

BROOKLYN BUDGET.

PRESIDENT EBBETTS NOT TO RETIRE FROM CLUB.

Another Chapter on the Financial Aspects of Base Ball—The Probable Make-up of the Brooklyn Team For the Next Campaign.

By JOHN B. FOSTER.

Brooklyn, N. Y., March 13.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Because of the great demands of his bowling business upon his time it was reported that Charles H. Ebbetts, president of the Brooklyn Base Ball Club, would resign the cares of office and devote all his energy to his bowling affairs. It is granted that Mr. Ebbetts is a tolerably busy man. His bowling alleys, and the other work which he does gratis for bowlers in general, are quite enough to take up all of one individual's working hours, but Mr. Ebbetts hasn't the slightest notion of retiring from the base ball business. On the contrary, he will be at Washington Park this summer, and if he preserves his health he will be there for several summers to come, according to his idea of the matter.

BROOKLYN VERY WELL OFF. Those who have been foremost in trying to make it appear that Brooklyn is rather lost to the base ball world because of the light attendance of the past two seasons seem to be responsible for this rumor in connection with Mr. Ebbetts. "An awful lot of energy is being wasted," said he, "in the effort to wipe Brooklyn off the base ball map. I know personally that those who are behind the club are not quite ready to quit just yet. In fact I wouldn't be surprised if they were in the National League just as long, or perhaps longer, than some of the other owners. Brooklyn isn't worrying about its chances. Give us time and we will have a team that will keep the other fellows worrying, and then there will be nothing further said about the Brooklyn."

THE PLAYER PROPOSITION suggests that it will not be very long before there will be signs of the revival of a Players' Protective League or something of the kind. The situation which confronts the players at the present moment is identical with that which confronted them when the celebrated committee of some years ago met the National League owners at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York. At that time Clarke Griffith was one of the leading spokesmen for the players. The National League did not give the players all that they demanded; in fact, postponed the hearing, and because of that, and also because of the loss of an important letter which was sent to Arthur H. Soden, Griffith said the other day the American League got its start.

UNDER WHICH KING? Now if the players should again unite to demand concessions from the Leagues which side of the fence will Griffith take? If his cause was good when the players met the National League owners in the past, a like cause will be good if the players meet the owners of both leagues at some time in the future. Will Griffith be for the reforms which players say are essential to the game, or will he be as a manager with thorough experience and knowledge of the owners' side of the question take the ground which was taken by the National League men in the past? As he is a shrewd chap, with a long head, I am inclined for one to think that he will be with the owners this time. The fact of the matter is that the owners have got to have some chance to live, and the players should not undertake to measure the ordinary routine of base ball with the good luck which befalls them in war time.

PLEASURE VS. BUSINESS. What joy it would be to players if there were perpetual war. That is, what joy for a time, but what would become of the national game in general if there were no mutual basis on which all teams might act? It would only be a little while before there would be no National League nor any American League. Base ball is not all honey and roses. The man who gives out absurd statements of profits on the part of the base ball clubs because he wants to show that this league or the other league is prosperous merely makes all kinds of trouble for the owners, whom he thinks he is befriending. Base ball is not the bonanza which it is cracked up to be. Strike an average of all that has been made in base ball, and all that has been lost, and on which side of the ledger does the reader think the burden of the funds would be? The answer is easy. Base ball still owes the backers of the game and owes them a lot. When one stops to think of the

STUPENDOUS SALARY ROLL which must be undertaken every year, to say nothing about the other expenses incidental to running a team in the major leagues, it becomes evident that there must be large returns at the gate or there will be no profits, to say nothing about making expenses. There are some players who

forget all about the little item of interest on the investment of the money which is placed to base ball's credit. In fact there are players who seem to think that base ball is merely a lark in which some rich man should be willing to put up the money to keep the teams going just for the fun of the thing. Were that the universal case base ball clubs would change hands every new moon, for there is yet to be found any individual with wealth who does not like a variety in his hobby occasionally.

TO INSURE SUCCESS not for the present but for all time to come base ball must be treated purely and simply as a business and the player who enters upon it must assume the theory that he is making for a term of years more than he could make in any other trade, and therefore drawing much larger return upon his investment than he could possibly hope to draw in any other occupation. Base ball wages are simply the premium of superior talent in a certain direction, and are correspondingly higher than wages for employments which require the expenditure of more vital energy. A young player who is industrious and frugal can acquire at least \$20,000

IN TEN YEARS PLAYING base ball. This sum is earned by installments in seven months of each year. If there is much energy to him he can find some other employment in the other five months which will at least keep up his living expenses, and therefore he is in a position to save more in the ten years of his base ball life than he could possibly hope to save were he engaged at the trade which he may have picked up in his early days. It is not out of place to make mention of this matter at the present time because it is just as certain as addition and subtraction that the players, sooner or later, will attempt another inning with the owners. They can't get away from the notion that they are privileged characters. The truth is that most of them are spoiled. The public does that.

TEAM NEWS. Since the last report there has been a revision of the remnants of the fifty-four varieties and a new schedule has been given out of the men who will be taken South to practice for the coming season. The revision is really better than the original, and it looks very much as if Hanlon had some notion that he is going to get quite a team out of the Brooklyn before he has finished with them. Stranger things have happened. There have been teams in the past which were picked for sure losers, but resulted in good winners. If memory is not at fault, John M. Ward once had a team in Brooklyn in the Brotherhood year which was picked out to trail all the season, but it didn't trail. Back in the old days in Cleveland they had a team of youngsters which was supposed to run a dolorous eighth, and yet in the middle of the season it was up with the leaders and causing the Boston and New Yorks no end of annoyance. Other instances might be cited where there have been

HAPPY DISAPPOINTMENTS. If Hanlon should happen to get away well, look out for the Brooklyn, during the early part of the season, if they are unable to do much toward the close of the year. While they are good, they will almost certainly be very good, and it will be up to them to make their hay while the sun shines. If they don't get away well, it is possible that they will do better as the season wanes, although it is usually the rule with young players that if they make a bad start they cling to their "cussedness" throughout the remainder of the year.

BERGEN, RITTER AND JACKLITSCH are the catchers who are to go South. If that man Jacklitsch would only settle down and get his throwing arm working smoothly he would be a very handy man for the Brooklyn to have around, because he can hit the ball a whole lot. Why isn't it possible for some base ball doctor to come along and patch up some of these ball players? Here's Bergen, who can catch well enough for anybody, but who can't hit and Jacklitsch, who can hit, but who can't throw the ball well when he is hurried a little. If their could be a happy medium the lot of a base ball manager would be vastly easier.

THE PITCHING STAFF will be composed of Cronin—in spite of the fact that Big Jack has been working every medium to get exchanged elsewhere; Jones, the somersault player; Scanlan and Reising, both of whom looked good last fall; Pastorius, Stricklett, the original discoverer of the spit ball; McIntyre, Goodwin, that's the kind of a name for a ball player to have; Bell, Doescher, whom Hanlon thinks will amount to something one of these days; Durham, Mitchell, Pool, Watts and Wiggs, not Mrs. Wiggs of the cabbage patch.

THE INFIELD will be made up of Babb, Beecher, Batch, Wiegand, Owens, McCormick, Lewis and McGamwell. It is a tolerably sure thing that McGamwell will be tried at first, and it will not surprise anybody very much if an effort is made to make a second baseman out of Lewis. Babb will play short well, if the company on both sides of him is fast; and if Batch can keep up the pace which he showed in 1904 there will be nothing slipping away from the third base side of the diamond.

THE OUTFIELD will be just as it has always been, with the exception that young Malay, the Brooklyn player, may prove that he is fast enough to get into major league company; and if he does, he surely will have a chance. There has been some talk that Sheekard had enough of jumping to suit him his natural life. He is likely to say many things which he happens to be in a rantankerous mood, a little blue on the game, as it were; but he will be in line all right when the players go to South Carolina, and if he doesn't play better ball this year than he did last there will be more than one person very much surprised. One of the others is likely to be Sheekard himself.

Shortstop Frank Gatins will be Newark's field captain this year.

FAMOUS PITCHER DEAD.

George Weidman Worked in Memorable 18-Inning, 1-to-0 Game.

George E. Weidman, the retired pitcher who died recently after an operation in a New York hospital, became famous while with Detroit. He gave up base ball in about 1889, when he opened a saloon in Rochester. About two years later the firm of Coughlin & Weidman was dissolved and "Stump" formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Michael O'Loughlin, and for a few years they conducted a saloon at 153 State street. This place was sold by them a couple of years ago and since then they have conducted the Elmhurst hotel at Manitou Beach.

He was troubled with tumor and when "Silk" O'Loughlin went to New York about 10 days ago to attend a conference of the big league magnates he made arrangements with several prominent specialists of the metropolis for the operation which resulted in the death of Weidman. "Silk," who is a brother-in-law of Weidman, was with him when he died.

He had the losing end of one of the most remarkable games on record, which he described several years ago as follows:

"I think nobody will dispute the claim that the greatest championship base ball game ever played on any diamond was the 18-inning 1-to-0 contest at Providence, August 17, 1882," said he to a Rochester Post Express representative.

"The game sparkled with brilliant plays from beginning to end. Johnny Ward was in the box for Providence and I occupied the slab for Detroit. Radbourne was the Providence Club's other pitcher, and in this game he was playing right field. Detroit failed to score in the eighteenth and then Providence came to bat.

"Rad" was the first man up and he hit the first ball pitched, which was served up to him just below his shoulders. It went sailing over the left field fence, which was about as short in proportion as the left field fence is to the diamond at Ontario Beach.

"This hit was good for a home run and gave Providence the game. In the fifteen inning

Wright, of Providence, hit a ball through the carriage gate, but was thrown out at the plate. The home team claimed a home run should have been allowed on this hit, because a ground rule had been made, but Umpire Bradley refused it.

"Ward pitched in magnificent form and I myself tried to hold up the Detroit end of the pitching. Wonderful infield work was done by Denny, Whitney and Farrell. Denny had 17 chances at third and accepted 16 of them.

"I may say further that at that time we were at the tail end of the ladder while Providence was at the top. Four of the Detroiters were playing new positions. Bennett, the noted 'Charley,' who is now in Detroit and getting along exceedingly well despite the fact that he is without his lower limbs owing to a railroad accident, though one of our regular catchers, had to be put on third that day. Whitney, too, was new to short and Foster and Trott were also new.

"I may say that Radbourne, who was, without doubt, one of the greatest players that ever lived, came from this city. I never knew exactly what part of the city he said he hailed from, but I believe it was out University Ave. way. Though he is dead now, he never failed to ask about Rochester whenever we met. He spent his last years in Bloomington, Ill."

The following is the score of the great Providence-Detroit National League game, played at Providence, Aug. 17, 1882, described by Weidman:

Table with 2 columns: Providence and Detroit. Rows include player names and statistics like AB, B.P., A.E., R, H, E.

\* Knight out for running out of line. † None out when winning run was scored. Providence.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1-1 Detroit.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-0 Two-base hits—Weidman, Bennett. Three-base hit—Wright. Home run—Radbourne. Double plays—Providence 3, Detroit 2. Bases on balls—Knight. Struck out—By Weidman 6, by Ward 4. Passed ball—Trott. Umpire—Providence, Bradley. Detroit, Jones.

AMERICAN LEAGUE NOTES.

Pitcher Olmstead has signed with Boston. Pitcher Orth says he found Anson the batter hardest to deceive.

Metcalf, one of Griffith's new pitchers, is said to be an expert planist. Charley Farrell claims that the "spit ball" will do the game much harm.

Jack Chesbro says Harvard has two rising pitchers in Coburn and Taylor. Pitcher Harry Olmstead, purchased from Columbus, has signed with Boston.

Harry Howell's father has invented a pitching machine for use in battling practice. Shortstop Joe Cassidy has resigned with Washington at an increased salary.

Manager Lajoie may give a Cleveland outfielder named McCollough a try-out. Cleveland's new infielder, Nick Kahl, is said to be ainger for Hans Wagner in action.

Sam Crawford is being tried at first base by Manager Armour with gratifying results. The Boston "Herald" says that Connie Mack offered \$7500 and Monte Cross for Cassidy.

Ganzel's desire to get away from New York is said to be due to a feud with Elberfeld. Manager Jake Stahl and his Senators started on March 13 for Charlottesville, Va., for practice until April 2.

President Dan Johnson last week returned to Chicago after a 10 days' fishing trip in Florida. Pugglist Ike Weir has resigned as trainer of the Boston in order to train and drive horses.

East Boston friends have presented Collins' young pitcher, Fred L. O'Brien, with a fine signet ring. Governor Cummings, of Alabama, gave an audience to Clark Griffith's Highlanders at Montgomery.

After all the talk of Kittredge's insubordination that player reported at Washington last week in cheerful humor. Infielder Charley Moran has given up the notion of playing independent ball and has joined the Browns at Dallas.

Pitcher Townsend, of the Senators, still has under advisement an offer to manage an independent club at Chester, Pa. If Waddell's will power could be made as strong as he says his arm feels, he'd establish a record for games won next season.

Pitcher "Doc" Newton, the southpaw, upon whom Manager Griffith is pinning high hopes, did not report in very good condition. Sid Mercer, who was secretary of the St. Louis Americans last year, is to do base ball this season for the New York "Globe."

One boy's snare of a job with Griffith is "Paddy" Duff, the ex-Manhattan College boy, says the New York "Globe." He is a catcher and looks, works and acts like one. Jack O'Connor, who insists that he has permanently retired, says that the "spit ball" is going to raise hades with all catchers, but particularly with the young and green ones.

Catcher Kittredge agrees with Clark Griffith's statement that Rusie was the best pitcher that ever stood in a box, with the exception of Chesbro, who "is in a class by himself."

In Jack Chesbro's opinion the only way to beat the spit ball is to put the pitcher either further up or further back, to abolish the foul strike won't mend matters in the least. Lajoie, Bradley and the other Cleveland sluggers are expected to fatten their list of home runs next season, as the left field fence on the Cleveland grounds has been shortened.

Fielder Jones, manager of the Chicago, is of

the opinion that Jess Burkett is going to make a mighty good man for the Boston "champs." "He certainly is a sweet hitter," said Fielder.

Lou Criger will soon start for Hot Springs and will join the Boston Club some time before the playing season opens. The great catcher has been laid up with the grippe this winter.

Manager Lajoie has about decided to become a bowler, and the pin boys on the Southern alleys may have to do some tall hustling if he decides to take up the game in earnest.

Two "Cy" Youngs will pitch in Boston the coming season. Old "Cy" will put them over for the world's champion, and Irving M. Young, also known as "Cy," will pitch for the Nationals.

Sam Crane predicts that if Ambrose Puttmann, the Highlanders' giant, learns to use the spit ball the New York Highlanders will romp in with the American League championship next season.

Pitcher Harry Howell has been keeping himself in shape during the winter bowling duck pins and regulation pins, at which he is an adept. He is particularly strong as a duck pin bowler.

Walter Clarkson, who has been coaching the West Point base ball candidates, has taken on weight during the winter and feels confident that he will be able to hold his own in the box this year.

The Cleveland players, under Lajoie's wing, left Cleveland March 5, and arrived at their training quarters in Atlanta March 7. All of the men, including Bradley, are now under contract except Billy Lush.

Friends of John Ganzel say he wants to leave the Highlanders because of a falling out with Elberfeld. The Detroit Club is willing to swap Charlie Hickman for Long John. Hick was always popular in New York.

Uncle Anson keeps on belittling the "spit ball" and Harry Jack Chesbro promises to give him a chance next season to make good his boast as a hitter or of proving that the procession has left Uncle far behind.

The Detroit team, headed by Manager Armour, left Detroit for Augusta, Feb. 6. Before their departure the entire team was insured by the Detroit Club for \$175,000. This is probably a record for accident insurance.

Bob Unglaub, of the Boston, displays two lacerated knuckles on his right hand, received while mixing it up with a burglar whom he found in the cellar of his home about ten days ago. Bob claims that the thief will need a set of store teeth, even if he did manage to get away.

Pitcher Flene, of the White Sox, looks the part of a second Rusie. He is a big fellow, over six feet tall, with the strength and arm to throw a ball through a battleship, and has youth and good habits all in his favor. He will be the only novice on the White Sox roster this year.

Manager Stahl reported to the Washington Club owners on March 6, and announced that he had signed outfielder Harry Cassidy, whom the Pittsburg Club had overlooked. By not tendering the youngster a contract before March 1, the Pittsburg Club unintentionally released him from reservation and enabled him to sign where he pleased. He preferred a chance at Washington to a probable berth with Atlanta as a "farmed" hand.

The day after the Cleveland's arrival at Atlanta a messenger from the Capital came to the Aragon Hotel, presented the compliments of Governor Joseph M. Terrell to Manager Lajoie, and said that the Governor requested the honor of a visit from the highest-salaried, heaviest-hitting and best all-around ball player in the world. "Larry" accepted the invitation, stepped into the waiting conveyance and was soon in the office of Georgia's Chief Executive, talking base ball with the Governor.