CURRENT SPORTING TALK.

JOHN T. BRUSH'S LATEST VIEWS ON THE KICKING QUESTION.

League Presidents Ask A. G. Spalding to Attend the St. Louis Meeting and Aid Them to Stem the Rowdies—Coach Butterworth Gives His Opinion on Football Changes.

John T. Brush, President of the Cincinnati League Club, sends the following statement to THE SUN:

"A great deal of our trouble during the playing season could be avoided if club managements would stand together at that time as solidly as they do at the fall and spring meetings. But the trouble does not all lie with the managements. Incompetent umpires precipitate some of the trouble; by that I mean those who will not exercise the authority with which they are clothed. I have known umpires to lose their positions because of incompetency, drunkenness, and failure to enforce rules, but I do not remember of any dismissals where an umpire performed the duties of his office according to the provisions of the rules governing umpires.

"Reformation is needed in several directions. First, we need competent umpires, those who will impartially umpire the game without fear or favor. They should be scheduled and then not changed at the whim and caprice of club Presidents. There should be no interference with umpires on the part of club managements. Protests against umpires for enforcing the rules and maintaining discipline should be wholly ignored, and protests against incompetency should be ignored until the accumulation of evidence is sufficient to give proper weight to the protest. The penalty for violating any rule should be enforced and there should be no remission of the penalty on the part of the club management. Kicking against the decisions of an umpire by the players should be condemned and not upheld by the club Presidents.

"These are some of the reforms that I would like to see carried into effect. The suppression of senseless kicking, profanity, and vulgarity upon the diamond is the most difficult problem that confronts those who legislate for the baseball of the future. It is an evil that has fastened itself upon the game that will require heroic measures on the part of the National League to eradicate. The support of the press and all who favor clean and gentlemanly sports are invited to coöperate to this end."

As may be seen, Brush means business and is willing to help in the movement to kill rowdyism of all kinds. His remarks about "incompetent umpires," however, bring up the argument again that if the magnates will absolutely compel their players to obey the rules and will support the umpires at any cost the word "incompetent" will prove superfluous. Umpires are human and are liable to make mistakes, but if they are backed up by the League and by the individual club owners their work will undoubtedly give satisfaction.

That the magnates of the National League have been made to realize that some radical action against rowdyism and kicking must be taken at the St. Louis meeting seems to be assured fact. A number of club Presidents have written to A. G. Spalding, asking him to attend the conclave and aid them in their efforts to make the game clean. Spalding, who arrived from Chicago yesterday, said to a reporter of THE SUN:

"It is true that I have been asked to attend the League meeting in the interest of clean baseball, and if I can see my way clear I will go to St. Louis prepared to aid Brush, Soden, Hart, and the others who want to have kicking abolished. I made up my mind some time ago to keep out of League politics and have not attended the meetings for a number of years, but I feel that a crisis is at hand and that I should do all in my power to pull the game out of the mire. Kicking must be abolished without quibbling; so must all phases of rowdyism. The umpires must be restored to their former positions of power, and the club owners must support them. I have considered this matter carefully, and I cannot imagine how any club owner can fail to advocate reforms. In the interest of fair play and sportsmanlike baseball every club should lend a hand to this movement against the disgraceful evils that have been permitted to run wild on the diamond."

Arlie Latham is said to be slated for a place on the League umpire staff. If Latham can be as amusing as an umpire as he was as a player, he alone will be an attraction. Latham first loomed up in the baseball world as a wit during a game between the St. Louis and Cincinnati American Association teams. The Cincinnatis were in the lead, and Ted Sullivan, as manager of St. Louis, was appealing to his men to brace up and try to win out the game. He called for somebody to get up on the coaching line. Latham volunteered, and he at once opened up a volley of wit that convulsed the spectators and completely demoralized Will White, who was pitching for the Cincinnatis. In the next inning "Lath" went to bat when two men were on bases. Addressing Will White, he said:

"I am very sorry to inform you, Mr. White, that we have been asleep too long, and we must now wake up and cause you some trouble. You will please excuse me if I tap you for a two-bagger."

With that he smashed a screamer down the left foul line, sending home two runs, and in the scampering he scampered down to second, and gave one of his characteristic war whoops, which so rattled White that he requested to be taken out of the box.

Frank Butterworth, Yale's noted football coach, was here yesterday and, when asked for an opinion on the various suggestions to be considered by the Rules Committee at the University A. C. on next Saturday night, said:

"So far as I am personally concerned, the rules are satisfactory to me as they are now written, except in point of clearness. Some of them need a little touching up to be intelligently understood, but beyond that no radical changes seem necessary. All talk about brutality in football last fall was absurd. Just because a player is temporarily winded or has a limb wrenched in a reason why he should be sprinkled with cologne. Of course, where a player deliberately kicks an opponent in the face or body—which is seldom the case—the offender should be instantly ruled off. But this action reflects discredit on the game. But there is absolutely no harm in real football playing, even if it is a bit rough. The outcry against the sport last fall was chiefly due to sensationalism and the inability of students in small institutions to play the game without being hurt more or less severely. But that was not the fault of the Rules Committee. How many players w o were members of the Yale, Harvard, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania and Cornell elevens were seriously injured? Not one. It is, therefore, my belief that the rules are about right."

"What do you think of the 'guards back interference?' asked the reporter.

"It's a pretty effective play," said Butterworth, smiling, "and I see no harm in it. University of Pennsylvania worked it out and used it with good results. There were no men hurt by it except, perhaps, players who didn't know the game. And there's a source of considerable trouble—the lack of knowledge how to play football without being hurt. It prevails in minor institutions, and makes unsophisticated persons believe that the game is brutal and rough. If you remember Yale's games against Harvard and Princeton, you will recall the fact that both contests were cleanly played. There were a few mass plays on both sides, yet they hurt nobody. I do not believe, therefore, that the present rule governing mass plays should be changed."

"How about letting the quarter back run with the ball?"

"It's a good idea, and opens up many possibilities. Still, I think the rules should not be changed. The public should have a chance to learn the game thoroughly, an impossibility if the rules are tinkered with each year. Then, too, I believe a constant shifting of rules injures the game and makes it difficult for coachers and captains to follow out certain principles. By strict adherence to general methods of play in vogue at present college teams will be able to develop a system of play much more effective than if new ideas are annually introduced."

"What are your views on the proposition to change the present system of scoring points?"

"I advocate no changes. A goal from the field is one of the prettiest features of football, and deserves more of a premium than a touchdown. It is the work of an individual, in a way, who is entitled to special distinction; whereas a touchdown is the result of concerted action, and is more possible to make than a field goal. It does not seem to me advisable to abolish a change in the value of a goal kicked from a touchdown. If it were done away with it would rob the game of a play that involves public interest and uncertainty.

"I saw in THE SUN the other day where it was contended that kicking goals from in front of the posts was easier than from a point at an angle, and that no matter where along the goal line a touchdown might be made, the goal trial, in order to equalize matters, should be from a point in front of the posts. It is a good argument, but I maintain that it is a particularly good bit of generalship and team play on the part of the quarter back to so direct affairs that the touchdown is made behind the goal posts, thus insuring an easier goal trial than otherwise. If a quarter back cannot get one of his men over the line near the posts that is his own lookout and his team should be compelled to take chances on the goal trial. Our touchdown at New Haven against Princeton was made near the Corner of the field, because we couldn't get the ball over nearer the posts. Cadwalader kicked the goal, however, although it was a difficult try. It was a play that created excitement all over the field."

"Do you favor a more distinct wording of the rules giving authority to officials?"

"There is a point where reform is needed. The duties of the referee and umpire should be written down in black and white so that there can be no misunderstanding. I pointed out with the suggestion that each new appointee should be so designated that no committee mistake. If the officials know e se and do cans expected of them they can act with more satisfaction."

"Do you expect to coach the Yale eleven next fall?"

"That's something I cannot tell," replied Butterworth good naturedly.

The proposition to present to Charles Courtney, Cornell's noted rowing coach, a house at Ithaca, in recognition of his unequalled services, as stated in THE SUN of last Sunday, is generally commended by undergraduates and alumni of that university. It is contended that there is no more faithful worker than Courtney, and his success in turning out winning crews for the Red and White is deserving of some such reward. Courtney's loyalty to Cornell at all stages was the primary reason for this movement to give him a home of his own, for it is a matter of fact that he has frequently refused generous offers from other institutions to leave Ithaca.

HOCKEY.

Shamrocks of Montreal Defeat the Hockey Club of New York.

The Shamrock hockey team of Montreal, one of the strongest teams in Canada, made its first appearance here this season at the Ice Skating Palace last night. The visitors had for opponents the team of the Hockey Club of New York, and after forty minutes of play the Shamrocks won by 2 goals to 1. The game was a clean and fast one from the beginning, and, although the local players put up a good game, they were outgeneralled. The visitors showed a thorough knowledge of the game, their team work and passing being a feature.

On the face-off the visitors secured the puck and rushed it into their opponents' territory by fine passing. Several hot scrimmages took place within the home team's goal line, and many efforts for goal were cleverly stopped by O'Donnell. B. Phillips of the Hockey Club managed to scoop the puck from an opponent and started on a wild race for the Shamrock's goal. He was blocked by Wall, who did not make an attempt to rush the rubber back. He merely lifted it, and it sailed through the air like a bird, going squarely through the goal posts for the first goal for the visitors. After the next face-off the Canadians displayed pretty team work. Trincy, Brown and Brennan figured prominently in a play which resulted in another goal for the Shamrocks. The former got the puck in his own goal line after it had been lifted there by Curmen of the Hockey Club, and, unassisted, glided it back over the ice by fine dodging to within ten feet of the home team's goal. As he was about to be attacked he passed the puck to Brennan, who took it back a few yards, and then, with a quick turn, passed it back to Trihey. The latter quickly passed it over to Brown, who lifted it for the posts. The puck struck O'Donnell's knee and went through. Time was up soon after this for the first half.

In the second half the Shamrocks had the puck within scoring bounds several times, but it was always neatly stopped by O'Donnell. The home team braced up toward the close and escaped a whitewash by good playing on the part of B. Phillips and De Cassanova, the former getting the rubber through for a goal. The line-up:

Shamrocks.	*Positions.*	*Hockey Club.*
Tahin	Goal	O'Donnell
Fansey	Point	Cunningham
Wall	Cover point	Curmen
Trihey	Forwards	B. Phillips
Brennan		Laing
Brown		Russell
Scanlan		De Cassanova

Referee—C. T. Miller, Crescent A. C. Goals—Wall, Brown, B. Phillips. Time—20-minute halves.

Skating Club of Brooklyn Defeats the Naval Reserves.

One of the most interesting hockey games of the season was decided at the Clermont Avenue Rink, Brooklyn, last night. It was the first invitation club night of the Skating Club of Brooklyn, and a large number of prominent society folk of the Heights and Hill section were present. The contending teams were the Naval Reserves and the Skating Club of Brooklyn. In the first half some clever dodging and passing were exhibited by both teams. The Brooklyn men played an aggressive game from the start, but so clever was the defensive work of the sailors that it was fourteen minutes before Doby scored a goal for Brooklyn on a clever passing by Drakeley. Doby scored again in this half. In the second half the Brooklyns added four more goals, making the final score: Skating Club of Brooklyn, 6; Naval Reserves, 0. The line-up:

Naval Reserves.	*Positions.*	*S. C. of Brooklyn.*
Gilmore	Goal	Hallack
Mott	Point	McKenzie
Bill	Cover Point	Drysdale
Crawford	Forwards	Lounsbery
Loughman		Doby
Roberts		C. J. Post, Jr
Walton (capt.)		Drakeley (capt.)

Referee—Trueman Wilson Post, Skating Club of Brooklyn.

RACING.

Boston's Country Club Offers Valuable Prizes.

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—Hurdle races have been added to the steeplechase and flat races of the Country Club spring meeting, which will be held at Clyde Park, May 28 and 30. There will be five races each day, entries for the events closing on May 14 and 15. In addition to the usual trophies and prizes, Mr. Chamblet has given a $1,000 trophy to the stewards, which is offered in honor of the noted pacer Duke of Abercorn, and will be known as the "Duke's Cup." The trophy will become the permanent property of the one winning it three times. The stewards of the meeting are Robert C. Hooper, W. C. Denny, George Lee, G. T. Dexter, Frank Seabury, E. V. R. Thayer, and Alfred Bacheller. The programme of races includes the following:

May 28—Hack race, purse $250, one mile; for three-year-olds and upward, purse $500, hurdle race, three-quarters of a mile; purse $500, one mile and a half, over six hurdles; Country Club Handicap Steeplechase, purse $1,000, about two miles and a half; Myopia Steeplechase for registered hunters, purse $750, about two miles and a half.

May 30—Memorial Day hack race, purse $250, three-quarters of a mile; handicap for three-year-olds and upward, purse $500; one mile hurdle race, purse $500, three-quarters of a mile; over seven hurdles; The Duke's Cup, value $1,000, with $1,200 added, handicap steeplechase, about two miles and a half; Country Club Challenge Cup, value $250, with $750 added money, about two miles and a half.

Opening of the Garden Horse Sale.

Few good horses were offered yesterday at the opening of the Fasig sale at Madison Square Garden, and prices ruled low. The average for about twenty head sold was less than $150. A large crowd attended the exhibition in the evening. Sphinx, Ponce de Leon, Preston, Planet, and many other noted horses that are to be sold this week were shown on the miniature track. Following were the best sales:

F. B. Tilden, 2:24½, pacing, b. g., 1890, by Sphinx—Maud D., by Burns; John McGuire, York $300
Three Cheers, 2:32½, b. g., 1892, by Pilot Medium—Lady Corrigan, by Milwaukee; L. Worth, Flatbush 290
Smith, 2:13, pacing, b. s. 1888, by Peoria—Alice Sprague, by Gov. Sprague; John Leonard, New York 500
Sim Mollie, ch. f., 1894, by Simnicedon—Molly, by Star Ethan; B. H. Demarest, Boston 250
Play Boy, 2:18¾, b. g., 1884, by Hamlin's Almont, Jr.—Play Girl, by Mambrino Patchen; John Brown, Elmira 250
Dolly Wilkes, 2:23¾, br. m., 1890, by Wilkes Spirit, Jr.—Dolly Draper, by Don Giovanni; George Franklin, New York 270

Racing at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 14.—To-day's races were characterized by the slaughter of the favorites. The surprise was Meddler in the fourth race, who won from Dorah Woods and W. C. T., the choices, at odds of 25 to 1. Summaries:

First Race—Seven furlongs.—Crystalline, 101 (Thompson), 12 to 1, won; Wiggins, 109 (Barrett), 3 to 1, second; Octave, 111 (Burns), 7 to 5, third. Time, 1:29.

Second Race—Six furlongs.—Laurel Leaf, 95 (Burns), 7 to 2, won; Logistic, 90 (Dupee), 6 to 1, second; Black Annie, 90 (Givens), 50 to 1, third. Time, 1:18.

Third Race—One mile.—Glenmoyne, 108 (Burns), 8 to 1, won; What Next, 104 (Dupee), 3 to 1, second; Pete Kitchen, 104 (Lynch), 25 to 1, third. Time, 1:42¾.

Fourth Race—Six furlongs.—Meddler, 96 (Dupee), 25 to 1, won; Dorah Woods, 109 (Burns), 3 to 1, second; W. C. T., 111 (Caywood), 7 to 10, third. Time, 1:14¼.

Fifth Race—Six furlongs.—Lillian E., 100 (Clark), 4 to 1, won; Necedah, 102 (Burns), 5 to 2, second; Dorothy III., 97 (Souger), 8 to 1, third. Time, 1:15¼.

Sixth Race—One mile and twenty yards.—Everest, 101 (Turner), 5 to 2, won; Oral, 99 (Dupee), 11 to 5, second; Mount Washington, 101 (Lynch), 10 to 1, third. Time, 1:45¼.

Results at Singerly.

SINGERLY, Feb. 14.—The races here to-day resulted as follows:

First Race—Four and a half furlongs.—Arian, 3 to 1 and even, won; Monsalo Maid, 3 to 1 for place, second; Matt White, third. Time, 1:12¾.

Second Race—Four and a half furlongs.—Oxia, 4 to 5 and 2 to 5, won; Relief, 2 to 1 for place, second; Edna Bennett, third. Time, 1:12¾.

Third Race—Four and a half furlongs.—Crown, 6 to 5 and 2 to 5, won; Startling, 3 to 1 for place, second; Arda, third. Time, 1:10¾.

Fourth Race—Six furlongs.—Caroven, 10 to 1 and 3 to 1, won; Hersey, even for place, second; The Mantan, third. Time, 1:40¼.

Fifth Race—Five furlongs.—Corn Cob, 3 to 5 and out, won; Sister Ida, 5 to 2 for place, second; Quilla, third. Time, 1:16.

Sixth Race—Five furlongs.—Bona Vera, 4 to 1 and 8 to 5, won; Fred Munch, 3 to 5 for place, second; Govinda, third. Time, 1:15¾.

Basketball Notes.

The Entre Nous basketball team of Paterson would like to arrange games with first-class teams at and away from home, Saturday nights preferred. Will play registered teams only. Address William E. McKay, Secretary, Paterson, N. J.

PREPARATIONS FOR GOLF.

KNOLLWOOD COUNTRY CLUB WANTS THE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

Contract Signed for Finishing the New House of the St. Andrew's Club—Foxhall Keene Defeats Fenn in the Tournament at Aiken—The Changes at the Morris Country Course.

The contract was signed yesterday by the Governing Committee of the St. Andrew's Golf Club for the construction of the remainder of the new clubhouse, and, under the stipulations, the members will be in possession of the building by May 10. Work has been in progress throughout the winter on the links, and, while soft from the thaws, the course is in better order than at the time of the autumn tournament. On last Saturday and Sunday about a dozen players from this city and as many more from Yonkers were out for practice rounds. There is said to be no truth in the rumors of dissensions in the club over the propriety of holding the championships, according to members interviewed yesterday. St. Andrew's has its application filed and its delegates will state the claims of the club at the annual U. S. G. A. meeting on Thursday night in due form. Then the votes of the delegates from the associated clubs will settle the matter. There are seventeen of these clubs and each has two votes. The allied clubs may each send a delegate, but he has no right to vote. Unless the by-laws of the U. S. G. A. are changed only an associate club can be selected for a championship, which will bar out the Country Club of Westchester's application for the women's event.

R. H. Thomas and R. H. Williams will be the delegates from the Morris County Golf Club at the U. S. G. A. meeting on Thursday night. They will tender the use of the links for the amateur championship of 1898, which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, should be held at a different time and place from the open championship. The delegates will present a map for the examination of the members at the meeting, which will make clear the changes to the course based on the concensus of the written recommendations made by the many expert professional and amateur golfers who have visited and inspected the club's property. The new holes on the ground cleared last spring, which is now well grassed, will be put in play in the spring and they will constitute a desirable addition to the links. The holes will be Nos. 7, 8 and 9 of the new course, and, with the increased length of the seventeenth and eighteenth holes, will make the actual playing length from 5,800 to 6,000 yards. Water is to be laid to all the greens, and all fences crossing the line of play are to be eliminated. The artificial hazards are to be changed where necessary, to punish anything in the nature of a wild play, and large turf tees are to be substituted for the present dirt tees.

In spite of the fog and rain on Lincoln's Birthday eighteen players made the rounds of the Queens County Golf Club course in the medal play handicap for a cup. The winner was Fred B. Pratt, who made the eighteen holes in 118, 18, 100. Herbert L. Pratt was second, with 123, 22, 101, and Harvey Murdock third. His card, 117, 12, 105, showed the best gross score of the contest. A number of changes are to be made on the Queens County links in time for the spring competition. The second-and-topped green at the seventh hole is to be broadened and dished out, to form a saucer-shaped green, and the rocks and trees on the way to the valley hole will be removed.

There was a large and enthusiastic gathering at the annual meeting of the Country Club of Knollwood last night at the upper Delmonico's. A Board of Governors for 1898, consisting of the fifteen members named in THE SUN yesterday, was unanimously elected, which will meet later to choose the club officers from its staff. As all the officers were reëlected on the Board of Governors, it is not likely that any changes will be made among the club rulers. The annual reports showed the organization to be in a fine condition financially, in spite of the money expended for grounds and new buildings during the year. There will be two open tournaments, the first on May 19, 20 and 21, and the second in November. L. Stuart Wing and Henry Hayden were elected delegates to the U. S. G. A. meeting, with instructions to offer the Knollwood links for the women's championship. One of the most successful open tournaments of last year for women was held at Knollwood, the large field of starters, including Miss Beatrix Hoyt, Mrs. William Shippen, Mrs. Arthur A. De Witt Cochrane, Mrs. P. Gibert Thebaud, Miss Wickham, Miss Helen Sheldon, Mrs. W. H. Sands and Mrs. W. Fellowes Morgan.

AIKEN, Feb. 14.—The handicap match play tournament which began on the Palmetto Golf Club's links on last Wednesday ended to-day, W. Fairbanks winning over C. M. Hinkle by 3 up and 2 to play. The feature of the tournament was Foxhall Keene's easy defeat of the club's champion, A. H. Fenn, by 6 up and 5 to play. The results follow:

Class A—Preliminary Round—W. W. Edgerton defaulted to A. L. Reid; Foxhall Keene, handicap 2, defeated Guy Phelps Dodge by 1 up, 22 holes; A. H. Fenn, scratch, defeated A. Jay, handicap 12, by 4 up and 3 to play; W. J. Taylor defaulted to J. Grant, handicap 7; J. A. Blair, Jr., defaulted to W. Fairbanks, handicap 2.

First Round—J. B. Taylor, 9, defeated A. L. Reid, 12, by 5 up and 3 to play; C. M. Hinkley, 12, defeated F. O. Beach, 7, by 2 up and 1 to play; Foxhall Keene defeated A. H. Fenn by 6 up and 5 to play; W. Fairbanks defeated P. Grant by 3 up and 1 to play.

Second Round—C. M. Hinkle defeated J. B. Taylor by 5 up and 4 to play; W. Fairbanks defeated Foxhall Keene by 3 up and 1 to play.

Final Round—W. Fairbanks defeated C. M. Hinkle by 3 up and 2 to play.

Class B—Preliminary Round—Dr. T. Burckhalter, scratch, defeated M. Van Buren, scratch, by 4 up and 2 to play; Dr. Valentine Mott, 9, defeated W. B. Lord, 18, by 6 up and 5 to play.

First Round—Dr. Burckhalter defeated Dr. Mott by 4 up and 3 to play; W. M. Wiltbank, 9, defeated S. Jewett Todd, 14, by 7 up and 5 to play; H. R. Dow, 11, defeated E. Gray, 9, by 6 up and 5 to play; E. R. Grabou, defaulted to A. Hodges.

Second Round—W. M. Wiltbank defeated Dr. Burckhalter by 6 up and 5 to play; H. R. Dow defeated A. Hodges by 8 up and 2 to play.

Final Round—W. M. Wiltbank defeated H. R. Dow by 4 up and 3 to play.

The women's handicap tournament, medal play, thirteen holes, contested this morning, resulted as follows:

Miss Martha D. Bower, 85—0—85; Miss Lapsley, 100—10—90; Mrs. Valentine Mott, 99—8—91; Miss Scudder, 111—16—95; Mrs. Chatfield Taylor, 96—0—96; Mrs. Simpkins, 115—14—101; Miss S. Todd, 103—0—103; Mrs. De Koven, 6, no card; Mrs. McVickar, 14, did not play.

The Executive Committee of the club has announced that notwithstanding the burning of the new Highland Park Hotel the club's annual tournament will be played, beginning on March 14, here.

BASEBALL.

A Syndicate of National League Men May Buy the St. Louis Club.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—John T. Brush, owner of the Cincinnati Baseball Club, was closeted with President Young to-day at League headquarters for several hours, and it is understood that the League contemplates taking some action in the Von der Ahe case. Brush is here to meet Col. Rogers of the Philadelphia Club and with him appear before the National Railroad Ticket Agents' Association, now in session in this city. Messrs. Brush, Rogers, and Robison of Cleveland were appointed a committee to represent the League and endeavor to secure special rates for League clubs, in view of the proposed four-trip schedule. A great deal depends upon the result of this conference, for if better rates than those of last season are not obtained it is probable that the four-trip schedule will have to be abandoned, for the second division clubs cannot afford to meet the additional transportation which the proposed schedule will require.

Brush stated to-day that the League will be required to take immediate action to relieve Von der Ahe from his present predicament, and at the same time protect the League from any embarrassment that might arise out of the existing complication. It is probable that an effort will be made to form a syndicate for the purpose of purchasing the St. Louis franchise, and thus quietly allow the Von der Ahe incident to close, so far as the League is concerned.

Von der Ahe's Attorney Files a Claim for $50,000 Damages.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—Ex-Congressman John M. Glover appeared before the Grand Jury to-day as counsel for Chris Von der Ahe in the kidnapping affair of which the baseball magnate is the spectacular victim. Glover was loaded down with legal documents and surrounded by an air of mystery. President Muckenfuss of the club did not go before the Grand Jury today, as he was arranging to telegraph money to Pittsburg to procure Von der Ahe's release. Later in the afternoon Glover filed a claim in the Circuit Court for $50,000 damages, which he claims have been inflicted on Von der Ahe by the latter's forcible detention and abduction from the State. The prayer for this judgment is filed as a counter claim to the suit brought by Mark Baldwin, who several weeks since instituted proceedings here on the judgment of $2,725.09 for false imprisonment previously obtained at Pittsburg. Von der Ahe denies all the allegations in this additional suit, and bases his counter claim on an averment that Baldwin instigated the kidnapping affair.

NEWS OF THE WHEELMEN.

State Division Meet May Be Taken Out of the Hands of Clubs.

It was reported yesterday that the Executive Committee of the New York State Division of the L. A. W., consisting of Messrs. Jenkins, Belden and Blackhau, has, at the suggestion of President Potter, awarded the privilege to run the State meet this year to two wheelmen of this city. The event it is claimed will be held at the Berkeley Oval on June 18. The report has excited considerable criticism among the division members. It is well known that several prominent clubs in Greater New York would like to assume the management of the meet, and if the committee has disregarded the wishes of these organizations it is argued that the action presents excellent grounds for their withdrawal from the L. A. W. It is likely that a protest will be made against awarding the meet to individuals.

Albert A. Mott of Baltimore, who will continue as Chairman of the National Racing Board of the L. A. W. for another year, has under consideration various plans for the improvement of the conduct of amateur and professional races. As soon as the new board is selected a meeting will be held and arrangements perfected for the adoption of a new set of rules. It is said that special attention will be directed to pace-making. The national circuit, it is believed, will open early in May and end in October. The suggestion of Chairman Mott to change the method of conducting the professional championship races does not meet with a hearty approval. He proposes that the number of points shall determine the winners, and that the contests shall be open to the world. The latter idea is indorsed by the riders, but the suggestion that a national championship race be run off at all the big circuit meets, the winners to score five points in each event, to be reckoned up at the end of the national circuit, it is claimed by some riders will debar a great many men from participating. It is claimed that it will not be possible for some of the men anxious to compete for championship honors to take part in all the circuit races, so that they will be placed at a disadvantage when the work of the entire circuit is considered.

The annual meeting of the Associated Cycling Clubs was held last night at the Oriental Hotel. Without much preliminary discussion the delegates proceeded to the election of officers. No opposition of any consequence developed against the regular ticket, which was put through with a rush. The following were elected:

President, Magistrate Frederick Simms, Morris Wheelmen; Vice-President, James O'Neill, Mecca Wheelmen; Secretary, W. H. Klinker, Triumph Wheelmen; Corresponding Secretary, Adolph Oatman, Manhattan B. C.; Treasurer, R. Friedenrich, Harlem; Executive Committee, Stutz, Harlem W.; Geberaux, Manhattan B. C.; Murray, Firemen's C. C.; Moran, Knickerbocker A. C.; Frick, Morris W., and Staubach, Triumph W.

A resolution was passed which practically blacklists any member who is dropped from a club for being behind in dues or for any other cause from joining any other club in the association. There was a long discussion over the protest of the New York County Wheelmen that White, one of its members, had not been placed properly at the finish of the race to Tarrytown on New Year's Day. The matter was referred to the Racing Committee.

The report of the 1897 road officers of the Century Wheelmen of this city awards mileage medals to the following riders for records from February, 1897, to February, 1898:

E. S. Edwards, 11,748; T. S. Hauschildt, 10,538; W. S. Anderson, 10,267; E. E. Seymour, 10,037; C. E. Thurston, 8,615; C. E. Lehr, ter, 8,807; J. V. Bradley, 7,751; E. Munck, 7,067; D. H. Foley, 6,390; P. R. Turner, 6,129; A. J. Schneidenbach, 6,077; W. H. Maxwell, 5,901; H. Fessenden, 5,748; J. McCrane, 5,474; C. M. Henderson, 5,314; R. S. Jerome, 5,235; F. L. Latham, 5,149; R. F. Junker, 4,973; F. C. Klinker, 4,886; James Gray, 4,289; E. V. Brendon, 4,271; A. Leiser, 4,235; F. Rodick, 4,185; C. Kramer, 4,092; S. Weinstock, 4,084; C. R. Fletcher, 4,067; W. C. Teacher, 4,046; A. Eisert, 4,046; J. T. Presley, 4,018; W. H. Gorton, 4,029; G. Gilles, 4,004; C. G. Garrett, 4,002; J. P. Byrne, 4,000; J. E. Bonhard, 3,932; J. McNulty, 3,900; A. H. Wilkens, 2,995; H. J. McGrane, 2,872; W. D. Chandler, 2,700; C. Meyn, 2,587; F. Hausman, 2,558; J. H. Goodwin, 2,522; J. T. Wall, 2,472; N. J. Sling, 2,468; G. A. Ebner, 2,454; E. D. Moore, 2,404; E. H. Proudman, 2,385; C. S. Wandling, 2,312; W. R. Smith, 2,221; H. Papen, 2,208; A. M. Wood, 2,148; F. Biegen, Jr., 2,145; E. D. Williams, 2,116; A. R. Baer, 2,102; J. N. Riker, 2,068; G. J. Kraemer, 2,054; W. A. Courtney, 2,035; J. T. Walsh, 2,034; S. Herdenschlag, 2,034; Warde Bingley, 2,026; S. H. McConnell, 2,015; A. B. Woodward, 2,003.

The total mileage reported was 261,000 miles.

NOTES.

The local bicycle houses in this city are arranging for a special exhibit of their latest models in cycles and accessories on Washington's Birthday.

The Eagle Wheelmen of New York have elected the following officers: President, J. A. Jackson; Vice-President, J. A. Cacres; Recording Secretary, C. Mann ng; Corresponding Secretary, R. J. Oliver; Treasurer, D. Van Sycke; captain, J. C. Digs.

The Queens County Wheelmen, the oldest cycling organization on Long Island outside of Brooklyn, held its annual election recently. The following officers were chosen: William C. Pettit, President; William Sauter, Vice-President; Ernest Willett, Treasurer; William W. Roberts, Secretary; William Hoyt, Captain; William H. Pettit, First Lieutenant.

Fighting.

The suggestion made in THE SUN some time ago that the Marquis of Queensberry rules should be changed to meet the fast increasing demands for up-to-date boxing will probably become a realization. Sporting men who have been close students of the game admit that there are a number of flaws in the rules, and think that pugilism would be materially benefited if several of them were changed. Tom O'Rourke and "Parson" Davies advocate the elimination of clause 2, which reads as follows: "Should either of the contestants be stopped fromable interference, the referee to name time and place as soon as possible for finishing the contest, so that the match must be won or lost, unless the backers of both men agree to draw the stakes."

This series and O'Rourke consider rather vague and superfluous. "Now," explained O'Rourke to a reporter of THE SUN yesterday, "at that rate contests could continue for months and months, with an intermission, of course, and still there would be no chance of picking a winner if the contestants agreed to make it a draw and were evenly matched. I believe the rule should read that no draws should be allowed and that there should be a winner. The National Sporting Club of London does not tolerate a draw. This is very good, for how many betting men are deprived of a chance to make money when a referee has the power to call a fight a draw when there has been only a shade of difference in the boxing on both sides?

"If changes are to be made the work should be done carefully. I would suggest the appointment of a committee of twelve good judges of boxing, men who have had dealings in the game and are to be relied upon. Then the rules would be all right."

Gossip of the Ring.

Kid McCoy has gone to Florida for a rest.

Ike Weir, the "Belfast Spider," has decided to fight again and wants a match with Dave Sullivan.

Steve Flannagan of Philadelphia has been matched to box D. Dougherty at Toronto next Saturday night.

Jim Daly, the Buffalo middleweight, has gone to San Francisco in search of a match with Alec Greggains.

Oscar Gardner, the "Omaha Kid," has been matched to box Luke Stevens at Buffalo twenty rounds on Feb. 19.

Jack Fox wants a chance to redeem himself and offers to meet Bobby Dobbs or Tom Broderick at 138 pounds.

A club at St. Louis has agreed to give $500 for an eight-round contest between Kid McCoy and Jack Bonner, the Philadelphia middleweight.

Joe Youngs, the speedy Buffalo boxer, and Billy Moore, Tommy Ryan's pupil, have been matched to box twenty rounds at Rochester on Feb. 28.

Harry Fischer, the Brooklyn middleweight, and Harry Peppers of San Francisco are scheduled to box a limited number of rounds at Waterbury on Thursday night.

Frank Erne has returned to Buffalo from an extended trip to Philadelphia. Erne thinks that his hands, which were injured in his last contest with Jack Dempsey, will be better than ever, and declares he will be ready within a week to meet anybody of his weight in the business.

Three contests which should prove interesting are scheduled for to-night. They are between Peter Maher and C. C. Smith, six rounds, at Philadelphia; Joe Hopkins and Tom Hogan, twenty rounds, at Rochester, and the "go" at Troy, in which Martin Flaherty and Larry Barnes will figure. This contest is also for twenty rounds.

"Parson" Davies arrived here yesterday from Chicago. When Davies was asked what he had to say about Bob Armstrong's unexpected defeat by Frank Childs recently, he said: "Armstrong can defeat Childs any day. It was one of those affairs which I can't understand. Childs, who is big and strong, crossed Armstrong and knocked him out. I understood it was to be a friendly bout, but Childs saw his chance and took advantage. Armstrong is matched to meet 'Yank' Kenny, and if he redeems himself I may manage him again."

Trap Shooting.

The entries for the annual amateur championship pigeon shooting contest, which is scheduled for Washington's Birthday and the day following at the grounds of the Carteret Gun Club, near Garden City, closed yesterday. The list up to 6 o'clock was not as large as in former years, only eleven men having signified their intention of competing. The managers of the event, however, expect to have a number of post entries, as the conditions allow them to be received up to the end of the first round. The entries thus far are:

George McAlpin, Carteret; Robert Welch, Riverton; W. W. Watrous, Carteret; W. S. Edey, Carteret; Harry Sanford, Larchmont Yacht Club; W. A. Hitafford, Carteret; Thomas Dando, Riverton; Leonard Finletter, Riverton; C. S. Guthrie, Pittsburg; C. M. Chapin, Carteret; Louis T. Duryea, Larchmont Y. C.

This list includes last year's champion, Robert Welch, who won the contest at Larchmont with the unusually high score of 92 out of 100, at a twenty-one-yard boundary. Entries are expected from E. R. Ladew, Larchmont Y. C.; Foxhall Keene, Westminster Kennel Club; J. Seaver Page, Carteret G. C., and Edgar Murphy, Larchmont Y. C.

YACHTING.

Frederick Adams Succeeds George Gould as Commodore of the Atlantic Y. C.

One of the largest gatherings in the history of the organization was the annual meeting of the Atlantic Yacht Club, which was held last evening in the banquet hall of the Waldorf-Astoria. George J. Gould, the retiring Commodore, presided until Fred T. Adams, the newly elected chief flag officer, was escorted to the chair. After the regular committees and the Board of Trustees had made their reports Commodore Gould's valedictory was read by Secretary David E. Austen. In it the retiring Commodore congratulated the club on its substantial progress during the past year and its further increase in membership, concluding with a well-worded compliment to Vice-Commodore Adams for the able manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the club during the summer.

Vice-Commodore Adams's report was an exhaustive one, covering the history of the club during the past year and paying special attention to the annual cruise. He spoke in glowing terms of the treatment accorded to the club members and fleet by the Larchmont, Riverside, and Bridgeport yacht clubs, who entertained the Atlantics during the cruise. The club rolls show a membership of 483, an increase of eighty-three during the year. The club fleet also exhibits an increase of sixteen yachts during the same period, numbering at present 250. June 7 or 14 were selected as dates for the spring regatta, the day to be fixed by the Commodore.

The subject of the annual cruise was not brought up, but after the meeting Commodore Adams stated to a reporter of THE SUN that it would probably be the same as has been the custom during the past two years, namely: Rendezvous at Larchmont on July 3, participate in that club's Fourth of July regatta and afterward voyage to the eastward, giving special prizes for the various squadron runs.

The following amendments to the by-laws were unanimously adopted:

Chapter 4. Regular meetings of the club shall be held on the second Monday of February, April, June, and September. The meeting in February shall be termed the annual meeting. These meetings shall be held at a place and time to be appointed by the Commodore or the Board of Trustees. Notices thereof shall be mailed to each member at least three days prior thereto.

Chapter 5., section 7, to read as follows: The Commodore, when afloat, shall carry a broad, rectangular pennant, blue ground, white letter A, similar to club signal, with sixteen blue stars in the letter A. The Vice-Commodore shall carry a pennant similar to that of the Commodore, excepting that where that is blue his shall be red. The Rear Commodore shall carry a pennant similar to that of the Commodore, except that outside of the letter A the ground shall be white and the letter A shall be red, with sixteen white stars. The Acting Commodore's pennant shall be the same shape as that of the Commodore, but entirely blue. The Fleet Captain's flag, to be displayed when he is on duty (as a boat flag or as circumstances may otherwise require), shall be rectangular in shape, color blue, with red letter A, similar in form to that on the club signal.

There was also a minor alteration in the racing rules, which conform more clos