Wichita Eagle

BASEBALL TALK.

W. I. Harris Throws Light on the Present Situation.

SOME REMARKS ABOUT DEALS.

Winding Up with a Lot of Gossip About the Men Who Play the National Game, and Their Prospects for the Coming Season.

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The record of the past week in the struggle for the pennants has upset many calculations and made a number of baseball managers perspire pretty freely. Manager McGunnigle, of the Brooklyn National leaguers, has been one of them. Mac had it all figured out just what his men would do, and had also, as he thought, a clear idea as to what some of the other fellows would do. But "the best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley," as Burns put it, and McGunnigle's experience has only been similar to that of some other men who have backed "sure things." That Philadelphia trip tore his heart strings. To lose one game to the Phillies he had thought possible, but three straight was awful. Meanwhile Mac consoled himself with the fact that the Bostons were getting beaten by the New Yorks. But it was poor consolation, for the Chicagos were coming along at a furious pace, winning two games a day, with "Old Man Anson" shouting from the house tops: "I'm after you. Look out for me."

Surely it is a great race, and easily possible for any one of the first five clubs to finish first. It would be hard to pick a winner, but it is safe to say that Brooklyn, Chicago and Boston will finish in the three first places, unless the Phillies should develop greater form on their western trip than they have shown in previous visits away from home, in which event they might get a place. The exact order at the finish no man can tell now. I am inclined to think that Brooklyn may have to take a back seat for either Boston or Chicago. What a triumph it would be for your Uncle Anson if he were to take the pennant with a comparatively patched up team, while Comiskey, alleged to be his superior as a handler of men, with a team of stars, is lucky to finish fifth in the Players' league.

The Bostons hold a pretty fair lead in the Players' pennant race, and there really seems to be but one team at all likely to stop them, the Brooklyn brothers. But even they are not in a position to worry Kelly if his men play the game they are capable of for the closing two weeks of the season. The Giants may be in it and they may not. Without any pitchers they met with a disaster at Boston that it will be hard to overcome. If Ewing's pitchers make a great brace on the western trip Buck may get the bunting, but the chances are very much against it. Baseball men in New York are betting five to three that Buck will not finish first.

And so the great and only Comiskey is to descend next year on the Quakers. Well, Commy is a great player, but I have grave doubts if he will be able to do any more with the Philadelphia brothers than he did with the Chicago stars. Still he may find a set of men in Philadelphia who will try to help him rather than balk him. If so success may be his. This season has shown that Comiskey is a very much overrated man, for if he were the general and manager he has been represented as being he would never have allowed the spirit of insubordination and contempt of discipline that was early shown in this year's Chicago team to have ever got footing enough to do any harm. It is no defense of Comiskey to say that he had no authority to release men. He has other ways of making them come to time, and his weakness and vacillation prove him to be no better as a manager than a score of other men who might be mentioned. Take Buffinton, for instance. With a team like the Chicago brothers Buffinton would have come pretty close to the pennant; at any rate he would have got a place, something that Comiskey's men do not seem likely to do.

There are so many yarns started every day about what certain clubs will do next season that it requires a close reader to hustle early and late to simply keep track of them. We were told that Al Johnson would have "world beaters" next season, and since then there have been daily rumors about this player and that player being booked for Cleveland. John Ward was the first man. After Johnnie had fully and explicitly denied it, and received all the advertising that could be got out of the matter, dual number two is sprung on an unsuspecting public. It is to the effect that Mike Kelly is to take charge of Johnson's innocents in 1891 and pilot them to victory. Neither Mike nor any one else could do that, but it doesn't hurt the story. But what will Boston say to any such bereavement, especially after that gift of a cottage and barn, with a horse and buggy thrown in and a twenty-five hundred dollar mortgage attached? Will Boston submit without a murmur? Well, I should say not.

If Comiskey goes to Philadelphia Farrar is to be transferred to another city. Of course Farrar will like that. It may suggest itself to Farrar that the Philadelphia league club is badly in need of a first baseman, and Sid may on the expiration of his one year's contract be just obstinate enough to refuse to be transferred from Philadelphia.

We are told that the Brotherhood is signing National league players right and left, and that some of the magnates will be very tired when they undertake to sign their men for 1891. Isn't this a little queer? We have been told all the season that the National league clubs were no good and that the Players' league had all the players. If the Brotherhood people were truthful what on earth do they want of the League players?

It took the Brooklyn and Boston Brotherhood teams exactly two hours and thirty-three minutes to play seven innings of a game last Friday, and only fifteen runs were scored in the contest. On the same day the Chicago and Cleveland (N. L.) teams played seventeen innings in three hours and twenty minutes, thirty-four runs being scored in the two games.

THINGS THAT ARE SAID.

That Mike Kelly knows nothing about that transfer to Cleveland.

That had Manager Ewing made it a little more expensive for Crane and O'Day to pose as "freemen" in certain Harlem resorts that Crane and O'Day would today be in condition to pitch the Giants into the championship.

That the absence of Ward, Welch and Tiernan from the Giants did make a difference, after all.

That all hands agree that Pitcher Nichols, of the Boston team, has been approached by the Philadelphia Brotherhood club, but no one has told us what Nichols had to say about it.

That it is dollars to doughnuts that Nichols will be better off to stay where he is, and that he told his tempters he thought so.

That the Wagners are showing a disposition to get a great team together for Philadelphia next season.

That the New York Leaguers are playing pennant ball, and that but for their unfortunate accidents would now be in the race.

That Mutrie says he will upset some more pennant calculations before the season ends.

That Tim Keefe has played in hard luck this summer.

That Clarkson has not been so successful as usual this season.

That when the pennants are won there will be a grand hustle for players, and rumors of deals will be as plentiful as autumn leaves.

That Buck Ewing and Eddie Talcott are not happy.

That Boston will be the only city where the Brotherhood has made a good profit.

That New York is the only Brotherhood club aside from Boston to come out even on the season's expenses.

That all the League clubs except Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Brooklyn are big losers. W. I. HARRIS.

A RACE TRACK REVOLUTION.

The Kite Shaped Course Is Rapidly Increasing in Popularity.

The news that Nashville, Tenn., is to have a new race track modeled upon the kite or balloon shaped track of C. W. Williams at Independence, Ia., coupled with the significant fact that a number of records were recently smashed upon the novel Independence race course, shows that the kite shaped track is growing in favor among horsemen. The inventor of the new course is said to have been W. B. Fasig, of Cleveland, O. It is a mile long, and is so constructed that the horses are given two long stretches of a third of a mile each, and but one turn in the remaining third of a mile.

A glance at the picture below will readily master the new plan. The start is at A, past the judges' stand (C), and the finish is between the judges' stand and grand stand (B). The small loop, or what may be termed the tail of the kite, is not included in the mile course proper, but is utilized as a roadway between the finish and the start and to give room for scoring. The new track diminishes the spectator's opportunity for observation, but it also decreases the chance of accidents at the start and gives the horses a long stretch in which to get down to business before they meet the embarrassment of a curve. On an ordinary half mile track the first curve comes so soon after the start that collisions between the nervous horses at the first quarter are of frequent occurrence. One of the greatest drawbacks to the kite shaped track is that no race longer than a mile can be trotted upon it.

TRACK AT INDEPENDENCE, IA.

Catcher W. F. Krieg.

W. F. Krieg, the popular catcher of the Milwaukee baseball club, was born at Dayton, O., thirty years ago. He is 5 ft. 10 in. in height and weighs 195 pounds. His first professional engagement was as catcher with the Peoria team of the Illinois league in 1882. The management was so well pleased with his excellent work that he was engaged for the following season, and his play during these two seasons was of a very high order. In 1884 he transferred his services to the Chicago Union Baseball association, for which he caught daily throughout the entire season. His clever one arm work was greatly admired and gained for him a national reputation. He signed with the Brooklyn association the next year and was well up in the general averages at the end of the season. In the following year he filled the dual role of captain and manager of the Hartford nine with highly satisfactory results.

In 1887 he was with the Washington league and Minneapolis association teams. In 1888 he signed with the Kansas City Blues, of the Western association, and he has remained a member of that association

W. F. KRIEG.

ever since, as the following year he donned a St. Joseph, Mo., uniform and this season played with the Milwaukees, who are prominent at the present time in the struggle for the pennant of the Western association. Krieg has done his share toward placing the brewers at the head. Krieg is a good man in any part of the field, and as a batter he can always be relied upon. His averages for the present season up to date are as follows: Batting .326, catching .933, and he leads the center fielders with the excellent average of .974.

First Tradesman—Is he a gentleman?

Second Tradesman—Well, I suppose so. He doesn't pay his debts till you make him do so.—Munsey's Weekly.

Obstacles to Civilization in Africa.

The secret of Africa's isolation from the benefits and blessings of civilization and light that have fallen on the rest of the world is to be found in the cataracts of her big rivers and in a lesser degree to the inhospitableness of the climate. The cataracts of the Congo, the Niger and the Zamberi, however, and the cataracts and sudd of the Nile, have been and are the real obstructions. Were the Congo as navigable as the Mississippi, and the Nile as free from obstructions to vessels as the Danube or the Yang-tse-Kiang, Uganda would now be sending us silk stuffs and calico instead of ivory, and globe trotters would be picnicking and wintering on the islands of the Victoria Nyanza.—Thomas Stevens in Scribner's.

The Flight of a Cannon Ball.

The well known photographer Ascheutz, of Lissa, has for some years been experimenting with photographs of the flight of cannon balls from the moment of their projection to their striking the target or object aimed at. Two years ago he succeeded in obtaining highly interesting results; in May, 1890, however, the acme of perfection was reached. His plates were submitted to the expert, Dr. Koenig, of the Berlin university, who was perfectly able to make therefrom the desired practical calculations. He established the fact that the projectile thus photographed had a velocity of 400 meters per second, and that the duration of the light thrown on the photographic plates did not exceed the ten thousandth part of a second.—St. Louis Republic.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

AN UNFOUNDED REPORT THAT THE COFFEE PLANT IS DYING OUT.

The Ceylon Source of Supply May Have Failed, but the Berry Flourishes Elsewhere—The Methods by Which Coffee Is Prepared for Use.

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Somebody living in Colombo, Ceylon, has written to an American friend, and it has been freely given to the press, that "the time is not far distant when coffee will have ceased to be the beverage of the people." He gives as a reason that a "parasite has attacked the plant and is gradually killing it, and that the planters in Ceylon, seeing the berries die, have found a substitute in tea, the export of which has increased rapidly from 50,000 pounds per year to 60,000,000 pounds."

The statement was of such importance as to warrant an investigation, and it has been promptly met by the assurance on the part of some of the best representatives of the coffee market—men like Maj. John C. McNulty and Mr. F. B. Thurber—that the crops of Central America and Brazil, whence we derive our largest supply of coffee, are 25 per cent. larger than they have been for several years past. In fact

THE COFFEE PLANT.

more coffee is being raised than ever before. The district of Santos Paulo, in Brazil, will alone, it is estimated, produce 30 per cent. of the entire consumption this year, and a corresponding increase elsewhere will cause a surplus. The consumption of the world does not exceed ten million bags of the average weight of 130 pounds, and with the exception referred to there is no report that the crop will in any wise be diminished.

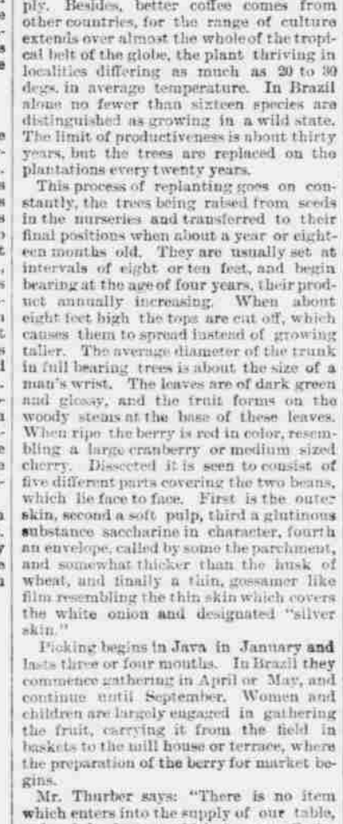
This Ceylon disease has been known since 1869, when a fungus appeared upon the leaves for which no remedy has been found; but neither in the quality nor the amount of coffee produced can this misfortune to one locality possibly affect the general supply. Besides, better coffee comes from other countries, for the range of culture extends over almost the whole of the tropical belt of the globe, the plant thriving in localities differing as much as 20 to 30 degs. in average temperature. In Brazil alone no fewer than sixteen species are distinguished as growing in a wild state. The limit of productiveness is about thirty years, but the trees are replaced on the plantations every twenty years.

This process of replanting goes on constantly, the trees being raised from seeds in the nurseries and transferred to their final positions when about a year or eighteen months old. They are usually set at intervals of eight or ten feet, and begin bearing at the age of four years, their product annually increasing. When about eight feet high the tops are cut off, which causes them to spread instead of growing taller. The average diameter of the trunk in full bearing trees is about the size of a man's wrist. The leaves are of dark green and glossy, and the fruit forms on the woody stems at the base of these leaves. When ripe the berry is red in color, resembling a large cranberry or medium sized cherry. Dissected it is seen to consist of five different parts covering the two beans, which lie face to face. First is the outer skin, second a soft pulp, third a glutinous substance saccharine in character, fourth an envelope, called by some the parchment, and somewhat thicker than the husk of wheat, and finally a thin, gossamer like film resembling the thin skin which covers the white onion and designated "silver skin."

Picking begins in Java in January and lasts three or four months. In Brazil they commence gathering in April or May, and continue until September. Women and children are largely engaged in gathering the fruit, carrying it from the field in baskets to the mill house or terrace, where the preparation of the berry for market begins.

Mr. Thurber says: "There is no item which enters into the supply of our table, unless it be butter, which is so easily injured in flavor as coffee, or which exhibits such a tendency to absorb surrounding odors. Vessels from South or Central America often arrive with mixed cargoes of coffee and hides, in which the former has been almost ruined by absorbing the smell of the latter. Roasting in a measure dissipates the 'hidey' smell, yet to an expert it is very perceptible, enough remaining to destroy the delicate flavor of the volatile oil or caffeine."

The extreme sensitiveness of coffee to surrounding odors is further demonstrated by the readiness with which roasted coffee absorbs the flavor of the wood when put


DR. JOHNSON AT THE CHESHIRE CHEESE.

into a pine box or bin. Roasted coffee, therefore, should never be kept in anything except a tightly closed tin box, or better still, an air tight glass or earthen jar. Different varieties show a great diversity in flavor, and different seasons produce different qualities.

Unquestionably a most important factor in a cup of good coffee is the process of roasting the bean, and in this respect a revolution has taken place in the United States during the last twenty years. Formerly not one pound in thirty of roasted coffee was sold, the consumers doing the "cooking" in an iron pot or skillet over an ordinary fire. Now, however, there are large coffee roasting establishments using steam power in every city of considerable size in the country.

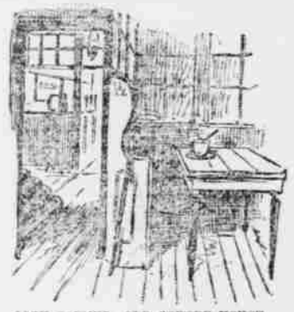
The first complete apparatus for roasting and grinding coffee was set up in Wooster street, New York, in 1834, opposite Washington square. Other establishments followed, and wholesale grocery houses now, as a rule, run mills of their own, thus securing uniformity in their product and a better result in every way. Where parties attempt to roast their own coffee their object should be to produce a rich chestnut brown, but for making black or French coffee the bean should be roasted higher than usual. No coffee should be kept long, however, or exposed to the air. Of late years roasted coffee packed in one pound papers has come into favor with consumers, the large dealers, from their knowledge of the characteristics of coffee and the flavors which harmonize in blending, having succeeded in producing grades adapted to the taste of different sections where coffee is largely used.

In reference to this subject the celebrated chemist, Baron von Liebig, wrote: "On roasting depends the good quality of the coffee. It contains a crystalline substance named caffeine or theine, because it is also a component part of tea. This matter is volatile, and every care should be taken to retain it. For this purpose the berries should be roasted until they are of a pale brown color. In those which are black the essential parts of the berries are entirely destroyed, and the beverage prepared from them does not deserve the name of coffee. As the berries lose every hour somewhat of their aroma in consequence of the influence of the oxygen of the air, it is better when the roasting is complete and the vessel is yet hot to mix with the berries some powdered white or brown sugar (half an ounce to a pound of coffee is sufficient). This sugar melts immediately, and spreading over the berries gives each one a fine glaze, which renders it impervious to the atmosphere."

"How to make coffee?" answered Mr. Thurber in answer to a question. "Why, there are as many recipes as there are countries. I have one of my own which is plain, good, economical, and produces the best results. It is this: Grind moderately fine a large cup of coffee; break into it one egg with shell; mix well, adding enough cold water to thoroughly wet the grounds; pour upon this one pint of boiling water; let it boil slowly from ten to fifteen minutes, according to the variety of coffee used and the fineness to which it is ground. Let it stand three minutes to settle, then pour through a fine wire sieve into a warm coffee pot. This will make enough for four persons. At table first put the sugar in the cup, then half fill with boiling milk, add your coffee, and you will have an ideal beverage that is a revelation.

"Coffee deteriorates if left stewing upon the stove, and this is one of the principal reasons why that which is served at the hotels and restaurants is so often unfit to drink. While in Constantinople I investigated the mysteries of the far famed Turkish coffee. When a cup is wanted there the requisite amount of finely powdered coffee is put into a little brass, long handled pot, fitted with a grooved spout, but without a cover. Water enough to fill the pot is then poured in, and it is set upon live coals until it heats up just to the boiling point. It is then, without straining or settling the grounds, poured into a tiny cup. The composition is thick, muddy, and the lower half consists of a paste which is swallowed by the Turks with the same relish they show for the beverage itself. I am convinced that the reputation of Turkish coffee is principally due to the great care observed in roasting, not more than a twenty-four hour supply being purchased at one time."

It is a curious and endless study for a foreigner to observe life in the French cafes, for it has been remarked that Paris without cafes would be like a landscape without water or a bride without a veil. It is there that he takes his first cafe au


COZY CORNER, OLD COFFEE HOUSE.

lait in the morning, his demi-tasse or black coffee at dinner to assist his digestion, and after the theatre meets his friends to enjoy his smoke and bumper of wine. In England the old fashioned coffee houses, of which we have read so much in connection with Pope, Addison, Steele, Dryden, Fox, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith and others, live only in tradition. The English, from the coffee point of view, have rather fallen into bad ways, and tea has been permitted to outstrip the Arabian berry in their affections. In colonial times and the early days of the republic New York had its Burn's coffee house, Merchant's coffee house, on the corner of Wall and Water streets, the Tontine coffee house, Browne's coffee house, in Water street, and other places of the kind, where Irving, Paulding, the Astors and old merchants of the city were wont to assemble. But these institutions have all long since passed from memory, and even their histories have been obliterated. People now drink their coffee if not at home in the restaurants and dining rooms, and the real delights of the beverage are seldom enjoyed. F. G. DE FONTAINE.

Searching Out Word Meanings.

A work which is expected to revolutionize the system of dictionary making at present in vogue is just being published at Paris by Delagrave—the "Dictionnaire Generale de la Langue Francais," of which the late Professor Arsene Darmesteter, of the College de France, and Professor Hatzfeld are the authors. It represents the first attempt in any language to trace the historical development of the various meanings of words and to reduce them to one or two primitive significations. The word "bureau," for example, is provided with a complete pedigree, the new dictionary showing that it was applied originally to a particular species of woolen stuff named bure, with which desks and tables were covered. Then it came to be attributed to tables themselves, afterward to the room in which the table was placed, and finally to the persons assembled in the room at the table in question.

The Audio Telephone.

A new telephone has been brought out in England, the characteristic point of which is the mouthpiece. The particular advantage claimed by the inventors of this mouthpiece is that it intensifies the sound waves, and thus renders it possible to carry on conversation in an ordinary tone of voice. The mouthpiece is simply a truncated cone, which is clamped on to the telephone. By using an india rubber ring between the mouthpiece and the telephone any escape of sound is entirely prevented. The cone is double, the outer cone being perforated with holes, the idea being that the vibrations caused by the sound waves on the interior cone have full freedom and are entirely protected from contact with external substances.—New York Telegram.

Why It Is Foolscap.

It is often asked why a certain kind of paper is known by the name of "foolscap." When Oliver Cromwell became Protector, after the execution of Charles I, he caused a stamp representing the cap of liberty to be placed upon the paper used by the government. Soon after the restoration of Charles II he had occasion to use some paper for dispatches, when some of this paper was brought to him. On observing the stamp he asked its meaning, and on being informed he said: "Take it away; I will have nothing to do with a fool's cap."

When Royalty Travels in Japan.

There has existed in Japan for many centuries a curious law to the effect that whenever the emperor or empress appeared in public no other person should seem to occupy a higher place than this member of the royal family; therefore on such occasions the shutters of all upper stories were drawn, and the upper parts of the houses through which the royal party moved were seemingly deserted. This law is still in effect. Three months ago, when the empress went into the country for a brief period, an elaborate announcement was posted in conspicuous places along the line of her contemplated route commanding the public to observe strictly certain requirements of etiquette, to wit:

When her majesty shall pass along no one must look at her from the frame built on houses for the drying of clothes, or through cracks in doors, or from any position in the upper part of their houses.

If anybody wishes to see her majesty he or she must sit down at the side of the road by which her majesty will pass. All children must be taken particular care of that they do not play in the road, and so obstruct the passage of her majesty through the streets.

No one must look at her majesty without taking off his hat, neckcloth or turban, or whatever else he may be wearing on his head. Moreover, no one must be smoking while he or she is looking at her majesty, nor must any one carry a stick or cane. Only women wearing the clothes of foreigners will be permitted to retain their head covering.

Although it may rain, no person will be allowed to put up an umbrella while her majesty may be passing.

Dogs must not be allowed to wander on to the road by which her majesty will pass.

Until the passage of her majesty, the route by which she will come will be kept free from all carriages and jinrikashas. The roads which she will take must be completely free from all traffic.

As her majesty passes, no one must raise his voice, nor must any sound be heard, nor must the crowd close in and follow her carriage, for no noise must be made. When her majesty reaches Umeda station there will be a discharge of fifty fireworks.—Eugene Field in Chicago News.

One by One the Idols Are Falling!

The papers have been full of paragraphs about Edward Grubb, "the Bristol Centenarian," who is described as having died at the age of 109. Grubb was not a centenarian, for, according to his own account, he was living at Kingsland, where he was born, when the battle of Waterloo was fought, and yet he went to settle in London "three or four years before he was 20." It is clear, therefore, that, as only seventy-five years have passed since Waterloo, Grubb cannot have been more than 96 when he died.

A still more conclusive proof is afforded by the tombstone over his father's grave in the churchyard at Kingsland, which records that he died in 1808, at the age of 34; so that if Grubb was a centenarian he was born when his father was 16 years old, and if he was 109 he must have been born when his father was 7 years old! It would be just as well if the papers, instead of eagerly swallowing every flapdash story that is brought to them, were to take the sagacious advice which President Routh gave to Dean Burgon: "Always verify your references."—London Truth.

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