GIMM WON THE RACE

PITTSBURG CYCLIST CARRIED OFF THE TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR HONORS

WAS A HEART-BREAKING RACE

One by One the Competitors Succumbed to the Strain Till but Four Were Left to Finish, the Winner Getting the Decision by a Scant Wheel's Length — Ten Thousand Spectators Present.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Louis Gimm, of Pittsburg, won the twenty-four-hour bicycle race that ended at 10 o'clock tonight. There were eighteen starters and eight finished. They were: Louis Gimm, Pittsburg; Burns W. Pierce, Boston; Charles Turville, Philadelphia; "Fredericks," Switzerland; John Lawson, Chicago; Oscar Julius, New York; T. Hale, Earl D. Stevens and Charles W. Miller.

The final score was: Fredericks, 450 miles; Pierce, 450; Turville, 450; Gimm, 450; Lawson, 449 miles, 6 laps; Julius, 437 miles, 6 laps; Hale, 433 miles, 4 laps, and Miller 422 miles, 6 laps.

Gimm was first by a wheel's length, Pierce second, Turville third, Fredericks fourth and Lawson fifth. The record for the distance is 477 miles, one lap, by Pierce.

The attendance in the garden at the close of the race was 10,000. The finish was sensational. To give the five men who had a chance to win a free field three of the other competitors, who had survived the struggle, were asked to retire from the track fifteen minutes before the day had expired. When this was done, John Lawson made a desperate effort to make up the three laps that separated him from the leaders, succeeded in catching them napping and gained a lap. He tried to repeat it, but the others were after him and he failed.

WAS HEART BREAKING.

The race was a heart-breaking one from the start. Fredericks, Pierce, Turville and Gimm never left their saddles for a moment. They even refused to take nourishment and stimulants when the sprint was on. Waller, who was one of the favorites, lost a lap through an accident to his tire, Friday night, and for fifteen hours he made a brave struggle to regain his lost ground. So it was all through the day—a succession of desperate sprints, in which the riders took long chances, and even risked their necks to gain a lap on one another. Most of them were in apparant agony all through the evening, the exceptions being Gimm and Fredericks.

Pilkington and Albert retired early in the race, the result of severe falls Hicks quit at 9 o'clock in the morning for the same cause. Nawn, the Irishman, retired an hour and a half later, because the alternating pace had broken his heart, although he had gone through the recent six days race.

Ashinger, who had the misfortune to carry No. 13 upon his back, trailed along painfully at the tail end of the line through the morning. He was evidently suffering and was declared out of the race. Aaronson also had enough early in the morning.

CLOSING SCENES.

Eddie McDuffie and Harry Elkes came on the track for a practice spin, and some of the fastest men in the long race pushed on in the hope of gaining a lap. Their efforts were useless until Miller, the six-day champion, who who fallen to the rear because of stomach trouble, stole two laps on the fast bunch. Miller was the first of the eleven leaders to leave the track. But the fast bunch soon dwindled down to eight. Later in the day Chapman Barnaby retired and Waller, although he had a fair chance in case of accident, retired also.

John Lawson, the little Swede from Chicago, finally succumbed to the terrible strain at 5 o'clock, and dropped back, shaking his head as Miller started one of his periodical sprints. Within a minute he had been left and all his chances of winning were gone.

Fredericks, the foreigner, was apparently the freshest man in the race, and early in the evening his repeated attempts to get away from the leaders by a sudden sneaking sprint, caused his rivals great anxiety.

Little Stevens was the next of the leaders to fall by the wayside. The boy had been in every sprint from the beginning of the race and was a favorite with the crowd. There was no question about his being a fast sprinter, and he was ready to show his speed when any one chose to test it, but two minutes after 7 o'clock, after having been in the saddle twenty-one hours, he was forced to leave the track. The race had been so irregular—at times a sprint race, at others a loaf—that the record was only eclipsed at times. One hour the leader would be a few yards ahead of the record, the next one-half mile behind it. But from the moment that Stevens retired and left but four men tied for first position, a steady, fast and killing pace was maintained.

NEW CLUB IS READY.

St. Paul Athletic Organization Will Be Opened Wednesday.

The new gymnasium of the St. Paul Athletic club, on Sixth street, near Cedar, is ready for occupancy, and the rooms will be opened Wednesday morning, the delay being made in order to permit the varnish to dry, more than anything else.

The management of the club is making a vigorous canvass for a lively season of winter sports.

CHAMPION SKATER BEATEN.

Nowal Baptie, of North Dakota, the Man Who Did It.

BATHGATE, N. D., Jan. 7.—Norval Baptie, North Dakota champion, defeated the world's champion skater, John Nilson, tonight at the Bathgate rink, in a two-mile race, caught him at the end of a mile. This is Nilson's first defeat in three years.

Weekly Bowling Scores.

The following club scores were made on Amert Bros.' alleys:

Acme—Warwick, 171; Fabel, 151; Keuhle, 135; Totten, 189; Shade, 127; Mattack, 189; Buiena, 170; Uhler, 175; Bleckner, 128; Heinlein, 144; Keye, 156.

Broadway—Landon, 205; Neff, 218; McArthur, 173; Dr. Murphy, 164; Punderson, 236; McLaren, 178.

Enterprise—Kraniger, 126; Jungbauer, 183; Conform, 157; Kimball, 170; Crawford, 123; Colburn, 75; Andres, 139; Hartman, 159; Ide, 216; Dellar, 130; Weide, 109; Friesenhahn, 168.

Capitol—Bromley, 146; Bueger, 153; Karst, 187; Painter, 229; Geisenheyner, 189.

Summits—Gerber, 196; Lowe, 137; E. Fortmeyer, 181; Dr. Wirth, 92; Miller, 174; Kosterman, 182; Kuhlman, 137; Stem, 117; Ritten, 184.

At Albrechten's alleys the University Bowling club made the following scores: F. W. Bayard, 197; N. Steichen, 159; M. Philippi, 205; John Steichen, 199; Otto Gehrt, 129; Aug. Manke, 165; M. McCarthy, 192; John Doherty, 224; John Bayer, 223; A. J. Albachten, 154; R. Hofmann, 168; George Schiller, 154; Wm. Walter, 152.

CLASS A MISNOMER.

Boxers in These Days Make Championships for Themselves.

"With the advent of the new year followers and critics of the fighters are talking of changes in rules and weights that govern glove fights. That the rules under which contests are decided need revision was strikingly shown by the Corbett-Sharkey fiasco. The rules that govern the bouts, however, are not nearly so much in dispute as the different weights fighters claim for the championship notch. In these days almost any fighter of prominence is a champion of his own," says the Chicago Record. "He names some weight which he can make and then challenges the world.

"In the old times, before large purses and five-ounce gloves were in vogue, the fighters had to elude the minions of the law and fight by the light of a few smoky lanterns in the woods or in a hayloft. Then London prize ring rules governed the sports, and there were only four bona fide classes. If a fighter defeated all comers at his weight he was truly a champion. Now it seems to be an accepted fact by fighters that when a recognized champion begins growing and getting heavy he carries the class weight with him.

"That stage has arrived where there is no recognized weight, one that a fighter must fight at or lose his title. George Dixon is a good example of this class. 'Little Chocolate' commenced milling at 115 pounds early in his career and carried everybody before him at this weight. Little by little he grew heavier, and now he mills more often at 122 pounds, although he consents to make 118 pounds at rare intervals.

"Under the prize ring rules there were four clean-cut weights. Under 116 pounds, feather weights; under 133 pounds, light weight; 154 pounds, middle weight; any man heavier than that was classed with the big men. When the Marquis of Queensberry rules and five-ounce gloves began gaining favor a set of weights was established by Richard Fox. He hung up belts for light weights at 133 pounds and for heavy weights. This plan worked well for a time, and Jack McAuliffe held the light-weight belt until he began going down hill, and now the emblem is said to decorate the window of a Broadway pawnshop. Jim Corbett won the heavy-weight belt by defeating John L. Sullivan, and lost it three years ago, some one breaking into his trunk and purloining it.

"Bantam weights gained recognition when Jimmy Barry and Johnny Gorman began talking fight, and the weight proper was looked upon as 100 pounds and later 105 pounds. Barry now scales about 110 pounds in the best condition and, of course, has carried his title with him. But this is not where the bantams stop. Terry McGovern fights at 115 pounds, and claims bantam honors. The feathers have climbed correspondingly, and between 118 and 122 pounds is now the proper thing for the light boys anxious to meet Dixon.

"The light weights used to class themselves between 123 and 133 pounds. Now the limit is 135 pounds, raised by Jack McAuliffe when he found that making that weight was uncomfortable work during the latter part of his championship career. Meanwhile Tommy White claims to be a champion 126-pound man—an entirely new class. This class and title originated with him. A welter weight was a boxer scaling between 135 and 142 pounds in the days gone by. Now the majority of light weights scale at this notch, while the welters, represented by Tommy Ryan, who has outgrown that class, are still classed, if they weigh anywhere under 148 pounds.

"The most sensible raise in weights was when Bob Fitzsimmons boosted the midleweight notch four pounds—from 154 to 158 pounds—when he defeated Dan Creedon for the middleweight championship. This was another case of the champion finding it hard to make weight. Bob fought Jack Dempsey at 154 pounds, and at that time experienced considerable difficulty in reducing. Hence 158 pounds with Creedon, a man that weighed one or two pounds over the previous limit, 154 pounds, was certainly too light to make his mark among the heavy weights, while a boxer who scales 160 pounds, or is just a little too heavy to fight middle weights, can get along among the big fellows."

JUST LIKE CHRIS.

Arlie Latham Relates a New Yarn About Von der Ahe.

Arlie Latham, who is now a roller polo referee, has not yet exhausted his supply of stories about Chris Von der Ahe, the St. Louis base ball man. Latham told a new yarn the other night as follows:

"One day when I was a member of the Browns we were playing a game at Sportsmen's park, and Chris was on the bench watching us through a pair of field glasses.

"'Say, Dutch!' I yelled, 'put your specs in the water cooler!'

"When we came in to the bench Chris was very angry.

"'I vill give $100 to der man dat vill tell me who said dat about der Dutch specs!' roared Von der Ahe.

"Nobody said a word for a minute. Then I remarked:

"'Well, Chris, you put up the hundred and I'll tell you who it was!'

"'All right,' said Chris as he pulled out a roll and handed a century to Comiskey. 'Der money is up mit Commy! Now tell it, Arlie! Tell it!'

"'Well, Chris,' I blurted out, 'I said it! And I'll say it again for another hundred.' Comiskey handed the money to me and Chris stamped on his fieldglasses."

Carter Defeated Schaefer.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—In the Euegen Carter-Jacob Schaefer 100 point three cushion carom match the former won the deciding game by a narrow margin of two points, the score being 100 to 98. Experts who saw the game agree that it was the most brilliant ever played in the country at three cushions. In the series of three matches Carter has won twice. Carter's best runs were two fives and five threes. Schaefer made nine, six, five, three fours and four threes.

Recent Curling Scores.

The following scores were made yesterday in the play at the Raspberry island rink:

Practice game:

D. Scott,	R. Drise,
W. Stewart,	M. Boeckman,
T. Cameron,	Judge Cory,

Tom Scott, skip—13. C. M. Griggs, skip—18.

Single-handed match for Nash medal: D. C. Murray, 13; W. Lorimer, 12; A. B. Van Bergen, 13; J. Locke, 10.

Wants a Polo Match.

C. Frysberg, of the Summit Polo club, has challenged the Mascot Polo club to a series of three or five polo games, for a side bet of from $500 to $5,000 a side. Four conditions are imposed: That the games be played in a rink not smaller than 125x200 feet; all games to be played before Feb. 1, and under the rules of the Northwestern Polo association, and in the rink that hangs up the largest purse.

Winona Curlers.

WINONA, Minn., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—The Winona curlers, a new organization in this city, played their first game today with an outside team, their opponents being a rink from Pickwick. The home team suffered heavy defeat, as a result, the scores standing 24 to 10 and 23 to 3, in favor of the Pickwick players.

Famous Stallion Sold.

LEXINGTON, KY., Jan. 7.—Jerry Delph Jr. today sold to John Reed, of Higginsville, Mo., the famous thoroughbred stallion Isaac Murphy. The latter will be taken to Missouri, which will leave Hindooraa, the only son of Virgil, in Kentucky. The price paid is private.

MUNYON'S

I will guarantee that my Kidney Cure will cure 90 per cent. of all forms of kidney complaint and in many instances the most serious forms of Bright's disease. If the disease is complicated send a four-ounce vial of urine. We will analyze it and advise you free what to do.

MUNYON.

At all druggists, 25c. a vial. Guide to Health and medical advice free. 1505 Arch st., Phila.

KIDNEY CURE

WHICH WILL WIN IT?

SHARKEY AND M'COY TO CONTEST FOR HEAVYWEIGHT HONORS TUESDAY NIGHT

RING GLADIATORS COMPARED

Sharkey Has Advantage in Weight, but Is Excelled by McCoy in Nearly Every Other Point — Sailor Handicapped in Reach by Fully Six Inches—McCoy the Younger Man and Far More Skillful.

FIGURES ON FIGHTERS.

McCoy.		Sharkey.
25	Age	27
165	Weight	180
5 10¾	Height	5 08½
76	Reach (inches)	70
32	Length of arm (inches)	28½
14	Biceps (inches)	15
11½	Forearm (inches)	12½
7½	Wrist (inches)	8
16	Neck (inches)	18
36	Chest contracted (inches)	42¾
41	Chest expanded (inches)	47½
37	Chest normal (inches)	44½
34	Waist (inches)	33
33½	Length of leg (inches)	31½
21½	Thigh (inches)	22½
15½	Calf (inches)	16¼
8¾	Ankle (inches)	8¾

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that the men are more evenly matched than has been thought by the average follower of ring sports. What McCoy lacks in weight he more than offsets in other advantages. Height and reach are important factors in a ring contest, and in both McCoy is far superior to Sharkey. So far as science is concerned, even the sailor will concede that McCoy is master. It would thus seem that the only great advantage possessed by Sharkey is in weight and sturdiness. Yet a man who is as strong as a giant is as helpless as a babe where he cannot land upon his opponent. It remains to be shown whether the sailor has improved sufficiently in the art of landing effectively to make his strength count in his approaching battle with the clever Hoosier. His only hope is to get in a knock-out blow. If he is forced to stand off and exchange with McCoy, Sharkey will be cut into ribbons before the termination of the battle. He must rush—and effectively—to win.

RECORDS OF THE MEN.

There is but a vague knowledge of what McCoy has accomplished to entitle him to meet the sturdy sailor. Sharkey's fame is due largely to his meetings with such men as Fitzsimmons and Corbett. The ring achievements of the gladiators are appended:

SHARKEY.

April, 1894—Knocked out Jack Langley, Honolulu, eight rounds.
May, 1894—Knocked out Rough Thompson, Honolulu, three rounds.
May, 1894—Knocked out Rough Thompson, Honolulu, one round.
June, 1894—Knocked out Nick Burley, Honolulu, eight rounds.
July, 1894—Knocked out George Washington, Honolulu, two rounds.
July, 1894—Knocked out Billy Tate, Honolulu, four rounds.
August, 1894—Knocked out Sailor Brown, Valejo, Cal., two rounds.
April 16, 1896—Won from Joe Choynski, San Francisco, Cal., five rounds.
June 2, 1896—Won from Jim Williams, San Francisco, Cal., three rounds.
June 28, 1896—Draw with James J. Corbett, San Francisco, Cal., four rounds.
Aug. 31, 1896—Exhibition with John L. Sullivan, Madison Square garden, New York, three rounds.
Dec. 2, 1896—Won on foul from Bob Fitzsimmons, San Francisco, Cal., eight rounds.
June 9, 1897—Drew with Peter Maher, New York, seven rounds.
Nov. 18, 1897—Won from Joe Goddard, San Francisco, Cal., four rounds.
May 6, 1898—Lost to Jim Jeffries, San Francisco, Cal., twenty rounds.
September, 1898—Knocked out Gus Ruhlin, Coney Island, New York, one round.

Sharkey's other fights were: With Buffalo Costello and Australian Billy Smith, both of which resulted in victories. He also fought a six-round draw with Alex Greggins on the coast, and won from Corbett on a foul.

M'COY.

June, 1891—Won from Peter Jenkins (colored), St. Paul, four rounds.
June, 1892—Won from Billy Barlow, on the turf, Indianapolis, five rounds.
September, 1892—Defeated Bob Lewis, turf, Indianapolis, one round.
September, 1892—Drew with Herb Hall, Columbus, O., eight rounds.
January, 1893—Defeated Jim Dickson, Hot Springs, Ark., five rounds.
January, 1893—Defeated Jim Connors, Hot Springs, three rounds.
February, 1893—Defeated an "Unknown" Milan, Tenn., two rounds.
February, 1893—Defeated Frank Lamode, New Orleans, eight rounds.
May, 1893—Defeated Frank Murray, Indianapolis, two rounds.
June, 1893—Defeated "Kid" McCarthy, Muncie, Ind., three rounds.
July, 1893—Drew with Ike Boome, Muncie, Ind., twenty-two rounds.
July, 1893—Defeated Dick Harris, Marion, Ind., one round.
August, 1893—Defeated Frank Merritt, Indianapolis, two rounds.
September, 1893—Drew with George Bennett, Akron, O., eight rounds.
October, 1893—Drew with Jack Welch, Wheeling, W. Va., nine rounds.
October, 1893—Defeated "Deaf Mute," Pittsburg, Pa., four rounds.
January, 1894—Defeated Pat Hayden, Providence, R. I., two rounds.
February, 1894—Defeated Joe Burke, Fall River, Mass, two rounds.
March, 1894—Defeated Jim Scully, New Bedford, Mass., six rounds.
May, 1894—Lost to Billy Steffers, Cleveland, O., one round.
May, 1894—Drew with Jim Barron, of Australia, Minneapolis, ten rounds.
June, 1894 — Defeated Charles Maxwell, Akron, O., six rounds.
July, 1894—Defeated Harry O'Connor, Cleveland, O., three rounds.
August, 1894—Defeated Jack Grace, Cleveland, O., seven rounds.
August, 1894—Defeated Billy Steffers, Cleveland, O., ten rounds.
October, 1894—Drew with Al Roberts, Cincinnati, O., ten rounds.
January, 1895—Knocked out Al Roberts, Cincinnati, O., five rounds.
March, 1895—Defeated "Shadow" Maber, Memphis, Tenn., ten rounds.
April, 1895—Defeated Jack Wilkes, St. Louis, at Boston, two rounds.
May, 1895—Drew with Dick O'Brien, Boston, twenty-five rounds.
August, 1895—Defeated Charles Smith, three rounds; Joe Sheers, three rounds; Charles Seifert, three rounds, at Louisville.
September, 1895—Knocked out Dick Moore, Louisville, six rounds.
October, 1895—Knocked out Abe Ullman, Baltimore, thirteen rounds.
October, 1895—Boxed Arthur Walker, at Jersey City, N. J., no decision.
November, 1896—Lost to Ted White, London, England, sixteen rounds.
January, 1896—Boxed Steve O'Donnell six rounds, no decision.
January, 1896—Knocked out Tommy West, New York, two rounds.
March, 1896—Knocked out Tommy Ryan, Maspeth, fifteen rounds.
March, 1896—Boxed Joe Choyniski four rounds, no decision.
April, 1896—Knocked out Frank Bosworth, Memphis, two rounds.
May, 1896—Knocked out Jim Daly, New York, three rounds.
May, 1896—Defeated Dick Moore, Williamsburg, N. Y., ten rounds.
May, 1896—Won from "Mysterious" Billy Smith, Boston (foul).

During 1897 McCoy met and defeated many boxers, few, however, of any great celebrity. In January, 1898, he issued a challenge to meet any man in the world. In March, 1898, McCoy knocked out Dick Burley in two rounds, at Hot Springs, Ark. In May, 1898, McCoy was given a decision over Gus Ruhlin in a twenty-round contest at Syracuse, N. Y. In December, 1898, McCoy was given a decision over Joe Goddard in the fifth round of a six-round contest at Philadelphia. It will be seen that McCoy has done considerable fighting for a youngster, and that his victims include quite a number of noted boxers. His match with Corbett did not fall through because of any unwillingness on the part of McCoy. The youngster, on form, should give Sharkey the battle of his career.

EXPERTS ALL AT SEA.

He who is interested in ring sports can study the above measurements and achievements of the big men who will face each other in the arena of the Lenox Athletic club, in New York, next Tuesday night, and figure for themselves which he likes best to win. He has every bit as much license to do so as have the so-called experts who look wise and almost invariably pick the wrong man to win. "Dope" is all right in horse racing, but, when it is applied to boxing, it becomes unreliable. On form, Fitzsimmons should have been favorite over Corbett at Carson City, but he was not. Fitz was a 1 to 10 shot on the records of the men. And yet Corbett was at as good as 2 to 1, and always the favorite. On form, perhaps, the sailor should be picked to win from McCoy, but form in fighting won't do. McCoy is a wonder, and his actual merit has not yet been gauged. He may lose to Sharkey. If he does, and the sailor proves easily his master, then McCoy has been overestimated, or fortunate, or anything save what he should have been in his previous contests. The "experts" will tell you—after the battle—just what was wrong with him. If he wins—and handily—then he is certainly the greatest boxer of modern times—bar none—no matters what the experts write or say.

SHARKEY'S STAMINA.

The staying qualities of Sharkey have never been fully tested. In his matches with Corbett and Fitzsimmons there has been room for suspecting that the sailor cannot go a dizzy clip for full twenty rounds. He was in distress at San Francisco, and semed to be only too willing to hug Corbett a bit in the clinches in their New York affair. Stamina will cut somewhat of a figure in the approaching contest. McCoy is fast and can go a distance. Sharkey is not slow, but can he keep up the clip against such an elusive opponent as McCoy? That is the a question which, if it could be answered now, might give a clue to the probable winner of Tuesday night's big battle. But it cannot be told until next Wednesday morning, when the new or coming champion of the American prize ring will be known. The winner of the battle will be entitled to a match with Fitzsimmons, and should the champion refuse it the public will demand his retirement. Perhaps there is one more fight in Fitzsimmons, but that is doubtful. Fitz is as wise as an owl. He knows when to quit, and will likely retire upon his laurels, as he has a perfect right to do, leaving the field to younger men.

M'COY AS A HITTER.

It is all nonsense for the friends of Sharkey to contend that the sailor is invulnerable. That he cannot be knocked out is far from reasonable. Joe Goddard maintained that he could not be sent to dreamland by any average man in his class, yet the "Barrier Champion" added the statement that there were some fighters who "stopped," not because they were "out," but for the reason that they had had all they cared for. McCoy is, perhaps, a better hitter than is the sailor. He has to his credit more effective work than has Sharkey. It must be remembered that McCoy was the first man to send Tommy Ryan to sleep. Also that he broke Jim Daly's jaw and that he had Dan Creedon guessing where he was at the termination of their battle. A man who can do even that much is not to be despised. Sharkey is a "slogger," but McCoy is better. He is a fistic hypnotizer. The man he lands upon knows he has been hit.

M'COY'S PROBABLE PLAN.

It is highly probable that McCoy will make his fight with Sharkey a scientific boxing match, in so far as the rough sailor will permit. If McCoy can withstand the rushes of the sturdy sailor and jab him in return, there can be but one verdict at the termination of the bout, even if there be no knock-out—namely, McCoy on points. The sailor's only chance to win is to get to his man and knock him out. It is extremely doubtful—and yet always possible— that he can do this. That Sharkey will fight with that idea in view is a foregone conclusion. He will rush the game from start to finish. That will make it a pretty contest. There will be a great crowd present, and it seems likely that it will be treated to a more interesting contest than was the one in which Corbett and Sharkey engaged. May the best man win.

—Willie Green.

"GARGLED" THE BALL.

Manager Comiskey's Good One on Latham and Von der Ahe.

Charley Comiskey, Ban Johnson and President Hart were discussing Chris Von der Ahe's troubles in the latter's office yesterday, the suit at St. Louis and the league circuit gossip suggesting the theme. Comiskey was manager of the Browns when they were champions in the American association, and Chris was in the heyday of his prosperity. At that time Von der Ahe looked upon Hart as a sort of crony, for the local magnate was much given to chaffing Chris, and the two were quite friendly.

The stories told yesterday yere many and humorous. One of the best was about a game played between the Browns and Cincinnati, in the last inning with two out and two on bases and the Browns one ahead a little pop-up was sent down to Arlie Latham. He made a grand-stand juggle, catching the ball and then tossing it into the air. But his plan miscarried and as it descended the second time Arlie muffed it square and the man on third broke for home. Latham then threw wild to the plate and two runs were scored, losing the game. Chris was "kidded" about being beaten by an inferior team. He responded with: "That fretch dude (his pet name for Latham) lost the game. Didn't you see him gargle the ball and that monkey business?"

Kipling Coming Over.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Rudyard Kipling and wife will sail for New York Jan. 26.

KILLED BY BIG MIT

WHY THERE IS LESS BASE RUNNING THAN THERE USED TO BE

BIG MITS CAUSING TROUBLE

How This Feature of the Game Could Be Improved—Base Runners of Today Compared With Old Timers — The Sliding Base Bag Suggested as a Thing Which Would Improve Base Running.

The newest of base ball ideas, and yet one of the simplest and most easily comprehensible of the season, is the invention of a Chicago newspaper man, and is intended to revive and invigorate the fading science of base running.

If one thing more than another is needed in the active playing department of the game, that thing is additional base running. It is the sparkle, the ginger, the champagne bubble of base ball; the crowds yell for it, the magnates sigh for it, the players are supposed to furnish it—and it doesn't happen.

For ten years—ever since the season of 1888—there has been a steady decline and a marked decay in base running, with a corresponding diminution of the stolen base totals and a consequent slowing up and deadening of the game. Half a dozen causes for the passing of base running have been alleged, all dubious to a more or less degree. In 1888 Harry Stovey stole 156 bases on a season of 140 games. In 1898 Fred Clarke stole sixty-six bases on a season of 154 games—a percentage of decline simply staggering in its immensity. Yet the men of today are as fleet of foot as those of a decade ago. Hamilton, Clarke and Lange could probably beat Harry Stovey in a 100-yard dash over and over again. The fault cannot lie in any difference of speed or vigor among the individual players.

Improvement among the catchers has been advanced as a theory by many writers. If there is a catcher in the National league today who knows any tricks that Ewing, Flint and Kelly did not know that man should be placed on a pedestal and looked at. He would be too good to engage in active play. If there is a modern catcher whose throw is faster and truer to the mark than those Bennett and Bushong sent across the diamond he would be the acknowledged wonder of the age. The standard of individual worth among the catchers is, if anything, lower than ten years ago.

NOT DUE TO BALK.

Balking by the pitchers, pinning the frightened runners too closely to their bases for a successful lead, is another theory. That doesn't go, either, Galvin, Kilroy and others of that ancient day could give points to all the modern pitchers on the art of balking and stopping runners. That excuse is not borne out by facts, as any old-time ball crank can testify.

Still another theory is the claim that sacrifice hitting spoils the base running. The figures kill that idea. There wasn't a club in the National league with an average of one sacrifice hit per game last season. The hard-hitting batties, where the bases are full of runners, are fought and won without any sacrifices, and circumstances intervene to prevent the sacrifice in almost every case except, when, in the first inning, the first batter gets to base and the second batsman is expected to advance him. Things are usually too lively after the first inning to make use of the sacrifice with any certainty.

Up to 1889 the relative conditions of the catcher and the base runner were calculated to develop daring and sensational work upon the base lines, and to call forth the trickiness and brain power of the backstops. A runner stood an even chance of beating the throw down; he studied to increase the percentage in his favor, to gain long leads, to bewilder the pitcher, the catcher and the baseman. The catcher, knowing that the runner had as good as an even break under ordinary circumstances, studied all sorts of devices to entrap and confuse the pilferers. The result was a generation of wily and sensational base runners, like Latham, Stovey and Mike Kelly, while a group of brainy catchers, full of orginal and applause-winning circumventions, labored hard to stop the nervy sprinters.

BIG GLOVE THE CAUSE.

In the latter part of 1888 came the big glove into use, and from that day began the decline in base running and the accompanying retrogression of heady, brainy catching.

The statement is easily tested, easily shown correct. A fifteen-minute session with a strong-armed friend, a fat glove of the modern type and a thin glove, such as worn in 1887, will translate the story.

When the catchers took the force of the fiercely pojected ball ont he thin glove of years ago their fingers gave way, forming a sort of spring box to receive the shock. So heavy was the impact that the hand naturally, unconsciously recoiled, and the ball was delayed a fraction of a second before the catcher would gather it up and shoot it down to second. Short was this delay—only a passing instant—but that fleeting margin of time meant all in all to the hustling runner. It meant that the long slide might beat the baseman's hand by the tenth of a second, and it meant the difference, in a word, between the umpire's cries of "Out" and "Safe."

It's different with the big glove. The ball whangs into the great fat cushion and its shock is killed instanter. Out and away it speeds like a streak of light—out and over to the baseman just the fraction of a second sooner than it used to go—but that gain in time of throw was what killed the stolen bases, stopped the fastest runners and impaired the headwork of the catchers.

And now a ball crank comes forward with an idea for the helping of the runner and the restoring to the sprinter of the fraction which was his advantage before the coming of the burly glove.

It would be unfair to take away the protection of the catcher. The diamond could not be altered and the pitcher cannot be compelled to let the runners cruise by unhindered. The new idea is oc borrowed from the snappy game of indoor ball, and, in short, is simply this: Make two of the bases movable and shift them so as to benefit the runner.

HOW TO PREVENT TROUBLE.

In indoor ball the bases are movable cushions, and the runner sliding into one of them can carry it under him and not be put out for overrunning the base. This feature alone, with the bases kept in their present location, would add to the stolen base record. But the new idea, as the diagram explains, goes much further.

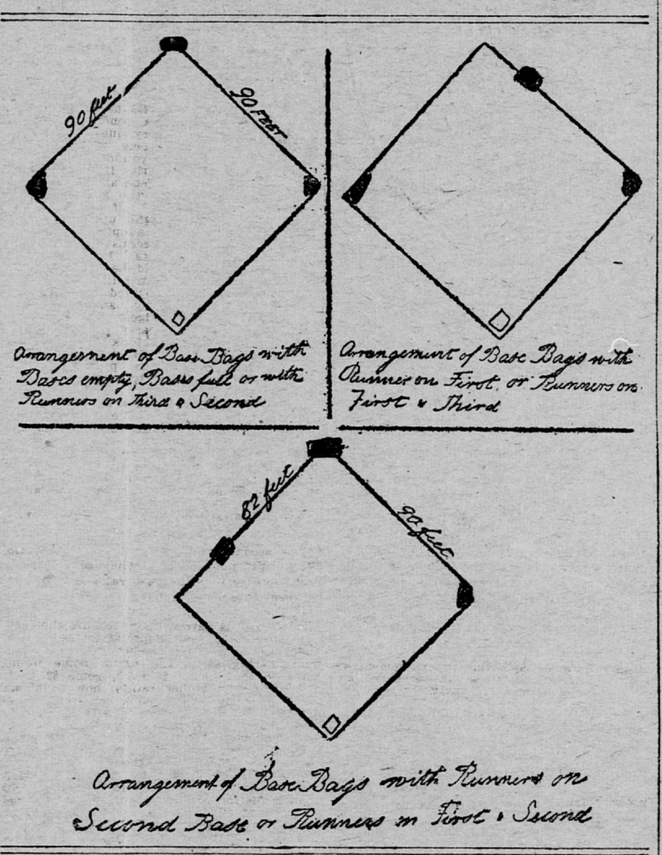
First base and the home plate, under this arrangement, would remain stationary. Second and third would be loose sacks such as are used in indoor ball. There should be a mark made eight feet the nearer side of second, or eighty-two feet from first, and a similar mark eight feet up the line from third. With the bases empty, the sacks should remain as at present located. As soon as a batter reaches first the second base bag should be carried over to the eighty-two-foot mark, the third base bag remaining undisturbed. The man on first would then have to travel eighty-two feet, instead of ninety, to reach second; the catcher would have almost as long a throw as before, and the second baseman would have to play over in such fashion as to compel the shortstop and third baseman to cover a lot of extra territory or see many a drive skim through the spot left unprotected. Scientific batting, therefore, as well as baserunning, would be benefited by the innovation.

As soon as the runner reached second the second base bag should be taken back to its proper location and the third base bag removed up to the eighty-two-foot mark. Again the runner would have a shortened journey, while the catcher would actually have a longer throw, thus adding greatly to the chance of stealing third, while short grounders hit at the third corner, with the baseman playing up the line, would keep that gentleman very busy.

With the bases full, or with runners on third and second, the base bags would be returned to their regular places.

The inventor of this innovation thinks that baserunning would be improved about 60 per cent, with a corresponding improvement in the headwork and trickiness of the catchers, while the improvement in scientific batting would cut no little figure. Some new wrinkles would have to be introduced in the fielding, too. With a man on first a double play would have to be made with simply lightning speed to head off a runner covering the shortened distance, while the whole infield would be kept guessing and in continual excitement.

The diagram showing the proposed arrangements of the base bags are given herewith.



WESTERN LEAGUE MAGNATES.

Charles Comiskey Favors the Admission of Cleveland.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—Western Base Ball league officials met here today and ratified the admission of Buffalo, N. Y., into the Western league. The selection of a board of directors and a schedule committee also came up for consideration. It is generally understood that several changes in the circuit will be made before the meeting adjourns, as a majority of the members, it is said, are not entirely satisfied with the present arrangement. Columbus, O., was not a brilliant success as a base ball town last year from a business point of view, and a number of members are looking for a substitute for the Ohio city. Toronto was selected as the candidate a few weeks ago, but today the members were inclined to favor Cleveland, in case the national league team there should be transferred to St. Louis. President Johnson said no definite action could be taken until the courts have decided the legal controversy now pending at St. Louis, between Chris Von der Ahe and Receiver Muckenfuss, over the ownership of the St. Louis Browns.

Among those present at today's meeting were President Ban Johnson, Charles Comiskey, of St. Paul; T. J. Loftus, of Columbus, O., and James Manning, of Kansas City.

Owner Comiskey, of the St. Paul club, intimated that he thought Cleveland might make a good member of the Western circuit. "When I played in Cleveland with the St. Louis club, years ago," said he, "we invariably drew good crowds. I don't see why base ball should not still be successful there."

Asked whether Owner Loftus, of the Columbus club, would probably be the backer of the enterprise in Cleveland, Comiskey said: "I hope to see Tom remain in our league, but the question is whether local backers will not be found for the club in case Cleveland should want to come into our league. In that event I presume local men would naturally be given the first chance. However, Loftus might be associated with Cleveland men in owning the club. But this is all my own speculation. I know nothing about what will be done."

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 7.—It is rumored here that Charles Comiskey, owner of the St. Paul base ball club, is endeavoring to secure a controlling interest in the Minneapolis club. Such a move seems out of place at present; but when it is considered that great changes are in store for the various leagues before long, it will not be surprising to hear of Comiskey's desire to get a cinch on the two franchises in the Minnesota belt. He wants to be on the safe side when the change comes.

Skating Race Today.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock there will be a skating race for a mile between David Tucker and J. Schwartz at the St. Anthony avenue rink, St. Anthony avenue and Kent street. There will be other features. A masquerade will occur at the rink Monday evening.

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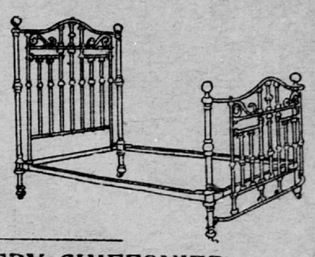

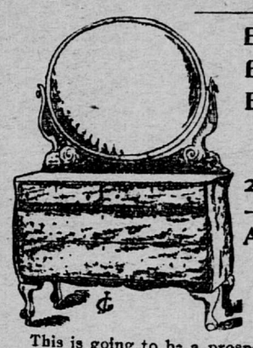

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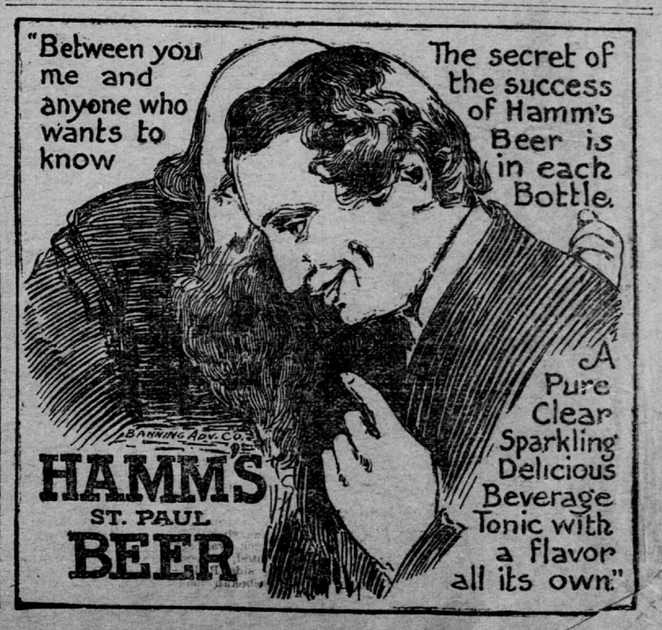
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