



A. G. Spalding and B. B. Johnson, the two central figures in the present baseball muddle, held a conference recently. Mr. Spalding also was in consultation with Barney Dreyfus, president of the Pittsburgh National League club.

Both conferences were important, and Spalding left Chicago for a vacation in New Mexico, apparently well satisfied with the present situation as he left it.

The meeting between Johnson and Spalding, according to Johnson, was simply an informal interchange of baseball ideas, each one talking only as an individual instead of in an official capacity. Moreover, he said that the only thing actually accomplished at the meeting was an arrangement for a meeting between the respective rules committees of the American and National leagues with a view of coming to an understanding in regard to uniform playing rules for baseball throughout the country.

President Spalding, however, was more communicative in regard to both conferences in which he took part. In the meeting with Johnson the National leader intimated that the two presidents had come to a thorough understanding with each other. He also credited Johnson with the statement that the American League was virtually in sympathy with the four clubs behind Spalding. In regard to the rules question, Spalding further explained that the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs had also been asked to send its committee to meet with those of the National and American leagues at Buffalo, Feb. 10.

The two conferences indicate that the Spalding faction of the National League will play a waiting game, and stand pat with its four-club league if necessary, at the same time hoping for some means of forcing the other National League clubs into line. In the meantime Spalding apparently expects at least the moral support of the American league.

More developments may be expected in the near future, and when they come they promise to be interesting.

Baseball in California.

On New Year's day at San Francisco the All-Americans, Wadell pitching against Schmidt, beat the Nationals 6 to 5. On Saturday, Jan. 5, the Nationals, with Schmidt pitching defeated Lajoie's men with Bernhard pitching 4 to 2. On Sunday, Jan. 6, the Nationals again beat the All-Americans, by 4 to 2, Schmidt against Mercer. The after-season series of the All-Americans and the Nationals, in California, has been such a financial success that Joe Cantillon will take out two crack teams next winter, instead of pick-up teams. It is possible that the winners of the National League championship will be one and a nine composed of the very best men in each position of the other.

Calls Hales-Kiel a Bluff.

President Farrell's backlist, Tebeau argues, is simply a deliberate attempt upon the part of the National Association of Minor Leagues to frighten timid ball players who may stop to think of their future before signing the coming season. Tebeau emphatically insists that Farrell, Whitfield, and every other man responsible for the publication of this bulletin knows, as well as it is possible for them to know anything, that the reservation claim is a simple and direct bluff deliberately made to frighten players away from the new organization.

Manager of Boston Club.

A. C. Buckenberger, who succeeds Frank Selee as the manager of the Boston National league team, is no



novice in the big league, inasmuch as he was at one time the manager of the Pittsburgh club and has been connected with other prominent clubs. Recently he has been connected with Eastern league teams.

Players After Minor Leagues.

Dale Gear, secretary of the Players' Protective Association, gave out an interview which indicates that a clash between the players' organization and the National Association of minor leagues is imminent. Gear says that the reported declaration of officials of the minor association will certainly be resented by the players fighting for freedom, and that they "will not stand idly by and allow themselves to be handled as a lot of slaves."

League Players Uneasy.

Unless the National League gets together pretty soon there is no telling how many of the raw recruits will hurry back to shelter with the minors. Hank Hulseman's defection scored a blow to "King Ed's" ambition to line up a hard-hitting trio in the field. The Southern League will be jumpy a contract to remain at Newport, but in these war times obligations are not taken into account. Should Hulseman stick to his team Lou and Patrick Henry

Dougherty forget the honor he pledged when he signed with Cincinnati the Red outfield would look very much as it did last fall unless A. M. Coulter proved a noble Roman and reported as he has promised to do. Dougherty has forwarded his photo and a lock of hair to Boston, and that doesn't look as if his heart was beating true to the Reds. It is only natural for the candidates for favor in the old, wobbly league to find the machinery in their pumping stations working a little fast when they contemplate the future.

A Tip For the Players.

According to Secretary Dale Gear, of the Players' Protective Association, the answers received in response to his recent circular show a practical unanimity of sentiment as regards keeping the organization intact and strong. That is as it should be in view of the inevitable future reorganization of the baseball world. But why not keep in touch with current events and pay some attention to the essentials of the fraternity—the contract-juggling players—who are bringing the entire profession into disrepute both with the magnates of the two major leagues and with the large body of supporting patrons? Here is work for the Players' Association to do, which would do more than any other conceivable thing to strengthen it internally, commend it to public favor and make it a factor in future settlements.

Prominent in "Three Eye" League.

W. Connors will be both manager and captain of the Bloomington base



W. Connors.

ball line of the Three Eye league the approaching season. Bloomington gave good support to its team last season, and another successful year is anticipated.

The Western Association.

In the Western Association the sporting writers are beginning to study the situation and the consensus of opinion is that the season of 1902 will be a prosperous one if the two vacancies now existing can be filled by good, live, baseball towns. Marion and Fort Wayne are good, live, baseball towns, but two in that section of country are enough or at least all that can be supported. Covington, Ky., is almost as had in some respects, as Matthews, its geographical location being against it. Zanesville is a fine baseball city and with Wheeling would make the long jumps so objectionable last year unnecessary. Youngstown and Mansfield are also good towns and if either were selected the circuit would be much better as far as railroad rates are concerned.

As It Should Be.

We are told that President Hickey of the new American Association has been given as absolute authority as President Johnson of the American League enjoys. That was a wise thing for the American Association to do. Experience has demonstrated that base ball leagues, particularly new ones, can only be successfully conducted by arbitrary one-man power; always providing power is conferred on the right sort of president—a tried and true man of ability and integrity. Such men are by no means plentiful.

General News of the Game.

George Davis will probably be field captain for Comiskey's white stockings this summer.

Pitcher Olmstead, who was tried last fall by the Chicago A. L. club, has signed with Milwaukee.

Pitcher Garvin has signed with the Chicago A. L. club. Catcher Joe Sugden will now have to go to St. Louis. The Philadelphia League club has secured second baseman Krug and pitcher Iberg and Whalen of the California league.

President Postal of Washington expects to get "Dummy" Hoy from Chicago, but says Coughlin will not figure in the deal.

Outfielder Joe McCarthy strongly denies any intention of deserting Cleveland or intimating that Frank Bradley would do so.

"Roaring Bill" Kennedy, who has been signed by the St. Louis league team for next season, was with Brooklyn for ten years.

According to the latest plans announced by Manager Frank Selee, ex-Captain Jack Doyle of the orphans will be used behind the bat next season.

It is reported that Pitcher Chauncey Fisher, who is now running a rink at Anderson, Ind., may be given a trial by the Detroit American league club next season.

Courtney, a young player in the California league, is the latest acquisition to the Boston National league team. He is slated to play in the outfield or as utility man.

Brooklyn claims to have signed outfielder John Kelly of Los Angeles. It has also received second baseman Tim Flood's contract. First baseman Turner, claimed by Brooklyn, will stick to Toledo.

The New York Sun says that Spalding will soon convince the public that he has not been "bluffing" in his controversy with the Freedman baseball faction. Startling developments are predicted in the near future.

President Johnson of the American League says there is no foundation for the story that Charles Town had been signed by Jimmy McAtee for the St. Louis team. Edwin is still unsigned, either by the National or the American.



Alfred Nossig, the librettist of "Mansru," in speaking of Mr. Paderewski as a composer, says: "Paderewski, unlike other virtuosos, is called to a higher productivity than that of mere interpretation. His artistic activities began with composition, and the favor of composition is the chief charm in his playing. Known principally as a song and symphony composer, his piano pieces have always been very popular. This class of composition, however, permits but a one-sided development of his gift. His unusually good treatment of the voice and excellent declamation in his Mickiewicz songs; the inexhaustible invention of his variations; the delicate tone effects in his 'Elegy'; the grandeur of his tone painting in his 'Concerto'; the intricate but lucid construction and effective instrumentation of the 'Fantasie Polonoise' are admired by all composers. Paderewski has felt his need of living out his most characteristic gift to its fullest extent; of sounding in his mighty accord all the strings of that musical instrument, his soul. From that impulse has sprung his last great work. Just as he achieved the heights of mastery through the emotional and dramatic allure of his playing, so he will give of his best as a composer of music-drama."

Anecdote of Whittman.

Julia Marlowe, whose reading is more catholic than that of most players, says that Whittman, Thoreau and Stevenson (particularly in his essays) are the moderns who appeal to her as having had something to say and possessing the power to say it. Her admiration for Whittman prompted her to ask a friend of his concerning the more intimate details of his life, and one of her questions, "Was there ever a Mrs. Whittman?" was repeated to the poet. Later, when it had come about that these two met, he said: "A long time ago they told me of the question of yours—about there having been a Mrs. Whittman, I mean—and it set me thinking. You know there was. I have had many friends among women—some of them intimate, devoted, helpful comrades; but believe me it would have been better for me had I known the experience of marriage—even an unhappy marriage. No friendship can compensate a man for what

It Made a Hit.

There is in a certain town of Massachusetts, a theater built directly over a canal. The draught which blows from this waterway up to the stage is the cause of many a sore throat and



aching tooth. Joseph Haworth, was giving "Hamlet" in this breezy structure, and everything went well until the graveyard scene.

The queen, in a nasal tone, said "Sweets to the Sweets," and threw her paper flowers into the grave. The next moment the audience was convulsed with laughter, for the roses, instead of falling where they belonged, were lifted straight into the air by the draught coming from the grave.

"That breeze from the lower regions certainly made a hit," said Mr. Haworth.

Mr. John Drew.

This successful actor, the son of the famous Mrs. John Drew, made his debut in his mother's theater, Arch St., Philadelphia, in 1873 as Plummer in "Cool as a Cucumber." His rise in



the profession was rapid, and in his career he has supported Adelaide Nielson, Edwin Booth, Fanny Davenport and other famous stars. In 1879 he joined the late Augustin Daly's company, and some of his greatest successes were made while he was leading man of this famous organization. Of late years Mr. Drew has starred with his own company.

Viola Allen and Salvini.

During the elder Salvini's last tour in this country Viola Allen was engaged as his leading lady, appearing in such roles as Cordelia in "King Lear," Desdemona in "Othello," Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet," and as Neandamia in "The Gladiator." "When I played in 'Othello' with Salvini," says Miss Allen, "I was always nervous during the smooth-

erling scene because he used to get so excited. I always turned my face sideways and held a small sponge upon under the further side of the pillow so that I could breathe, but even that breathing hole would get closed up under the forceful energy of Salvini. Then, when he found that he had killed Desdemona without cause, in his remorse he would throw himself wildly upon the body. I used to wait for this piece of business with fear and trembling; Salvini's fall was always so awfully realistic. One night the death scene in 'Romeo and Juliet' met with an odd accident. Some practical joker had placed ink in the bottle from which Romeo drank the poison, and as Romeo, having made a feint of drinking, and, ignorant of the contents, threw it aside, it splashed on my face and beautiful white gown, an occurrence which, I assure you, necessitated an unusually hurried demise on my part."

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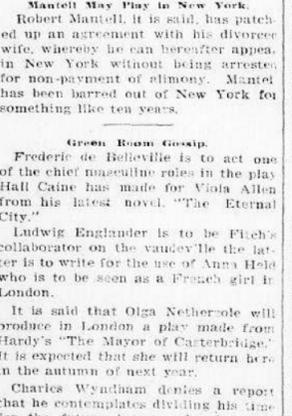
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AROSTOOK GIANT DEAD.

Feats of a Big Swede Who Has Just Succumbed to Fever in Maine.

Arostook county's giant, John Brostrom of Woodland, is dead at the age of 32. Brostrom was a Swede, stood 6 feet 7 inches in his stocking feet and weighed, when in good health, 267 pounds.

There was not an ounce of fat on his huge frame. He was much the strongest man in northern Maine, and many stories are related of remarkable feats accomplished by him.

He once, by sheer strength, started a log jam that had for three days defied the efforts of twelve river drivers. On another occasion he carried on his shoulder to the mill a hardwood log that would have been a load for four ordinary men, had it sawed into boards and carried the boards strapped to his back a distance of two miles to his home.

Brostrom could lift barrels of potatoes into a high wagon with less effort than most men make to lift a bushel, and his services were in great demand at the raising of barns. He would pick up the heavy timbers like so many light joists and place them in their proper position while the others were getting ready to lift.

When there was a fire his frail-like arms would bring down the brakes of the hand tub on one side faster than four or five of the fremen could lift up on the other side, and the small boys said that he was as good as a steamer.

A fever carried the giant off, and all Woodland and the other Swedish colonists mourned. He died in a second-story room, and his casket was so long that it could not be carried down the stairs and had to be taken out at a window.

GOT HIS SALMON CHEAP.

Trick by Which a London Fishmonger Was Taken In.

A gentleman entered a fishmonger's shop the other morning and after making an all purchase began a friendly talk with the proprietor.

"Do your lady customers give much trouble?" he inquired.

"Well, you know, they never want to give the price. It seems part of their nature to beat down everything," answered the fishmonger.

"My own experience—my own experience," remarked the stranger.

"Yes, I quite believe it, sir. Now, there's beautiful salmon at two-and-six a pound. Were I to ask one-and-six a pound for it a woman would probably want it for a shilling!"

"Well, now, here's a lady coming across the street. Try it on, just for a joke. If she asks the price of salmon tell her one-and-six a pound."

The fishmonger agreed, and when the lady entered and made the desired inquiry he promptly answered:

"Very cheap, ma'am; only one-and-six a pound."

"Then I'll take that, only," she promptly exclaimed, pointing to a twenty-pounder, and take it she did. The gentleman disappeared at that moment. The fishmonger has since discovered they were husband and wife.—London Tit-Bits.

The Bantsee's Warning.

This story is told as an experience in Ireland. "My brother and I went on one occasion with our nurse to see an old widow, called Sally Noggin. While we were sitting talking to her we heard three loud and distinct knocks at the closed door of the cottage. We got up and opened it, but nobody was to be seen. The old woman burst forth into loud lamentations and howls and said that it was the banshee come to announce three deaths. We could not comfort her.

Next morning we went to see her again and found that she had just been told of the death of her three sons, fishermen, who had been drowned that night by the capsizing of the boat in a storm and their bodies washed ashore. It was a very odd coincidence, for we certainly heard the knocks most clearly."

A Boom in Giris.

Dr. Schenk's theories on diet as determining sex, seem to have been exploded by remorseless fact, as so often happens to theories, says an English exchange. This has been a terrible year for babies of the feminine gender. The carina and the queen of Italy have both given birth to daughters, in spite of ancient and universal prayers for sons; Lady Chelsea has recently had to submit to the arrival of a fifth daughter, instead of the ardently hoped-for heir, and the young duchess of Manchester has added another small female to the preponderating number of women of the British Isles. Female babies are decidedly a "glut in the market" at present, and the general feeling in the families thus afflicted is of anything but the "welcome little stranger" order.

Magnets That Lift Tons.

The most important employment of the magnet in the mechanical industries is in lifting and handling such masses of metal as ship plates, boiler plates and parts of machines which it would otherwise be difficult to get hold of. It effects an average economy in time and cost of handling, stacking, loading and unloading of from 50 to 75 per cent. The type of magnets used in most American works have a lifting capacity of five tons. It makes a stranger nervous to see them at work says the New York Times, and he generally does not need to be reminded that unless his life is insured at its full value he would do well to stand from under. But slings and chains break under loads quite as often as magnets drop their loads by accident and in wrong places.

The Heat of Australia.

Australia is the hottest country on record. I have ridden for miles astride the equator, but I have never found heat to compare with this. Out in the country in the dry times there appears to be little more than a sheet of brown paper between you and the lower regions, and the people facetiously say that they have to feed their hens on cracked ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.—Sydney Telegraph.

WONDROUS SOUTH AMERICAN RIVER

Little Hither! Written about the Great Orinoco

One of the greatest rivers of the world, the Orinoco, is also one of the least known to Europeans. Its sister, the Amazon, has often been described, by Wallace and Bates, among others, but Humboldt remains practically the only real authority upon the great stream, which, rising on the frontiers of Brazil, runs for 2,000 miles through Venezuela, receiving in its course such immense tributaries as the Meta and Apure, and discharging itself by a hundred mouths into the South Atlantic opposite the British island of Trinidad, says the Caracas Herald.

The principal entrance and the only one available for sailing vessels is the Boca Grande, to the south, into which flow, among other tributaries, the Aratura and the Amacura, the latter almost coinciding in its course with the Schomburgk boundary line between British Guiana and Venezuela. But most of the traffic of the Orinoco passes through Trinidad, where passengers and goods are transferred to steamers almost flat-bottomed, and reach the Orinoco by the mouth known as Macarao, the open sea being avoided. It was by that route that the writer started in the Apura, chartered for the occasion, on a trip of 500 miles up the great river, forming probably the first, and certainly the largest, party

of tourists which had ever ascended it.

Six hours after leaving Port-of-Spain the entrance of the Macarao was reached and for fourteen hours we navigated a deep channel, perhaps half a mile wide. Well-nigh impenetrable forest and undergrowth hide ground which is for the most part ooze, covered for half the year by water. But the passerby sees none of the horrors of this great swamp. They are concealed by magnificent trees growing to the water's edge, whose branches may sometimes be touched from the steamer, when she is steered close to the shore in order to avoid the current. Sometimes that splendid parasite, the matapalo, has wrapped in its deadly folds several trees, and, these perishing, it stands alone showing walls of green, and resembling a large ivy mantled tower. Upon this and upon the tops of the tallest trees other parasites cling in masses of blossom. A flock of flamingoes makes a brilliant scarlet patch here and there; the sun flashes from parrots of many sizes and various hues; snow white cranes gaze stolidly from the banks; macaws, green and yellow, or deep crimson on head and breast, fly heavily past; and smaller birds, of every color of the rainbow, scream or chatter and sing among the trees.—New York Press.

MOUNTAINS IN CONSTANT MOTION

Science Has Proved That the Huge Masses Gravitote

Mountains are not the stolid, immovable things they are credited with being in the popular mind. Scientists aver that a mountain in motion, is just as common as the existence of mountains. They all move slightly, and to the untrained or unassisted observation, imperceptibly, of course, but move they do, nevertheless.

Railroad constructors find from actual experience in maintaining tunnels, bridges and tracks in mountainous regions that these huge bulks are constantly in motion.

On a stake in the side of a mountain, take such location with the greatest care and return in six months! The stake is not in the same place. The whole side of the mountain has moved. This experiment has often been tried, and always with the result of showing that the mountain is ever shifting, ever restless.

In quite a number of mines located on fissure veins or between high tilted strata, movements have been for a long time observed, and sometimes of so pronounced a nature that the shoring requires rebuilding. These movements do not seem to be the result, as in coal mines, of a sinking from excavation of material, but actual slipping movements of the mountain itself along certain lines.

The Smuggler Mountain at Aspen, Colo., has mines in the deep workings of which miners two feet thick and eight to ten feet long placed across the slopes are snapping in two like reeds, and having their ends broomed up by the overwhelming pressure and slipping movements of the walls.

Railway in Alaska

Company Has Been Incorporated for Such an Undertaking

In the state of Washington the Trans-Alaskan Railway company has been incorporated with a capitalization of \$50,000,000. Its promoters say they intend to build a line of railway in Alaska to connect with the trans-Siberian system by a steam ferry service across Behring Strait. It may safely be predicted that many a year will pass before the \$50,000,000 will be raised for such a scheme, before the new company's cars and ferries will be remaining and before dividends will be paid on the stock. It is not likely that the promoters of this ambitious enterprise will succeed in obtaining large subscriptions from conservative investors.

The Russian government had what it considered good and sufficient reasons of its own for constructing the

line across Siberia. Not for many a generation would private capital have embarked upon so colossal an undertaking in so vast a region, so thinly settled and in the face of obstacles so stupendous. Unless the population of Siberia increases enormously, the railroad through northern Asia must inevitably be operated for an indefinite period at a heavy annual loss. But its possible value to the huge Russian empire for military purposes may, perhaps, be incalculable in later years. Where could the proposed trans-Alaskan trunk line secure passengers and freight enough for its cars and its steamships to pay even the most modest profit?

In several Belgian towns dogs are being made use of by the police.

MONOCLE DISTORTS THE FACE.

Expert Opinion on the Increasing Use of "Widow Tapes."

Manufacturers of eyeglasses state that the wearing of monacles has again become a "fad" among the followers of fashion, and the optical trade papers are discussing the question from a practical point of view.

The editor of the Dioptric and Ophthalmometric Review, under the heading of "Straight Talks" writes: "To the provincial and sensible optician it seems a difficult task to realize to what an extent the wearing of monacles is in evidence in London, certainly, it has a disastrous effect in distorting the muscles of the face."

"Wearing monacles," continues the editor, "is a habit; it may be like others, an acquired taste; or it may have grown on one, like drink. I even know one or two opticians who wear them; they are thoroughly ashamed of them, but they cannot help it."

"At the best of times it is a difficult task to make an eye as sick in one's optical, as it is not everyone who is gifted with the superhuman adipose tissue necessary to keep the lens in its place. I have heard it recommended to beginners that it is well to open the mouth, or rather to drop one's chin inside one's collar, put the lens in position, and then let your chin resume its natural position."

"From the above remarks it will easily be seen that the editor of the optical trade organ does not favor the 'window pane' affected by Algy in Picaadilly. It is improbable that monacles will ever be popular with business men who have to really work for their living.—London Express.

And Then the Bell Rang.

Once Congressman Palmer of Pennsylvania was retained to defend a railroad company in a suit for damages. The plaintiff had been injured by a passing train and claimed that the crossing bell did not ring. The defense insisted that the bell had rung, but that the injured man had not heard it. "It is a very common thing," argued Mr. Palmer, "for a man to become so accustomed to a sound that he does not hear it." For instance, how

many people know that the bell on this courthouse rings the hours and half-hours?"

"Preposterous!" exclaimed the plaintiff's attorney. "The courthouse bell never rings one half-hour."

"There you go," answered Mr. Palmer, "making an assertion which proves my case. You have lived here twenty years, and yet you never noticed the bell ring every half-hour. It is now three minutes of 11:30. If the bell doesn't ring I will drop my case right here. If it rings I think the jury can settle the case without leaving the box."

The attorneys agreed. Everybody took out watches and waited patiently. At precisely 11:30 the great courthouse bell sounded, "Dong."

"There," exclaimed Mr. Palmer, triumphantly, "I told you so." And a moment later he had the satisfaction of hearing the jury decide against the plaintiff.

"They do say Mr. Palmer had a man up in the tower who hit the bell a resounding whack with a sledge hammer, but this, of course, is a mere rumor and ought not to be believed."

Quay as a Faith Healer.

Senator Quay of Pennsylvania is not a laughing man. He rarely lets anything move him beyond the twinkle in his eye, but a Florida farmer's impression regarding him made him "let loose." The senator, returning from a fishing trip to his bungalow at St. Lucie, Fla., rode in an accommodation train, and the farmer sat beside him and questioned him. Quay's knowledge of country gossip proved limited and discouraging.

"Don't belong in these parts, do ye?" said the farmer. "Don't know much about Florida, do ye?"

"I have been here several times in my wanderings," said Quay.

"And what might be the reason ye air wanderin'?"

"I am trying to ameliorate the condition of man—the inner man," replied Quay solemnly.

The farmer moved to another seat and remarked to the man beside whom he sat: "Talked to thet feller back there a good bit. Fore I found out he was one of them dern faith healers."—New York Times.