

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE
OMAHA, SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1910.

JUDGMENTS

WHEN the National Association of Base Ball players meets next week it will have as one of its main objects the proposition of reclassifying the leagues under the new conditions of the increased population which the census will show. As a matter of fact, however, in some cases the old classification may be left intact and do no injustice. The present order requires a combined population of 1,000,000 for class A leagues and between 400,000 and 1,000,000 for class B. As a matter of fact, there are leagues under these classifications that do not and never have had the aggregate population and will not exceed under the new census. The Western league is one. It is in class A, but if its eight cities are taken together, they will not aggregate 1,000,000 population, quite. Of course, with their adjacent contributing territory, they will. It seems, therefore, that while both the country's population and that of base ball will show remarkable growth under the 1910 census, some of the task of reclassifying may be absorbed in the simpler dispensation of letting things stand in a few cases as they are, to give time for development. It is, of course, of course, to cut these clothes too large, rather than too small, and then allow some room for expansion.

Some loyal fan has raised the question of letting bright stars disappear from the base ball firmament after years of brilliant illumination. It is a question that is worth to mark their going. He suggests that at least such a man might be given a special day in base ball when his memory and achievements of the past might be stamped on the minds of men everywhere by some sort of impressive ceremony. The sentiment is a good one. Every year some player, who has been a pillar in the game for a decade or more, passes off the diamond he has helped make famous and some seasons many such men go. This year, for instance, there are Billy Keeler, George Davis and Isbell, men who have been base ball stars, Keeler and Davis, for much more than any decade. Why wouldn't it be a fair thing to hold an Isbell day, or a Keeler day, or a Davis day? As the Sporting News suggests, benefits are not necessary, nor, indeed, desirable, except in rare cases, but just a big day when everybody might turn out and cheer for both of that grand old man of the game.

Base ball gives every promise of keeping up its end of the general march of progress which this year 1910 shows. There are more organizations, more players, more of course, more vigor, more competition in the larger leagues this year than ever have been, and more of the big league clubs are investing large sums in modern plants, thus paying stout tribute to the permanence of the game. On the other side of things there is every reason to believe that this will be the greatest year base ball has ever known. And there is greater peace in the ranks and courts of base ball than there has been for some time. The annoying problem of California outlawing has been solved effectually and the only serious hitch with any player of consequence is the dispute over Kling's reinstatement.

After all, how certain is it that Kling, if he returned to the Cubs, would occupy the place he used to hold? First catcher, Archer has developed into one of the great catchers of the game and his throwing has shown wonderful improvement. Kling has been out of the game for a year, is a year older, which at his age counts considerably. He had no training. Archer has been going steadily, is much younger than Nelsy John and is training up to the minute. Off Kling's powers to draw at the box office there could be no doubt, at least for a time, but his powers to excel behind the bat as much as would be necessary to allow him to displace Jimmy Archer there is grave doubt.

Dwyer was a good young player and probably did as well as could be expected as manager for Des Moines, but Dwyer was very foolish to get the idea that as manager he was in any large measure responsible for Des Moines winning the pennant. His playing helped mightily, but it is doubtful if his managerial service did. He was more foolish when he allowed his idea to lead him so far away, as by contract to play unless he got a certain sum of money which he thought a successful manager ought to get. Des Moines, it is hoped, will regain Dwyer as a player, but in the meantime the ownership, team and fans are to be congratulated on getting the old veteran, George Davis, as manager.

The entrance into the Western League of George Davis adds one more major league veteran to the managerial staff. Certainly the league is well equipped in this respect. It has, perhaps, more good, practical base ball men in the league of teams than any other minor league. Coolidge at Topeka, Isbell at Wichita, Pa. Bourke at Omaha, Holland at St. Joseph, Davis at Des Moines, all old-timers, and McGill and Hendricks at Denver, shrewd men in the business. This is an excellent strength which the league and its patrons cannot too greatly estimate. It is an assurance against half-cooked methods, a balance wheel to the league in all situations.

That Nebraska State league will be watched very carefully by Pa. Bourke and other Western league owners for ripening material. Here's hoping the new organization meets with the most flattering success in its first year, so that it will have a strong incentive to continue its life.

Good old Cy Young is coming up the pike for his twenty-second consecutive season in major league company in the best of form and fit for a hard season's work.

George Tobolski says he hasn't a single objection to the reinstatement of Kling. Why in the world do they delay the matter, then?

Now they tell us Jack Curry is to be the manager of the Jeff-Johnson fight. That's a hot one. Wonder if Doctor Heller is in on it?

They are looking for Fisher to make good down at St. Louis. If he doesn't somebody ought to take a pole and boat him.

Now if we can arrange matters with the boss weather man that last schedule may be the best thing we've struck yet.

Now they've got out a yarn about Pueblo signing for Des Moines franchise. Holy Smoke!

Two old White Sox stars, Davis and Isbell, are Western league managers.

Commy loves Omaha so much that he hands us his Yankees every year.

This time next month!

FORMER STAR OUTFIELDERS

Old-Time Fans Say They've Not Been Excelled.

SOME WONDERS OF OTHER DAYS

From Cuthbert, Pike, Leonard, Hines, the Great Dickey, Johnston, Pop Cornhill and McAleer, Little Difference is Seen.

William Keller and Roy Thomas, two of the best outfielders who ever played in major league company, will probably be missing from the big circuits this year. They have their best days, like many other great players, in retirement, though not forgotten by old timers, as they have been released unconditionally by the Highlanders and Boston Nationals respectively. Keller led the right fielders in percentage in 1904, 1907, 1908 and 1909, while Thomas stood at the head of the center fielders in 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909. The passing of these famous fly-ball catchers recalls the fact that the best outfielders in harness today are considered so better than many stars of days gone by.

The National League boasts of Fred Clarke and Tommy Leach of the champion Pirates, Schulte of the Cubs, also Sheppard, Titus and Magee of the Philadelphia, Mitchell and Paskert of the Reds, Hummel and Burch of the Brooklyn and Murray of the Giants.

The American league has the noted Ty Cobb of Detroit, Tris Speaker of the Boston Red Sox, Dan Murphy, Crawford, McIntyre, Niles, Eagle and others, yet veteran fans will tell you that these players are by no means extraordinary. Going back to 1871, when fielding records began to mean something, you'll find the names of such famous outfielders as Ed. Cuthbert of Philadelphia, Lip Pike of Troy and Dave Egger of the Mutuals. Veteran ball fans still insist these men could get under long drives as well as the modern stars, while long-distance throwing was their strongest point.

Al Godney, who played with both the Mutuals and the Athletics; Andy Leonard, who was a fixture as Boston's left fielder for nearly ten years and had no equal; Paul Hines of Chicago and Providence, Jim Hines of Louisville and Indianapolis, Orestis Shaffer of Louisville and Indianapolis, Tom York, Paul Radford and Cliff Carroll of Providence, Jake Evans of Troy and Joe Hornung of Boston, were among the leading outfielders up to 1883 and 1884. Hornung and Evans were superb throwers; in fact some of their predecessors had anything on them in this respect. Evans, who later played with Worcester and Cleveland, was the best of the right fielders in 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883 and 1884, and also created a new sensation by throwing out at first base batsmen who had made apparently safe hits. Hornung, so fast as a whirlwind in getting under fly balls, had such a reputation as a long distance thrower that base runners on third seldom made a break for the home plate after one of his catches. In 1885, when a member of the fielders in 1884 and 1885, was not only a sure catch, but he could throw with the best of them and was also a great batsman.

Jim O'Rourke, who was with Boston in 1873, and did not quit the game until last season, was the leading center fielder in 1874 and again in 1888, when a member of the Giants. O'Rourke, always a big hitter, was kept on the New York team for half a dozen years more, but he became so slow in left field that when he retired to Bridgeport he became a catcher. He could always play behind the bat, for that matter, so he was a valuable asset to the team. He had some star outfielders when Chicago won pennants about this time—Abner Dalrymple, George Gore, Billy Sunday, Hugh Nicol, Hugh Duffy and Martin Sullivan. Every one of these men could cover ground, throw and hit in a way that made them stand out prominently in the records.

Boston uncovered a phenomenal center fielder in Dickey Johnston in 1888. He was picked up in Richmond and he hadn't played half a dozen games in the Hub before he had the fans by the ears. Some of his sunning catches were miraculous, a memorable one being the capture of a terrific drive from the big bat of mighty Dan Brouthers. Radbourne was pitching for Boston in that game and he sent up a slow one, waist high. Brouthers, the heaviest slugger in the league, landed squarely with his stick and the ball sailed so high and far that the crowd expected to see clear the center field fence. The moment the ball left the bat Johnston turned his back and dug for the fence. When he was within a few feet of the boards he turned and leaped in the air. At the same time he threw up his left hand in the nick of time, for the ball lodged in his glove just as he crashed into the fence. That catch made Dickey Johnston and he was quickly called the league's star center fielder, but he soon fell by the wayside because of his habits.

Curt Welch of the St. Louis Browns and Fred Coughlin of the Cincinnati Reds were playing in the American association about this time and partisan critics insisted that they were superior to the Boston catch, which may have been true, but the fact remains that Boston veterans say even today that the Hub has never had a better center fielder than the boy who came from Richmond, unknown and unused. Jimmy McAleer, now manager of the Washington team, was another superb outfielder when he won the uniform of the Cleveland club. His wonderful catches were the talk of ballparks nearly twenty years ago, and whenever he played his performance were starred. But he was a comparatively weak hitter, which was, of course, a serious handicap.

The Philadelphia had a wonder in Jimmy Fogarty, now dead. He was the league's star left fielder in 1884 as a member of the Cincinnati team in 1886. Fogarty was a natural player, a star base runner, batter and fielder, and those who remember him say the only player who has ever shown similar class is Ty Cobb. Bug Holliday, who passed away recently, was another crack center fielder in 1884 as a member of the Cincinnati team and he had the best percentage for this position in 1890.

But there were other good outfielders in those days, notably Ed Hanlon with the Detroit, Walter Wilcox with the Senators, Pete Gillespie with the New Yorks, Sam Thompson and Hardie Richardson of the Detroit and Mike Tiernan, who played right field for the Giants for many years. Thompson and Richardson were not so fast as the others, but they made up for it with their terrific batting, which helped Detroit win a world's championship. Tiernan, who is a portly saloonkeeper in Harlem nowadays, was one of the most popular players who ever wore a New York uniform at the Polo grounds. He broke into the game as a left-handed pitcher, but because of his hitting and swift base running Jim Mutrie, the Giants' manager, put him in right field. He was a success there immediately and developed in one of the heaviest batsmen in the league.

Darby O'Brien and Mike Griffin, both deceased, were stars in the Brooklyn's outfield in 1881 and 1882. Walter Brodie, dug up by the late Frank Seale, also made a big reputation with the Boston at that time. Brodie later played with the Balti-

Umpires of the Western League

Chief Haskell Writes for The Bee His Conception of the Duties of That Important Official and Tells of the Qualifications of Clarke, Mullin and Spencer, the Other Members of the Western League Staff.



...JACK HASKELL... CHIEF OF WESTERN LEAGUE UMPIRES

UMPIRES are just like ball players; they must work a couple of years to become seasoned before they are any good.

This has been demonstrated in many leagues and especially in the Western League. It takes a seasoned player to meet emergencies that arise on a ball field.

The judgment of the fans and managers is not always the best in regard to umpires. Before I came into this league they had about ten umpires during the season. When I came we went through the season without a change. A year ago we had a big fellow in the league named Brennan. He suited some of the fans, but did not suit the managers of the league.

There was a general clamor for his release. President O'Neill let him go, contrary to my recommendation. What was the result? He is now employed by the national league and has a permanent booth. I recommended him to the Wisconsin league and from there he went up to the national.

The western league will have a splendid staff of umpires this year if my judgment is any good. Spencer is the new man. He hails from Denison, Tex., and last year was the best umpire in the Kansas state league. He is not a novice and this is his third year out. I am not in favor of hiring an umpire who has not been out at least two years, for, as I said before, umpires are just like ball players; they are no good until they have had at least two years' experience.

The two other umpires are George Clarke, who is an Omaha boy and who needs no recommendation, and Mullin who was here last year. Clarke has the making of a good man and will prove entirely satisfactory this year.

We are extremely fortunate in having Mullin in this league this season. It was only by the most extraordinary force of circumstances that we were able to keep him in this league for the coming year. I had recommended Mullin to President Pulliam of the national league. I am always anxious to get the boys as good a berth as possible, and, although we would like to keep them in the western league, I will always recommend them for a better berth if I think they are deserving.

Chief Umpire Haskell.

Pulliam would have accepted Mr. Mullin but he died and President Heydler took his place. He, too, would have hired Mr. Mullin, but he was deposed and President Lynch took his place. He had some men of his own so we are fortunate in having Mr. Mullin with us again this year for he is a great umpire—correct on balls and strikes and fearless in making his decisions.

Only three umpires have been in the business in the big leagues as long as I have and in one case gaining. The proposition they have improved with age in the business. They are Hank O'Day, Sheridan and Elmide and they have not missed a year since 1892, when I first started as a professional umpire. In spite of the splendid reputation these have at the present time it is not stating the matter too stoutly to say that they were all rotten the first year out, and that it took a few years—at least two years—to season them to the business.

An umpire has a splendid opportunity to learn of the players, and many umpires have gone to the front. Joe Cantillon was first a player, then an umpire and finally a successful umpire. President Lynch of the National league was an umpire of no mean ability and it was while officiating in that capacity that he acquired a knowledge of the game which placed him in his present high position.

I have the honor to be chief of the umpire staff of the Western league, and I still have other work before me, as many of the managers of the big leagues rely upon my judgment in regard to players, and I continually have telegrams to look for players of ability who might be able to fill positions in the big leagues.

I look for a prosperous season for the Western league this year. I think the addition of St. Joseph will be a great thing for the league. St. Joseph was a good base ball town when it had a good team under a good manager and will still be a good town, now that it again has a good base ball man at the head of its affairs. Jack Holland is a natural leader of base ball men and may be relied upon to put a good team into that town, and I am sure St. Joseph will support a good team.

The umpire is the man who is supposed to be unprejudiced, and his recommendation goes a long way with the managers of the big leagues. It gives me great pleasure to see so many men in the two big leagues, who have gone up because of my recommendations.

JACK HASKELL, Chief Umpire Western League.

BIG TRACK MEET IN THE SOUTH

Money Being Raised to Insure Success of the Meet.

NEW ORLEANS, March 12.—Preparations are being made for the big championship athletic carnival to be held here next October under the auspices of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States. Money to defray expenses is now being collected by popular subscription.

A committee for this purpose has been formed and it has formulated plans for the campaign. It is figured that \$5,000 will be none too much to defray the total expenses. The track will be erected in back of Tulane university. The grandstand and track, it is figured, will cost at least \$2,000. To bring athletes from all parts of the country here it will cost at least \$3,000. The stadium will be a great structure. The track is to be made of cinders over a clay base, one-quarter-mile in circumference.

This is the first time that a southern city has had the opportunity to hold a large meet as this. Local followers of athletics are very enthusiastic over the plans and it is thought will be liberal in subscribing to the general fund to defray expenses. Money is also expected to be received from other neighboring cities.

WOLGAST HAS WORTHY FOES

Pages Cross the Pond to Meet the New Champion.

WHERE PLAYERS COME FROM

Tri-State League Seems to Lead All in Sending Out New Material.

BIG LEAGUE SCOUTS ARE BUSY

Intermediate Leagues Are Skipped by Many Youngsters This Year. Who Have Been Stated for Larger Berths.

NEW YORK, March 12.—The Pacific Coast league has turned out many a great ball player, but it begins to look as if the old Tri-State league's getting in the good ball player league by a big margin. There was a time when this organization was the best of the big leagues, but since it has been brought into the fold of organized base ball the subject comes up as to the number of ball players the league has sent out to every club in the big show. It seems that the scouts of the big league beat it to the Tri-State first to look over the good ball players. The Williamsport club, the three-time pennant winner, leads in sending out good ball players. Daniele and Warhop of the Yankees came from that club.

The Eastern league and the American association came in for their share of contributed players from the Tri-State league. Just take a peep over the list of players who have broken into the big league, and it's safe betting that the majority of the fans will say: "That's right," and here they are.

From Williamsport team are Joe Delehanty, brother of the great Edward Delehanty, now deceased; Johnny Lush, the clever southpaw, who especially distinguished himself last season by pitching a no-run, no-hit game; Salie, another southpaw; Ed Collins, all with the St. Louis Nationals; Rich and Shuman, with the Boston Nationals; Charles, with Cincinnati; Street, the only player who ever caught a ball tossed from the Washington monument, and Unglaub and Clymer, with the Senators; Fenning, Cree and Warhop, with the New York Americans; Hinchman, with Cleveland; and Vickers, formerly with the Athletics.

Lancaster, the pennant winner last year, has also done well by the big leagues. Covaliski, the big Pole, who kept the Giants from winning the pennant in 1908, by defeating McGraw's men three times in one week during the latter part of the season, while with the Phillies, now with the Reds, was secured from Lancaster. Pat Dougherty and Altizer of the White Sox played one season there, as did also Downey and Roth, with the Reds; Meyers and Lennox with Brooklyn.

Baker, with the Athletics; Herzog, with the Giants, and Lelievre, with the Washington Americans, played in Reading. The following players have been secured from the Harrisburg team: Bender and Krause, two of Connie Mack's best pitchers; Campbell and Egan of the Reds, Pattee of Brooklyn and Starr, recently with the Phillies.

Wilmington, while in the league, turned out among other players "Billet" John Hummel, with Brooklyn, the star utility player of the National league. Lohert, with Cincinnati; Jack, with the Cubs; Oode, now with the Philadelphia; Miller and Johnson, with the Senators; Hop, with Cleveland, and McAleer, with the St. Louis Americans, all came from the Johnstown team.

Altoona has sent among other players to the big league Bill and Brock of Brooklyn, Needham, with the Cubs, and Deninger and Ward, with the Phillies. Mowrey with the Reds, Tom Jones with Detroit and "Doc" Reaxling with the Washington Americans were secured from York. Tom and Matern of the Boston Nationals and Matthews with the Red Sox came from Trenton. Among the former Tri-State players who played in the American Association last season were: Hoxey, Hayden, Hinchman, Suter, Sullivan, Tate, Upp, "Bony" McGill and Prames.

The former Tri-State players who played in the Eastern league and in the Western league were: "Bud" Sharp, Wolverton, Zimmerman, Plaster and Brady with Newark; Mall, Casis, Deasse, Lewis and Pearson with Baltimore; Holly and Berger with Rochester; Hoffmann, Arndt, Moran and Peterson with Providence; Applegate and Houser with Toronto; Calhoun and Foster with Jersey City; O'Neil, Cockill, Jimmy Wiggs and Baum with Montreal. The latter two were purchased from Altoona at the close of last season.

PITCHING MACHINE FOR MIDDIES

Compressed Air Shoots Any Kind of a Curve.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 12.—R. H. Lake, the inventor of pitching machines, which have been used in practice by a number of the leading professional and college clubs of the country, is now a ship carpenter in the navy, stationed at the Naval academy here. He is constructing the most powerful machine of the kind ever made, for the use of this year's squad of midshipmen.

The machine is driven by compressed air, can shoot any kind of a curve as much as eight feet wide, and is capable of propelling the ball at a rate tremendously greater than the speed of human pitchers. It also contains a number of new features, including a device by which the ball is delivered automatically at the same time that it would have been delivered by a pitcher, who stands by the machine and goes through the new pitching motions. This gives the batsman some hint as to the movement of delivery, as in a regular game.

English Racing Dates.

NEW YORK, March 12.—The automobile racing season at the great Brooklands Motorrome, England, begins on March 28. The program follows:



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In addition to the above lines we carry the largest stock of high grade office Desks, Chairs and Tables in the west. We are making an unusual Reduction From Regular Prices this month on all Desks, Chairs and Tables.

Omaha Printing Co. Phone Douglas 346; Ind. A-3451. 918-924 Farnam Street.

Advertisement for Union Pacific featuring a large '\$25' and text: 'The Low One-Way Colonist Rate From Omaha and Council Bluffs to California and Pacific Northwest VIA UNION PACIFIC. "The Safe Road to Travel" IN EFFECT DAILY From March 1 to April 15, inclusive, 1910. Electric Block Signals—Dining Car Meals and Service "Best in the World." For tickets and information, call on or address CITY TICKET OFFICE, 1324 FARNAM ST. Phone: Bell Douglas 1222 and Ind. A-3221.

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Advertisement for Uncle Sam: 'Uncle Sam Employs the Burlington Between Omaha and Chicago. Burlington Fast Mail No. 7, which has been running for 26 years from Chicago to Omaha, and is scheduled at 40 1/2 miles an hour, including stops, for the distance of 492 miles, reached Council Bluffs Transfer on time every day in September, 30 days out of 31 in October, 27 out of 30 in November, 1909. It was "on time" 87 days out of 91. The total time lost in 91 days was 67 minutes, or an average loss of seven-tenths of one minute per day for the distance of 492 miles.

Advertisement for Chicago Trains: 'Chicago Trains at 7:15 a. m. 4:20 p. m. 6:30 p. m. TICKET OFFICE, 1502 Farnam Street, Omaha.

Advertisement for Clubbing Offers: 'CLUBBING OFFERS Daily and Sunday Bee.....\$6.00 Our Price ONLY Woman's Home Companion.....1.50 \$6.50 Regular price for both one year.....\$7.50 Daily Bee (without Sunday).....\$4.00 Our Price ONLY McClure's Magazine.....1.50 \$4.60 Regular price for both one year.....\$5.50 Daily and Sunday Bee.....\$6.00 Our Price ONLY McClure's Magazine.....1.50 \$6.50 Regular price for both one year.....\$7.50 THE OMAHA BEE OMAHA, NEB.