AMERICAN LEAGUE'S GROWTH.

STARTED IN A MODEST WAY, NOW BASEBALL'S DICTATOR.

Formerly the Western League, the Circuit Has Gradually Expanded Through the Efforts of President Johnson and C. W. Somers—New York the Final Goal.

The remarkable success of the American League of Professional Baseball Clubs which was exemplified the other day by a complete surrender of the National League which has held sway over the national game for twenty-five years, involves a story of perseverence against great obstacles and the indefatigable work of young blood managers, who, by careful judgment and straight forward dealings, have placed the new organization in a position to dictate terms at the coming peace conference to be held on Jan. 5.

To Bancroft Byron Johnson, the energetic president of the American League, to Charles Comiskey, president of the Chicago club; to Charles W. Somers, vice-president of the American League; to J. T. Kilfoyle, president of the Cleveland club, and to the corps of efficient managers and star players much of the American League's predominence in baseball is due.

Having conducted victorious campaigns against the National League Clubs in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and St. Louis, it remained for the American League to place a club in New York city as a final stroke of diplomacy concluded to win a long, uphill fight. It was in the fall of 1893, at a meeting of the Western League at Indianapolis, that Charles Comiskey, then the manager of the Cincinnati National League Club, who was interested in the welfare of this flourishing minor league, named Johnson for president, at the same time informing him that at the expiration of his Cincinnati engagement, Comiskey would take a Western League franchise and do all in his power to build up that organiaztion to a major-league standard. At that meeting the circuit was made up of Sioux City, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Grand Rapids, Toledo and Detroit, and in 1894, these clubs enjoyed a most successful season.

It was than that President Johnson had his first tilt with John T. Brush, who not only owned the Cincinnati National League Club, but also controlled the Indianapolis Club in the Western League. Johnson turned the Indianapolis Club down on two occasions and from that time Brush proceeded to antagonize him with all his power.

It was at the fall meeting of the Western League, held in 1894 at the Hotel Wellington, Chicago, that Brush attempted to work up a combination against Johnson, but the Indianapolis and Cincinnati magnate was summarily defeated, whereupon he took up his hat and left the meeting. Then the Western Leaguers went ahead and substituted St. Paul for Sioux City and the franchise for the former city was handed to Comiskey. In the legislation that followed, President Johnson treated the Indianapolis club with great fairness, so that at the end of the season of 1895, Brush came back to the Western League meeting and made peace with Johnson. He said that he had been opposed to the Western League president, but was satisfied that he had shown competency as executive officer of the league, and in order to make good his expression of confidence, he moved to raise Johnson's salary.

Brush, however, proceeded to get up a five-year agreement to which Kansas City, Milwaukee, Detroit, St. Paul and Indianapolis were parties, and, according to that agreement, a new member could not be elected for the full term without a unanimous vote, while a club could not be chosen for one year without a four-fifths vote. This agreement turned out to be the cause of more trouble, for after Minneapolis had been elected to a five-years' membership and the Western League men wanted to put a club in Columbus with Tom Loftus as manager, it was discovered that only 4 votes could be secured for that end. Johnson conferred with Brush and tried to induce him to agree to a two-thirds vote, but the Indianapolis and Cincinnati magnate was obdurate, and for eight days the Western League was held up, voting unsuccessfully on this question. Then Brush left the meeting and the other clubs proceeded to elect Columbus with Loftus as manager, but at the spring meeting of 1896 the same trouble arose over the attempt to admit Grand Rapids. The trouble would probably have lasted until this day had not Watkins and Goodenough, representing Indianapolis, inadvertently left the meeting room when President Johnson took a vote of the other clubs and Grand Rapids was elected.

President Johnson then instituted a determined campaign against Brush, and he was forced out of the Western League. In the summer of 1897 Grand Rapids was dropped and Omaha was substituted, and in 1898 Omaha gave way to Buffalo, the circuit then being composed of Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Buffalo, Detroit, Columbus and Indianapolis. The same circuit obtained in 1899, and then it was that the Western League men, encouraged by success, concluded to expand their circuit by placing a club in Chicago and changing the name of the organization to the American League. In order to get into Chicago it was necessary to secure the consent of the National League, for the Western League had all along been operating under the protection of the National Agreement, which made it impossible to invade National League territory without official sanction; but when the matter was placed before the National League magnates intense opposition sprung up, and, goaded to desperation, President Johnson in behalf of the American League, finally issued an edict to the effect that he would place a club in Chicago, whether the National League consented or not. Then it was that the National Leaguers backed down and Comiskey transferred his St. Paul franchise to Chicago, while Columbus was dropped in favor of Cleveland. The admission of Cleveland into the American League brought into baseball Somers and Kilfoyle, two young business men who were noted baseball enthusiasts and who by their loyalty and their financial support soon made Cleveland the American League stronghold.

The American League circuit, therefore, in 1900 included Minneapolis, Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Cleveland and Milwaukee. The National League meanwhile had reduced its circuit from twelve to eight clubs, leaving Baltimore and Washington open territory, and, as the American Association's movement at that time was very strong, the American League men petitioned the National League for permission to enter not only Baltimore and Washington, but also Philadelphia, thereby shutting out the association clubs from those cities. The matter was brought to a crisis in the fall of 1900, when James A. Hart left Chicago to attend the National League meeting at this city. Hart brought with him a proposition from Johnson to the effect that the American League would occupy Baltimore and Washington, taking the lease of the grounds in those cities off the hands of the National League, paying a reasonable price for the franchise and improvements to be made in those cities, and also agreeing to pay for the surplus players at the rate of $500 a man. As John I. Rogers of the Philadelphia National League Club has always maintained that two clubs could live in his city, the American League also evinced a desire to enter the Quaker City. Hart placed these propositions before the National League with the additional information that President Johnson would remain at the Lafayette Hotel, Philadelphia, ready to come over to New York to complete the deal, but the National League men could not see it in any light.

Then as a war measure the National League sprung another American Association scheme which was intended to place clubs in Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore in the East and Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville and Cleveland in the West. Without delay they sent out their agents to sign American League players and Harry Pulliam, now the President of the National League, proceeded to sign Second Baseman Dick Padden of the Chicago Americans for St. Louis. This was the first raid made upon the American League, and up to that time Johnson's organization had not taken a National League player but the next day after Johnson had received an insulting message from the National League, the American League sent C. W. Somers to Boston, and before the week closed Mr. Somers had secured the Huntington grounds in that city. With equal rapidity grounds were leased in Philadelphia, in Washington and in Baltimore and inside of a month thirty-seven National League players had been induced to sign American League contracts. In securing these players the American League men ignored the option clause in the National League contracts, for they argued that this only held good among the National League clubs and would not stand in the court of law, inasmuch as it prohibited a player from signing with an outside organization at an increased salary.

Jimmy Collins, the crack third baseman of the Boston National League club, was the first player to go over to the American League, then in rapid succession President Johnson and his men signed Stahl, Freeman, Lajoie, Bernhard, Fraser, Jones, Lave Cross, Fultz, McGinnity, Seymour, Williams, Howell, McGraw, Carnick, Mercer, Clark, Mertes, Callahan, Griffith, Sullivan, Platt, Hugh Duffy, Garvin, Anderson, Barrett, Harley, Holmes, Yaeger, Gleason, Bradley, Scott, Taylor, McCarthy, Young and Criger. To Lajoie was paid a salary of $4,000, and no sooner had he signed with the American League than John I. Rogers proceeded to take the case into the Pennsylvania courts.

Lajoie was permitted to play with the Philadelphia Athletics during the season of 1901 pending a decision of the court, but when the case finally came to trial an opinion was handed down pronouncing the optional clause in Lajoie's National League contract binding. Lajoie was accordingly shifted to the Cleveland National League club, where he finished the season of 1902. So successful had the American League been in its expansion to the East that, when last season began, arrangements had been made to invade St. Louis, and Collins, Duffy and Griffith went out on the road and proceeded to sign another batch of National League players, including Padden, Wallace, Hardrick, Burkett, Powell, Harper, "Red" Donohue, Kehoe, Tom Daly, George Davis, Strang, Green, Eddie McFarland, McGuire, Flick, Hickman, Warner, Monte Cross, Harresell, Joe Kelly, McFarlan, Delehanty, Townsend, Orth and Wolverton, twenty-five in all, making a total of sixty-two players taken from the Naitonal League ranks in two years. In order to secure these men salaries were boosted away up.

The old National League salary limit of $2,400 was a mere bagatelle, for the American League contracted to pay salaries ranging from $4,000 to $6,000 a year, thereby shouldering a load which the National League men said would wreck the new organization. But the quality of ball played by the American League was of such popularity that the game drew immense crowds, especially in the cities where the National League had been in control, and President Johnson was correspondingly happy. In the meantime the National League men were striving earnestly to wreck the American League in various ways. Following the adverse decision in the Pennsylvania courts in the Lajoie case, came the breaking up of the Baltimore club. John T. Brush and Andrew Freedman found a willing ally in John McGraw, and with a cash payment they succeeded in purchasing the cream of the Baltimore players for the New York club, a move which made the Baltimore franchise, as far as the American League was concerned, null and void. This was a staggering blow for a few days, but Johnson jumped into the breech, patched up the Baltimore team, declared the franchise forfeited and the American League finished the season according to the schedule.

The breaking up of the Baltimore club proved a boomerang to Brush and the National League, for it paved the way for the American League to enter New York city. Had the Baltimore club remained intact, the American League would probably have been compelled to pay $40,000 for the franchise. Under the rules the Baltimore franchise enabled the American League to go in here scott free, thereby establishing a rival to the club which in the meantime had passed from the control of Freedman to Brush.

The increasing power of the American League was realized by the National League men though they did not give public utterances to their feelings in any way. President Johnson, flushed with success, was all along willing to reach a peace settlement with the older organization and accordingly they offered two chances to the National League to fix things up. The first one was a deal with A. G. Spalding, whom Johnson met at Atlantic City early this year, and Spalding undertook to bring the two leagues together through a thirty days' truce, but the troubles in the National League which resulted in the Spalding-Freedman conflict, prevented a consummation of the plan. Later in the season Johnson was advised by A. J. Reach of the Philadelphia National League Club that a truce might be effected, but Johnson told Reach tha it would have to be accomplished inside of thirty days or not at all, and as Reach could not do this the negotiations fell through.

Prior to the opening of the past season Brush visited Johnson in Chicago and offered all kinds of inducements for a combination between the American League and the Freedman faction of the National League, looking toward the formation of a twelve-club circuit, but Johnson turned Brush down with firmness.

In projecting the American League clubs in Boston, Philadelphia and this city, C. W. Somers has played an important part. He went into Boston, looked over the ground leased the park and put up the money for the signing of the team without assistance from local capital. He was elected president of the Boston American League Club, but a year ago he sold out his interests to Killilea of Milwaukee, whose club was removed from the circuit to make room for St. Louis. Somers also went into Philadelphia on a similar basis and after he had placed the Athletics in good running order he sold the club to Benjamin Shibe and others, who represented Philadelphia interests, and now Somers is the man who has advanced most of the money for installing the American League in New York city, and he says that when the club here gets under way, he will step aside in favor of local moneyed men who are looking to take stock and run the club on a first class business basis. When that has been accomplished Somers will confine himself to the Cleveland club, of which he is a half owner and will also continue as vice president of the Anbrican League, which owes the bulk of its success to his foresight and Johnson's cleverness as a baseball projector.

The American League team managers include the best in the country, barring Hanlon of Brooklyn. They are Charles Comiskey of Chicago, James Collins of Boston, Connie Mack of Philadelphia, Clark Griffith of New York, Tom Loftus of Washington, James McAleer of St. Louis, Frank Dwyer of Detroit and W. A. Armour of Cleveland. The teams are equally balanced as to playing strength with the exception of Detroit and before next season begins the Detroit franchise may be transferred to Pittsburg. And so this young hustling organization has come to be a dictator in baseball supplanting the old National League, which was founded by W. A. Hulbert and A. G. Spalding back in the '70s and which has finally surrendered after successful fights with a rival union association in 1884, the Players' League in 1890 and the American Association in 1891. Just what the future of the National League will be is a question that gives rise to much thought, but it is safe to say that the American League will live long and prosper.

A PUNCH FOR TOM SHARKEY.

HIS DECISIONS AT WRESTLING MATCH CAUSE TROUBLE.

Bothner Wins From Jenkins in Handicap Match—Billy Elmer, Bothner's Partner, Lands on Referee Sharkey's Eye—Police Take a Hand in the Game.

At the end of the wrestling match between George Bothner and Tom Jenkins at the Grand Central Palace last night, there was a mix-up. Tom Sharkey was one of the star performers in the mêlée not down on the programme and is now sporting a tiny "mouse" under his left eye as a result of a blow from Billy Elmer, Bothner's partner and trainer.

Sharkey was referee in the match, and during the progress of the contest aroused the hostility of Bothner's seconds, who thought that the prizefighter was rather partial to Jenkins, which did not appear to be the case. Tom decided two hard falls in favor of Jenkins, much to the chagrin of the Bothner partisans, who believed that Sharkey was trying to do him.

When the contest was over and Bothner was declared the winner because Jenkins failed to throw him four times in one hour Sharkey received an insulting remark from one of Bothner's seconds. He resented it with a wild blow, which provoked a lot of comment from some of the spectators, who threatened Sharkey with all kinds of bodily harm.

The police quickly entered the ring, and as Sharkey backed to the ropes Elmer stepped up to the pugilist and delivered a hard right for Sharkey's jaw. Elmer is a clever boxer and his blow was straight from the shoulder. Sharkey staggered. He would have fallen had not a policeman held him up.

Immediately the hall was in an uproar. Capt. Lantry with five policemen grabbed Elmer and using their clubs hustled Elmer out of the place without ceremony. Elmer for a minute was roughly handled. It was understood that he was placed under arrest, but was afterward released, it is said.

The match was very interesting. Jenkins only succeeded in downing Bothner three times. The big hall was crowded, about 2,500 people being in attendance when the struggle began.

Police Captain Lantry told THE SUN reporter after the bout that in order to avoid another occurrence of last night he would not permit any more wrestling bouts in his precinct.

There was no delay in bringing the "stars" of the night into therring. Bothner materialized first. He was handled by George Fisher, Bill Brown and Willie Mack of this city. Jenkins esquires were Clarence Bouldin and Harry Pollak. The conditions were four falls with the strangle hold barred, with a rest of ten minutes between each fall.

The announced weights were Bothner, 135 pounds, and Jenkins, 140 pounds. The first struggle began at six minutes after 10 o'clock. Jenkins forced Bothner down, but did not make any strenuous effort to get to work.

The beginning of the fifth minute found Jenkins playing for a strong hold. He got George half way, but Bothner made a few sensational twists, finally wriggling to a safe position. Five minutes were wasted by Jenkins in trying for a half Nelson. When it seemed as though Bothner was in his grasp the local boy squirmed and rolled on his stomach. Jenkins was panting and Bothner went on top.

He did this for a few seconds only and then permitted Tom to be on the aggressive again. The crotch was Jenkins's next hold, but there was nothing doing. At the fifteenth minute Bothner was in a bad way. Jenkins secured a full Nelson, but through dexterous foot work Bothner escaped.

They were on their feet at the twenty-first minute, but only for a few seconds. Twice Jenkins had a three-quarter Nelson on his lighter opponent, out each time Bothner got away. Jenkins was weary and perspiring freely. Bothner was fresh, but grew too overconfident. Seeing a good chance, Jenkins got a full Nelson and turned Bothner around and finally pressed him down. The fall was gained in 27 minutes and 37 seconds. Some of the spectators hissed when the referee declared Jenkins on the back as the winner of the first fall, but it quickly subsided.

After an intermission of ten minutes the match was resumed. The betting at this juncture was even money that Jenkins would secure two falls more before time was up. At the seventh minute, though, Jenkins had a dangerous crotch hold on Bothner and then tried for three hammer locks, which Bothner broke in succession.

When Bothner evaded another hammer at the next attempt Jenkins smiled grimly and sat on his haunches. He was on his feet smartly and ran after George, who was caught unawares. Catching hold of both of Bothner's legs for a crotch, Jenkins pressed his man's shoulders to the mat for a clean fall. The trick was accomplished in 15 minutes and 5 seconds.

When they got down to work again, Jenkin's first effort was a crotchhold. He applied it deftly enough at first, but George around Bothner was in a bad position a moment later, but he turned his legs about Jenkins's body and in this manner kept the Clevelander in check. But the gruelling contest had spent Bothner's strength and when Jenkins used a hammer lock Bothner could not hold out much longer and was thrown.

Jenkins was forced to press Bothner to the mat for a minute, although his wrist signaled him as the winner of the fall. Bothner's seconds jumped into the ring and it seemed as if there would be a row. But the presence of a number of policemen at the ringside quelled further disturbance. The time of the fall was 13 minutes and 10 seconds.

Jenkins had a little over four minutes in which to accomplish his mission and set out in quick fashion to do so. On two occasions he had Bothner in a trying position. The other moments till the end were uneventful.

Several preliminary bouts of interest were held.

BRAVES IN COUNCIL.

Huckleberry Indians Hold Annual Powwow and Choose Chiefs.

The Huckleberry Indians of the New York A. C. had their annual pow-wow last night in the tepee of the club and elected the following braves to make trail for them whenever they take the warpath during 1903: Big chief, R. J. Schaefer; little chief, E. F. Haubold; wampum keeper, R. C. Kammerer; scribe, E. S. Stewart; sachems, F. J. Fullgraff, W. E. Hinsdale, M. W. Peckwell, Fred Villmar, C. Reed, R. Morgan and Theodore Guerra.

The report of the scribe showed the tribe to number 190 bucks and the wampum belt was declared to be worth $200. All grunted in assent when it was proposed to leave the appointing of the date for the annual gorge and other festivities to the big chief.

The Huckleberry Indians compose the "quick bunch" of the N. Y. A. C. They were organized in 1899 and leased Huckleberry Island, between Sands Point Light and Davids Island and retained it for a place on which to hold their feasts during the summer, which they attend in full warpaint, feathered headdress and buckskin.

Bobby Dobbs Fights Drawn Battle in England.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Bobby Dobbs, the American negro pugilist, and Joe White of Cardiff fought a 20-round match at Cardiff to-night for £50 a side and a purse of £100. The men were most evenly matched, and the fight, which was a hard one, ended in a draw.

Matty Matthews Gets Decision Over Rube Ferns.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 22.—Matty Matthews of Brooklyn got a decision over Rube Ferns of Denver, at Kenyon Hall, Allegheny, this evening. In the eighth, ninth and tenth round Matthews had Ferns almost at his mercy and another round would have put Rube out of business.

Gossip of the Ring.

Jim Jeffries has been presented with a gold cane by an admirer from Chicago. The cane is said to be worth $100.

Johnny Mack, manager of Tom Carey, the "Terrible Irishman," is after a six round "go" for his man with Jack Johnson of California.

Tommy Feltz, the Brooklyn featherweight, has made up his mind to manage himself in the future and has discarded the services of Al McMurray.

Abe Attell of California says that whether he wins or loses with Eddie Hanlon, he will arrange a "go" with Tim Callahan, who challenged him some time ago.

Joe Choynski is credited with being worth $30,000. Joe has been boxing for nearly fifteen years and during that time, according to himself, he has figured in over 200 fights.

Johnny Reagan of Brooklyn and "Pinky" Evans of Yonkers have been matched to meet at a resort near Yonkers on Dec. 26. The weight is 120 pounds, weigh in at 3 o'clock.

Kid Broad says that after the new year he will quit the fighting game. He adds that he has found a "millionaire friend" who is ready to pay him a salary as a companion.

Sam Bolaw's retirement from the ring seems to have been only temporary, for the local negro pugilist has signed to box Willie Lewis of New York twenty rounds before the Waterbury, Conn., A. C. on Jan. 1.

Chester Goodman, the Boston bantam, who broke one of his hands in a recent tilt, has sufficiently recovered and wants to fight again. He says that he is ready to engage in a mill with either Casper Leon or Danny Dougherty of Philadelphia.

AMERICAN LEAGUE MEETS.

Appoints Committee to Confer With Its Rival—Loftus for New York Club.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The American League magnates held a special meeting here to-day behind closed doors. The statement given out at the adjournment of the meeting would indicate that nothing but routine business was transacted. It is learned, however, from a trustworthy source that many new and important questions developed and were carefully considered by President Johnson and his colleagues. Mr. Kilfoyle of Cleveland gave out the following statement as covering the day's proceedings:

"The American League at its meeting to-day adopted a resolution giving President Johnson full power to name a committee representing this league, which is authorized to meet representatives from the Nationa League in the city of Cincinnati on Jan. 5 for the purpose of considering the existing differences between the American and the National League. The American League as a body gives this committee full power to enter into any agreement with the National League, and if any agreement is made the American League will stand by it. At the afternoon session President Johnson named the following committee: Messrs Johnson, Comiskey, Killilea and Somers.

"Another resolution was adopted which transfers the franchise and players of the Baltimore club to a new corporation known as the New York American League Baseball and Amusement Association. This company will control the new club, which is to be located in New York.

"The third and final resolution adopted at this afternoon's meeting was to the effect that the annual meeting of the American League, which, by the way, will also be the schedule meeting, is to be held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York some time in January. Mr Johnson is empowered to name the exact date.

"The application of Pittsburg for a right to purchase a franchise in this league, and also the naming of an official head of the new club in New York were subjects that were not broached at this meeting. They will not be considered or finally passed upon until the clubs meet in annual session in New York."

Although this statement of what was done at to-day's meeting was terse and to the point, it does not follow that it yields the full story of the day. The truth is that Tom Loftus is booked for New York and that Pittsburg will, barring accidents, hold a place in the American League circuit next season. Clever politics were played by the magnates both in and out of the council chamber. To begin with, the representatives of the Pittsburg syndicate, consisting of Capt. Kerr of Pittsburg, the former owner of the Pittsburg National League club and Phil Auten, a Chicago millionaire, did not make an application for a franchise, and technically speaking cut no figure in the day's proceedings, yet it is a fact that these men from Pittsburg received a tip to "lay low and say nothing." When the League reconvenes in New York next month these men, it is believed, will in all probability go before the club owners with a statement that they have purchased a franchise and players of the Detroit club and are prepared to open up the season and a ball park which they have already secured, in the Smoky City. Furthermore, at this same meeting Tom Loftus will be introduced as the president and manager of the new club in New York.

Late to-night Loftus himself said: "You can say that I am going to New York, provided the league makes no an offer. I believe that there is a great future in that city for the American League, and also for myself. This is all I care to say at present."

After the adjournment President Ban Johnson made a terse statement of the policy which will be undoubtedly the one followed by the American League Committee at the peace conference in Cincinnati. "You can say that the American League will not consent to any deal whereby the two existing leagues are to be consolidated. There will be two distinct leagues operating on a basis of a non-conflicting schedule and mutual respect for contracts signed by players."

SHAMROCK A COMPROMISE BOAT.

New Challenger Not Likely to Be Distinctly of Fin or Keel Type.

GREENOCK, Dec. 8.—Any information regarding the Shamrock III. comes out very indirectly, so strict is the secrecy with which she is being produced, but some of the things that are being said about her are at least partly true. She is going to differ in one direction, at any rate, from both the other Shamrocks, and from what can be learned it seems she is likely to prove a compromise between the fin and the keel type. The change may prove to be not so great as reports for the moment indicate, but it is highly probable that Fife has modified the flat floor and shallow hull, and drawn the body of the boat with an easier turn and deeper draught toward the keel. There will be some slight modification of the overhangs, and the mistake of the extreme spoon bow, as seen in Shamrock II., is certain to be avoided.

Sir Thomas Lipton, Sharman Crawford, Fife and Watson were in the yard on Saturday, having a look at the yacht as she appears now; all but fully plated up, and it is stated that Sir Thomas is satisfied that everything goes on well and hopefully.

As is well known Shamrock III. is being constructed of mild steel, while Shamrock II. was built of the more expensive manganese bronze. This will entail one marked difference in the two cutters. Below the water line Shamrock II. was polished till she glittered like gold. Shamrock III. on the other hand, will be painted from keel to rail.

Another Club Wants to Bid for the Contest Between McGovern and Corbett.

Although the doors of many States have been closed to Young Corbett and Terry McGovern another fistic club is in line for the combat. Through the organization's representative the Emerald A. C. of Pittsburg has decided to make a bid for the mill. The club held a meeting recently and the president, E. McNamara, telegraphed to the effect that the club was ready to offer the men a purse or percentage if they will consent to fight there. Negotiations are now pending and it is understood that the fighters will give the new club consideration. Boxing is permitted at Pittsburg, but it is not known how the authorities stand relative to a tilt of such importance as the one between McGovern and Corbett. The club is confident that there will be no interference.

McNamara says that his club can hold 10,000 persons and is also willing to post $5,000 as a forfeit that the bout will come off as per schedule.

Second Baseman Fred Dunlap Is Dead.

Fred Dunlap, once the "king of second basemen," is dead. It was with the champion Detroits in 1887 that he made his name a lifelasting memory among ball players and followers of the game. In many respects the Wolverines were the greatest lot of ball tossers ever seen on a League diamond. They were made up of Baldwin, Getzlin, Weidman and Twitchell, pitchers; Bennett, Ganzel and Briody, catchers; Brouthers first base; Dunlap second base; White, third base; Rowe, shortstop, Richardson, left field; Hanlon, centre field and Thompson, right field. Dunlap did not play second base all of the time, his place being filled by Hardie Richardson, but he was a star and commanded a big salary. When he retired from the game he had money, but he soon lost it, and at his death in Philadelphia the other day he was penniless.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To "Semi-ready's" new-found friends in New York.

To old friends and new in every city where "Semi-ready" is sold, from the Atlantic to the Pacific

INTERNATIONAL "SEMI-READY"
Nineteen Wardrobes in United States and Canada

A. J. KELLEY COMPANY
RETAIL CONTROLLERS FOR NEW YORK
Broadway and Eleventh Street

AUTOMOBILISTS CELEBRATE.

Reunion Dinner of Survivors of the Reliability Contest.

A reunion dinner arranged by a few of those who participated in the reliability run of the Automobile Club of America from New York to Boston and return last October, was held last night at the New York Athletic Club. About fifty participated and as the arrangements were informal a jolly time was had. The ceremonious part of the affair was the presentation of a $500 stop-watch to S. M. Butler, the secretary of the club, in recognition of the important work he did to make the run a success.

All the talk was of automobiles and many a clever quip was sprung. Said one man: "I lent my machine to a friend yesterday and——

"I know the answer," burst in a neighbor. "He got arrested and you had to bail him."

"How did you guess it?"

"Been there."

One man remarked that automobiles are increasing so rapidly that they would have to add a new learning to the dodge of one another next year. Set speeches were not in order, but the following toasts proposed by W. E. Scarritt were responded to in a merry way: "The Automobile Club of America," President A. R. Shattuck; "The Reliability Contest," John A. Hill; "The Contestants," Percy Owen; "The Observers," C. H. Gillette; "The Press," Angus Sinclair; "Free Lances," W. J. Stewart, E. E. Britton and J. Dunbar Wright.

War Begins Between Basketball Players and the A. A. U.

A petty war has started between the basketball players and the A. A. U., and the first volley was fired in the battle yesterday, when the Registration Committee suspended no less than seven teams, some for playing in unsanctioned games and others for opposing unregistered players. The teams placed under the ban are Mount Morris, New York, the "Five" of Stapleton, Staten Island; Institute A. C. of Newark, Hasbrouck Heights and Xavier clubs, New Jersey; Y. M. C. A. and St. Joseph, Paterson, N. J. Another team on the blacklist is the "Silent Five," whose management has arranged a lengthy schedule extending into the month of January. This team is to play its first game at March with the five of Columbia University, so that according to A. A. U. ruling the collegians have rendered themselves subject to discipline as well as the others.

It is the contention of the A. A. U. officials that the leading players of the prominent teams are paid for their services and this practice the A. A. U. will try to stop. An official of the union said yesterday: "If we only can control three teams we are going to fight this matter to the end. Any team desirous of joining the outlaws can do so if it pleases, but we are in the game to control it and to stay. To-night a game has been arranged between the West Side Branch, Y. M. C. A. and Columbia University, and should it take place he Y. M. C. A. players will be suspended."

On th other hand, a lot of the basketball players are of opinion that the A. A. U. should have no jurisdiction over basketball. They say it is the same as football, a sport which is outside the A. A. U. rules. Anyway, those who have defied the A. A. U. are determined in their action and will play indefinitely when and where they please.

International Chess.

Eugene Delmar, one of the fourteen players selected by Arnous de Riviere of Paris in the forthcoming International Chess Masters' tournament at Monte Carlo, was seen by a reporter at the Manhattan Chess Club on Sunday. The veteran said that he was highly honored by being selected to play but though he had at first intended to take part in the contest, business could not prevent him from going abroad this season.

Delmar was very much disappointed at Marshall being crowded out and he suggested to The Sun that a cable to Paris requesting Riviere to accept Marshall as substitute. A despatch was forwarded and in reply Riviere cabled yesterday that he would accept Delmar's suggestion and accept Marshall as a competitor. Riviere at the same time cabled that it is doubtful whether Maroczy and Schlechter would be able to come to Monte Carlo, that the final and full programme had been issued and that a copy of it had been forwarded.

Reach and Rogers Willing to Sell Out.

A. J. Reach and John I. Rogers are anxious to get out of baseball and are not only willing to sell the Philadelphia National League club, but are also ready to dispose of their ball ground. Within a week there have been two bids for the property, each of $100,000, but the price is said to be $175,000. One of these offers comes from the trolley company, which wants the ball park for a big car barn to be used in connection with the new road to be opened on Broad street. The other offer has been made by the Reading road, in order to erect a freight station.

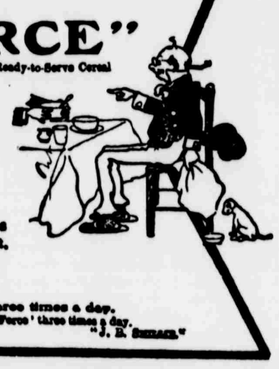
Hockey.

The champion Crescent Athletic Club hockey team trotted out on the ice last night at the Clermont Avenue Rink, Brooklyn, for the first time this season and were pitted against the Skating Club of Brooklyn. Only one half of the match was played and the Crescents won by 8 goals to 3. William Dobby was elected captain of the team for this season and Benjamin A. Kiely was again chosen as manager. Howard Drakely, the president of the Amateur Hockey League, made two of the goals for the Crescents last night.

Jim Dumps' near neighbor, William Ross,
Was called Ill-Will, he was so cross.
Jim Dumps invited him to tea
And fed him "Force." He laughed with glee,
For "Force" was just the food for him,
"It fills the Bill," said "Sunny Jim."

"FORCE"
The Ready-to-Serve Cereal

brings health closer than a neighbor.



Sweet, crisp flakes of wheat and malt.

Eat "Force" three times a day.
"Our people are eating 'Force' three times a day."
"J. R. SUMNER."

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A perfectly fitting shoe will "support" not "drag" the foot.

The support can only come from a firm hold at "waist" and "arch."

Therefore, the instep must fit.

The Coward Shoe sees that it does fit.

That the instep fits faultlessly without a "lap-over."

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Mail Orders Filled.
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Model, stylish young lady, perfect 36 bust, as sample figure; permanent position to satisfactory person. DAVID I. ULLMAN, 107 Bleecker St.

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DISHWASHER and cook. 83 Railroad av., Jersey City.

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HELP WANTED—MALES.

R. H. Macy & Co., want several neat, tidy boys over 16 years of age, for their delivery wagons; must come well recommended. Apply at branch stable, 148th st. and 8th ave.

R. H. MACY & CO, want several experienced packers; also bric-a-brac, housefurnishing and glass packers. Apply at driveway, 34th st. entrance.

R. H. Macy & Co. want several neat and tidy Cash Boys; apply to Sup't at rear entrance on 34th St.

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VALET and useful man, by a single middle-aged German, to take care of bachelor apartment; city or country. Address ADVERTISER, care of Kerr, 313 East 34th st.

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POST OFFICE NOTICE.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

(Should be read DAILY by all interested, as changes may occur at any time.)

Foreign mails for the week ending Dec. 27, 1902, will close (PROMPTLY in all cases) at the General Post Office as follows: PARCELS POST MAILS close *one hour earlier* than closing time shown below. Parcels Post mails for Germany close at 5 P. M. Wednesday, per steamship "Brandenburg."

Regular and Supplementary mails close at Foreign Station half hour later than closing time shown below (except that Supplementary Mails for Europe and Central America, via Colon, close one hour later at Foreign Station.)

TRANSATLANTIC MAILS.

TUESDAY.—At 8:30 A. M. for ITALY direct, per steamship Lombardia (mail must be directed "per steamship Lombardia.")

WEDNESDAY.—At 6:30 A. M. for EUROPE, per steamship St. Louis, via Southampton; at 8:30 A. M. (supplementary 10 A. M.) for GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, per steamship Cymric, via Queenstown (mail for other parts of Europe must be directed "per steamship Cymric").

THURSDAY.—At 7 A. M. for FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, ITALY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, TURKEY, EGYPT, GREECE, BRITISH INDIA and LORENZO MARQUEZ, per steamship La Savoie, via Havre (mail for other parts of Europe must be directed "per steamship La Savoie").

SATURDAY.—At 7:30 A. M. for NETHERLANDS direct, per steamship Amsterdam (mail must be directed "per steamship Amsterdam") At 9:30 A. M. (supplementary 11 A. M.) for EUROPE, per steamship Etruria, via Queenstown; at 11 A. M. for DENMARK direct, per steamship Island (mail must be directed "per steamship Island").

*PRINTED MATTER, ETC.—This steamer takes Printed Matter, Commercial Papers, and Samples for Germany only. The same class of mail matter for other parts of Europe will not be sent by this ship unless specially directed by her.

After the closing of the Supplementary Transatlantic Mails named above, additional Supplementary Mails are opened on the piers of the American, English, French and German steamers, and remain open until within Ten Minutes of the hour of sailing of steamer.

MAILS FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA, WEST INDIES, ETC.

TUESDAY.—At 9:30 A. M. (supplementary 10:30 A. M. for CENTRAL AMERICA (except Costa Rica) and SOUTH PACIFIC PORTS, per steamship City of Washington, via Colon (letter mail for Guatemala must be directed "per steamship City of Washington"); at 12 M. for PERNAMBUCO, SANTOS and SAO PAULO, per steamship Grecian Prince (mail for other parts of Brazil must be directed "per steamship Grecian Prince"); at 12:30 P. M. (supplementary 1 P. M.) for ST. THOMAS, ST. CROIX, LEEWARD and WINDWARD ISLANDS, BRITISH, DUTCH and FRENCH GUIANA