THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.
OMAHA, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1910.

JUDGMENTS

THE Western league will not be as strong financially, as it has been and could be, until conditions change in Des Moines. Des Moines is a good town and John Higgins, doubtless, a good man, but he is not the man to own the Des Moines base ball franchise, for the simple little reason that the fans of that city do not warm up to him. Last year and the year before Des Moines did not come up to its normal standard at the gates for this reason. It was worse in 1910 than the year before and there is nothing to indicate that it will be better in 1911. Not even winning the pennant in 1909 helped matters a particle. Some of the very games which netted the flag for Des Moines drew scarcely enough spectators to pay expenses. With a popular leader in Des Moines, it is one of the best cities on the circuit. It is too bad Uncle John Higgins cannot be persuaded to sell out, but it seems he cannot. He loves the game and here is a fine chance to show his affection, so he thinks, so he sticks. If the league should need Des Moines in 1912, it is likely to figure out a way of rewarding Mr. Higgins for his franchise. Already there is talk of this kind. It is not of interest now to go into the whys and wherefores of Mr. Higgins' standing with the fans in his town, whether it was the education they received under the Doyle-Cantillon regime or not. The fact is what confronts us at this writing. Certainly, anyone would admit that the former clique did Des Moines no good, but much harm. And if The Bee's files were consulted they would show that precisely the condition that has obtained for nearly two years was predicted. In these columns it was pointed out that the high-handed methods of the Cantillon-Doyle crowd would bring their own penalties, and we leave it to the fair judgment of any man versed in the facts whether it was a good prediction or not. The blame is not all on Mr. Higgins. He is an effect, more than a cause, a victim of circumstances, largely.

Some day the draft rule must be changed, some men think obliterated entirely. It works hardships on minor leagues at present. If it is right that a major leaguer should invade the ranks of a minor owner at will and take from him his best player, then it is right that he should justly compensate the minor team owner. And any sane man knows that $1,000, for instance, to a class A club, is not just compensation. There are several evil aspects and influences of this rule. For one thing it prompts the fake sale of players, which is a very bad thing for base ball. The only commendable feature of the rule to a minor leaguer is to be found in its limitations, which prohibit more than one player being taken from one team. The majors will argue that without the draft many a young and competent player would be kept down. Nonsense. A man who is fit to go up seldom is kept down in base ball. Sometimes it happens, but not often and never, so far as our observation goes, because or in spite of the draft rule. The purchase law is still available.

We referred briefly last week to George Tebeau's proposal of a larger ball and larger bat as a means of stimulating batting. Comiskey once said that the greatest element of base ball was speed and that in revising the rules or changing conditions, nothing should ever be done to slacken the speed; that the game was just fast enough now, not too fast. We believe in the importance of speed, and certainly it would suffer if Tebeau's plan were introduced. Commy was arguing against the elimination of gloves for fielders. The large ball and bat idea would be even more destructive. It is good base ball more than heavy hitting, or any other one thing, fans want to see and they are seeing it under present conditions.

The situation of the St. Louis Browns has been deplorable. The sale of the team by President Hedges, therefore, may be hailed with satisfaction, for it certainly cannot make things any worse than they were. Mr. Hedges may have come short at times of doing all he could do, but it would have taken the strongest-hearted Spartan to breast the storm of persistent and continuous knocking that raged about him for years. To begin with, the old feeling against the Browns as outlaws, dating back to the American league invasion, has never quite died down, and then the newspaper writers early lit onto the head of Hedges. They kept up one day and night bombardment. Nothing suited them. It was not only the owner they knocked; they knocked players and knocked the starch and ambition out of many a young player with lots of promise in him. A supercilious sneer was the best any of them got. No use to expect results from a management or ownership under such conditions as these. The best team on earth would fail under them. So we shall go slow in looking for improvement at St. Louis, even under the new management, until we learn that the home-knockers have signed the pledge.

Old Pop Eyler, once the terror of the league to Omaha, has retired to private life in Keokuk. Pop shows the same perspicacity in selecting a place for retirement as characterized his palmiest pitching days.

Things are pretty well understood as to Wichita. Chances are it will be on the circuit next season. The outcry against Sunday games is not as ominous now as it was. But if necessary [illegible] will go to Pueblo. He is fortifying himself against the possibility of defeat in Kansas.

Dr. [illegible] looks like a foolish young man not to accept the commission's terms of reinstatement and withdraw his suit for $2,500. He may now be out of organized ball forever, whereas he might earn $2,500 in half a season.

Everything is cleared up now. The [illegible] Tom [illegible] lends the dignity and prestige of his word to the assertion that the Cubs had no kick coming on the umpiring in the world's series with the Athletics.

An enlivening [illegible] the rumors of Hans Wagner's [illegible] with Pittsburg, Manager Clarke recently told President Fogel of Philadelphia, "I wouldn't let you have Wagner for your whole team."

[illegible]

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COTNER FIVE STARTS WELL

Basket Ball Will Have a Good Season at Bethany School.

TWO VICTORIES ALREADY WON

York and Lincoln Y. M. C. A. Have Been Defeated and Other Schools Will Be Played in Regular Schedule.

LINCOLN, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Basket ball is now the central athletic interest at Cotner university. Last season the Cotner "Bulldogs" won state championship honors in basket ball, and are trying hard to keep up their reputation. They have played two games so far this season, winning both of them. December 9 they met the Lincoln Y team on the Cotner floor, defeating it by a score of 23 to 21. The teams were quite evenly matched, three on each being vet players. At the pistol shot on the second half the score was an even break on 21 to 21. By agreement the game was at once [illegible] first field goal to decide the beat. This was earned by Cotner, in one of the [illegible] est scrimmages ever seen on the Cotner floor.

The second game of this season was played at York, with the York college bunch as opponents. York men are in far better form this year than it was last. They put up a noble fight, but lost to the tune of 45 to 22. The best part of the game at York was pulled off when a consignment of Cotner subs, who were taken along for the practice they might get, were turned loose upon the Yorkers in the second half. They really put up a better battle than the Cotner regulars had been playing.

Three Veterans in Team.

Of last year's championship players only three are back. These are: Aspinwall (captain), center; McCullough, guard, and "Lefty" Siddons, the left-handed forward. Parmenter is probably out of the game this year, as are Wilmot and Oeschger, subs on last year's team.

The lineup of the team at present is: Aspinwall (captain), center; Squires (manager), sub center; Siddons and Britt, forwards; McCullough and Ogden, guards. Men who are doing good work on the tryouts are Morton, Bell, Leavitt, Hudson, Sweet and Shelton. Parmenter is doing only part practice.

New suits and equipment have been secured for the girls' teams. They are putting in hard practice for the opening games of their schedule. These are to be played at Peru State Normal and at Falls City the 12th and 13th of January.

Interest in basket ball has been much stimulated by the interclass championship series of games which have just been concluded. There were eight games in the series. The sophomore class took the silver trophy cup which had been offered by the management. Their team consists of Squires, center; Ogden, left forward; Leavitt, right forward; Morton (captain), right forward, and Packer, left forward.

The gymnasium has been put into shipshape for indoor sports. A first-class hard maple floor was laid late in the season last year, baths have been installed and new steel lockers are soon to be placed.

The schedule for the season's games for the Cotner team has not been entirely completed. The school is a member of the college league of the state. The members of this league at present are: Doane, York, Wesleyan, Peru State Normal, Kearney State Normal and Cotner. An exchange of games is arranged for between each of these schools. This will be played as scheduled, except for the Wesleyan. They withdrew from the Cotner games after the schedule was completed. Just what action will be taken remains to be seen.

In addition to the games named Manager Squires announces that a trip has been arranged through Iowa, in which Cotner is to play Shenandoah, Highland Park college at Des Moines and Morningside college at Sioux City. The trip will probably include, also, the University of South Dakota at Vermilion. An exchange of these games will be arranged for at Cotner. Beside these, Kansas university is to play here the last of February and an exchange of games is to be played with the University of Nebraska.

George Flack Shows Speed at Harvard

Wins at Both the High and Low Hurdles and Rows on Crew.

George Flack, an Omaha boy, took first in the 120 high hurdles and first in the 220 low hurdles in the annual fall meet held at Harvard, 1910. The fall meet is not a registered affair and anyone may enter, so the competition is keener than where the athletes are only those up in their studies.

Bill Quinn, trainer at Harvard, was greatly pleased at the showing made by Flack and says that as soon as he learns a few of the finer points about the style of jumping hurdles he will be the best man in the college. Flack was a member of the Nebraska team in 1909.

He also rowed in the boat of his dormitory in the fall event, his boat coming second. Alan McDonald, another Omaha boy, was coxswain of the crew.

COLLEGE RIFLE TEAMS SHOOT

Twelve Colleges of the Thirty-Three to Enter.

Twelve colleges of the thirty-three colleges holding memberships in the National Rifle association have entered teams for the round robin event of the winter, to begin January 7. One match will be shot each week until each team has fired against every other team in the league. Several western colleges are sending teams for the 1911 event.

The teams will consist of ten students and each man will fire ten shots standing and ten shots prone, in a fifty-foot gallery range with twenty-two-caliber rifles. The War department is taking a great interest in the work and will issue decorations to those students who qualify as marksmen, sharpshooters or expert through the association.

A new trophy has been presented by J. A. Baker, jr., captain of Columbia University team, to go to the non-military college team having the highest aggregate in the league series. This will mean a contest between Dartmouth and Columbia, as all the other institutions have military departments.

The competing universities and colleges are: Columbia university of New York City; Cornell university of Ithaca, N. Y.; Dartmouth college of Hanover, N. H.; Missouri State university of Columbia, Mo.; New Hampshire Agricultural college of Durham, N. H.; North Georgia Agricultural college of Dahlonega, N. C.; Purdue university of Lafayette, Ind.; Rhode Island State college of Kingston, R. I.; State University of Iowa, Iowa City; University of California of Berkeley, Cal.; University of Minnesota of Minneapolis, and the Washington State college of Pullman.

Davis is Favoring Simplification of Rules of Foot Ball

Princeton Man Says that But Few Changes Are Really Necessary—Limit to Coaches.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 24.—Four members of the intercollegiate foot ball rules committee, Parke Davis of Princeton, W. A. Lambeth, University of Virginia; C. W. Savage, Oberlin, and W. L. Dudley, Vanderbilt university, write that few changes are necessary in the code before another season. Davis terms the simplification of the rules the greatest need. Mr. Davis says:

"It has been said by those who are skilled in determining the public pulse that foot ball has satisfied its following in 1910. It is true the hazards of the game, which ever have seemed to culminate in one place at one time, have given to some institutions an excess of injuries. But, taken as a whole, the country in foot ball has been surprisingly free from accidents, college foot ball actually having had a better record in this respect than college base ball during the past year. Complimentary to public opinion is critical foot ball opinion. The latter, it would seem, has approved of the abolition of interlocked interference and of the five-yard restriction upon the forward pass. Adverse criticism briefly may be stated to have been directed at the complexities of play in receiving the forward pass, the vexing imaginary lines of the game with its neutral one-yard and twenty-yard zones, too many officers and too much officiating, the labyrinth of penalties and a need of more simplicity in the game.

"The greatest need of foot ball today is the absolute obedience to the letter of the rules by the players and a strict conformity with its spirit by the coaches. It therefore should devolve upon the men who will be selected to compose the new rules committee for 1911 to assemble early in order that they may not be hampered by want of time, like their predecessors in 1910, and, having assembled, to devote their chief attention to perfecting the details of the present style of game. The greatest need now of the playing rules is simplification, which of course will carry with it simplification for the player and the spectator."

Mr. Dudley writes: "I am very well pleased with the foot ball rules, and I think that the new game is far superior to the old. I do not think that many changes are necessary, but, no doubt, some minor modifications could be made to advantage. I would not be willing to return to the old 'pushing and pulling' game."

Mr. Lambeth writes: "In our section there is common expression of approval concerning the new rules, particularly the four periods. There is also a feeling that the limitations concerning the onside kick should be removed and that the five-yard restriction on the passer of a forward pass should be abolished."

Mr. Savage says: "To my mind the rules worked out better than I had dared to hope. The game was kept open and therefore was made intensely interesting to the spectators."

Yale is Beginning to Wonder About the Varsity Crew

Continued Defeat of New Haven Oars Sets the College "Dopists" Guessing.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—There has been some inquiry and puzzlement at Yale of late over the compelling cause of continued defeat of the crews. Earlier in the season Captain Frost of the 'varsity crew explained by means of tables that light weight for many seasons, that is, light weight as compared with the average of Harvard crews, was what did it. As he figured it out, the desirable men averaged in weight something more than he did himself, so it has been suggested since that he might even withdraw from the crew unless he believed that his presence would be helpful.

Since then Cam Waterman, an oarsman of about seven or eight years back, comes to the front with another explanation. He believes that men have preferred of late years to play foot ball and get the letter that way, rather than to adopt rowing, a much more wearing sport. He says it may be true that light weight had something to do with it, but he points out the example of Freddie Briggs and others as a sign that an oarsman needs not weight as a prime requisite.

There is a conflict of authorities therefore in the Yale rowing camp. A prominent coach at another college says: "I wish I could get the Yale castoffs. I'd make a crew out of them that would trim Harvard." That seems to reflect slightly upon the ability of the coach at Yale. The Blue insists on believing that John Kennedy is as good a coach as ever he was and is looking for the fault elsewhere.

Perhaps the best place to look for reasons for Yale's recent defeats on the water is—Cambridge. It is to be remembered that Harvard has been following a very good system of rowing for several years and has had a young man to coach who seems to be a pretty keen judge of rowing material. Harvard believes, too, that not a little of its success is due to the presence in the Crimson quarters of a doctor to look after the well being of the man. It isn't the policy in other universities to have a doctor about, because, ordinarily, the coach is a good judge of condition and helps to keep the men fit.

Harvard isn't getting any better men than usual. Both universities for years have had a wealth of rowing material, stuff that any coach should be able to turn into a good crew. But Harvard has become confident now in rowing and has built up, as said, a very strong system. It is likely that in the course of a few seasons Yale will recover from the slump into which it has fallen. It isn't a case of lack of material or weight. It is merely being in a bad spot for the time being and not having good enough coaching.

BOWLING CHANGES LOOKED FOR

Individual Membership Instead of by the Different Clubs.

Several radical changes in the rules and regulations which govern their body are to be presented at the annual meeting of the bowlers of America in St. Louis January 23. One of the proposed changes is to change the membership in the American Bowling congress from team membership to individual membership. Another is to make the secretary's salary $4,000 instead of $2,000, and let him put his whole time on the matters of the association.

The annual meeting will be held during the national bowling tournament to be held there, starting January 21, and bowlers from all over the country will be present. St. Louis will vote solidly for individual membership and dues of 25 cents each instead of club dues of $2 per club.

HOW DIAMOND STARS DECLINE

Stories of Decadence in American Association's Figures.

WHERE OLD-TIMERS LINGER

Bright Lights of Big Leagues Go Back to Training Ground of Youth as They Pass Their Prime.

If you wonder what becomes of the big league base ball stars when they cease starring, where they drift to after they have slowed up just enough to keep them out of the two big rings, take a squint at the American association averages. You'll find the has-beens in bunches.

The American association serves as the hothouse wherein are ripened the unseasoned youngsters of some of the Western American and National leagues mainly, but is also a dumping ground for the old timers. Cleveland, in particular, has a penchant for sending discards to the American association and St. Louis and Washington are also closely affiliated with the organization that has for a long time considered itself of major class.

Some of the old-timers—this term is used in connection with men who are still young, but who have seen service in the big leagues, as well as the real veterans of the game—are doing right well. Some of them are finding the pace too hot.

Jimmy Barrett, manager of the Milwaukee team and years ago an outfielder, tops the batting averages this year with .353 for fifty-one games. Barrett goes along playing a smashing good game both at the bat and in the field, but is very susceptible to injury and does not play half the time.

Figures on "Gabby."

"Gabby" Cravath, who used to draw his monthly envelope from Charley Comiskey, and, still later, the Boston Red Sox, was the actual leader, batting .326 for 164 games. Close up to Cravath was Hickman, a Cleveland discard, who batted .317 for 167 games.

Heinie Peitz, the old Cincinnati Red pitcher, who now leads the Louisville club, was another .300 performer, gaining a record of .309 for twenty-three games. Clymer, whose last American league engagement was with Washington, hit .308 in 139 games. Dare Devil Dave Altizer, who was one of the world's champion White Sox, who comes back to the big show next year, batted an even .300.

Six or seven clubs were after Altizer last fall, some of them offering as high as $4,000 for him. The Minneapolis club turned down all of them, only to lose him in the drafts, which cost the Millers just $3,000 in cold cash, for the draft price in only $1,000. Altizer played six or seven games with the Reds at the end of the season, and, though his name does not appear in the records, led the National league in batting. He cleaned up at the rate of about .600 for those few games.

Outside of the .300 circle you can't stick a pin in the American association averages without scratching some old big leaguer. Congalton, who went up from Des Moines, once a Cleveland Nap, and that not so long ago, hit .291 for Columbus. Hallman, another ex-Nap, who batted .279 for Kansas City and Toledo.

Halliman is just ahead of Hayden of Indianapolis, once on the Cub payroll; Claude Rossman, another former Des Moines player, who was with the Detroit Tigers during their pennant-winning campaigns, and Frank Bowerman, the old New York Giant, who wound up his National league career by making a mess of the management of the Boston Doves.

Perring in List.

A little further down the list came Perring, once of Omaha, the old Cleveland shortstop, who now pastimes with Columbus and bats .271, and Rube Ferris, once one of the flossiest third basemen in the American league. In the American association he bats .267 for Minneapolis.

Right under Ferris in the record table is Al Orth, who won a lot of games for the New York Yankees a few years ago. "Smiling Al" continues as a steady, consistent hitter. His .267 was better than the averages turned in by all but two of his Indianapolis team mates.

Harry Hinchman, the old Cleveland outfielder, and Lou Ritter, once a catcher for Brooklyn and Philadelphia, are in the .260s, while "Jap" Barbeau, former Pirate and present Kansas City infielder; Lelivelt, who saw service with both Detroit and Washington, and Danny Shay, once a Giant, are in the .250s.

Below that mark even is old Spike Shannon, brought here by McGraw in the hope that he would "bring back" the Polo Grounders after the old world's champions of 1905 had gone to pieces.

Spike played with Kansas City last season, but the fans out there are not over anxious that he be retained another year. They say he has about reached the end of his rope and that another year will see him down in the bushes.

Pickering, a veteran of the days when Louisville was in the National league, and one of the most sensational fielders of his day, is another who has found the pace too swift in the near-major league. He has slowed up woefully in his fielding and base running and batted only .241 for Minneapolis and Louisville. He's another who stands a rattling good chance of having a kid come along and swipe his job. He was with Washington in 1906 and with both Minneapolis and Louisville last season.

Long Tom Hughes, a graduate from Omaha, who goes back to Washington next season, touted as really ready for picking, did not hit much for Minneapolis, but his .225 was a lot better than most pitchers do. At any rate, it is as high as the average turned in by little Bunny Slagle, the old Chicago Cub. Only a few years back Slagle was one of the most valuable men on Chance's team, but lost his batting eye and dropped out of the big show.

Dave Brain, once of St. Joe, and Ossie Shreck, the former a star fielder for the Cincinnati Reds years ago, and a Giant for a short time, and the latter one of Connie Mack's standbys only a couple of seasons back, each batted .207, one for St. Paul and the other for Louisville.

There are other old big leaguers still further down the list, but they are all pitchers, and their batting records do not prove anything one way or another.

A NEW LINK TO CUBA

Island Republic is Brought Within Three Days of New York by Late Schedule.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Passengers as well as freight traffic between New York and Havana at present easily passes all previous records. Since Cuba has been brought within considerably less than three days of New York, a surprising volume of winter tourist travel has been deflected in this direction. A business man can now sail from New York on Wednesday, spend three days in Cuba, and return the following Saturday week. The stimulus to trade relations by that shortening the route has been very great. Last week the steamship Hamburg of the Hamburg-American line completed its first run from Havana to New York in 2 days, 17 hours and 14 minutes, or at an average speed of 17.3 knots per hour. This schedule brings Cuba within as easy communication with New York as many cities of the middle west.

European Nations Evince Growing Athletic Interest

Stockholm Will Have Competition for Olympic Games Two Years Hence.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—There is no doubt that foreign countries are building a great interest in athletics, especially the northern nations of Europe, and there is bound to be some stout opposition at Stockholm two years from now in the Olympic games. In a meeting this fall given by the Pan-Slavic club at Sofia, Bulgaria, as many as 5,000 athletes participated. The biggest meet in America never attracted a tenth of that number in individual entries. A. P. Brooks, a member of the New York Athletic club, happened to be present at this meeting and in a letter he says in part: "To this meeting came athletes from nearly all the Slavic countries—Russians, Bulgarians, Servians, Roumanians and Turks—to a total number of more than 5,000. These athletes arrived from their various home cities headed by bands, all marching in military order from the railway station to the army barracks, which were in encampment in the country. There were men, youths and boys of all ages and even a few women and girls among the clubs.

"A great amphitheater, which was erected for the occasion on the outskirts of the city, accommodated spectators numbering more than 30,000. Prizes were duly awarded to the best athletes in the various games. Some of the uniforms were unique. Most of the athletes, however, wore some sort of a turban hat made of lamb skin, with the fleece about half an inch long and with the crown or top of the hat made of blue, red, yellow, etc., according to the nationality of the club; a loose-fitting gray flannel shirt, with military collar and sash; knickerbockers and golf stockings. They presented a very interesting spectacle both in marching order and in the amphitheater. These meetings have been held before, but this was the most important one, and they are to be carried on each year in the future with the idea of promoting a closer brotherhood among the Slavic nations. There is little question also but that these meetings and the Pan-Slavic Scientific parliament, which was held in Sofia at the same time, had a political influence as well, and that these meetings are held to a certain extent under the cover of athletic and scientific events, while trying to work up a pro-Slavic feeling throughout that part of the world.

"The 5,000 athletes were almost evenly divided, 2,500 being Rumanians and the remainder from other Slavic states. The Bulgarian athletes are called Yunaks, and the Bohemians are called Sokols (Falcons). It was a very interesting surprise to the few foreigners there to find that these far eastern people were such thoroughly trained athletes and were able to perform in almost every field of contest, showing enormous strength, agility, dexterity and endurance."

Aviation Engineer Off for the Isthmus

Clifford B. Harmon to Attempt a Flight Across Panama in an Aeroplane.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Details are being arranged for the widely discussed aeroplane flight across the Isthmus of Panama by Clifford B. Harmon. The well-known aviation engineer, Lewis T. Haney, accompanied by several representatives of the leading newspapers, sailed last Saturday on the Prinz August Wilhelm of the Hamburg-American line for Colon, to go over the course and to complete all arrangements. The government has placed at Mr. Harmon's disposal its heliograph station, and will lend every possible assistance. A special train will be run across the isthmus, to keep pace if possible, with the flying machine and to enable a large body of government officials and invited guests to watch the flight. Mr. Haney believes that the route followed by Mr. Harmon will parallel the canal.

Mr. Harmon will rise from the deck of the steamship Moltke when it enters the harbor, so that his course will be entirely unfamiliar to him, except for the information furnished him by his engineer. The isthmus at this point is less than forty miles in width, and it will probably be necessary for him to rise to a height of 2,000 feet to clear the level of the Andes. He is confident that he can make the crossing from the Atlantic to the Pacific without alighting. To mark the course box kites will probably be flown at five-mile intervals, high enough and large enough to make his route clear. The prolonged flashes from two or more heliograph station will also assist to keep him on the right track. One of these stations will probably be established at Culebra Cut.

Canada Must Defend Yachting Trophies

Great Lakes Sailors Prepare for Competitions for Royal Cup—Seneca Challenger.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Yachtsmen of the great lakes are beginning to talk about international races. These tars have two important cups, and indications point towards a contest for at least one of these mugs next summer. If there is a race it will, in all probability, be for the Fisher cup, now held by the Royal Canadian Yacht club. The challenging cup will be the Rochester Yacht club and Seneca will be named as the challenging boat. Although the challenge has not as yet been sent, the matter was brought up recently by Eric Moore, owner of Seneca, who offered the boat unconditionally to the club.

The Canada's cup is the other trophy that is of exceptional importance to the great lake yachtsmen. The prize is now held by the Rochester Yacht club, and there is some talk of a race for the cup during the summer of 1912. However, before there can be another contest for this prize either the American or the Canadians must change their present attitude. The Canadians demand that only boats regularly owned on fresh water shall be allowed to compete in races for the cup. It is the contention of the Americans that any boat complying with the building restrictions and controlled in the club that it represents shall be eligible to race for the prize.

At the present moment, neither side has shown the slightest indication to give way, and a race seems out of the question. However, at a recent meeting of the Yacht Racing union of the Great Lakes, a body that embraces the Lake Michigan, Interlake and Lake Yachting associations, a plan was decided on for presenting the matter to the Rochester club in a new light. Though there is no possibility of a race in 1911, as it is past the date at which a challenge may be sent, the Lake sailors expects to see an international race in 1912.

FEW PITCHERS FOXY AT FIRST

Most Twirlers Easy Marks for the Base Stealers.

ED WALSH IS THE CRAFTIEST

White Sox Man Declared Most Successful in Cutting Down Over-Daring Base Runners—Bender Another Good One.

Catching runners off first base is an art few pitchers have developed. There are a great many twirlers who are considered "marks" by players. Frank Smith of the Boston Red Sox is an example. Frank, when he was with Comiskey, was easy for runners. He simply could not catch men off first base. His slow, awkward motions let the runner get back with plenty to spare, and his ponderous motions in throwing to the plate gave runners a big start down into second. But last year Smith changed. He seemed to have learned a half balk motion, that completely puzzled base runners. And from that time on Frank has been improving gradually, until at the end of the season he pulled himself out of the "mark" class.

Jimmy Collins, at one time the greatest third baseman in the game, is an authority on base ball. Hear what Jimmy says about pitchers and the art of nailing runners.

"Ed Walsh of the Chicago White Sox," says Collins, "is the hardest pitcher I have ever played against when it comes to getting a lead off first. Let me tell you right now that Walsh has the most baffling motion of any pitcher in the country, bar none. I myself think it is a clear case of balk when Walsh winds up and then slaps the ball over to first. But no umpires have called him for it yet, except in one or two cases, where the offense was palpable.

"There are only a few runners, men like Eddie Collins and Ty Cobb, who dare to take more than a couple of feet lead off first when Walsh is in the box. They depend on their excessive speed on beating the ball to first, but sometimes even they are fooled. You never can tell what Walsh is going to do until you actually see the batsman swing at the ball. Then you know that Walsh has pitched to the plate.

"Next to Walsh I place the crafty Indian, Bender, of the champion Athletics. You simply have to keep your eyes on Bender all the time while you are loafing around first base or he will outguess you. For that matter, he often outwits you even when you are watching him. I think that's one of the reasons Bender has developed into a leading pitcher.

"Then there is Addie Joss of Cleveland—a regular pitching fox. Clark Griffith never had anything on Addie when it comes to being a pitching fox. Why, I've stood up by the bag and though Joss had thrown to the plate when really I was being tagged out at first. You have to keep your eyes peeled on Addie. Johnson of the Nationals and Donovan of the Tigers are two more pitchers who are hard to take a lead on.

"In the National league I consider Mathewson of the Giants, Brown of the Cubs, and, possibly, Phillippi of the Pirates, leaders in this particular phase of the game. Of course Phillippi is growing old and has slowed up some, but when he was at his best nobody had anything on him. I have played against him and know pretty well what I'm talking about.

"While we are on this subject, let me say that the third baseman has a lot to do in catching runners off first. It is generally his part to give the signal to the pitcher when the man is far enough off first to shoot the ball over. There are some teams where the catcher gives the signal, but the third baseman can do it best. Next time you are at a game when Walsh is pitching and there is a runner on first just watch Harry Lord's actions. Walsh will be standing moistening the ball and keeping one eye glued on Lord. Suddenly Lord will shift one of his hands or will reach up to grab at his hat. At that second you will see Walsh whip the ball over to first and frequently there's a dead runner."

WOMEN AS DEMONSTRATORS

Members of the Fair Sex Are Invading Automobile Game.

Within the last few years a great many women have learned to operate cars, the greater number of them being devotees of the popular electric. A few of the more venturesome have mastered the intricacies of the gasoline car to such an extent that they feel capable of taking part in endurance races, track races, and other forms of automobile competition. In Omaha at a recent auto meet five women drivers contested for prizes.

It has remained for New Yorfk City, where so many innovations come to light, to produce the first women demonstrators of electric carriages. A prominent firm in that city which handles a large line of electric vehicles, conceived the idea of having a corps of clever and well posted young ladies to demonstrate the electric to the society belles of the metropolis. These lady demonstrators dress in the height of fashion and naturally give the machine a very attractive setting.

Suppose that some member of the 400 is in the market for an electric victoria or a stanhope. The firm to whom she inquires has one of the lady demonstrators make an appointment for an afternoon demonstration through the park. Arriving at the appointed place the lady demonstrator, dressed in swell clothes, presents a very attractive appearance as she makes room for the would-be customer, who is well pleased to have a demonstration of the car's ability under such pleasing conditions. Reaching the park, the demonstrator puts the car through its paces, gives the prospective customer some idea of how the machine is operated, expatiates at length upon the merits of the car, its ease of operation, and so forth, and the sale is consummated.

SPEED LAWS ARE TOO SEVERE

Maximum Rate in Many Sections Exceeded by Horse-Drawn Vehicles.

"The motoring public has many objections, and vivid ones, against the severity of the speed laws," declares Homer Warren, who is known as one of Detroit's most conservative drivers.

"There is no evil intent in the mind of the man who breaks the speed law. The maximum speed allowed in many places is easily and often exceeded by horse-drawn vehicles, and the unreasonableness of placing automobiles under the same restrictions as horses is obvious.

"In the city the statute that brings the motor car down to a walking pace at crossings is all right. It is necessary for the safety of all. Observation will, I think, in many cases show that motor-car drivers as a class are undoubtedly more considerate and careful of the safety of pedestrians at busy crossings than the average driver of an express wagon, cab, or street car.

"Within the city limits the motorist is forced to slow down to ten, eight, or even six miles per hour. This, if observed to drivers under all circumstances, would absolutely destroy the usefulness of the automobile as a time-saver, and but for a lesser degree of comfort the street car might be used to better advantage."

England May Take Up American Form of Starting Races

British Enthusiasts Are Inclined to Abandon Standing Start—May Use Walk-Up.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—For nearly fifteen years the starting gate has been in operation on American race courses, and for nearly ten years English sportsmen have paid tribute to the new system of starting race horses, but up to the present the English do not appear to have derived as much satisfaction from the system as has been the case in this country.

At the recent Gimcrack club dinner in London the subject was discussed at length and the drift of opinion seemed to warrant a change from the standing start, which has always been in operation in England, to the walk-up method, or at least allow the starter to use his judgment when opportunity offers and allow the horses to leave the barrier when in motion.

"It is impossible to start a field of horses from a stand. They simply will not stand, and that is all there is to it," said Mr. Rothschild, "and no blame attaches to the starters. The English starters are as good as, if not better than, those attached to any other jockey club in the world. Being compelled, however, to start horses from a stand, they are never afforded a fair opportunity of displaying their ability.

"While holding no brief for the various American racing associations, I must confess that they are infinitely more ready to embrace an innovation than their British confreres. For instance, having tried Mrs. Cassidy and the walk-up start at Juarez, in Mexico, the authorities there decided that the walk-up start was preferable to attempting to start horses from a stand, with the result that horses here are walked up to the barrier and the starting trouble is practically non-existent.

"Yet we obstinately refuse to give the walk-up start a change. We know from bitter experience what an abject failure is the starting gate when coupled with the standing start. Why not, therefore, let us give the walk-up method a trial?

"The starting of the present day is the curse of the turf. Time after time horses are left merely because they lived up to the Jockey club rule, which is that horses shall face the barrier in alignment. This is beautiful in theory, but impossible in practice.

"You cannot cajole or compel a field of race horses to act like automata. Each horse is a separate and distinct individual, and whereas some will face the barrier absolutely free from nervousness of any description, others are on strings from the moment they feel a saddle on their backs, and by the time they arrive at the post are in a state of lather and nervousness which it is pitiable to witness.

"Having arrived, the very sight of their old enemy, 'the gate,' excites them to the pitch of frenzy, and so unruly are they that they either get away well in front or are left. If a horse, thanks to defying the rules, gets away with a flying start, as he often does, it is nothing more nor less than a rank fraud upon the owners whose horses have been properly schooled and are amenable to the gate.

"It is, however, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, not the fault of the trainers of the fractious and unruly animals, but the fault of the system.

North Platte Team Holds High Position

High School Boys Make Great Record on Foot Ball Field, Losing No Games.

The North Platte High school foot ball team is proud of its record for 1910. Under the leadership of Captain Votaw and Coach Neville it played the season without having been beaten. It has played the big western Nebraska schools and won from Sterling (Colo.) High school after that school had earned the championship of eastern Colorado. Kearney Military academy was defeated by a score of 16 to 0. Lexington High school was the only team to cross the North Platte goal, but was defeated, 6 to 17. The tie game with Kearney High school gave that team a chance to claim championship honors, but if comparative scores are used there are at least four ways of showing that North Platte had the better team, while Kearney shows but one way in which it is the victor. The final game of the season, when these husky westerners invaded the east and defeated York High school by a score of 5 to 0, places North Platte among the best teams of the state and gives it the right to ask for games with any of the teams from the larger places. The average weight of the members of the team on the field was 161 pounds. This is the last year for Halligan, Cronin, Tighe, Le Dioyt, Votaw and Jones, as they will graduate in June, but there are others coming on who will take their places.

"77"

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