

# Baker May Yet Play Role of Cincinnatus

### Time Will Tell Whether Bleachers Can Lure Him from the Plough.

### HUSTON WOULD LIKE HOME RUN KING

### Frank Farrell Misses His Ball Team and May Put a Fed Club at Kingsbridge.

By HEYWOOD BROWN.

It looks as though someone had slipped Homer Baker. At any rate, the man who used to break fences has settled down to mend them.

"He's plumb sick of travelling," said Connie Mack, who has announced the retirement of the great third baseman. "He just wants to farm and do nothing else."

But Baker is less than twenty-nine, and he may not find retirement so easy. To reach the end of a field to well enough in its way, but no matter how admirably the task is performed no thousands will leap up to cheer the farmer. The bleachers may be low in the scale of harmony, but for a long summer symphony it must be more agreeable music than the conventional cow-craw of the crowd.

The sight of the growing radish, growing grain or toddling turnip may warm the heart of the husbandman, but it can hardly furnish the vibrations or the thrills of a smash to the right field bleachers.

Precedent is against Baker. In days of old there was a big leaguer in the city of Rome, who quit the plow for the glory of the farm. Baker, however, is starting positively that he would never come back. Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus was his name. But for all his protestations, Lucius did come back to the big show and so great was his haste that he left his plough and horses in the middle of the field.

Posterity has paid this here the doubtful compliment of naming the city after him. Many are ready already to tempt Baker from his seclusion. Hearing yesterday of the state's retirement, Captain T. H. Huston asked, "How old is Baker?" and hearing that he was still well within the limits of baseball efficiency, he declared, "He would make a pretty good investment for us."

St. Louis sent word from General Hege that the Browns would bid high to keep Baker on the diamond. The call of the farm must be loud and insistent if it is to drown the many appeals which the great third baseman will receive from stars of the ploughing season.

If J. Franklin Baker is sincere in his announced intention of retiring, he lacks the dramatic instinct. His exit is not well timed. From the theatrical point of view he would have done much better to have quit the plow after his two home runs in the world series, or in 1913 when he made still another circuit smash against the Giants.

Had the Braves been distinctly disappointed, it was not that he played badly, for as a matter of fact he performed exceptionally well, but he could not live up to the old traditions. He hit the ball, but in the arithmetic of baseball two doubles do not equal one home run. In fielding he was never finer, for he handled twenty-five chances without error, but the heart of the team must be reached through the hit column.

Frank Farrell, according to a rumor prevalent yesterday, has been loaned to a baseball team. It was learned yesterday that Mr. Farrell and Tom Foley, the well known politician, conferred with Mr. Gilmore, at the Hotel Biltmore on Tuesday. Mr. Farrell still has an option on the Kingsbridge property at 225th Street, and it is understood that he and Mr. Foley discussed the possibility of putting a Federal League team there.

Some little time ago the president of the Feds promised a big surprise which he predicted would bring Ban Johnson back to New York. This surprise may be the announcement of a Federal League team in New York owned by Frank Farrell.

The old owner of the Yankees was not pleased at the treatment which he received when he was forced to sell out of the American League, and this feeling might lead to his desire to get back in the game with a rival organization. In corroboration of the story it was pointed out that Arthur Irwin had a long conference with Robert B. Ward, in Chicago, at the sporting writer's office. Another source of information, but he came simply to pass his remarks, but he assured John Foster that he had no intention of returning to the national game.

Now we understand why baseball players are glad to get away from Philadelphia. In a story about the dinner given by the sporting writers to the Quaker town to Bill Johnston, Pat Moran and Nap Lajoie, "The Philadelphia North American" says: "Bill Donovan surprised the company with a polished after dinner speech."

J. A. Conkly, of The Bronx, who "rides" us when we make mistakes about baseball, sends us a pleasant letter, in which he informed us that he is six feet two inches tall, twenty-four years old and weighs 215 pounds. Well, we have a year, an inch and fifteen pounds advantage of him, and as we start for the training camp at Martins Ferry, to-day, we hope to be in condition to meet our critic some time in April before the club offering the best inducements.

We can now tell the recruits from the ball players, thanks to a useful list which we received yesterday from a fan who signs himself "Well Wisher."

Johnson Talks Ball on Pleasure Trip

### WIG'S DIARY

FEB. 18 1911

A T&E DIARY BY A BOY

I WOULD PUT MY NAPKIN IN MY NECK THIS MORNING SO BOB LICKED ME AND MADE ME SWEET IN THE MORNING THERE BEING NOTHING TO DO I READ PINKEY'S STORIES AND SINCE I WENT OUT AFTER LUNCH WHEN I COULD, BUT I HAD TO GO AND GET CANDY FAIR, I BOUGHT QUARTERS WORTH OF CANDY SANDWICHES AND TEA, JIMMY, MIDDLE, BILLIKEN AND JUT AND I RAN ALL OVER THE PLACE DOWN IN THE CHURCH CELLAR AND UP IN THE GALLERY, WE GOT SO FULL OF CANDY WE COULD NOT EAT A SCRAP MORE

### SHEPPARD COACH OF MILLROSE A. A.

#### Peerless Mel to Handle Team That Goes to the Panama Fair.

Melvin W. Sheppard, once the world's greatest middle distance runner, holder of many world records and former Olympic hero, set all rumors at rest about his retirement from competition in track athletics by signing a contract yesterday as a professional coach for the Millrose Athletic Association, which organization is composed of the employees of the John Wanamaker store in this city.

### TIGER SEVEN WINS IN EXTRA PERIOD

#### Yale Hockey Team Gets a Setback in Rough, Hard-Fought Game.

New Haven, Feb. 17.—Princeton's seven defeated the Yale hockey team in a game that went to an extra period. The score was 3 to 1.

### NEW YORK BOWLERS GET GRIP ON TITLE

#### Take Three Games at Home, Increasing Its Lead in the League.

The New York Athletic Club drew further away in the championship race for the title of the Athletic Bowling League last night, when, on its own alleys, it captured three games, while the Roseville A. A. combination, the nearest competitor, visiting Newark Bay, took only the odd.

### NEW YORK BOWLERS GET GRIP ON TITLE

None of the teams was able to execute the thousand mark, other than the New York A. A. combination in the first game, in which it tallied 18 pins better. Outside of that, the totals bordered on the ordinary.

NORTH SIDE		SOUTH SIDE	
Harper	125	125	125
Smith	125	125	125
Johnson	125	125	125
Williams	125	125	125
Miller	125	125	125
Clark	125	125	125
Allen	125	125	125
Young	125	125	125
King	125	125	125
Wright	125	125	125
Scott	125	125	125
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