

THE NATIONAL GAME

News of the Week Among the Ball Players.

The managers of the Western Association have nearly completed their teams and in six weeks the players will begin to report for practice. The strongest teams on paper are Lincoln, Omaha and Des Moines. St. Joseph may show up much better than anyone would suppose and it is hoped they will but there are too many amateurs on the team to stand much of a chance against the other clubs. Lincoln has two amateurs, both pitchers, Omaha none, while the St. Joe and Rockford teams are only half professional.

Hugh Nichol of Rockford was in Chicago the past week and signed an amateur from the Chicago city league. He is also negotiating with big Bill Kreig of last years Rock Island and an amateur third baseman named Esterquest.

St. Joe has so far signed the following players catches Claud Jones last year with Des Moines; catcher, Arthur Creighton, an Omaha amateur; first base McVey, of last years Omaha team. Second base will be covered by Manager Gatewood. Third base, Jno. McKenzie, of the Virginia State league. Short stop, Eddie Logue, who comes from—no one seems to know where. Left field, Marcum, of last year's Saints, Harry Howe, who has quit lushing, will play centerfield and pitch. For pitchers they have Stote Lincoln, an amateur from Denver, Mike Berg and Bert Maytum of last year's team and Al Beal another amateur. This team does not look very strong but the amateurs may be deceitful.

Peoria's team is now complete and contains the following players: Catchers, Collins and Sisler; pitchers, Emerke and Mauck. First base, Haller; second baseman; short stop, Fisher; third base, Nulton; centerfield, Flynn, right field, Bennett.

Emmett Rogers and Youngy Johnson, who have both played in Lincoln, will form a battery for Scranton.

"As yet there has been no meeting called for the re-assembling of the Western association magnates, and while there is a general sort of conference going on via the mails, there seems to be a lack of unanimity as to the object to be accomplished, and also as to the best city in which to hold the meeting. There is one thing, however, on which a majority of the clubs are unanimous, and that is that there ought to be a meeting, and that the circuit should be reorganized, and it will be strange if the matter is allowed to go by the board. If Jacksonville and Quincy are to be allowed to remain, a good and sufficient bond should be demanded that they play the season out, for just as sure as nothing is done the association may as well be prepared to fill a couple of vacancies along about July, for this they will certainly have to do. Rock Island's gate receipts last year were over \$2,000 in excess of the sum realized at Jacksonville, and nearly \$5,000 more than at Quincy, and both of these latter two cities had to be assisted financially by the association to keep them from going to pieces upon the breakers. Just why Rock Island was turned down has never been made plain, and certainly it was not done by any connivance with the Omaha club. The only plausible solution is that President Kent could not control the club's vote, as its fealty to President Rowe was publicly proclaimed. With Rock Island and Sioux City in the circuit the future of the association would of once assume a roseate hue. It would then have one of the snuggest and most compact circuits ever embraced within the province of a minor association. There would not be a weak city in it, and the chances for material profit would be un-

doubted, thus paving the way for a stronger and better organization in 1896. President W. W. Kent, of the Western association, takes no stock in the reports that Jacksonville or Quincy is to be dropped out of the association to make room for Rock Island. The stories sent out from Omaha originated with Dave Rowe, who is still sore over his defeat for the presidency of the association."

The above dispatch is taken from the Chicago Herald and was sent from Omaha. It only goes to show that Omaha is making a desperate effort to change the circuit.

THE DETAILS OF A TRAGEDY.

To Helen, fairest sweetheart mine—
Beloved for her grace divine,
I sent a pretty valentine.

"Your loving Joe!"

Was signed below.

'Twas lace and cupids—sachet scents,
And cost three dollars, fifty cents,
But then I didn't mind expense—

I loved her so

Intense, you know.

To Kate—a girl I fairly hate—

A girl a century out of date—

I sent a comic picture straight;

The ugliest yet

That I could get.

An ape it was in redingote,

A ruffled collar 'round the throat,

And kid gloves on. Below I wrote,

With pencil blue:

"It's just like you!"

* * *

And now—ah, me—too late, too late!

My life is wrecked! I simply wait

For Death to pass me through his gate:

For Katie's went to Helen straight—

The one for Helen went to Kate!

My fate is fixed;

I got them mixed.

JAMES COURTNEY CHALLISS.

A Great Battle

Is continually going on in the human system. The demon of impure blood strives to gain victory over the constitution, to ruin health, to drag victims to the grave. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the weapon with which to defend one's self, drive the desperate enemy from the field, and restore bodily health for many years.

Hood's Pills cure constipation by restoring peristaltic action to the alimentary canal.

That wonder of modern journalism, The Chicago Herald, can always be obtained from Seacrest Bros., 113 North 13th street, who sell and deliver by the week more copies than of any other Chicago newspaper.

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ABSOLUTELY PURE