

## JIM HART'S SCHEME

RELATIVE TO CALIFORNIA, FOR WHICH HE HAS A "HANKERING."

He is Figuring on Sending the Chicago Team to the Pacific Coast to Train as an Annual Spring Fixture Which Will More Than Pay Expenses.

Special to Sporting Life.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 23.—President James A. Hart, of the Colts, contemplates an elaborate training trip for his team instead of the usual two weeks' practice against the University of Illinois at Champaign. It is nothing less than a period of preliminary training at Los Angeles, followed by a series of games at San Francisco, Denver, Omaha and Kansas City. This program he would make an annual feature. Mr. Hart stated to-day he thought an annual trip to the coast would be beneficial to the physical training and gratifying to the players personally. Mr. Hart's idea is that if the spring training trip were made an annual feature people on the coast would learn to expect the Chicago team, and that the games it played in working its way back East would become annual fixtures and profitable, in addition to the interest they would arouse. Whether the plan will be undertaken this coming spring will depend on the result of the peace conference for the week of January 5.



James A. Hart

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 22.—Editor "Sporting Life":—So Fred Dunlap has passed into the great beyond, and the man whose salary figure marked the high-water limit of the long ago is gone! It seems only yesterday to me that I saw Dunlap chase the ball—and yet it was ten years or so, and most men had forgotten. I wonder how many of the great army of fans who filled the parks last summer could have told whether Fred Dunlap was alive or dead. In base ball the fallen star is soon forgotten. Once in a great while he may have so vast and unique a personality that he will never fade from the memory of the fan, but as a rule he soon passes from our minds. Anson, perhaps, will never die in the talk of the ball cranks, but there will never be another Anson. What a ball player this Dunlap was—and what an artist in getting the fat salaries! Even the mighty boosts the salaries got last season were as nothing compared to the coin that Dunlap bagged, circumstances all considered. Lajoie alone managed to hit up the magnates for more money last season than Dunlap potted, but there was no such desperate warfare and cross-bidding in Dunlap's day as there was last season. Hence Dunlap must command our admiration trebly, for, remember this as well, that Dunny was no such batsman as Lajoie, and hence not really as valuable to a team.



Frank Selee

DUNLAP'S FIELDING. Dunlap was a real infielder of the type so popular ten years ago—one of the solid, bulky style through whom no grounder seemed able to pass, but who could nevertheless wave the hot ones goodbye with graceful ease when occasion demanded. With the gloves now in use to aid, Dunny would have been even a bigger wonder now than then. He was showy, yet effective. He averaged up quite well with the two other kings of second base in those days—Pfeffer and McPhee. Each had his own way of going after the ball, his own style of throwing, his own methods in catching the throw and getting the runner. Dunlap never had quite the support that Pfeffer had, for it was never Dunny's luck to play in the middle of such a bunch as the stonewall infield of the Chicago champions. At least one or two spots were always weak in Dunlap's infields, but this, perhaps, made his individual glory stand out more brilliant in the contrast.

A FALSE REPORT. Consternation and libitum was raised among the ranks of the faithful fans during the last two days. It was announced by an industrious even though pipe-smoking scribe that Charlie Comiskey, the Master of the White Sox, was to be given a new field of usefulness by He Who Sets Up the Pins, Ban Johnson, and was to be transferred to New York. Furthermore, that Commy had assented to the transfer, remarking that New York would be a pretty good place for him to locate and make money. On top of all this it was alleged that Bobby Burke, the fat little local politician, would buy the White Sox, and would move the team to a West Side location, undoubtedly the old West Side grounds. These reports agitated the fans like an ocean in a storm. Comiskey was approached by a numerous

and indignant delegation. When the clouds had rolled by and the dust had blown away, matters straightened themselves out in this wise: that Comiskey is not thinking of going to New York; that Bobby Burke will hardly get the White Sox, and that the team will hardly be moved to the West Side.

LIKES HIS JOB.

Comiskey frankly told his friends that Chicago was good enough for him. He was born and raised in Chicago; he made money in Chicago, brought two pennants to the city of his nativity, and was well satisfied with it as a field for present and future labors. While he believes New York to be a great town and destined to have a grand American League future, the old Roman does not care about beginning his base ball life all anew in the island city. These statements pacified the fans, and the alleged desertion was given the glad hand again.

ASSOCIATION INVASION.

The story of Bobby Burke's connection with the game may yet result in "something doing." Mr. Burke, who has for years been the foremost figure in Chicago's Democracy, has always been a wild-eyed fan, and can be seen at the South Side park any summer afternoon, rooting desperately for the home team. He used to run a nine upon the lots, and has of late, since he accumulated years and money, often expressed himself as willing to put a little cash into the game. Mr. Burke has even gone so far into his researches as to future teams as to figure out how to make the old West Side park a better resort than in 1889. "I would put up high canvas screens along those short fences," said he Friday, "and thus keep the ball from continually hopping out into the street for home runs. Anson, Pfeffer and Williamson used to have those fences down so pat that they were incessantly popping short flies over them and helping their teams to get the flag. Well, I'd have that stopped, in the interests of fair play, by big canvas screens."

As I remarked in my last letter, the old Congress street grounds are not big enough to accommodate many people, Mr. Burke, if he ever puts a team on that old field, will find it no easy job to house all the money on a holiday, and with salaries at their present clip a manager needs a park big enough to grab all the half dollars that come along.

THE TWELVE-CLUB LEAGUE

monstrosity is also freely discussed among the fans. Horrors! Another 12-club league, will all the tail-enders and losing teams, all the cumbrousness of circuit, and all the attendant troubles of such an organization? Scat! Didn't the woes of the ponderous circuit that died so short a time ago teach the magnates anything? Two independent leagues and non-conflicting circuits for me—no 12-club abnormalities! When was the great old game more prosperous than in 1889, when National League and American Association held their respective ways and drew their respective clientele? Well, one consolation—a couple more days and we will know a lot more than we do now.

THE AMERICAN AVERAGES.

Secretary Bob McRoy gave out the averages last week. Naturally, there are errors in the first draft. For instance Billy Sullivan, Comiskey's catcher, is put down as batting only .151, when .235 would fit his actual work much better. Schreck, of the Athletics, is given a fielding average at first base of .947, a clerical error, as he had 236 put-outs and the number is set down as only 136. A few other miscues occur, which will, no doubt, be corrected when the secretary has time to revise things. Dick Harley, who will be with the Cubs next year, hit for only .276 on the season. Jimmy Casey, another addition to Selee's forces, hit for .275.

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWS.

Walter Wilmot will take his Minneapolis Millers to Leavenworth, Kan., to practice.

Pitcher Crystal, signed by Columbus, has just returned from California, and says he has had enough of that country.

Pitcher Oscar Bandelin, formerly of Minneapolis, has been engaged to coach the Wisconsin University team, at Madison, Wis.

Miller Huggins is in Columbus undergoing his examinations for admission to the bar. He expects to leave for St. Paul shortly to see how the land lies there.

Manager Gear, of Kansas City, has signed another shortstop, Fred W. Pletcher, of Mexico, Mo., who played in the Iowa-South Dakota League last season.

Frank Martin, the Little Rock second baseman, who has been signed by Louisville for next season, is being tipped as a sure candidate for big league life in 1904.

George Hogriever has signed to play with the Indianapolis ball club next season, making the eight consecutive time he has accepted terms with the Hoosier management.

Perry Werden, who held down first base for Walter Wilmot last season, has written to Strobel asking him for a place on the Toledo team this year. He has been let out by Wilmot.

The Milwaukee-Columbus war over Billy Clingman has been settled by Milwaukee waiving its claim to the player in exchange for two players to be turned over later by Columbus.

If Billy Hart does not care to resume his managerial responsibilities at Peoria, he can find a berth in the American Association as umpire. President Hickey thinks well of the Bond Hill man.

An effort will be made at the next session of the Indiana Legislature to repeal or modify the Sunday law of that State, and the measure has such strong support in liberal circles that it is likely to be adopted.

Charles Strobel, president of the Toledo Club, has filed an action in Common Pleas Court asking judgment for \$11,700 against the Ohio Talking Machine Company. He claims this amount is due him on a contract.

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### HART ON CUBA.

The Chicago Magnate, After a Visit to the New Republic, Speaks With Authority of Its Chief Sport.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—President James A. Hart, of the National League, accompanied by his wife, has returned from a tour through the South, including a visit to Cuba. While in Cuba Mr. Hart attended a base ball game at Havana, where the American sport has obtained a firm hold upon the islanders, three native teams playing a regular series of championship games on inclosed grounds. These contests usually take place on Sundays or holidays and draw good crowds. Speaking of the base ball situation in Havana, Mr. Hart said:

"The Cubans are crazy about base ball, but they show their enthusiasm in a different way from Americans, as they make it a betting proposition. Every play is the SUBJECT OF BETTING. It's whether the man will strike out, make a hit, get a base on balls, or any proposition any two spectators may be discussing. These wagers usually are small, the heavier bets being on the outcome. Betting on the result, however, is continued throughout the contest, the odds shifting as the advantage varies to one side or the other. All this is done between spectators, as there is no open betting in base ball, as in another game somewhat similar to our tennis, where players are brought from Europe and odds posted through the match. There are



James A. Hart

THREE TEAMS

in Havana—'Almendares,' 'Habanas' and 'Fes.' The latter is a nine of blacks. All these players are under contract and receive regular salaries. Grand stand, bleachers and inclined dirt slopes, as provided for the big association foot ball matches in England, constitute the equipment for spectators. Admission is 10 cents; bleachers, 20 cents, and grand stand 50 cents in Spanish money, a peso or dollar of which is equal to nearly 70 cents of our money. Sunday games draw from 1500 to 3000 spectators, actual, more than war figures of rival leagues.

AN ODD ARRANGEMENT.

"The upper part of the grand stand of the Almendares Club is a ballroom, and the entrance to the comparatively few rows of choice seats is through this ballroom. Sometimes dances are held there, but I was told this was not the season of year for such festivities. I didn't see any likely timber for the West Side team there. The quality of their ball is about equal to that of the better college teams—sharp, snappy fielding, with sensational catches, but what would prove light batting against good pitching. The game seems to be growing in favor, although it now is well attended compared to the total population of the town."

LATER CUBAN NEWS.

Havana, Cuba, Dec. 16, 1902.—Editor "Sporting Life":—The famous "All Cubans," after their return from their three months' tour of America, beat the champion "Almendares" team to a standstill last Sunday to the tune of 5 to 1. Romero, the crack twirler of the "Cubans," was in the box and pitched his usual masterly game, allowing but three safe bingles and issuing no passes to first base. "The game was the most interesting of the season, and

took only 1.05 hours to play it, having used the foul-strike rule for the first time in Cuba. The All-Cubans will make a second tour of the United States next May, opening on Decoration Day, May 30, and touring New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois and New Jersey, returning to Cuba after their Labor Day games.

THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP ended with Almendares in the lead, beating the "Fe" by the narrow margin of two games in the deciding series.

The prize money won by the "Almendares" Club amounted to \$1552 in Spanish silver, or about \$1108 United States currency. The "Almendares" Ball Park, the only one in the city, and where all championship games are played, was again leased to Mr. Jimenez for \$6000 United States currency a year. Mr. Jimenez charges 25 per cent. for the use of the grounds, clearing from \$6000 to \$8000 every year. There is a big fight going on now as to which of the two leagues—the "Cuban League" or the "Summer League"—shall rule the coming championship of the island of Cuba. As one league is as bad as the other the public is taking no interest in the foolish warfare, hoping only to see the ball rolling again.

MINOR MENTION.

Padrou and Carrillo, crack infielders of the "Cuban" Club, have jumped to the "Almendares."

Only three clubs will fight for the championship this year—"Habana," "Almendares" and "Fe."

The proposed trip to Cuba of the "Cuban X Giants," the world-famous independent team, managed by Mr. E. B. Lamar, Jr., has been postponed on account of the coming series for the "Cuban National League" championship games.

The Victor ball will be adopted by the Cuban National League instead of the Spalding ball. ABEL LINARES.

### NEW ENGLAND LEAGUE NEWS.

The New England League expects to play Sunday games next season at Salem, N. H., to which place the Dover team will probably be transferred.

"Win" Clark, of the Manchesters, played two stretches of nine games without an error. Bowcock, of Fall River, played 10 games without an error and made but one error in 13 games.

It is more than likely that the Nashua club of the New England League will retain the present grounds for next season. In that event they will be enlarged and put into first-class shape.

Secretary Farrell, of the National Association, says that the name of Pitcher Stackpole appeared on the Providence reserve list through error. Haverhill is the only club that has any claim on him.

Haverhill has strong hopes of winning the New England pennant in 1903. It had a splendid corps of pitchers and a well balanced team, and is in position to make matters warm from the start.

Manchester won every series, the record being: Manchester 10, Nashua 6, Manchester 13, Dover 3, Manchester 11, Lawrence 5, Manchester 10, Fall River 6; Manchester 9, Haverhill 7; Manchester 13, Concord 3; Manchester 9, Lowell 7.

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