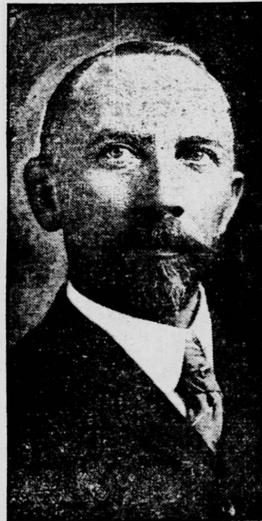


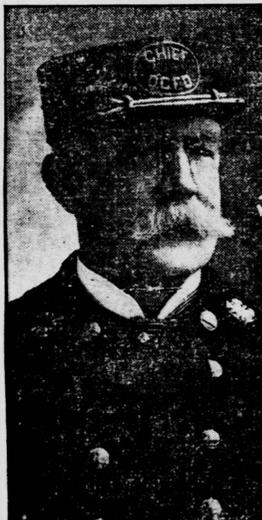
FAN FOOD FROM LOCAL FANS



By Revere Rodgers.



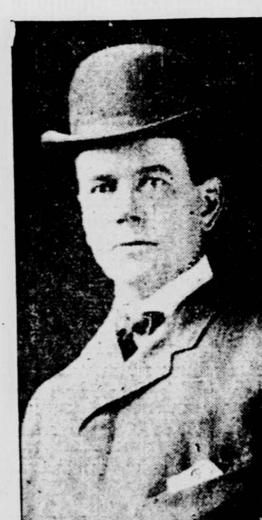
Commissioner West.



Chief Belt.



H. T. Schmidt.



Richard J. Beall, Jr.

By Revere Rodgers.

THAT Washington at the present time is a city literally overrun with base ball fans is a fact, for the great American sport certainly has the hammer-lock hold upon the denizens of the Capital city and no mistake. The base ball fever is rampant at the present time, and the fever heat of interest is rapidly mounting, so that it is hovering dangerously near the hysteria point, but with everybody happy.

Base ball, unlike any other sport under the sun, is the greatest level known, so far as social conditions are concerned. At a base ball game the rich man, beggar man, poor man and thief can be seen fraternizing as freely as though they were all of the same social set; for a base ball fan in the excitement of the moment plays no favorites, and he will talk animatedly with any one upon any point of the game that may arise at the time.

Washington city, so professional ball players tell you, contains more rabid fans

for its size than any ballcock in the world, and incidentally it may be mentioned that the professionals are unanimous in their statements that the Capital city fans are the fairest ever known, for the Washington base ball enthusiasts will, with a sportsmanlike spirit worthy of emulation by their brother fans in other cities, warmly applaud a good play on the part of a visiting player as they will a similar bit of good work on the part of a local "spike-shoe" artist.

The most prominent base ball fan in Washington is President Roosevelt, and but few visiting clubs ever come to town without calling in a body on the chief executive, and the royal reception they receive at the White House from the President serves to gladden the cockles of their hearts.

President Roosevelt when he was a student at Harvard was a devotee of the great national game. When the Detroit team called on the President one day recently, Mr. Roosevelt declared that he knew of no game that carried with it more healthy interest than base ball, and

moment's notice he can tell you who's who among the ball players in the American League. Representative Tawney thinks Bender of the Athletics one of the best boxmen in the game today.

Frye an Ardent Rooter.

Senator Frye of Maine is one of the most ardent rooters in Washington, and he can be found at the base ball park almost any day when in town. When the writer approached the senator for his views on base ball, the senator's staid face became all aglow, as he leaned back in his easy chair and said: "My fondness for fishing is only equalled by the enjoyment I derive from witnessing a good base ball game. Consequently, whenever I can find the time to get away from the Capitol it is safe to wager a good cigar that I can be found out at the Nationals' park enjoying the contest there. Base ball has come to be an exact science, and it is the most manly sport, in my opinion, ever devised for the enjoyment of the American people."

Another old enthusiast, and a far older man than Senator Frye, but who still preserves his youthful enthusiasm when it comes to base ball, is the venerable

Gen. Grosvenor of Ohio, who, leaving politics aside, thinks that base ball is the greatest game under the sun. With a merry twinkle in his deep-set, piercing eyes, he exclaimed: "Since the latter sixties, when the famous Red Stockings were in their prime, I have never lost interest in the national game, and I find as keen enjoyment in witnessing a game today as I ever did. I never miss an opportunity of being on hand when the gong sounds. Nothing in my mind adds so much zest to an afternoon's enjoyment as does a snappy base ball game."

Representative Overstreet of Indiana, who can be found when in town in a box seat over near first base, says: "It is a source of great pleasure to me to sit behind first base and watch the plays of the Washington infield."

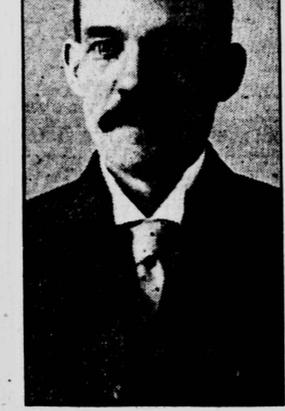
Representative Cousins of Iowa, one of the jolliest men in the House, is a rooster of the warwhooping variety. The Iowa product is a gentleman so overcharged with animal spirits that he loves to give vent to them by loud and healthy exclamations when attending a base ball game. The strident voice of the representative from Iowa can be heard all over the grandstand, and in speaking about his fondness for the national pastime Mr. Cousins says: "When the boys are playing in Washington I am right out at the park to see them do stunts, and when they are away from home I find myself making a break for the sporting section of the paper the first thing, in order to follow up what the individual members of the Washington club are doing."

Chairman Tawney of the House committee on appropriations is one of the hottest of fans attending a ball game at the First street grounds, and, like Mr. Cousins, Representative Tawney is very open and above board in his rooting. When this famous Minnesotan unleashes a few cheers the people in his neighborhood are apt to put their hands up to their ears. Mr. Tawney is not only a simon-pure rooster, but he is one of the legislators who is a student of the game, and at a

he furthermore added that he deeply regretted the fact that the cares of his office kept him from attending the games out at the local park; still he went on to say that he kept up to date on anything occurring in base ball circles, and this was well proven by the President's knowledge of the names and the records of the different professional players.

Schaeffer Umpires Roosevelt Game.

Before Jennings and his outfit departed from the White House Mr. Roosevelt asked Schaeffer, the second baseman of the Tigers, to officiate as umpire in a game that was to be played by two boy clubs, one of which were Quentin



Albert N. Conner.

Roosevelt, the President's youngest son, and Charley Taft, son of the presidential nominee. This game was pulled off back of the White House, and President Roosevelt was an interested spectator and a hardy rooster for his boy's team.

Next in prominence to President Roosevelt, and a thirty-third degree rooster is Vice President Fairbanks, whose face lighted up when he was approached regarding his fondness for base ball. He said: "Legislative cares are temporarily put aside and forgotten when I go to a ball game, and one of the pleasantest moments of my life is when I am standing in the grandstand watching the skill and the agility of two teams evenly matched. It's the best tonic I know of, and the time passed in the open air is not only a fine recreation, but it is conducive to the enjoyment of a good dinner."

Secretary of the Navy Metcalf is also one of Washington's prominent fans, and the Secretary makes no bones about letting the matter become public, for he has said: "Being an ardent admirer of outdoor sports generally, my footsteps tend usually toward the Washington base ball park when seeking an afternoon's enjoyment."

Overstreet Enjoys Gamp.

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Francis Nye.

Prominent Washington Base Ball Fans—The Kind That Would Miss a Good Meal... Order to Witness a Game—Their Expressions in Regard to Their Favorite Sport—Statesmen, Bankers and Business Men Who Make Regular Pilgrimages to the Ball Park.

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Ruppert Is an Authority.

While the base ball fever is rampant all over Washington, and without respect to creed or color, and while it has succeeded in thoroughly infecting every government employe in the city, yet in the District office the base ball fever is at blood heat, and a fan looking for an argument concerning the great national pastime can surely be accommodated down at the Commissioners' room.

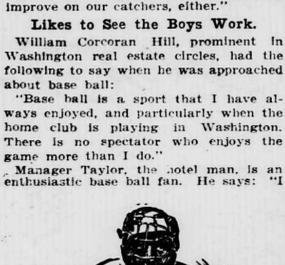


Francis Nye, one of the District assessors, in answer to the writer's query as to his liking for base ball, threw up his hands expressively as he cried out: "Do I like base ball? Why, say, I'm the original office boy that you've been reading so much about in the funny papers."

William Corcoran Hill, prominent in Washington real estate circles, had the following to say when he was approached about base ball: "Base ball is a sport that I have always enjoyed, and particularly when the home club is playing in Washington. There is no spectator who enjoys the game more than I do."

Manager Taylor, the hotel man, is an enthusiastic base ball fan. He says: "I am brought into contact with the visiting players who stop with me, and they are unanimous in their statements when they declare that the Nationals are a hard proposition to go up against. They consider Washington one of the hardest towns in the circuit in which to get away with a game."

Dr. Edward Stevens says: "It is the

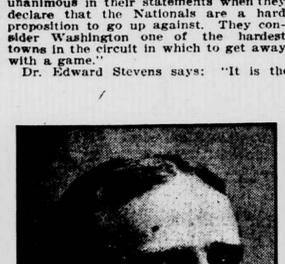


most companionable of men, it didn't worry him in the least that he was to captain a team of privates. What the general wanted was to take that game, and with the energy that is one of his characteristics, he started in to play ball.

True Base Ball Story.

At the general's first turn at the bat he made a hit and got on the bases, and in going around to each one he noticed the silence on the part of his men, who did not offer to coach him, although they made enough racket when one of their other teammates got on the bases. Suddenly the fact presented itself to the general's mind that the privates were awed by his rank. When he arrived at this correct solution of the problem he called the players around him and told them that while he was playing ball with them he wished to be treated as one of them, and that his title and standing should be forgotten.

When the general came to the bat next



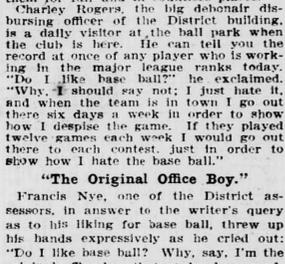
Edward Fuller.

Both Commissioners West and Morrow are dyed-in-the-wool fans, while the many hundreds of employes serving under them are proud to acknowledge the fact that the base ball bug has stung them for fair and in countless places.

Charley Rogers, the big debonaire discharging officer of the District building, is a daily visitor at the ball park when the club is here. He can tell you the record at once of any player who is working in the major league ranks today. "Do I like base ball?" he exclaimed. "Why, I should say not; I just hate it, and when the team is in town I go out there six days a week in order to show how I despise the game. If they played twelve games each week I would go out there six days a week in order to show how I hate the base ball."

The Original Office Boy.

Francis Nye, one of the District assessors, in answer to the writer's query as to his liking for base ball, threw up his hands expressively as he cried out: "Do I like base ball? Why, say, I'm the original office boy that you've been reading so much about in the funny papers."



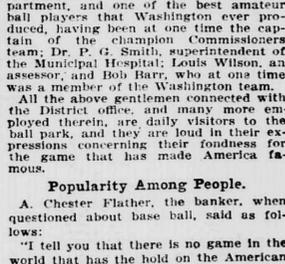
C. B. Hunt, engineer of highways, is a great base ball fan, as are E. E. Heim, chief clerk, engineer department; W. Lapham, civil engineer; Ralph B. Pratt, secretary to Commissioner West; Daniel Gargus, secretary to Commissioner Morrow; Ed Fuller, clerk in the engineer department, and one of the best amateur ball players that Washington ever produced, having been at one time the captain of the champion Commissioners' team; Dr. P. G. Smith, superintendent of the Municipal Hospital; Louis Wilson, an assessor, and Bob Barr, who at one time was a member of the Washington team.

All the above gentlemen connected with the District office, and many more employed therein, are daily visitors to the ball park, and they are loud in their expressions concerning their fondness for the game that has made America famous.

Popularity Among People.

A. Chester Flather, the banker, when questioned about base ball, said as follows: "I tell you that there is no game in the world that has the hold on the American people like base ball has, and say what you might, but it is the healthiest tonic that a man can have prescribed for him. When you get out to the park you forget the business cares of the day, and instead of going 'home worried and tired you feel like another man with an appetite that a Sandow would be proud of."

Dr. Connors is a base ball fan who enjoys the game. He says: "Well, if I don't like base ball, then I don't like living. It appears to me as if every man, woman and child in Washington is interested in



Louis C. Wilson.

the game, for nine out of every ten people coming into our stores always manage to switch the conversation to base ball, while nearly fifty inquiries come over the phones each night asking what the score

Richard Street, the banker, says: "Yes, base ball certainly has this town in its grasp, if one can judge from all the talk that is going on about the game, and take it from me, that we bank clerks do our share of base ball talk. While some subjects necessarily tire one, yet base ball the more that it is talked about seems to increase in interest. At least I find it so, and whenever I have a chance it is me to the ball park."

Longworth a Fan.

Nicholas Longworth, the President's son-in-law, says: "Yes, I have always been fond of base ball, and I seldom neglect an opportunity to witness a contest."

James Patterson of the Navy Department, who is one of the old-time enthusiasts, has this to say about base ball: "In bygone days I was secretary of the National club, when Senator Gorman was playing second base for the team, and my liking for the game has never wavered. I am as proud of the present Nationals, as I was of the old. They are a fast bunch, and are going to do something before the season is over."

One of the most prominent of the Washington enthusiasts is Gen. Andrew Burt, who can be found at National Park whenever he has the necessary time to spare, and in speaking of Gen. Burt an amusing little story is told on that gentleman and his connection with base ball.

It seems that during the war with the Filipinos Gen. Burt was in command of a negro regiment in the far east. His soldiers, as well as regiments of white soldiers, were camped in close proximity to each other, and the general suggested to some of his brother officers that they get up a base ball game. So sides were chosen and teams selected. When Gen. Burt came to look over his outfit he found that though he had the best ball players in the section, they were all privates.

Still, as the general is one of the most companionable of men, it didn't worry him in the least that he was to captain a team of privates. What the general wanted was to take that game, and with the energy that is one of his characteristics, he started in to play ball.



he again made a hit. As he tore around the bases, what was his surprise to see the entire club take positions on the coaching lines. This time they were not silent, for the game at that moment was a neck-and-neck affair. They began to shout: "Come on, you crippled turtle!" "Oh, you ice wagon!" "Pick them Trilbys up, you one-legged snail!" "Are you trying to throw the game?" etc. This kind of coaching went on until the general reached third base, at which point the idea suggested itself to him, that while base ball was an all right game, still there were a few drawbacks connected with it, especially for a brigadier general, when he was being coached by a lot of enthusiastic privates. So, it is stated, the general put on his coat and watched the rest of the contest from the side lines.

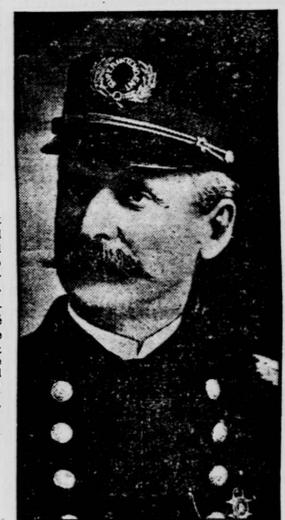
Among other Washington business men who are constant visitors at the park are Ed Walsh, R. J. Beall, James Kellher, James Alexander and W. B. Hibbs.



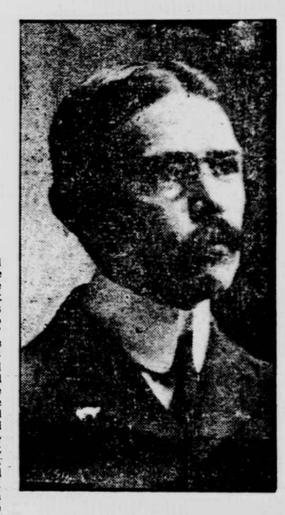
James Alexander.



Maj. J. J. Morrow.



Maj. Sylvester.



Thomas J. Sheridan.



E. E. Street.