

TWO BIG WARS INTERRUPTED THE PROGRESS OF THE NATIONAL GAME.

The Union League in 1884 and the Player's League in 1890 Tore Things Up and Caused More or Less Extensive Reorganization.

BY FRANCIS C. RICHTER.

The progress of organized base ball has been halted at various times by base ball wars—five of them to be exact. In each case, however, the result was beneficial by reason of the lessons taught and the experience gained. These five wars were the National League-American Association war in 1882; the Union Association war in 1884; the National League-Players' League war in 1890; the National League-American Association war of 1891; and the National League-American League war of 1901-1902. Three of these wars are dealt with elsewhere in this history. Of the other two we herewith give a brief resume:

The Union Association War.

When the National League, American Association and Northwestern League formed the Tri-partite Agreement in the fall of 1883 a number of ambitious base ball promoters conceived the idea of organizing a new major league at the expense of the two existing leagues, using opposition to the newly-established reserve rule as a bait for the players. The chief promoter was a wealthy young St. Louisan named Henry V. Lucas. At a meeting held in Pittsburgh, September 12, 1883, the Union Association was organized with a circuit consisting of St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Boston and Altoona. H. B. Bennett, of Washington, was elected president and Warren W. White, also of Washington, secretary. At a subsequent meeting, however, H. V. Lucas, of St. Louis, was chosen as president; Thomas W. Pratt, of Philadelphia, as vice-president; and W. W. White, of Washington, secretary. Mr. Lucas practically ran the organization and spent a vast deal of time, money and energy upon it. The National League and American Association were raided for players and about fifty became tangled up in the new movement, but before the season opened most of these players backed out and refused to live up to their contracts. Lucas, being the admittedly wealthy man of the combination, managed to hold the bulk of his players and this made his team so strong that he had a complete walk-over in the race. The only noted players who joined the Union Association were Fred Dunlap, Sam Crane, George W. Bradley, George Schaefer, Fred Shaw, "One-Armed" Daily, Henry Boyle, Sweeney and Atkinson. The sensation of the season was the desertion of McCormick, Briody and Glasscock, of Cleveland in mid-season, to the St. Louis Club. The public did not take kindly to the personnel or methods of the Union Association and the season was a complete failure. Within six weeks Altoona disbanded and was succeeded by Kansas City. In August the Keystone, of Philadelphia, disbanded, the Wilmington, Eastern League, team taking its place. In September Wilmington quit and was succeeded by Milwaukee. The Chicago team was transferred to Pittsburgh in August and was disbanded there in September, St. Paul filling the vacancy. Only five clubs finished the season and St. Louis won the championship in hollow style. The record:

W. L. Pct.	W. L. Pct.
St. Louis 91 16 .850	Keystone 21 46 .312
Cincinnati 63 35 .660	Kansas City 14 63 .182
Baltimore 56 48 .538	Milwaukee 8 3 .727
Boston 58 51 .532	Altoona 6 19 .240
Pittsburg 49 45 .471	Wilmington 2 15 .118
Nationals 47 66 .416	St. Paul 2 6 .250

The champion St. Louis team was composed of Sweeney, Boyle, Hartnett and Warden, pitchers; Dolan, Brennan and Baker, catchers; Joe Quinn, Dunlap and J. Gleason, basemen; Whitehead, shortstop; D. Rowe, Schaefer and a battery player, outfielders; Fred Dunlap, manager. An effort was made during the succeeding winter to reorganize the Union Association, but the National League gave that movement its death-blow by admitting Lucas and his St. Louis Club to the National League.

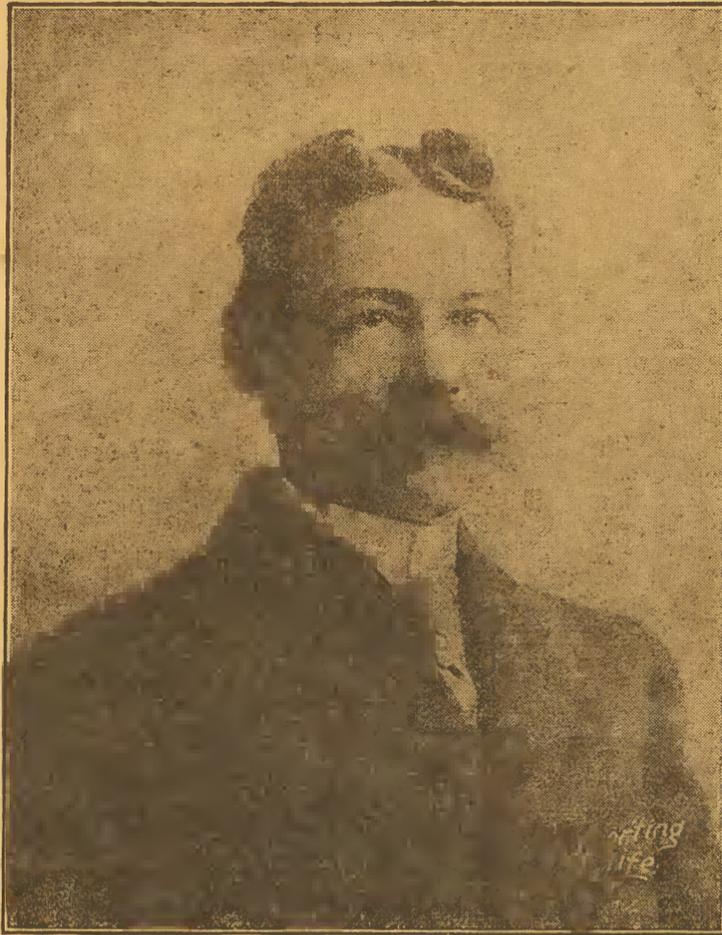
The Players' League War.

Five years after the affair of the Union Association the Players' League was organized to war upon the National League. This organization grew out of a series of controversies between the National League and the Brotherhood over questions of contract, player-classification and salary-reduction. The movement for the new league was secretly conducted by the officers of the Brotherhood, headed by John M. Ward, during the season of 1889. Backers for an eight-club league and sites for new ball parks in each city conflicting with the National League, were secured, and at a meeting held on Dec. 16, 1889, in New York, the Players' League was permanently organized with a ten-year co-partnership between the eight clubs represented. All authority was vested in a Central Board of Directors in which the players had equal representation with the capitalists. The reserve rule was abolished and absolute one-year contracts with privilege of renewal for two years were substituted. The players were also to share in the profits of the clubs equally with the capitalists. The officers selected were: President, Col. E. A. McAlpin, of New York; vice-president, John Addison, of Chicago; secretary-treasurer, Frank H. Brunell, of Chicago. The circuit was composed of Boston, Brooklyn, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburg, Buffalo and Cleveland. After successfully defending four injunction

suits brought by National League clubs the Players' League opened its season with every promise of popular support, but in a short time contention between the players and the capitalists arose and grew to such proportions as to vitally affect discipline. Several of the all-star teams fell far below form and expectation. The conflicting schedule with the National League also divided the patronage and in time disgusted the public, and to make matters worse the press was divided between the contending factions which led to an excessive amount of public recrimination. As a result the attendance at both the National League and Players' League games dwindled steadily as the season progressed and before mid-season was reached it became evident that both leagues would lose heavily financially, and therefore the battle had become one of a "survival of the fittest." And here is where the weakness of the Players' League began to tell heavily, as the inexperienced capitalists lost confidence in the project and began to weaken badly towards the close of the

trustees. A series of exhibition games in Cincinnati in October proved a complete frost and still further scared the Players' League capitalists, particularly those in the East. A series of conferences between the Players' League capitalists and the National League magnates during the winter resulted in giving the Players' League its death-blow. The New York and Brooklyn Clubs entered into secret negotiations to sell out to the National League and this resulted in a "rush for cover" by all the other Players' League clubs. The final result was that the New York, Brooklyn, Pittsburg and Chicago Clubs were consolidated. Cleveland and Buffalo were purchased outright and Boston and Philadelphia were given franchises in the reorganized American Association. And so ended the Players' League.

President Frank Farrell will join his New York team in Atlanta in the course of a very few days. He is contemplating a vacation and is so enthusiastic over the chances of the Yankees that he wants to get on the ground as soon as possible to look them over. He will remain in camp a couple of weeks.



FRANCIS C. RICHTER, Associate Founder, Editor-in-Chief, and Vice President of "Sporting Life."

Editor and associate founder of "Sporting Life," Francis C. Richter, is a Philadelphian to the manor born. Here he first saw the light of day in January, 1854; here he was reared and educated; here he served his journalistic apprenticeship, and here he has passed his whole life. In his youth he was devoted to all branches of athletic sports. His chief delight, however, was base ball, which he played for many years as an amateur. In these years he conceived a fondness amounting to a passion for base ball, which has never waned; which has, in fact, grown stronger with the passing years, finding him to-day as absorbed in, and enthusiastic over, the great game as in the first flush of youth. Mr. Richter's journalistic debut was made with the old "Day" in 1872, and he served that paper in all capacities from reporter to managing editor. The political upheaval inaugurated by the famous "Committee of One Hundred," ended the existence of "The Day" in 1880 and Mr. Richter then became connected with the "Sunday World." During this period Mr. Richter lent valuable assistance toward the revival of base ball in Philadelphia, which culminated in the organization of the old American Association in 1882, the admission thereto of a newly organized Athletic Club, and the admission of the new Philadelphia Club to the old National League in 1883. The season of 1882 convinced Mr. Richter that his beloved game of base ball was due for a new lease of life and in the spring of 1883 he started "Sporting Life" in partnership with Mr. Thomas S. Dando, who was one of the leading printers of Philadelphia, a crack amateur base ball player and pigeon shot, and a splendid all round sportsman as well as a first-class business man. The first number of "Sporting Life" was issued on April 15, 1883, and it never missed a week from that time to the present. Moreover, from the start to the present time, Mr. Dando has been business head and Mr. Richter editor-in-chief of "Sporting Life"—a unique thing in the history of sporting journalism. The paper was a huge success from the start, has remained uninterruptedly successful for twenty-five years, and is to-day more popular, more influential and more widely-read than at any period in its long and eventful career of twenty-five years—another unprecedented record in sporting journalism. "Sporting Life" has always been and is still the recognized authority on base ball and its editorial opinions on all topics connected with the sport are eagerly read and received with at least respectful attention. Editor Richter's pen has unquestionably rendered great service to the national game, and has always been consistently and insistently for decency and honesty in sport. He has, moreover, been uniformly loyal to organized ball, fair to clubs and players, and impartial to a degree. His policy is tersely expressed in the motto of "Sporting Life's" editorial page—"Devoted to Base Ball Men and Measures, with Malice Toward None and Charity for All." This policy, unflinchingly adhered to, has won well-deserved popularity for "Sporting Life" and its editor, and commanded the respect and support of all base ball parties and partisans.

season, especially when in September a long spell of continuous wet weather put the finishing touches to the misfortunes of this league. The league, however, managed to worry through the season and Boston won the championship after a most disappointing race, considering the supposedly all-star composition of the various teams. The record:

W. L. Pct.	W. L. Pct.
Boston 81 48 .628	Philadelphia 68 63 .519
Brooklyn 76 56 .576	Pittsburg 69 68 .469
New York 74 57 .565	Cleveland 55 75 .423
Chicago 75 62 .547	Buffalo 36 96 .273

The champion Boston team was manned as follows: Radbourne, Gumbert, Daley, Kilroy, Madden, pitchers; Kelly, Murphy, Swett, catchers; Brouters, Quinn, Nash, basemen; Irwin, shortstop; H. Richardson, T. Brown, Stovey, outfielders; Arthur Irwin, manager. Browning, of Cleveland, led the league batsmen with .391. During the winter strenuous efforts were made by the players to reorganize the league for the following season. In September the Players' League as a body had purchased the Cincinnati National League Club for \$40,000 and placed it in the hands of four

Ball Players' was organized by John M. Ward.

THE SEASON OF 1886.

This year witnessed more changes in the League circuit. The Detroit Club bought out the Buffalo Club, and transferred its best players—the famous "Big Four"—White, Rowe, Richardson and Brouters, to Detroit. The Providence Club resigned its membership. The vacancies were filled by Kansas City and Washington. The pennant race was chiefly between the champion Chicago and the vastly strengthened Detroit team, the former finally winning by a narrow margin. The record was:

W. L. Pct.	W. L. Pct.
Chicago 90 34 .726	Boston 56 51 .473
Detroit 87 36 .707	St. Louis 43 79 .352
New York 75 44 .630	Kansas City 30 91 .247
Philadelphia 71 43 .622	Washington 28 92 .233

The winning team was: Clarkson, McCormick and Flynn, pitchers; Kelly and Flint, catchers; Anson, Pfeffer and Burns on the bases; Williamson, short stop; Dalrymple, Gore, Kelly, Ryan and Sunday in the outfield; and A. C. Anson, manager. Mike Kelly, of Chicago, led the League batsmen, with .338. During this season, the existence of the League Players' Brotherhood was for the first time revealed by the "Sporting Life."

THE SEASON OF 1887.

In this year the League's circuit was once more revised. The St. Louis Club had proved unprofitable and ruined its owner, Lucas, and he gave up the battle. The Kansas City Club was badly located and was retired. The Indianapolis Club was organized and admitted, and the Pittsburg Club suddenly resigned from the American Association just before the League meeting in November, and was admitted to the old organization. The playing season was an excellent one, financially, and the pennant race close and exciting, the star Detroit team finally winning after a hard fight. The record was:

W. L. Pct.	W. L. Pct.
Detroit 79 45 .637	Boston 61 69 .469
Philadelphia 73 48 .610	Pittsburg 55 69 .444
Chicago 71 50 .587	Washington 46 76 .377
New York 68 55 .553	Indianapolis 37 89 .294

The champion Detroit team was composed of: Getzein, Baldwin, Conway, Twichell and Weidman, pitchers; Bennett, Briody and Ganzel, catchers; Brouters, Dunlap and White on the bases; Rowe, short stop; Richardson, Hanlon and Thompson in the outfield; and W. H. Watkins, manager. The leading batsman of the League this season was Maul, of Pittsburg, with .450. All the batting averages were high because the pitching rules had been amended to count bases on balls as base hits. This rule was done away with the following season. In the fall of this year, the Brotherhood of Ball Players demanded and was accorded recognition by the League as an organization. The result was a conference, at which the Brotherhood submitted a new form of contract, which was adopted by the League.

THE SEASON OF 1888.

This year was uneventful, as there was no change in the circuit. The season was the most prosperous on record, all the clubs except Detroit, Washington and Indianapolis making money. The pennant race was confined to four clubs—New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston, and these made a great race, New York finally winning by a magnificent streak of good work, commencing with July and lasting to the finish. The Detroit met with an unparalleled series of accidents to players, which deprived them of all chance for the pennant. The record was:

W. L. Pct.	W. L. Pct.
New York 84 47 .641	Detroit 68 63 .519
Chicago 77 58 .578	Pittsburg 66 68 .493
Philadelphia 69 61 .531	Indianapolis 50 85 .370
Boston 70 64 .522	Washington 48 86 .353

The champion team was: Keefe, Welch, Titcomb, Crane and George, pitchers; Ewing, Brown and Murphy, catchers; Connor, D. Richardson and Whitney on the bases; Ward, short stop; O'Rourke, Gore, Slattery, Foster and Tiernan in the outfield; and James Murtie, manager. The League batsmen were led by Anson, of Chicago, with .343. It was in the fall of this year the League enacted some legislation which subsequently led to the great revolt of the Brotherhood and the organization of the Players' League. This legislation was the classification rule, which was designated to reduce the ever-growing salaries, and practically nullified the Brotherhood contract. Under this law (passed during the absence of John M. Ward, the Brotherhood leader, with the Spalding tourists) all the players of the League were to be graded into classes from A to E, with the corresponding salaries running from \$1500 to \$2500, the latter being the maximum amount that could be paid. All sorts of regulations were prescribed with a view to rendering evasion impossible. But the law was evaded, nevertheless, and oppressed some players, while others escaped its operation entirely. This rule was the subject of incessant complaint by the players, and caused intense and constantly growing irritation among them.

THE SEASON OF 1889.

This year was the culmination of a series of prosperous years. This was due partly to the eclat of the Spalding tour around the world and partly to the evening up of the teams. The great Detroit team disbanded. Cleveland resigned from the Association and was admitted to the League in place of Detroit. The stars of the Detroit were then well distributed, Boston getting four, Pittsburg three, Philadelphia one, and Cleveland the remainder. The result was one of the closest races in the history of base ball. The championship remained in doubt until the last games had been played, and the positions of no less than six clubs depended upon the results of the last day's play. The New York team won the pennant after a hard all-season fight with Boston. The record:

W. L. Pct.	W. L. Pct.
New York 83 43 .659	Pittsburg 61 71 .462
Boston 83 45 .648	Cleveland 61 72 .459
Chicago 67 65 .508	Indianapolis 59 75 .440
Philadelphia 63 64 .496	Washington 41 83 .331

The winning team was: Keefe, Welch, O'Day, Crane and Hatfield, pitchers; Ewing, (Continued on the twenty-sixth page.)

OLD NATIONAL.

(Continued from the fifth page.)

other contract-breaker, was reinstated upon payment of a \$500 fine; Shafer and Dunlap, reserve jumpers, were also forgiven and fined \$500 each. The season was fairly successful, financially. In a playing sense, however, it was a walkover for Chicago and New York, the former winning the pennant in the final series between the two during the closing week of the season. The record was:

W. L. Pct.	W. L. Pct.
Chicago 87 25 .776	Boston 46 66 .410
New York 85 27 .758	Detroit 41 67 .379
Philadelphia 56 51 .509	Buffalo 38 74 .339
Providence 53 57 .481	St. Louis 36 72 .333

The champion Chicago team was: Clarkson and McCormick, pitchers; Flint, catcher; Anson, Pfeffer and Williamson on the bases; Burns, short stop, and Dalrymple, Gore and Kelly in the outfield; and A. C. Anson, manager. The League batsmen were led by Connor, of New York, with .371. In this year the famous "Brotherhood of