so unkind to the prospective reader. But the starting point may at least be indicated. A man goes to bed in "Lower Nine" of the Washington sleeper from Pittsburg, and awakens in "Lower Seven." In the meantime, another man in "Lower Ten," which berth the first man was to have occupied if Pullman arrangements had gone straight, is murdered, and the man in "Lower Seven" finds, as he starts to dress, not his own clothes and shoes, but the garments of somebody else and the bag of somebody else, instead of the one containing his own valuable papers.

There's your puzzle for you, and it seems all the more baffling because of its very simplicity. The criminal must be one of the little group of people, all described, who boarded the Washington car. Naturally, every reader becomes a detective on his own hook, certain-sure that he has the one correct solution. And Mrs. Rinehart just sits back with her sly and subtle smile—and lets one think so. Her fun will come to see him sit up with a jerk of surprise when she discloses her secret in the last astonishing chapter.

It remains to add that, while the bright banners of humor and the sinister storm-signals of mystery are streaming throughout this story, the flag of romance flies bravely, too. On the fateful Pullman on which the hero takes passage there is also a blue-eyed and brown-haired Isabel whom he sees and loves. "The Man in Lower Ten" thus makes a threefold appeal on the reader, who is at once absorbed by its unusual mystery, cheered by its delightful humor and charmed by its love-interest. And a threefold cord, says Ecclesiastes, is not quickly broken.

The first installment of "The Man in Lower Ten" will be published in The Sunday Bee of February 20. It would be well to order the paper at once in order to secure the first chapter of this charming story.

SANDS OF TIME IN CITY HALL

Changes in City Clerk's Office Uncover Accumulations that Many Years Have Left.

The office of City Clerk Butler has been turned around so that under the new arrangement the smiling face of the man who gives out the dog licenses will be found in the northeast corner of the barn-like enclosure instead of in the southwest corner.

"Under the counter proper we found three and a half tons of dirt, which has been resting there through all the years since the fittings were put in," said Mr. Butler. "And under the 3-cent linoleum on the floor we unearthed several million germs of divers families of bacilli and bugville. If the council committee in charge tries to patch up the old linoleum and put it down again the health commissioner should be called by a 2-11 alarm. The accident companies could also do a thriving business with parties who have to come to this office."