

AMERICAN LEAGUE

IN A VERY PRECARIOUS POSITION AT PRESENT.

The Five-Year Agreement Dissolved and Reorganization Made Difficult by Reason of Complications Due to National Association Organization.

By Francis C. Richter.

Despite all the hosannas over the success of the American League and the desperate attempt to make it appear almost on a par with the great National League, the fact is obvious that the American League is in a precarious position. At present it is practically disorganized, as the five-year compact binding the American clubs together expires this fall, thus making a new alignment necessary and leaving its clubs honorably free to renew or renounce allegiance, as they may deem best. The reorganization, which will be attempted at Chicago about October 11, will be sadly hampered by the fact that the American League, if reorganized on present lines, will have to face the crushing opposition of the new National Association in those cities which have proven the back-bone of the League. Such a serious situation makes it a matter of doubt whether the League can be reorganized on its former basis—the five unopposed clubs being justly entitled to shrink from the grave risk of allying themselves with the clubs sure to have ruinous opposition. How the American League will meet the crisis is a question. Certain it is that their beautiful dream of expansion has been effectually dispelled.

FRANKLIN'S FORTE.

Infielder Carey Appointed Manager For Next Season.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 30.—Editor "Sporting Life":—The Bisons paid their fares back to Buffalo from Kansas City, where they closed the season in the American League, only to be thrown down by the management of the Rochester Eastern League team. The Buffalo team came back to Buffalo expecting to play a post series of games with the Rochester outfit, but the series was declared off on Saturday night by Business Manager John B. Nash, of Rochester, and the relative strength of the two teams will not be tested. The Bisons are much disappointed, but no doubt the Rochesters are mighty glad to escape. Big Ed, Greminger, the Rochester third baseman, who was in Buffalo on his way to Canton, O., said that the Bronchos were never in favor of playing the series.

CAREY AS MANAGER.

Alderman "Jim" Franklin last week announced that he had appointed George Carey, our popular first baseman, to act as player-manager, vice Dan Shannon, resigned. Carey will have nothing to do until spring, although his appointment became effective at once. This appointment is commended on all sides, although Shannon's absence is greatly regretted. Dany was popular with the masses. Shannon does not know just where he will land another season. He says that no one need shed any tears for him, however, for he has always had work without trying very hard to get it. He is a good manager and no doubt will secure a good place for next year.

CAREY'S PLANS.

Local fans think Mr. Franklin has made a wise move. He has selected a man who has the interest of the team at heart, a Class A ball player, a good fellow and a gentleman. Carey will remain in Buffalo a few days and then go to his home at South Liverpool, O., for the winter, returning here early in the spring to get a winning team together. All the old Bisons are on the reserve list, but it is a certainty that some of them will be missing from the ranks next season if Carey has his way about it. Carey said last night that he expected to strengthen the team in at least three places.

A WAITING GAME.

President Killilea Talks of American League Plans.

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 30.—Editor "Sporting Life":—President Mat Killilea, of the local American League club, is back again from his long fishing trip. Regarding the new National Association he said he was not worrying, as next May was a long way off. He denied that the American League circuit is to be increased to twelve clubs and said further that it was not contemplated to antagonize the National League. At the annual meeting October 11, the only business would be to wind up the affairs of the old league. Mr. Killilea refused to state whether the Milwaukee team had made or lost money, holding that it was not any concern of the general public; at any rate, he concluded, the Milwaukee Club was not for sale.

A WAITING GAME.

Regarding American League reorganization Mr. Killilea made an interesting announcement. He said nothing positive would be done at the October 11 meeting, as the five-year agreement between the different clubs does not expire until about two months after the annual meeting, and a special meeting will be called about the first of the year for the purpose of reorganizing. The schedule meeting will be held in February, which will give the League magnates three meetings between now and the opening of the championship season of 1901. President Killilea says the magnates can stand the number of meetings, as they are always ready for a gathering. Mr. Killilea does not favor Toronto entering the league, but in the event of Minneapolis being dropped he would rather incline toward Louisville.

PLAYERS' WINTER STAY.

Irving Waldron, right fielder of the Milwaukee base ball team, will leave to-day for his home

in Southbridge, Mass. Waldron has been playing with Cantillon's barnstormers, which have disbanded because of the heavy rains which made ball playing either impossible or unremunerative. In three days the team played four games and the players each received \$75 as their share of the receipts and then the rains came on. Waldron had little to say about his future, but expressed the opinion that a new league will be an excellent thing for the players. George Rettger also came to Milwaukee yesterday and will go through to his home at New London, Wis., where he will make a short visit, returning to Milwaukee to work for the winter. Barnes, Speer and Nicol will likely make Milwaukee their headquarters for the winter. The chicken farm has been sold and they will devote their attention to other interests not yet decided upon. Speer may go to California.

BRUSH AFTER HARLEY.

Negotiations For the Purchase of the Player Have Been Opened.

Detroit, Oct. 1.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Dick Harley, who played left field for the local team this season, will, in all probability, be a member of the Cincinnati team next season. John T. Brush, the owner of the latter club, has opened negotiations for the purchase of Harley. Owing to the absence of President Burns, of the local club, who is fishing in Minnesota with President Johnson and Charley Comiskey, the deal has

NOT BEEN CLOSED.

Whether the Detroit magnate will be willing to part with his star outfielder for a reasonable sum is decidedly questionable. Brush has asked for his price, and if one is put on him it will be a high figure, for there is not a more popular player on the Detroit team than Harley. He is regarded the best outfielder in the American League. None of the other stars are in his class. He can hit, hunt, run, field and throw, and is always in condition to play ball. Many of the victories scored by the local team this past season were due to

HARLEY'S BRILLIANT WORK.

While he played aggressive ball he was not mixed up in any of the rowdy tactics employed by Elberfeld and several others on the local team. If Cincinnati gets Harley it will get a splendid ball player. The Boston Club of the National League is also said to be after Harley, having offered to give cash and two other players for him.

THE HONOR ROLL.

American League Players With Batting Averages of Over .300.

The American League players who batted at .300 or over are: Yeager, Milwaukee, .426; Ganzel, Kansas City, .400; Atherton, Buffalo, .351; Dungan, Kansas City, .351; Anderson, Milwaukee, .350; Harvey, Minneapolis, .350; Werdon, Minneapolis, .333; Foreman, Buffalo, .321; Pickering, Cleveland, .317; Hartsel, Indianapolis, .316; Lachance, Cleveland, .314; Harley, Detroit, .314; Maroon, Indianapolis, .309; Bandedlin, Minneapolis, .309; Geier, Indianapolis, .308; Hemphill, Kansas City, .307; Holmes, Detroit, .306; Waldron, Milwaukee, .305; Gettman, Buffalo, .303; Seybold, Indianapolis, .300; Shugart, Chicago, .300.

AS TO FIELDING.

In fielding, Joe Sugden, of Chicago, ranks the other catchers. George Carey, of Buffalo, has a clear field among the first basemen. George Magoon stands head and shoulders above the other second basemen. Casey, of Detroit, has been the best third baseman. Smith, of Minneapolis, ranks the short stops. McFarland and Hogriever have a hard fight for right field honors. Hoy, of Chicago, and Farrell, of Kansas City, probably lead the centre fielders, while Genins, of Cleveland, is easily the star left fielder. Reddy, of Milwaukee, has proved the most effective pitcher, this season, with Patterson and Gear next.

OTHER STATISTICS.

The following table shows the record of the American League clubs for sacrifice hits, stolen bases and extra-base hits. Indianapolis leads only in home runs.

	S.H.	S.B.	2B.H.	3B.H.	H.R.
Buffalo	68	143	222	84	24
Indianapolis	122	203	163	64	24
Minneapolis	92	157	185	52	22
Kansas City	136	138	188	67	10
Milwaukee	110	192	192	55	12
Cleveland	86	163	167	60	6
Chicago	138	170	157	49	13
Detroit	109	231	120	64	17

Double plays—Buffalo 117, Chicago 86, Detroit 82, Indianapolis 82, Kansas City 78, Cleveland 72, Minneapolis 60, Milwaukee 59.

Triple plays—Buffalo 1, Milwaukee 1.

SHUT-OUT RECORD.

There were many shut-outs, the pitchers having decidedly the better of the batsmen all through the season, and many desperate extra inning games. Crediting the pitchers with shut-outs each achieved, the whitewash record runs as follows: Fisher 6, Denzer 4, Kellum 4, Yeager 4, Hoffer 3, McKenna 3, Dowling 3, Miller 3, Patterson 4, Patten, Katoll, Gear, Harvey, Waddell, Kerwin, Stimmel and Cronin 2 each, and Lee, Parker, Hart, Hooker, Baker, Rettger, Sparks, Gardner, Bailey, Reddy, Frisk, McCann and Sievers 1 apiece, Kellum, Amole and Dowling, all left handers, shut teams out without a solitary hit.

"Jud" Smith achieved the error record of the year—seven bingles in one afternoon. The batting records are rather feeble. Nobody made six hits. Those making five in a game were Bue-low, O'Brien, Dillon, Lally and Sugden.

ON THE KAW.

The Result of the Season's Campaign is Satisfactory.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 17.—Editor "Sporting Life":—The American League season for 1900 closed in this city last Tuesday with the Buffalo team as the last attraction. Jim Manning's aggregation did themselves proud in the last four weeks of the season, but were unable to land better than at the head of the second division, although the article of ball served up by them entitled the club to a much better position. Before leaving on the last trip East the boys made a phenomenal showing, and kept up the winning streak at Chicago. At Indianapolis and Cleveland their downfall commenced, from which they failed to recover until their return home for the last series of struggles.

ON A SHORT TRIP.

Immediately after the season closed the team left on a barn-storming tour through Kansas under the management of Dale Gear. So far the Blues have had easy sailing, as the opposing amateurs and semi-professionals have been afflicted with stage fright. The attendance,

however, has been large and the boys will gather in a little extra change.

THE FINANCIAL RESULTS.

While Manager Manning did not land the bunting, he made a little money, and is sure of a good start for next year. The new draft rule will afford him protection in the matter of several promising young players for another year at least. Of the finds young Wyatt Lee, the Kansas pitcher, turned out to be the good, and will certainly be a member of next year's champions. Young Farrell and Case Patton will probably return next year.

THE PENNANT

went to Chicago because Chicago earned it. No one in Kansas City believes otherwise. President Manning and the fans congratulated Comiskey and his team on their success. While the White Stockings always seemed easy picking for the locals, they always put up a first-class game, and conducted themselves as perfect gentlemen on the Kansas City grounds, which is more, than could be said of the former champions from Cincinnati.

EDW. KUNDEGRÄBER.

Items of Interest.

The Indianapolis Club has purchased P. E. Foley from Marion for next season.

First baseman George Carey has been appointed manager of the Buffalo Club.

Second baseman Hallman has, it is claimed, signed with Milwaukee for next year.

Fred Barnes and Joe Cantillon have gone on a two weeks' hunting trip in the wilds of North Dakota.

Detroiters believe they've landed a capital fielding prize in Charles C. Jones, a Canadian League.

Jimmy McAleer, of the Cleveland Club, claims to have signed Beck, of the Toledo Club, for next season.

Catcher Speer, of Buffalo, will go to California this winter and try for a berth in the California League.

Walter Wilnot hit poorer this year than at any time during his base ball career. His average was only .266.

Manager Stallings, of Detroit, is in New York sizing up the scrappers and arranging for a lively winter for his Detroit Athletic Club.

President Franklin, of Buffalo, hampers all the men who handle his players by listening to outside criticism and interfering because of this.

Ban Johnson and Charley Comiskey have returned from their fishing trip in Wisconsin. President Johnson gained over ten pounds, while Comiskey annexed an even five.

Pitcher Emil Frisk may decide to spend the winter in Detroit, as he has had offers of positions there and is not averse to the metropolis of Michigan as a place of residence.

The barnstormers, headed by Umpire Joe Cantillon, of the American League, disbanded at Superior, Sept. 27, after playing five games, which netted each one of the players in the combination \$75.

According to Manager-President Watkins, who ought to know, the Indianapolis Club will come out just a little to the good on the past season. That's not a very good return for a hard season's work.

Chairman Young, of the National Board, has given official notice of the release by the American League of T. F. Hartsel, of Indianapolis, and Roscoe Miller, of Detroit, to the Chicago National League Club.

Manager Watkins says he would not give George Hogriever for any outfielder in the American League. Hogriever is now playing with the Appleton Club, of Appleton, Wis. Hogriever may play in the California League during the cold months.

President Watkins has confirmed the report of the sale of a half interest in the Indianapolis Club to Charles Ruscaupt. Ruscaupt becomes interested not only in the club, but in the advertising privileges held by Mr. Watkins, which includes theatre programmes.

President Watkins, of the Indianapolis Club, has the following to say relative to the Hoosiers next season: "There will be some new faces on next year's team, made necessary by the drafting of some of the men." It is stated that the cream of the Marion Club, of the Inter-state League will be purchased by Indianapolis for next season.

BOSTON BRIEFS.

Many Wagers on Position Lost by Boston Backers—Some Causes For the Team's Disappointing Showing—Good Individual Work, Etc.

By Jacob C. Morse.

Boston, Oct. 1.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Boston now has but one Monday at home, to-day, before proceeding on its last trip of the season, playing four games in New York and the same number in Philadelphia. Our position for 1900 is assured. Fourth is the best possible, and most unsatisfactory was that for the fans. Big wagers had been laid, some at heavy odds, for Boston to finish one, two or three, and many were laid to beat the Phillies in the race. Certainly the Bostons should have beaten the Quakers, signal service and all. No one interested in the Boston team will gainsay the fact that the work of the club has been a vast disappointment. Father Chadwick makes no bones of saying that

SELEE'S MANAGEMENT

was inferior to that of 1899. As far as that is concerned, Selee had neither the Willis nor Nichols of 1899 to depend upon. To be sure, he gained a Dineen, and Lewis pitched in care good form. The batting was weak, and the team did not have the rallying powers of past seasons. Now how was it with Hanlon? He lost Corbett two seasons ago, and Hughes and McJams this season. He won the pennant without the former, and promises to without the latter. Now wasn't this a remarkable showing? It is too bad that Brooklyn has not appreciated Hanlon and his men more than has been the fact. The record of the veteran manager is one of which he may well be proud, and his victory is largely personal.

SECRET CAUSES.

I am thoroughly convinced that the Boston Club had a pennant-winning team this year, and its failure to reach the goal first was due to something beside the inferiority to other teams. With any one maintain that the superiority of Pittsburgh was over us as is 15 to 5? Or that there was any such disparity between Brooklyn and Boston as the result of the series would show? Never. Boston simply wasn't in it with Brooklyn and Philadelphia, and stands in draw at eight games with the Phillies, with five games dropped to the latter right in Boston. Boston has thoroughly lacked esprit de corps, the old-time dash and go have been thoroughly

wanting and without them no team can win. Some wonderful work has been done by some of the players, but it has been largely individual. Long has played better ball this season than he has for years. His hitting of late has been exceedingly strong and timely. Stahl was obliged to lay off in the Philadelphia series on account of illness. His batting had been away off for some days, and it turns out that for three weeks he has suffered from malaria, yet he persisted in playing, but finally had to lay off and Barry took his place, and very creditably. This enabled Freeman to get back into the game, and he played a strong game as usual, batting fiercely and fielding satisfactorily.

HAMILTON

leads the team in batting. The lead has alternated between him and Bill Clarke. Hamilton's stick work has been strong and steady, and few players, if any, have got to first base any more than he. In the game in Brooklyn last Thursday he was twice given his base and once hit—all the gifts of the Brooklyn crack during the game—and on the next day he was twice favored by "Roaring Bill" Kennedy. Hamilton's fielding was extremely brilliant all season. Some of his catches were extraordinarily fine and many a base runner found that he could still throw, and more than a little. Hamilton has made the assertion that this would be his last season, but I am much inclined to doubt this, especially in view of his brilliant performances of the past season. His powers are by no means wanting, and he will be very much wanted in 1901. "We should never have allowed him to go had it not been for bad advice we got," said Al Reach recently in this city. "We made a great mistake. Hamilton is without doubt one of the best players in the country." How Hamilton would have fitted in with Thomas and Flick this year.

TENNEY

has fallen off this year, and this must be ascribed wholly to his injuries, which kept him out of the game one trip. He has fallen off sadly in hitting, and while he was one of the most dependable hitters in the country, he has fallen so greatly this year when hits were wanted. While both Clarke and Sullivan caught finely they have not been Bergens. Martin's phenomenal abilities as a backstop and throwing were greatly missed. The catching has been streaky and passed balls and poor throws were more abundant than ever in the history of the club. All the little leaks have helped sink our ship. Next season may tell a different story. Bill Clarke has proved a

GREAT PINCH HITTEL.

There is not a better one in the club. But for him New York would have won the first game of the last series in this city, for he drove in the tying run in the seventh inning, after two men were out. The game was called a moment later. In this game it took almost two hours to play four innings. Lewis had an off day and gave seven bases on balls in less than two innings before he was superseded.

ROGER CONNOR'S BROTHER.

Joe, from the Connecticut League, has been given a trial and has done some very fine work. His backstopping has been good and he throws strongly and with ease. In one of the Brooklyn games he nipped such fast chaps as Sheppard and Demott. I can't see where he is any improvement over Clements. Clements stayed over in Providence for the banquet to the Eastern League champions and then showed up on the bench in Boston in citizen's clothes. He looked finely and his work with Billy Murray was evidently extremely satisfactory.

THE OUTLOOK.

No announcement has yet been made about the programme of next season, and it would not be at all surprising if Selee were retained and Duffy, too, for that matter. President Soden is an extremely conservative gentleman, and is not at all precipitate. If changes are to be made he wants to be sure the team will be strengthened before he makes the move. "I have not sanctioned securing any-players," said he the other day, "for I failed to see how we would be strengthened by anyone mentioned."

INJUDICIOUS CRITICISM.

One of the local writers has found fault with the work of every umpire who has appeared here this season. It would be sheer nonsense to assert that any member had "It in" for the Boston Club, and over in Brooklyn Captain Kelley was wroth at the deal he got from Hurst. "Why, Hurst and I are great friends and the men and he are on the best footing, and I can't see why he should rub it into us." This all shows that the umpires are on the level, and the reason they give decisions as they do is because they look at them differently than do the players. The one umpire system makes it very hard on the umpires, and the players, too. The games of the last six weeks of the season should have seen two umpires working in all of the Brooklyn and Pittsburgh games. Had this been the case we would have been spared many scenes of disturbances and rowdiness. The magnates are to blame, of course, yet they throw the blame, as usual, upon the umpires and the players. Many are asking whether the magnates will restore the double umpire system in 1901. If the League does all it is whispered they will do, they will do some startling things. This is sure, unless they want to be swamped they will have to do a great deal for the good of their great and glorious organization. If they fail now they will lose public confidence forever.

SPOKES FROM THE HUB.

The Phillies won two out of three here in the last series. Was Morgan Murphy responsible? Returning wanderers from the West have been tenanted the local bench of late.

Long and Sullivan are having a good race for first place in home runs. Each has reached double figures. Stahl leads in triples.

That idea of khaki for home uniforms is all right. If clubs will persist in white why not do as the Pittsburgh people and pay for the laundry. It wouldn't cost the earth and the investment bear rich interest. Our suits were sights this year.

The Bostons and Phillies will go on a short trip after the close of the season in Philadelphia, playing in Frostburg, Md., and in Baltimore and Washington. Wonder how the Baltimore and Washington frozen-outs will take to that proposition?

"Cy" Seymour's last game here was a "beaut." Nine bases on balls, one hit, two wild throws, a wild pitch, and then him arm and all he would have won but for his own and Murphy's error.

"Chick" Stahl's falling off in batting is explained by the fact that he continued to play though he was chock full of malaria for three weeks. He withdrew in favor of Barry in the second game last Friday, and the first thing his "sub" did was to whack the ball for three bases and send in two runs.

There is no doubt that Hamilton will lead the team in batting. He has been doing splendid stick-work all season.

The left field fence on the South End grounds is in a disgraceful condition. It leans well over in the ground, and the stick that is supposed to indicate the foul line is all awry.