

NOW THEY TALK BASE BALL

Annual Meetings of Big Leagues Furnish Food for Gossips.

COMMENT ON THE FOGEL CASE

Murphy Was Lucky to Be Present at the Magnates' Meeting—Some Think Murphy Has Learned a Lesson.

BY W. J. MACBETH. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Base ball comes into its own again! The foot ball season went out with a bang and a bang-a season of many purposes. While Harvard smothered Yale and the Navy annihilated the Army, thereby proving the gridiron game almost as uncertain as the great national pastime, the struggles of the plucky warriors were not in vain. Football, as now practiced by our manly college athletes, is a sport that is likely to survive, with little additional legislation for many, many years.

Now to return to base ball and its many winter vicissitudes. This week marked the real preliminary gun of the 1913 campaign for the annual meetings of the two major leagues. There wasn't a great deal of fuss or flurry either here or in Chicago. The chief regret of the faithful who visited these parts for the post-vow of the old major was that all the old comrades were not on hand. It was felt that Ben Johnson was somewhat exclusive in calling the American league exclusive in Chicago.

Truth to tell Ben and his henchmen were not missed so much, perhaps, as the customary banquet of the Red Sox in celebration of the world's championship. The little fry, which clusters the corridors of the fashionable hotels where the big gatherings are held, hold it a mark of distinction to rub elbows—or heels—over or under the festive board. Johnson's meeting in Chicago shut out from the feast not only the National league magnates, but also the minors who saw better opportunities of better at the local gathering. Jimmie McAleer will have to stand impached or faster another "levee feast" when the annual schedule meetings of the two big leagues are held here next spring.

Passing of Fogel. The annual meeting of the National league proved but a "squib" to a special meeting called on November 23 for the suppression of Horace Fogel, former president of the Phillies. Horace was pretty well squibbed it will be remembered, when that conference passed into history. The passing of Fogel caused no vain regrets in any quarter. Charlie Murphy even deserted him in the final dark hour, as well as Charlie H. Ebbets—parts of the usual trinity of disturbers. The discipline administered to Fogel doubtless will prove a great good for National league affairs in general, though the house cleaning did not go far enough into the activities of most people interested in organized base ball.

Organized base ball may have lost but little in Fogel. Still he was not the worst offender. Charlie Webb Murphy was the real disturbing element. He prompted all of Horace's outbursts. He inspired the damaging articles which appeared under Fogel's signature in a Chicago paper, doubtless he signed on Fogel to write the most of his incriminating communications. He was Fogel's "goat" of his own disturbances and then stropped him, like a live coal, when he felt himself in jeopardy.

Murphy is a very lucky individual to be among those present just now. He gave utterances to more caustic criticism of the league and the conduct of its affairs than did the unfortunate Fogel. But Murphy was wise enough to do nothing more damaging than idle chatter. He put nothing in black and white. And when the big trial came he calmly denied everything and got away with it.

Had the National league possessed a bit more backbone it might have made things very uncomfortable for Mr. Murphy. It might even have stowed him away on the shelf with his friend Horace. It had the "goods" on him. But evidently it figured one at a time very good fishing. A sporting editor from Chicago came duplicitly in the form of a letter. This missive was a private communication—"a confidential billet"—and he refused to turn it over to the authorities on that ground.

The National league had a copy of the letter, and might with some pressure or diplomacy have secured the original to the meeting with proof of Murphy's final long enough to admit it as evidence and thus implicate the boss of the Cubs. But it stalled too long and let the opportunity slip. Thus escaped the real offender.

Great Little Second-Sacker Now in Charge of Cubs



Johnny Evers, the peppery little second baseman of the Chicago Cubs, who has been chosen by Owner Charles Murphy to take the place of Frank Chance as pilot of the Windy City National leaguers. Evers is one of the brainiest players that ever performed in the big leagues, a

there might be those who would prefer to remain longer for a tour of the well known courses in Great Britain and a possible visit to the continent. Thus far the name of Jerome D. Travis, the national champion, has not been mentioned, for the reason that several weeks ago the Upper Montclair golfer stated that there was little likelihood of his going abroad in a long while. One of his reasons against a trip next year is that he is addicted to the use of the mallet-headed putter, which has been legislated against on the other side. In his opinion it would take a long spell of practice before he would be able to do himself justice with one of the ordinary kind of putters.

GOLFERS MAY GO TO ENGLAND

Idea is Conceived by Douglas, Who Has Metropolitan Title.

BRITISHERS LIKE THE IDEA

The More Golfers Go, the More Chance America Will Have of Making Presence Felt in International Golf.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—American amateur golfers may go over in force to attend the championship tournament of Great Britain to be held at historic St. Andrew's next spring. The idea was conceived by Findlay S. Douglas, who since coming to this country, more than thirteen years ago, has won both the national and metropolitan titles. Douglas recently decided to visit St. Andrew's, his old home, and he thought it would be a fine idea if a number of his fellow golfers hereabouts could be induced to go along.

When he broached the subject to several of his friends they became enthusiastic at once. In speaking of the project, Douglas wished it understood that there is no regular attempt to be made to swoop down on the Scots and Britons in an endeavor to lift the cup, but rather to have a congenial party of golfers make the trip.

Of course, the more golfers of prominence visit St. Andrew's from here next spring the more chance America will have of making its presence felt. Heretofore the United States has never been satisfactorily represented, and with the exception of the triumphal invasion of Walter J. Travis in 1904 the efforts on the part of the players from these shores have been far from successful.

Prominent Names Mentioned. Just at present it is impossible to say who will make the trip, and, as Douglas aptly put it, "You never can be sure until they have booked their passage."

There is no desire on his part to control the projected invasion. He has, however, spoken to such men as Fred Herreschoff, E. M. Byers, Oswald Kirby, W. C. Fownes, Jr., Howard W. Ferrin, F. W. Whittemore, Robert C. Watson and John M. Ward, all of whom have declared their eagerness for such a trip.

The matter has not progressed far enough at present to take in a wide territory, but Douglas said he hoped Charles W. Flynn, Jr., the western champion, would be able to join the party. He would also like to see such men as Warren K. Wood, Albert Seckel, Mason Phelps and Paul Hunter included.

Whittemore, for years one of the leaders in amateur golf circles over Boston way, is keen for the trip, and he believes other Massachusetts golfers would be only too willing to join the party. Herreschoff is naturally disappointed with his showing at Westward Ho last spring, and he feels confident he will be able to make a better showing next time. It is also expected that George Crump and "Wo" Philpott, both of Philadelphia, would be glad to join the party. Kirby came near going over last spring with Herreschoff, and he feels reasonably certain of going next year.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYS HOST

Many Have Boxed There During the Last Half Year.

SOME OF THE VERDICTS SHAKY

Naughton Comments on Some of the Recent Decisions in the Light-weight Championship Contests.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 14.—Since Thanksgiving San Francisco has played host to all the youngsters who have played shuttlecock and battledore with the world's light-weight championship during the last half year.

Willie Ritchie, Joe Rivers and Joe Mandot were in the city at one and the same time. If Woigast had delayed his departure a day or two he could have fraternized with his three distinguished rivals. How these lads have mingled, to be sure.

Woigast has boxed Ritchie, Mandot and Rivers. Mandot has boxed Rivers, Woigast and Ritchie.

Rivers has boxed Mandot and Woigast. Ritchie has boxed Woigast and Mandot. And the end is not yet.

At present Woigast is aching to get another crack at Ritchie, who holds the championship.

Rivers, if he could manage it, would like a trip over the championship short line. He would like to overlook Mandot and Woigast and sign up with Ritchie.

Mandot, too, would prefer Ritchie to all others, but has sense enough to recognize that the public expects him to finish out the rubber with Rivers before flying at higher game.

Ritchie, for the time being, is thrilled with the prospect of becoming a foot-light favorite and raking in some of the easy money that awaits all newly made champions.

Shaky Verdict. Woigast secured a very shaky verdict over Rivers at Los Angeles and was shaded by Mandot at New Orleans. Rivers was defeated by Mandot at New Orleans and Ritchie won the championship from Woigast on a foul.

And that "foul" is sticking in the craw of "Fair Play," "Old Sport," and "Constant Reader." They think Willie should shorten his theatrical season and demonstrate that he can triumph over Woigast without the assistance of a foul.

If Ritchie and Woigast were jans ahead of the other championship candidates, the tangle would be easier to unravel. We would wait patiently while Ritchie took his fling at the theatrical business and feel assured that there was another Woigast-Ritchie match in store.

But Rivers and Mandot are not going to be thrust aside. If they can't get Ritchie they will content themselves with Woigast and there is no telling what ups and

downs may have marked the progress of events in 133-pound circles by the time Ritchie is ready to don his war paint again.

This much is certain, however. The coming year will be a memorable one so far as light-weight activities are concerned. Rivers, Mandot and Woigast had better get together and decide "who's who," for there is something in the public attitude towards Ritchie which pledges an early return to the ring on the champion's part.

Many Protests Are Filed. From the way tongues are loosening and pens are scratching it would seem as though great numbers of sporting men were rendered dumb when Referee Griffin decided in Ritchie's favor at the Thanksgiving day bout. Assuredly there was very little demur at the verdict at the time, whereas now the sporting editors' mail is filled daily with protests against the championship being transferred "on a technicality."

One sport writer that the action of Referee Griffin in the premises is without precedent. Another argues that the affair should have been called a draw and yet another insists that if the referee had stopped the bout and called it "no contest" he would have done the right thing at the right time.

In the writer's opinion, the referee took the right course.

A foul is a foul, and whether committed deliberately or through clumsiness, should merit disqualification. In the instance under discussion there is ground for suspicion that Woigast delivered an unfair blow to escape the ignominy of a knockout. Now if there were any way of condoning an offense of this character, how many champions would hesitate about committing fouls when they felt themselves being beaten down? Not many, I'm thinking.

That this particular foul hurt the recipient—inappreciated him, it might be claimed—is a thing which cannot be denied. It was the one punch of the contest which made the San Francisco finish and caused him to sink to the floor in distress.

Now considering that Woigast was dazed and reeling from the effects of a knockdown punch when he committed the foul, how could any ruling which would have permitted of the thing being overlooked or of the contest continuing to be in accordance with the old sporting formula "a fair field and no favor?"

Milan Likes Cleveland. Statistics are furnished showing that Clyde Milan did most of his base stealing off Cleveland catchers. He stole a total of eighty-eight bases and twenty-seven of them were in games against Cleveland. The catchers of the Louis Browns were the next in assisting him to make a record. He stole seventeen off them, thirteen off Detroit catchers, ten off the White Sox, nine off Yankees, six off Athletics and six off Red Sox.

Stallings Has Long Contract. Following the annual meeting of the Boston club, at which he was again elected president, James Gaffney announced that George Stallings' contract as manager would be for three years and that Stallings had also become a stockholder in the club.

Bills a Medic. Joey Bills of the Omaha team is attending Creighton Medical college in Omaha, and expects to tack M. D. onto his name when he gets ready to quit the diamond.

CONY ISLAND ENTRIES

WILL CLOSE IN JANUARY

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The Coney Island Jockey club announces that entries for the 1913 Futurity will close on Thursday, January 2, of next year. The distance of the race is six furlongs. There will be \$5,000 added money, of which \$1,500 goes to the trustees. The last Futurity was run in 1910 at Saratoga. It was won by Sam Hildreth's Novelty. Bashtu was second and Love Not third. The time was 1 minute 12 1/2 seconds. The value was \$10,000. This was the smallest purse in the history of the classic. Agitation against horse racing in this state at the time was responsible for the decrease in value.

There is the usual clause, however, providing that the club may cancel the event and return entrance money without further liability. One of the drawbacks to racing is the "personal liability" clause in the racing laws, and as that has been ruled out by the courts, there is a possibility that the club may see its way to meetings next year, although there are hopes of legislation on the subject at the next session of the legislature.

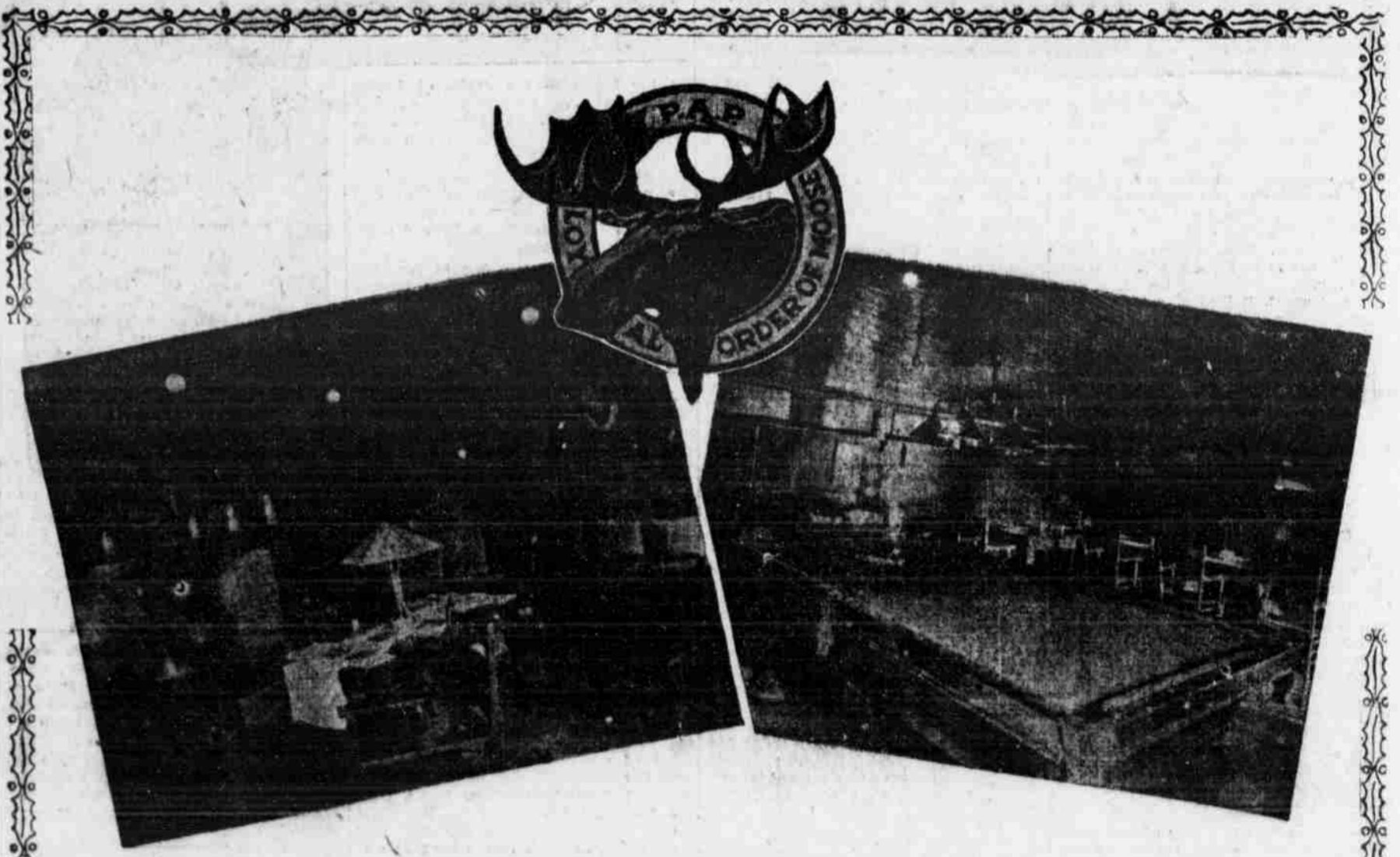
Dubuque Gets a Mattick. Dubuque of the Three-I league has signed Earl Mattick, the St. Louis youngster, brother of Chick Mattick of the White Sox.

NEW HEAD OF THE NEW YORK GIANTS



HARRY N. HEMPSTEAD.

Harry N. Hempstead, son-in-law of the late John T. Brush, is the new president of the famous New York Giants. In assuming control of the team which for two successive seasons won the championship of the National league, Mr. Hempstead announced the policies of the former owner will be continued. He says: "There will be positively no change in the organization. John J. McGraw will continue to handle the team as manager, and he will have exactly the same latitude and free hand in the handling of the players as he had when working under Mr. Brush."



THE COZY CLUB OF OMAHA
Lodge No. 90 L. O. O. M.
Extends a cordial invitation to all good men to visit and inspect our new club house at 416 South 17th Street, which is the coziest club in the United States. We will be pleased to show non-members through.
Members are requested to bring friends to club between the hours of 9 a. m. and 11 p. m. For a short time the initiation fee will be \$5.00. Members are entitled to benefits of all other club houses in the country, as well as \$7.00 weekly, sick or accident, free medical attendance to members and family. \$50.00 funeral benefit.
If you are interested, call upon or address—
J. A. SCHROEDER
District Director Moose Club
Telephone Douglas 6826
416 South 17th Street