THE NATIONAL GUARD

Some Comments on a Recent Article on the Subject.

THE MATTER OF DRILL.

Some Words of Wisdom From Gen. Kautz—Muscular Militiamen and Athletic Exhibitions That are Contemplated—Many Matters of Interest to the Members.

PERSONS INTERested in the passage of Representative Grout's bill to organize a naval battalion of the District militia may think more seriously and act with greater vigor if they only realize what an amount of really useful work is to be done on that line in this vicinity. Francis V. Greene in an article on "The New National Guard," printed in the February Century, says: "Within the last few years a new branch of the militia has been founded in the seaboard states, under the title of 'naval reserve.' At present there is a well-organized battalion of this character in Massachusetts and another in New York, each about three hundred strong and divided into four divisions. Both are commanded and officered by ex-officers of the navy and graduates of the Naval Academy. They are instructed during the winter at armories in the drill of the battalion as a landing party, with muskets and boat howitzers, and also on board training ships in the use of large guns. During the last summer each battalion hired a steamer, on which the regular routine of a man-o'-war was rigidly enforced. The government placed its finest squadron of new cruisers, with modern guns, at their disposal for instruction. The naval reserve steamer for the Massachusetts battalion was attached to the squadron in Boston harbor and in Long Island sound for the New York battalion. A week's hard work was performed with a surprising amount of enthusiasm. The men were instructed in the use of great guns and acquitted themselves at target practice with credit not inferior to that of the regular crews of the squadron. They were also constantly exercised in boat drill and in a successful landing party.

"In view of the difficulty of obtaining officers and instructed men for the volunteer navy in time of war this most recent application of the principle of the volunteer militia affords the promise of very great usefulness in the future."

NEW YORK AS A NATIONAL GUARD ANTIQUITY.

In that same article Mr. Greene emphasizes a point which has been the text for many National Guard sermons in the columns of THE STAR. Mr. Greene writes as though there was really no National Guard organization in the United States that could in any sense begin to compare with that of New York, but he upsets his position by saying: "In the matter of armament there is a diversity which would prove disastrous if the troops of different states should serve together in the field. In New York the guard is armed (at the expense of the state) with the Remington, caliber .50; in Connecticut with the Peabody, caliber .43; in some of the states are still to be found some of the Springfield, caliber .50. With these exceptions the troops are armed with the Springfield, caliber .45." This is a confession worthy of more than passing comment. If the National Guard of the various states were called into the field next week the New York contingent, instead of being ready for active duty, would be taking primary lessons in handling the service rifle.

There is one noticeable and seemingly inexcusable omission in Mr. Greene's story. He discusses and compares organizations, talks about mixed-up militia laws, tells his readers what is being done in New York and Pennsylvania, but neglects to make even the merest mention of the District National Guard, although the local brigade is known all over the country as a model organization. Much of the article is intensely interesting and the arguments for action on the part of the government are good and worthy the support of every right-thinking citizen, but why should the best equipped and most effective brigade in the country—the center of advanced military precepts and practices—be slighted in what purports to be the story of "the new National Guard?" As a matter of fact the D. C. N. G. is the only completely modern militia organization in the country.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM GEN. KAUTZ.

When Brevet Major General August V. Kautz of the United States army (recently retired) says anything about military matters he generally receives a more than ordinary amount of close attention. He has been writing of national defenselessness and touches upon an idea or two worthy of thought. "Take the matter of drill," says he. "Very much the largest part of drill tactics has no practical application in actual warfare. There was a time when it did. When battles were won by the shock of compact bodies of men from three to six ranks deep drill was an important factor in maintaining compact formations. Now to conduct a compact formation, even at the regulation route step, within range of the improved long-range arms would be fatal. Compact formations are justifiable only beyond range for the comfort of the men and to economize space. Then why should we waste so much time on the minutiæ of complicated drill tactics, repeating, from one year to another, what a soldier is able to acquire in a few weeks as well as he ever can, when he might be so much better employed? All we need or use of drill in actual war is to pass from column into line and from line into column by the simplest possible methods."

MUSCULAR MILITIAMEN.

The first battalion promises to develop some of the best all-round athletes in the city, and, while the most accomplished gymnast may not necessarily be the best soldier, it must be evident to any one that every soldier must enhance in effectiveness with a growth of muscular strength and skill. So far the gymnasium has been of decided advantage to the Light Infantry boys, and it undoubtedly deserves encouragement. Progress has been so satisfactory that on the evening of March 30 will be the first indoor military athletic games this city knows anything of. The contests, which will be complimentary, are open to members of the four companies and to honorary contributing members. The probable program has been arranged, and is as follows:

1. Exhibition. 2. Sparring—115 or 125-pound class. 3. Quarter-mile run (fatigue uniform). 4. Running high jump. 5. Tug of war—companies A and B. 6. Sparring—140 or 150-pound class. 7. 176-yard hurdle race. 8. Exhibition. 9. Three-legged race or sack race. 10. One-half-mile race—heavy marching order. 11. Wrestling. 12. Bicycle race (if track will permit). 13. Tug of war—companies C and D. 14. One-lap sprint race—88 yards. 15. Putting 16-pound shot. 16. Sparring—heavy weight. 17. Final tug of war for winners. 18. Obstacle race—176 yards.

This program will be subject to revision up to within a week of the date of the games. Seekers after information are referred to Capt. Allison Nailor, jr., president of the Washington Light Infantry Corps Athletic Association; John A. Heydler, secretary; Capt. C. C. M. Loeffler, director of athletics, or Instructor Maurice Joyce.

For the information of members the management has issued a circular, in which it says: "As the success of this, the first military athletic meeting ever held at the capital, will depend mainly upon the list of entries from the four companies, and feeling confident that there is sufficient material in every company to enter a strong athletic team, it is very essential that every athletic-inclined member interest himself and properly 'fit' himself for these contests at once.

"The games will be of a military nature as far as possible. All contests will be scored by points, which will be credited to the winners as well as to the company from which they are entered. The company gaining the highest number of points will be entitled to a trophy emblematic of the corps championship. The individual corps champion will be presented with a suitable medal.

"Admission will be by card only. On account of small seating space a limited number of cards, entitling bearer and ladies to entrance, will be issued to every member of the corps; competitors will be allowed an increase over others.

"Complete records will be kept of every company and member's performance in all athletic contests."

AS TO DISTINGUISHED MARKSMEN.

Many of the recommendations made by Maj. Pollard, inspector general of rifle practice, in his last annual report have already received some attention at the hands of Gen. Ordway. Among these is one which makes provision for the establishment of a classification heretofore unknown to the National Guard, and up to this time a peculiarly proper feature only to be found in connection with rifle practice in the United States army. Members of this class are known as "distinguished marksmen." Maj. Pollard's suggestion was to the effect that District National Guardsmen whose record scores for the year amounted to 90 per cent of the possible should become members of this class. The abstract idea was generally commended by every one who understood it. This result was perhaps unlooked for; a gratifying condition of affairs, as will be seen when the scope of the proposition is realized. A "distinguished marksman" is not allowed to compete with any one other than a member of the same class, except for place on teams, unless the commanding general shall deem it best to temporarily rule otherwise. This means that none of the "distinguished marksmen" in the District forces can enter any individual competition that may take place under the auspices of the local military authorities, with the exception of such matches as may be for "distinguished marksmen" only. Apart from District National Guard matches the distinguished marksman may compete with whom he pleases. The advantages of this scheme must be evident to the younger sharpshooters, for it will remove some of their most dangerous competitors. The arrangement is not altogether one sided. To be a distinguished marksman will be the biggest honor known to the rifle-shooting soldier. Gen. Ordway is a firm believer in the idea, but he disagrees with Maj. Pollard as to the qualification. The general is always guided to a considerable extent by the law in the case. He operates the National Guard according to the rules laid down by the War Department authorities and in this matter he does not propose to depart from Blunt's "Small Arms Firing Regulations." That publication will some of these days guide the general to the issuing of an order declaring that officers or enlisted men who have three times been members of the brigade team will thereafter be designated "distinguished marksmen." An appropriate badge will be presented each man who enters the new class.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE.

Gallery practice is now the most popular feature of local national guard work. Every day finds a number of men taking advantage of the "unlimited practice" order, and, as a result, the scores which have so far become matters of official record are in many instances phenomenal. The gallery will be occupied five nights next week. Those members of the guard who are deficient in soldierly qualities could do much worse than look in on Monday evening to see how troop A does it duty. There is no injustice done any other company in the brigade when it is said that troop A is "the" model.

For the remainder of the week the program is:

Tuesday—Company B, first separate battalion.

Wednesday—Companies B and C, fifth battalion.

Thursday—Company A, fourth battalion.

Friday—Engineer corps.

THE FIRST'S GALLERY IN OPERATION.

If the first battalion does not have the most complete and satisfactory target record the blame cannot be laid on the appliances, for a better indoor range cannot be found than the one which has been fitted up in the southeast corner of the big drill hall. There are three targets always kept in the best condition. These are made available for night practice by ten gas jets, so set and hinged that the entire illuminating apparatus can be swung up to the ceiling and out of the way when there is no firing going on. The targets are protected, when not in use, by wooden covering securely locked. Lieut. Ebert is extremely and justifiably proud of the range. He anticipates and will doubtless secure wonderful results in the way of complete scores. Hundreds of men failed to make a decent showing in rifle practice last year because they had one or two incomplete scores. The probabilities are against any such thing happening again.

HOW MANY DISTRICT MEN WILL GET THERE.

It is now reasonably certain that there will be an international rifle competition in Chicago during August or September, 1893. Gov. Fifer of Illinois has moved in the matter by appointing a board of officers to make the necessary arrangements. The range will be a new one, within easy reaching distance of the city. Foreign countries are to be invited to send teams, and these are to compete with a team from the army and a team from the National Guard. Just how this latter team is to be made up has not yet been determined upon, but the contest for places on it will be a battle of the giants. A lengthy and mouth-watering program of individual matches is also promised.

A RUSTIC FESTIVAL.

"The Rustic Festival of the Washington Light Infantry Corps" promises to be the most enjoyably novel entertainment presented in this city for some time. Just what it really is cannot yet be stated because the plans are yet incomplete, but there are committee consultations with electricians and florists, which can easily be regarded as indicative of something decidedly attractive. With the unconscious aid of hundreds of electric lights and such an aggregation of evergreen and flowers as is but rarely seen the big armory is to be transformed. The festival, which will open on March 23 and close on April 2, is in no sense to be a fair. There will be no soliciting of votes or anything of that sort. Committees composed of active and honorary members of the corps are hard at work on preliminaries and in a few days the program will be complete. On Tuesday afternoon next, at 4 o'clock, the ladies of the corps who have been invited to assist in the management will meet in the officers' room of the armory for consultation with the male enthusiasts.

NOTES.

Gen. Ordway and Maj. Pollard are both on the sick list. The general's indisposition has been very persistent; Maj. Pollard's attack of grip has been really dangerous.

Color Sergt. William T. Kelly, third battalion, is transferred from the non-commissioned staff to company A, as sergeant.

Beginning with Wednesday, February 17, the weekly drills of company C, third battalion, will take place on Wednesday evenings, as formerly.

Lieut. H. Forsberg of the engineer corps might be a captain—commanding the light battery—if he so desired. The honor and responsibility were tendered him, but he declined, preferring his lieutenancy of engineers.

THE LONELY WIDOW.

For Bill's Sake She Would Go It Alone for the Present.

From the Detroit Free Press.

"One day, when I was driving along the road about twenty miles from Omaha," remarked the drummer, as he lit his fourth cigar, "I stopped at a one-room comfortable sort of a shack to get a drink of water."

"Water?" queried a man over the table, but the drummer paid no attention.

"There was a woman in the front yard packing her household stuff on to a wagon with a mule hitched to it," he continued, "and she let up long enough to bring me a dipper full from a bucket on a bench by the door.

"'Moving?' I queried.

"'Yes,' she replied. 'I'm gittin' out for good, I guess.'

"'What's that for? This looks like a fairly comfortable place to live in.'

"'Well,' she exclaimed shortly, "it is, er leastways it wuz before Bill died, but sence he's been tuck 'tain't like it used ter wuz.' You see, mister, Bill wuz my husband, an' fer about twenty ye'r we've been livin' in these parts, an' fer ten past in this very shack. We didn't have no neighbors, but Bill an' me ustter fight about every jay, an' sometimes he mought lick me an' then ag'in, mister, he mought'n't. It wuz about six o' one an' half dozen uv the other the ye'r 'round, an' ther wuzn't no hard feelin's betwixt us 'bout which wuz boss. He wuz tuck about three weeks ago, an' sence that I'm that lonesome I've just got to have society er bust.'

"'Why don't you marry again and stay right here in the old home?' I suggested.

"'I've thought about that, mister, but somehow it don't seem quite the fa'r thing to Bill, an' besides, ther's a chance of making a mistake. I might git a feller that would a lick me every time, an' I couldn't stan' that; or I might git one that I could lick every time, an' I couldn't stand that nuther. Ther's nothin' jug-handle about my style, mister, an' takin' a fa'r account uv all the reaks, I've about made up my mind to widder along the best I can, leastways, mister,' and she blushed faintly, 'leastways fer the present.'

"By this time she had begun her packing again, and finding that I was not particularly needed I bade her good-bye and left."

The Situation Critical at Coal Creek.

Perhaps the most remarkable celebration of Lincoln's birthday in the country occurred at Coal Creek, in the mountains of East Tennessee, where a garrison of guards are standing between free and convict miners. A large crowd was in attendance, and red hot speeches were made by three leaders. One of them, Ingraham, said: "The eyes of the world are on you, and if a citizen of Coal Creek loses his life in the struggle the army of Tennessee will be exterminated." The wires have been cut, and a fight was looked for by the garrison.

If men know as much at forty years of age as they knew at twenty there would be more statesmen in the country.—*Texas Siftings.*

GOINGS-ON IN SPORTS.

Current Topics of the Diamond, Turf and Athletic Field.

THE COMING BALL SEASON.

All Quiet in the Local Field—The Richardson Case Hangs Fire—Social League of Athletic Clubs—Break From the Amateur Athletic Union—Sullivan's Fight With Maher.

The past week has been quite uneventful in the local base ball world. There is little to be done now but to wait for warmer weather. Two weeks from Monday the members of the Washington team will meet Manager Barnie prepared for a southern trip. No word of dissent has been made by any of the players assigned to Washington but D. Richardson. On the contrary, an amount of enthusiasm unusual in a Washington club has been displayed. During the southern limbering-up trip, when the team will meet others of the new league, some idea of its remarkable strength may be obtained. President Young has been enjoying a rest at his Mt. Pleasant home for some time, and in reply to inquiries says that there is no news.

The Richardson case still hangs fire, and from present appearances will be a battle royal on the part of the New York management. They have taken on the argument of life or death and claim anything from dissolution of the club to an earthquake on Manhattan Isle should Richardson's assignment to the Washington club hold good. For the league to decide against the Washington club in the case would be a rank injustice and would be the breaking of an agreement entered into at the Indianapolis meeting, an agreement if ignored which may perhaps be the cause of the undoing of all the great work of that meeting. We have it from a semi-official source that Mr. Wagner has given his fellow-magnates to understand that should Richardson be reassigned he will consider it a direct blow at him personally for past affiliations in the base ball world, and that he would almost as soon think of giving up the franchise of the Washington club as to letting Richardson go to New York. This stand is not taken on account of Danny's playing abilities so much as a guarantee to the Washington patrons of the game of Mr. Wagner's earnest endeavor to give them a first-class team.

Ex-Magnate Stern of Cincinnati, in an interview recently, speaking in regard to the Richardson case, said that the stability and prosperity of the league depended upon Richardson going back to New York. He said that city required a first-class team and would patronize nothing else. To weaken the team financially or in playing strength, would weaken the league, and when it came to injuring any one the prosperity of the other eleven clubs should be considered first.

This argument is decidedly the strongest one that has been put forward so far in the controversy. Any one at all acquainted with base ball history will agree that when the pockets of the magnates are likely to be touched it is generally a case of the horned gentleman taking the hindmost. An injustice to one man is a small matter and if Washington retains Sir Daniel it will be because the good old fighting blood of Barnie and Wagner has asserted itself and would not down. Washington has unquestionably all the rights in the case, and for the honor, squareness and good of the game it is to be hoped the rulers will consider an honorable action first and the mercenary one last.

THE LOCAL PITCHERS.

It is strange how different the opinions of writers are when it comes to sizing up the playing strength of the different clubs and picking out weak spots therein. Here in Washington many agree that Washington's weak spot is in the box, while the base ball scribes of other cities apparently think that is our strongest point. Knell has been keeping in trim out on the Pacific slope, and his work has been a revelation to the "fans" there. As a fielding pitcher Knell ranks among the best, as the patrons of the game in this city will indorse when they recall the artistic manner in which he backed up first base for the Columbus club while playing on the local grounds. Gastright degenerated a little last season, but claims to have recovered his old time ability, and may disappoint many croakers the coming season. Dolan can be depended upon to do good work from the drop of the flag to the finish, as he is one of the best in the business. To keep him in strict alignment with the essential conditions of a ball player during the playing season will be Barnie's chief trouble in regard to this player and the assurances of Dolan himself, it is hoped, will crystallize into reality. Both Gastright and Dolan have for some time past been getting into condition in a gymnasium out in Cincinnati and the Cincinnati *Enquirer* says both men are in the pink of condition and keeping good hours. In Killen the Washingtons have a comer. This is the opinion of seven-eighths of the base ball writers of the country and his past work would certainly appear to carry out this claim. Foreman all know, and although he will have to face new men his nerve and sagacity will, no doubt, be amply sufficient to keep him up with the band wagon. This completes the list of Washington's available pitching talent and with the backing they will receive in a fielding, batting and base running sense should be able to hold their own in any company. The Washington club is unquestionably a dark horse in the race for the championship and local followers of the game would do well to get on board the train of general outside opinion and enthuse over its abilities and incidentally boom the game back into the wonderful popularity of 1889. That the enthusiasm and success of that year may return is the sincere wish of all lovers of the great game.

The latest advices from Westfield, Pa., where Daniel Richardson, the merchant ball player, puts in part of his time looking after his branch store there, are to the effect that he is not "bluffing" when he says he will not come to Washington. Daniel has written the following to a personal friend in New York:

"Billy" Barnie was up here to see me last week. He tried to persuade me that it would be to my advantage to go to Washington and captain the team. I could have a new contract drawn up to my own liking or hold the one I have already, which is perfectly good. I told him I had lost all faith in the Wagners, as I feel sure they signed Roger Connor and myself to further their own interests, as they knew well the consolidation deal would go through, and by signing us strengthened their position. As Barnie admitted they got $15,000 more for their club, I think we did pretty well for them and they have no chance to kick.

I signed with them to play in Philadelphia in good faith and would have fulfilled my contract to the letter if things did not take the turn they have. My case is different from the other players, as the club I signed with went out of existence before I played a game with them. Then, again, I deny the right of any two men to dictate to me where I must play. Of course, it is no use to kick through the papers, as it is an old chestnut, and they will say you are looking after the advertisement. Hence I am keeping quiet, but when the time comes they will find that I don't "bluff" worth a cent. The way the thing stands now I want to get back to New York, but don't intend to lose anything by so doing. All the base ball people in Elmira want to see me there, and, in fact, all my interests would be benefited more or less by my so doing. Besides, I feel I have a few friends among the base ball public of New York, and my relations to the club officials and people there in general have been of the most pleasant nature imaginable.

Taking all the circumstances connected with my case under consideration I feel I have a perfect right to return there so long as they wish me to and I am satisfied. Wagner and Earnie can find no excuse whereby they are entitled to my services (without my consent), either by moral or base ball law.

The Washingtons will play the Dartmouth College ball nine on April 12 at National Park.

The Dartmouths will play the Georgetown College team on April 9.

Catcher Owen F. Clerk, formerly of the Washington and Buffalo ball clubs, died Tuesday in Brooklyn at the home of his father, ex-Alderman Patrick Clark.

Editor F. C. Richter in summing up the Giants' persistent wail for their lost second soul editorially declares: "If the New York club or any club should bring up the case of Richardson or any other assigned player in the league meeting the chairman would be justified in promptly ruling it out of order."

Anson After Gumbert.

Ad Gumbert has received a letter from Anson requesting him to report for business on March 1 to accompany the team to Hot Springs. Gumbert replied that when the club got ready to pay him the price contracted for in his five years' contract he would be on hand. This looks as if Anson had no intention of trading Gumbert to Louisville. Gumbert evidently means just what he says in his stand for last year's salary.

The Brooklyns to Go South.

Ward will take the Brooklyns south before the season opens. Ward said the other day: "I shall try to persuade the officials of the necessity of taking the club south for preliminary work. An early beginning of the championship season makes this almost imperative. I have an advantageous offer from Ocala, Fla. Harry Wright is still figuring for grounds at Gainesville, Fla., and if Chicago, New York or Washington should go south we would have some excellent practice. I am greatly pleased with the outlook for next season and especially with that of the Brooklyn Club. We have a good team and from what I hear of the New York Club I think we can beat them easily. I went south with Billy Harris of the New York Athletic Club. We had some fine sport. Together we killed 1,200 quail, to say nothing of the English snipe, ducks, &c."

New York Still Thinking of Richardson.

The annual meeting of the New York Base Ball Club directors was held this week. After the various reports for the year had been read the stockholders re-elected the entire board of directors, consisting of John B. Day, J. W. Spalding, C. T. Dillingham, E. B. Talcott, Cornelius Van Cott, F. B. Robinson and J. E. Sullivan. The board then organized by electing John B. Day, president; J. Walter Spalding, treasurer, and C. D. White, secretary. The Richardson and the Kelly matter was referred to the executive committee consisting of Messrs. Day, Talcott and Spalding. Just before John Ward left the stockholders' meeting he made an interesting bet with Mr. Talcott. The Brooklyn managers hold ten shares of the New York Club's stock. Mr. Talcott offered to wager twenty shares against Ward's ten shares that the New Yorks beat Brooklyns out in the race. Ward snapped the offer up so quickly that it made the New York director dizzy.

Boston's Team to Go South.

The Boston league nine will probably make a southern trip, starting for Charlottesville, Va., March 20, and remaining there until April 7, Fast day. A game of ball will be played in Richmond, and practice in Charlottesville will be taken with the nine of the University of Virginia. After the return from the south games will be played in New Haven with the Yale nine and with other college nines previous to the opening of the regular championship season.

Cincinnati Will Not Go South.

Within the next few days the spring plans of the Cincinnati Club will be fully outlined. John T. Brush and Frank C. Bancroft have arrived. The New Bedford man is likely to be engaged as business manager of the Reds. A new hand ball court will be built for practice and no southern trip will be made.

No Harvard-Yale Base Ball Dates Yet.

As yet no arrangements have been made for a series of base ball games between Yale and Harvard this year, and college men are beginning to wonder why the associations are holding off and delaying making the final arrangements.

BASE BALL NOTES.

The Boston club will take no action toward releasing Kelly before the league and association meeting in March.

Long John Healy, the pitcher, is living out on Sheridan avenue, Pittsburg, enjoying married life.

Pitcher Camp, who has been signed by the Pittsburg club, is only nineteen years of age and is said to be remarkably cool while in the box.

With Brouthers, Joyce and Haddock on the team the Brooklyns will be very popular in Boston next season.

Tom Loftus has been appointed to the police force in Buffalo.

Pitcher Sharrott says he will be able to pitch for New York from the start this year.

Col. "Sloppy" Robinson is still at liberty.

Sid Farrar, once the famous first baseman of the Phillies, who is in business with Frank Selee in Melrose, Mass., will play on the local team of that place occasionally next season.

On March 26 the Kansas City team play the St. Louis Browns. This will be about the earliest game of the season in the north.

Capt. Tebeau has closed a Hot Springs contract and will take the Cleveland team there.

Geo. Washington Bradley, the once noted pitcher, is now a member of the Philadelphia police force.

Shannon, Sutcliffe, Griffin and Eitlejorg, who "jumped" the Omahas last year, are still without engagements.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.* Mr. Diddlebock knows that these players were all released before they left Omaha to come to Washington.

A Milwaukee authority—W. E. Smith—says that Pittsburg has signed a better all-around player in Earle than Grimm in batting, base running and behind the bat, and both the Louisvilles and Pittsburgs' audiences will admit it after seeing both players.

Yale's mascots are a lame boy and bulldog.

Ed Hanlon and Beckley have left for the Hot Springs to be gone for three weeks.

Connie Mack is going to catch for a Florida club until April 1.

Roger Connor has signed with Philadelphia.

President Young has appointed M. J. Mahoney as one of the league staff of umpires.

Both Milligan and Wood are ready to sign when Manager Barnie goes after them.

AMONG THE WHEELMEN.

Facts and Fancies Concerning Bicycles and Bicyclists.

THE REGULATIONS ABOUT THE LAMP AND BELL—THE RAGE FOR PNEUMATIC TIRES—NOTES FROM THE CLUBS—THE ALARMING BREVITY OF RACING COSTUMES.

BICYCLING IS GUIDED BY THE weather and consequently there has not been very much pleasure riding indulged in this winter, while last winter bicycling was hardly interrupted during the entire season. Bicyclists believe in making hay while the sun shines, and for that reason they take advantage of every short spell of good weather. Having put up their wheels for some weeks, many of them forget to have their lamps trimmed and fitted, and consequently there can be no burning if they are delayed until after dark in getting home. On the other hand, many who get new bicycles for Christmas presents go out without a bell attached to their machine. At least two such persons have been arrested.

TWO SECTIONS OF INTEREST.

There are two sections of the regulations that refer to bicycles and tricycles and one is "that all bicycles and tricycles in motion after sundown shall display a suitable light and also have a light gong or bell so attached thereto as to be readily sounded to warn persons of their approach."

The other section provides "that all riders of bicycles and tricycles shall sound a light bell or gong when necessary to warn persons of their approach."

The Nomads had their usual Wednesday evening entertainment this week in the shape of a lemon party. The affair was given by Misses Alice de Neale and Bessie Bedford at the club house, 1019 F street, and most of the club members were present. The prizes were won by Mr. Wm. Bromwell and Miss Laura Wiley.

THE PNEUMATIC TIRE.

The chief topic of conversation among the club members now is as to those who are going to get new wheels before the opening of the riding season. The pneumatic tire is all the rage now and as one of the members of a club expressed it the other night: "If you ain't got a pneumatic you ain't in it."

Mr. George Washburn of the Arlington wheelmen was the first club member this season to appear on a pneumatic, and he laughs at some of the more expert riders when they attempt to cope with him riding the hills on the country roads.

Speaking of the pneumatic tire question the *League Bulletin* says: "Now that the pneumatic tire is before the cycling public so prominently, and day by day is becoming more popular, it may not be amiss to say a few words upon the tendency of the manufacturers. Accepting the generally admitted ideas of today as correct, the proper form for the air tire is that one having a thickened thread and thin side walls; with this form the conditions are nearest to perfect resilience. This form in itself is the point of greatest weakness, as under severe strain these side walls are likely to bulge or blister. It is an open question whether or not it would not be well to sacrifice some of the resilient qualities and make the tire more reliable when upon the road. Yet the cycling public demand the tire possessing the greatest resiliency, so the form that will give it is furnished by the manufacturers. These in turn, knowing the weakness of this construction, are in consequence constantly striving for a form of tire or rim that will permit of repairs being made with the greatest facility. The trend of the trade is more generally in the direction of an easy repairing scheme than toward a strengthening of the tire itself. No one but the cyclist and his demands is the cause of this. To us it seems that a strong tire even at the expense of some resiliency would be preferable."

THE PHILADELPHIA SHOW.

"Who's going to the Philadelphia show next week?" is the question for the wheelmen to answer. The show opens Monday and closes on Washington's birthday. Almost every bicycle factory in this country, as well as some of the English firms, are represented and the affair, which is an assured success, will bring together all the prominent bicycle men of the country.

RACING COSTUME.

The *League Bulletin* of last week, speaking of racing costumes, called attention to the crack riders in this way: "A few years ago the brevity of the racing man's garments became so alarming that the L. A. W. formulated a rule requiring racing suits to cover knee and shoulder. For a time things went better, the league even enforcing this law against indecency to the extent of defending itself against a lawsuit brought by a member who thought his reputation had been ruined because he was not allowed to race in clothing contrary to the league's specifications. During the past season the racing costumes of our cracks have grown beautifully less and less until they have become in many instances positively indecent. We do not desire to pose as favoring those ultra-purists who think Apollo should wear bloomers and Diana a hoop skirt, but we do want to go on record as most decidedly against the appearance of men upon a track barely quarter clad. There is no necessity for such practices, and if the innate decency be lacking in those who thus expose themselves we are in favor of supplying the deficiency by the strict enforcement of the L. A. W. rule against baring knee and shoulder. Any racing man who cannot compete under such restrictions had better forsake cycling and adopt swimming, where the minimum of clothing is not so much of an offense against modesty and good morals."

CHAMPION ATHLETES OF 1891.

The A. A. U. Prizes Awarded for Individual Excellence.

On March 13, 1891, the board of managers of the Amateur Athletic Union determined to award prizes for individual excellence. Scoring to be done on a basis of five points for first place, three points for second and one point for third in each contest. Points to be scored and aggregated from January 1 to December 31 inclusive of each year and the prizes to be awarded on or before February 1 of the following year.

The committee appointed to award the prizes has finished its labors and decide that the trophies should be distributed as follows:

For excellence in the championship meetings of the Amateur Athletic Union: J. S. Mitchell, New York A. C., 14 points; G. M. Hammond, New York A. C.; L. H. Cary, Manhattan A. C.; T. P. Conneff, M. A. C., and C. A. J. Queckberner, M. A. C., a tie for second and third prizes, each scoring 10 points.

For excellence in the championship meetings of the Amateur Athletic Union and its several associations:

Running—L. H. Cary, M. A. C., and T. P. Conneff, M. A. C., a tie, each scoring 20 points.

Walking—C. L. Nicoll, M. A. C, 16 points.

Hurdling—A. F. Copland, M. A. C., 15 points.

Bicycling—*N.* F. Murphy, N. Y. A. C., and C. M. Murphy, N. Y. A. C., a tie, each scoring 5 points.

Jumping—A. Nickerson, N. Y. A. C.; C. S. Reber, Pastime A. C., St. Louis, Mo., and T. Luce, Detroit (Mich.) A. C., a tie, each scoring 10 points.

Heavy Weights—J. S. Mitchell, N. Y. A. C., 25 points.

The prices have been ordered and will be ready for distribution about March 15.

REVOLT OF ATHLETES.

The Staten Island A. C. Resigns From the A. A. U.

The Staten Island Athletic Club has thrown a bombshell into the Amateur Athletic Union camp by resigning its membership in the Metropolitan Association of the A. A. U. There was a long discussion on the question, after which the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas we are not in accord with the methods of the A. A. U., therefore be it

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to forward our resignation as a member of the Metropolitan Association of said organization.

A copy of the resolution was mailed to Secretary Sullivan.

When Secretary Gould was questioned concerning the reasons for the action taken by the club he said:

"Simply because we are not in harmony with the present methods of managing the affairs of the A. A. U. We had the step in contemplation for some time past and our action was unanimous. There was no friction. The resolution was submitted and adopted instantly. Yes, the Staten Island A. C. is in favor of the plan of forming a new league."

It is known that President Faber made a long address, in which he set forth that there was really no good reason why the club should remain a member of the Metropolitan Association, as there is no sympathy between them, and the latter had apparently lost its power as a promoter of the athletic interests of the district. President Faber's remarks were applauded.

THE SOCIAL-ATHLETIC LEAGUE.

Delegates to Be Sent by the Columbia Club.

The proposed United States League of Athletic Clubs promises to be a fact. As has been explained in THE STAR the purpose of the league is to develop the social side of the athletic clubs by providing for the interchange of hospitality. The Columbia Athletic Club of this city has looked upon the scheme kindly from the start, as it was an extension of a custom that has prevailed for some time of exchanging courtesies with the leading athletic clubs elsewhere. The meeting to take action regarding the proposed league will be held at Delmonico's in New York on February 19. The Columbia Club will send as delegates Messrs. Howard Perry, Alexander Grant and William B. Hibbs. Other delegates selected are:

New York A. C.—President Bartow S. Weeks, A. G. Mills, F. J. C. Blackhurst.

Athletic Club of the Schuylkill Navy—H. McMillan, W. T. Wallace, Thomas H. Fenton.

Staten Island A. C.—F. W. Janssen, J. H. W. Cole, Robert Mazet.

Athenæum Club, Toronto—President Charles Pearson, W. K. McNaughton, J. E. B. Littlejohn.

Pastime A. C., St. Louis—President A. D. Hartwell.

Providence A. A.—President Geo. L. Shepley, Alonzo E. Flint, John Shepley, jr.

Manhattan A. C.—President Geo. W. Carr, Walton Storm, Eugene Van Schaick.

Olympic A. C., San Francisco—Vice President E. A. Rix, M. H. Weed, A. C. Forsythe.

Jersey City A. C.—President S. R. Finney, C. Lee Myers, A. B. Dusenberg.

Detroit A. C.—President Frederick K. Stearns.

Montclair A. C.—B. Whitehorne, E. G. Burgess and Jas. D. Freeman.

A number of other clubs that have signified their approval of the plan have not yet announced their delegates.

The Toronto A. C. and Toronto Lacrosse and A. A. have sent a request for papers.

Chicago to Be a Western Athletic Center.

Governors A. G. Spalding and Henry Ives Cobb of the Chicago Athletic Association have returned to that city from a tour of inspection of the athletic clubs in New York and Philadelphia. "I am more delighted than ever with our association," said Mr. Spalding, "and am satisfied that it will be not only the largest but the most complete in its outfit. We will have all of the improvements to date, and it will be the best-arranged club house in the world. There will be ample room for every known game and the arrangements all through will be perfect. The building will be ready for occupancy in June or July, but the opening will probably be postponed until September. Chicago is bound in a few years to become the center of athletic sports and the new athletic association will be largely responsible for its development." Mr. Spalding, who has apparently lost interest in base ball, is enthusiastic over athletics.

Amateur Athletics.

A special meeting of the Columbia Athletic Club will be held at the club house on Thursday next at 8 p.m. to consider and to take action on the following subjects: Report of the special committee authorized by the club at the annual meeting of January 13; the annual reports for the year 1891, which were submitted at the annual meeting, but not acted upon; the proposed new constitution, consideration of which was postponed to the special meeting. The business to be transacted is of such vital interest to the members, and so deeply concerns the welfare of the club, that every member should be present. None but members will be admitted at the meeting.

Tommy Conneff, the champion amateur runner, has decided not to become a professional. He will remain at his home in Ireland for a few months, and, after he has had a rest, will train and compete in the amateur races in Great Britain. He will return to America in time to take part in the American championship races.

There is a movement on foot to organize an athletic association composed wholly of regiments. The promoters argue that a regimental athletic association outside the pale of the A. A. U. would prove a success.

On the new board track at Harvard the college's best outdoor half-mile record has been broken by George Batchelder, '92. His time was two minutes eight seconds.

Kibblewhite, the famous English amateur runner, will attempt to beat W. G. George's four-mile record, nineteen minutes thirty-nine and four-fifths seconds, some time this month.

Malcolm W. Ford has been elected director of gymnastics of the M. A. C.

An amateur athletic club has been organized at Sewickley, a suburb of Pittsburg. The club will build a $35,000 club house and $10,000 has already been subscribed.

P. Norman, the Irish athlete, has challenged E. McClelland to a twenty-five-mile race for the world's championship, to take place in Madison Square Garden at any time after the Maher-Fitzsimmons contest. They will run for $1,000 a side. Peter Maher will act as referee and stakeholder.

When Zimmerman, the 'cyclist, returns from Europe he proposes to join William W. Taxis of Philadelphia, and, after a few weeks' practice, attempt to lower the existing tandem records of the world.

LAWN TENNIS.

Annual Meeting and Election of the National Association.

New officers were elected at a meeting of the United States Lawn Tennis Association in New York Thursday night. They are as follows: President, H. W. Slocum, jr.; vice president, Howard A. Taylor; treasurer, Valentine G. Hall; secretary, S. F. Whittlesey. Executive committee—J. S. Clark, Philadelphia; Dr. J. S. Dwight, Boston; C. E. Stickney, Springfield; O. S. Campbell, Brooklyn; E. B. Tuthill, Chicago, and the other officers of the association.

After many resolutions and amendments were offered and voted down it was decided to hold the championship doubles at any place the executive committee might select. The finals will be played at Newport unless the Casino people prefer to have them played elsewhere.

The championship in ladies' singles and doubles will be played upon the grounds of the Philadelphia Cricket Club.

It was decided to establish a championship in mixed doubles. This also will be played on the Philadelphia grounds.

Saratoga will be the place where the middle states championships will be held if satisfactory terms can be made with the local tennis club.

The championships in singles will probably be played at Newport, as usual, but the executive committee will endeavor to have the promise of a new grand stand on the Casino grounds before the date and place are decided upon.

The Wright & Ditson ball was again adopted.

WILL CLAIM RECORDS.

Amateur Athletes Who Did Remarkable Feats in England Last Year.

The London, England, *Pastime* in a recent issue makes the following announcements:

The following will be the claimants for records at the next meeting of the A. A. A. records committee:

H. Curtis (Highgate H.)—Walking 1 mile: 6.36, July 11, 1891, at Stamford Bridge grounds, in sports of London Athletic Club.

H. Curtis—Walking 2 miles: 14.2 2-5, July 4, 1891, at Stamford Bridge, in sports of Railway Clearing House Athletic Club, or 14.2 3-5, April 25, 1891, at Tufnell Park, in sports of Highgate Harriers, or 14.10 1-5, April. 1891, at Tufnell Park, in sports of Spartan Harriers.

H. Curtis—Walking 6 miles: 1.1.6 1-5, July 18, 1891, at Paddington, in sports of Highgate Harriers.

L. H. Cary (Manhattan A. C.)—Running 100 yards: 10 s., July 13, in sports of North Durham C. C. (existing record, 10 s., by A. Wharton, at Stamford Bridge, July 3, 1886).

R. D. Dickenson (Windermere)—Pole jump