

Alexander and Killifer, Star Phillie Battery, Sold to Cubs

Tener Re-elected as Head Of the National League

Choice Unanimous, but Term Is for Only One Year and Other Interests May Cause Executive's Withdrawal Before That Time—Hempstead Gives Banquet

By W. J. Macbeth
John K. Tener, who has served in that capacity for the last four years, was re-elected president of the National League at the annual meeting of that organization at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel yesterday afternoon.

It was decided at this first session, after adjournment was taken until 10 o'clock this morning, to meet with the owners of the American League at the very near future to talk informally over conditions confronting 1918. Negotiations are now pending toward a definite arrangement of time and place for this joint conference. As nearly as could be learned, the joint meeting will doubtless be held in Chicago not later than Friday. In probability the National League managers will have finished with routine business in so far as to be able to leave for the Windy City on the twentieth Century Thursday afternoon.

Committee Waits on Tener
"Some time ago," said Mr. Tener, "a committee, composed of Messrs. Harry Hempstead, William F. Baker and Charles H. Ebbets, waited upon me and addressed a request that I remain as executive of the National League. I informed this committee at the time that I had made other business connections and that it would be impossible for me to devote all of my time to attention to baseball in future. I urged the committee, however, that I was eager to oblige in any way I might toward the prosperity of the National League in particular and the baseball in general.

"Realizing I would not be able to give my entire attention to baseball, it is not known at that time that I did not expect to receive a salary or proportion to which I have been accustomed in the office.
"My four years as head of the National League have been most pleasant and very particular, despite the world war and the baseball war waged by the National League. I am glad that I shall be associated with the game another year. But I have told the club owners that I need feel no hesitancy in asking them to step down if in their opinion it seemed I cannot give proper attention to the office.
"The headquarters of my new business will be located in this city. I have established my residence here. The National League seems willing to take a chance with me on these conditions, and I shall do my best to help continue its prosperity and popularity of the best major organization."
Mr. Tener put his case squarely up to the league club presidents when it came time for reelection of officers. He was quite indifferent as to whether he retained the office, aside from the important associated with the game. On the day of August Herrmann and Barney Dreyfuss Mr. Tener's name was proposed for reelection as president. Charles H. Ebbets then proposed that nominations close.

May Not Stick
Mr. Tener was re-elected unanimously. He might have had the office for a term of years for the sake of it, but he accepted for more than one year. He may not find other business was so pressing as to call for withdrawal before the next world series. The committee which first waited upon Mr. Tener to propose to him a unanimous reelection has been reappointed to confer with the president on salary terms.

The National League president has accepted the presidency of the Pennsylvania Highways Corporation, which controls the National Payment Company. His reelection has been under the laws of the State of Delaware and operating in all the states of the Union.
Previous to the annual meeting the board of directors assembled to discuss the routine annual reports. The president's report, incorporated into the minutes, will be announced in full at some future time. Informal discussions on finances, the Baltimore Federation suit and other matters of the moment occupied chief attention. It was voted to continue the pension to Mrs. Harry C. Pulliam, sister of the late Harry C. Pulliam, former president of the National League.
Secretary John A. Heydler was re-elected for a term of four years.
Following were the delegates present: Boston—Ferry D. Houghton, Arthur Wie and Walter Haggood.
Brooklyn—Charles H. Ebbets.
Chicago—Charles Weeghman and Walter Craighead.
Cincinnati—August Herrmann.
New York—Harry N. Hempstead, N. Aubrey Lloyd and John B. Foster.
Philadelphia—William F. Baker and Charles Kuch.
Pittsburgh—Barney Dreyfuss.
St. Louis—Branch Rickey, James C. Connelley and Lon Hoekler.

Charles Weeghman declared the purchase of Alexander and Killifer was the preliminary move of a sort of movement that will startle the baseball world. He stated other deals equally important are on the fire and will be announced before he leaves town.
The National League will attempt to finish all its business today, so as to have a clear deck for the joint meeting. It has not yet been decided whether to return here to complete the business if anything remains to be done when the move westward is made. It is possible the session may be continued in the West.

President Harry N. Hempstead of the Chicago Giants banqueted his fellow club presidents of the National League and a number of the dignitaries of the major league at the Waldorf last night. The dinner was given in honor of Giant success in 1917.

Barney Dreyfuss announced that Walter Al Marzani had been placed on the market, but up to a late hour this afternoon was still on the bargain counter. He understood New York and Brooklyn to be both after him. Weeghman has no longer is interested in Marzani.

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World Sprint Title at Stake In Bike Race

Kramer, Goulet, Spencer and Verri Clash To-night at Garden

The world sprint championship will be decided to-night in Madison Square Garden, where a cycling carnival will hold the boards, and in which the foremost professional and amateur riders will compete. Topping the all-star card of events is a four-cornered sprint match, in four heats at one mile, for the indoor title, and a purse of \$2,000.

This race will bring together the greatest sprinters of a generation—Frank Kramer, champion for sixteen consecutive years; Alfred Goulet, winner of the six-day race; Arthur Spencer, the national title holder, and Francesco Verri, the Italian speed king.
These four and a score of the other leading professionals will compete in two other races, a half-mile handicap and ten-mile open. Such stars as Oscar Egg, Pete Drobach, Al Grenda, Bob Spears, Eddie Madden, Eddie Root and Frank Corry will be among the starters in these events.
There will also be a motor paced championship race at five miles, the competitors being Egg, Clarence Carmer, George Wiley, Victor Linart and Vincent Madonna.

Three races have been provided for the leading amateurs—half-mile handicap, one mile and five-mile open. John Staehle, who has held the national championship for two years, will start in all of these contests.
In addition to this great riding programme, "Daredevil" Schreyer will repeat his mad ride and dive that thrilled 12,000 in the Garden last Saturday night, while Arthur Holden will again perform his sensational back dive from the topmost rafter of the amphitheatre.
The special sprint match will mark the passing of Frank Kramer from competitive racing after reigning supreme for nearly twenty years. Also it will be the supreme test of the veteran champion's career, for it will be the first time he has been opposed by three short distance speed marvels. Kramer has a double purpose for engaging in this match. He wants to establish his supremacy over Arthur Spencer, the twenty-year-old lad who last summer relieved him of the championship, and at the same time seeks to "get even" with Goulet for the latter's slight in not accepting him as a partner for the six-day race.

Shoemaker Wins Close Game From Concannon
J. Howard Shoemaker, the former pocket billiard champion, defeated Joseph Concannon in a pocket billiard match of the Billiard Ambulance Fund series at Daly's Academy last night by a score of 125 to 114.

Inside Stuff at the Waldorf

By Louis Lee Arms

Scene: Peacock Alley, Basilica Waldorf. Enter Two Gentlemen.
FIRST GENTLEMAN: Tenero did not sleep. Throughout the night He roared like a sea lion.
SECOND GENTLEMAN: Didst throw him a fish?
FIRST GENTLEMAN: In truth, good sire, not I. Methinks that he is in no mood for fish.
Enter Tenero.
TENERO: Good morning, sirs!
FIRST GENTLEMAN: Noble Tenero.
SECOND GENTLEMAN: Good morning, sire!
TENERO: I like not Garryera; my word 'on't! Only last night, as in a weirdly dream. This false Paladin from Porkopolis Didst hallow forth across a continent. Saying: "He's overpaid. He's overpaid. I think we ought to cut the sucker's pay." I ask you, gentlemen, in fairness all, You who have known me since the years ago. Since first we crossed the Baseball Rubicon And drove the Federal hordes without our gates. Thereby coralling added cesterol That might have got away from us by chance, I ask you now does Garryera think— Who knows my strange dislike for amputation, My anti-vivisectionist views On things pertaining to the pocketbook— Does Garryera think he'll cut my pay And get away with it? I think me not! I think me not, not! I think me not, not, Not, not, NOT!

FIRST GENTLEMAN: Pray, good Tenero, do not seam that brow With such and kindred interminable strife, For, hark you, is it not a well-known fact, That as the green of summer turns to white And overcoats are drawn from out of hock, While befurred ladies walk the Appian Way, That Cincinnatus Garryera must Forsooth begin to warble through his hat?
SECOND GENTLEMAN: I'll say he does.
TENERO: A plague upon his conversational powers, Whether or no he's talking through his lid; And mark me well, as I am great Tenero, Straightaway I'll ask him where he gets that stuff!

FIRST GENTLEMAN: I would, I should, I think you could; and more. I'd lamp the constitution of the lodge And ascertain if there is any rule, I ask you, gentle, in fairness all, That would restrain noble Tenero from handing A brother Elk a punch upon the puss.
TENERO: I never thought of that.
SECOND GENTLEMAN: An excellent thought, and yet it gives me pause; Good comrades all, if that should come to pass The ponderosity of Great Tenero Might be in truth a weapon turned against Himself. Suppose he misses Garryera Of Cincinnati, who's built near the ground Quite like the dachshund of our "Buckwheats and—?" Supposing he should miss? What force is there That could restrain that noble, ponderous right?

FIRST GENTLEMAN: I think me none.
SECOND GENTLEMAN: I think me worse than none. Methinks mayhap That mighty right, unloosed in righteous wrath, Would uproot trees, destroy giant buildings here And make a Bedlam of our City Fair. That Tammany, should it hold forth, or fifth, One thousand years, could never tie. The cops might take the matter seriously And toss noble Tenero in the jug.
FIRST GENTLEMAN: You're Wilbur Wright they would.
TENERO: I never thought of that.
SECOND GENTLEMAN: If Garryera's spolling for a fight, Let's knock him on the knob on some dark night. (Exit Tenero and Two Gentlemen, also the author.)

UNDERNEATH is shown the premier battery of the National League—Grover Cleveland Alexander and William Killifer—which yesterday was purchased from the Philadelphia National League Club by Charles Weeghman, president of the Chicago Cubs. While the price the Chicagoan paid for this great pair was not made public, it was variously estimated as from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Two Chicago players—Prendergast and Dillhoefer—go to Philadelphia by the terms of the barter.



Big Deal Puts Cubs on Road To a Pennant

By Louis Lee Arms
Charles Weeghman, president of the Chicago National League baseball club, announced at the Waldorf-Astoria last night the purchase of Grover Cleveland Alexander and Catcher William Killifer from the Philadelphia Nationals.

The price paid for this preeminent battery was not made public. A reporter who ventured the opinion that the Chicago magnate had spent \$100,000 for the Philadelphians was rewarded with a smile from the Cub owner and the assertion that he was "not far off."
Mike Prendergast, pitcher, and Bill Dillhoefer, catcher, go from the Cubs to the Quakers by the terms of the agreement. Some of the Peacock Alley fraternity believed that these players, with \$50,000, were exchanged for Alex the Great and his Titan-haired running mate.
King-pin of Pitchers
For several years Alexander has been considered the king-pin of National League pitchers, and by some the most valuable finger in either league. The lank, side-arm shooter has won more than thirty games per season for the last three years, and in 1915 pitched 37½ innings, allowing an average of but 1.22 earned runs per game, the best mark he ever made.
Last season Alexander was a salary hold-out, and it was reported at one time that President W. F. Baker was to place him on the block. Alex finally signed his contract and won more than thirty games for Moran's hustling clan.
Bill Killifer was the leader among the 1917 National League receivers, and much of the credit for Alex's smooth performances is given to Killifer's expert judgment in receiving him. In addition, Killifer has been a timely, if not a particularly hard, hitter, and last season worked in more games than any other National League receiver, excepting Ivy Wingo, of Cincinnati, who tied Killifer with 120 catches.
"I am happy over the deal," declared President Weeghman. "I believe it assures the Cubs the strongest pitching and catching staff in the National League. I know of no trio that equals Alexander, Jim Vaughn and Phil Douglass. Vaughn and Douglass already are exceptional twirlers, and their work will be improved with the experienced hand of Catcher Killifer to guide them.

Cash Outlay Considerable
"In trading Prendergast and Dillhoefer to Philadelphia they have received a good pitcher and a young catcher of unusual promise. The cash outlay was considerable, and altogether I think we are to be mutually congratulated. At least, we are in possessing this battery. I have no predictions about the 1918 pennant."
"Alexander is a wonderful pitcher, the idol of Philadelphia fans, a credit to the game, and one of the finest fellows alive," said President Baker. "I believe such trades as these stimulate interest in baseball and are good for it. Philadelphia will wish both Alexander and Killifer success in their new home."

Golfers Turn Over \$58,520 To Red Cross

Question of Holding Title Tournaments Undecided—Election of Officers

Acting on the advice of President J. B. Coles Tappan, the members of the Metropolitan Golf Association, at their annual meeting held last night at 49 Wall Street, authorized Treasurer George H. Barnes to turn over to the American Red Cross Association the association's war fund of \$58,520, for the purchase and equipment of ambulances.

President Tappan, in favoring this disposition of the fund, called attention to recent published statements which made it clear that many organizations in collecting war funds have paid out heavy commissions, thus reducing the net amounts available for the stated purposes of war aid.
Mr. Tappan said he felt that a certain way to avoid such a circumstance would be to turn the fund directly over to the Red Cross.
These officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Cornelius J. Sullivan, president; E. Mortimer Barnes, vice-president; A. H. Rogson, secretary; George H. Barnes, treasurer; James A. Tynn, Charles H. Brown, Wilson S. Kinneer, Walter Brown and James T. Souter were elected members of the executive committee.

Next year's championship tournaments, if not again postponed, will be held as follows: Amateur, Brooklawn Country Club; professional, North Shore Country Club; junior, Skenawoy Country Club. If that club makes an application otherwise, Richmond County Country Club. The links selected for next year's contests are the same as were selected last year.
During the meeting a member of the St. Andrews Club announced that that organization had more than \$17,000 raised for purchasing ambulances and would gladly turn this money over to the Metropolitan fund if the association would accept it.

International League Is In a Groggy Condition

Lannin Notifies Colleagues He Is Through With Buffalo, and Richmond, Providence and Rochester Vote to Quit—Barrow Suffers Salary Cut from \$7,500 to \$2,500

What appears on the face of it a cold surrender to fate, or, in sporting parlance, a tossing up of the sponge, occurred yesterday afternoon at the annual meeting of the International League in the Hotel Imperial. What may prove the death blow to one of the oldest and at one time most powerful minor leagues came from an unexpected quarter.

Joseph J. Lannin, former owner of the world's champion Red Sox, notified his colleagues that he was through at Buffalo with the Barrow circuit. He was prepared to forfeit the franchise after having lost \$18,000 through operating in the Bison City.

The cities of Richmond, Providence and Rochester voted to quit with Buffalo. This left but half the circuit intact. Of the other four, Toronto and Baltimore alone were willing to proceed. Newark and Montreal would not commit themselves definitely. They expressed a willingness to proceed with the majority.

President Edward G. Barrow, whose business genius was responsible for keeping this once renowned circuit in business despite many financial handicaps since the Federal League first threatened its ruination, took the apparent collapse of his circuit most philosophically. When the structure fell down about his ears Barrow found his salary had been sliced from \$7,500 to \$2,500 a year. This latter amount was guaranteed him by the two cities which are eager to continue.

Barrow Keeps Mum
Barrow absolutely refused to discuss his case. It is believed, however, that he knows what he is about, and that if he were not satisfied of some definite future he would have scorned such a pittance as \$2,500. Indeed, the sharps are of the opinion that Barrow may be able to save something from the wreck.

The writer was talking last night with a prominent lawyer from Buffalo, who declared it would not be difficult to interest capital in that city to finance a club, as the franchise is to be had practically for the asking. There is little doubt that in case of necessity six or seven good cities could be whipped into line. Rochester would string along if some of the weaker clubs were eliminated.

That the more loyal operators of the International League are not yet in despair is evidence from the fact that another meeting has been planned in January. At this time, it is said, an effort will be made to reorganize as either a six-club or an eight-club league. Indeed, it is whispered that yesterday's action was not so disastrous as appeared on the face of it—that it was taken with a view to eliminating cities which could not be voted out without their own consent.
The future of the International League, it is said, depends upon the possibility of supplanting some of the weaker sisters with good, hustling cities like Syracuse or Worcester. New York, of course, will have the preference in case Sunday baseball is legalized in this state. The International League at the moment of writing is not dead. But it is mighty groggy, no mistake.

Rube Marquard was one of the conspicuous figures in Peacock Alley. The Rub was a verbal encounter with Charles H. Ebbets. Marquard claims he is a free agent; that Ebbets assured him last spring he would not exercise the option on Rube's contract. Marquard is anxious to sign with Matty's Reds. Ebbets has warned the Rub that he is under reserve to the Dodgers and not at liberty to talk business with any other club.

Christy Mathewson has just lost two well known players through enlistment. One is young Kopf, the shortstop who played so brilliantly last season. The other is Bath, an infielder from the Coast, who was highly touted by the Pacific experts.

Gardiner White Enlists And Cheats Draft Call

Gardiner W. White, the former metropolitan golf champion, yesterday enlisted in the army at Governor's Island. Through an error it was announced several days ago that White had been ordered to Camp Upton, at Yaphank, Long Island, with the sixty-four men from the 188th District. The quota had been filled before the golfer's name was reached.

William T. Yale, chairman of the board, notified White of his standing yesterday, and, finding that he was within the next call, the golfer enlisted. White returned from his honeymoon last Sunday.

Leifield for Browns

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 11.—Business Manager B. Quinn of the St. Louis American League baseball team announced today that "Lefty" Leifield had been signed to pitch for the St. Louis Americans during the 1918 season.

Grant Rice Becomes a Cog in Uncle Sam's Great War Machine

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 11.—"How do I feel? Why, great, of course," exclaimed Grantland Rice, the world famous sports writer and poet, as he alighted from his train at the Paris station yesterday.
"Enjoyed my trip to Sevier a deuce of a lot and now I'm going to try and absorb the atmosphere of army life. I already feel like a soldier, only so far. I haven't been shot."
Mr. Rice was given a rousing reception by his soldier brothers from Sunny Tennessee, many of whom had not seen the young writer for years.
The newest recruit arrived direct from New York City and joined his outfit, the 115th Field Artillery of Tennessee.
"I was born in Tennessee, and naturally, when I answered the call to colors I went home to do it," said the famous verse writer.
"I guess on such occasions a man feels that given his preference he will cast his lot with the men who have been reared in his home country. So, I'm here, and that's all there is to it, except that I'm glad I'm here."
Before the day was over the young soldier had been assigned duties and by nightfall he was a sturdy, if new, cog in Uncle Sam's great human machine.

THE SPORT LIGHT by Grantland Rice

In discussing holdover championship titles through the war, did it ever occur to you, Gentle or Rough Reader, how many of the Under Dogs emerged for the long term of office?
This has been one of the interesting features of the war tenure in sport, for more than a few came from the rut just in time to reach the top when competition was abruptly checked, leaving their titles intact.
Polo First
Take polo for a starter. Great Britain, having been beaten, made an ineffectual counter charge. It began to look as if our Uncle Sam was to reign supreme, when Britain made a last assault in the summer of 1914 and regained the polo top.
This left Great Britain in polo control, holding the trophy during the length of the war.
The upset came just at the moment where America was blocked at any counter attack, as the first big guns echoed a few weeks later, calling all of Britain's polo stars to the Western front, where several of them have since "gone West."
Of that great English polo team, victors in the final stand, only a faint shadow, a bare remnant, is left.
Then Tennis
Then came America's lawn tennis overthrow for possession of the Davis Cup.
In 1914 Maurice McLoughlin made his last brilliant stand to hold the trophy, overpowering Brookes and Wilding in succession.
But the stand was made in vain, for Australasia at last reconquered her lost tennis territory, just in time to hold possession of the trophy during the duration of the war.
Just as Cheape and others have crossed the Twilight Zone from the polo team, so Anthony Wilding, from the tennis team of Australasia, has joined the mighty caravan that began to start for Valhalla back in August, 1914.
But the Davis Cup remains with the Australasians.
Evans and Golf
Chick Evans also came from behind in golf, just in time to land the hold-over title.
Chick had never won an open or an amateur championship up to 1915. But he landed both titles in time to emerge from the rut before the championship doors were closed, as the U. S. A. began to harness itself in steel and khaki.
One Answer
If any one desires to know when you think the war will end, you can't possibly do better than to quote from Colonel Khayyam:
"Earth could not answer, nor the Seas that mourn,
In flowing purple, of their Lord forlorn;
Nor rolling Heaven, with all his signs reveal'd
And hidden by the sleeve of Night and Morn."
If this isn't a complete reply, at least it isn't very far away.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, Dec. 12th—P. M. Kramer, Goulet, Spencer, Verri. 3-MILE MOTOR RACE. ADM. 50c.