

NEW OUTLAW?

WASHINGTON REPORTS SUCH A LEAGUE MOVE.

A Proposition to Revive Lawson's Union League Scheme With a Purely Eastern Circuit, Including Some Major League Cities.

BY JOE S. JACKSON.

Washington, D. C., December 22.—This city is included in the circuit of a new base ball organization, or rather a revival of the outlaw Union League that had a club here in 1908, which proposes to furnish opposition to the Nationals this season, if plans the promoters are now making do not go awry. These men have been at work all winter lining up backers for the various cities that they have in mind, and some of their number were in New York in conference at the time that the magnates whom they propose to battle were having their meetings last week. So much progress has now been made that a meeting of probable franchise holders will be held in New York this week, to be followed in about ten days by



Joe S. Jackson

AN ORGANIZATION MEETING,

which will be held in Washington to launch the Atlantic League of Base Ball Clubs. As the plans are outlined, seven of the eight cities that are to be included already are decided on. These are Brooklyn, Newark, Paterson and Reading in the North, and Baltimore, Washington and Richmond in the South. In six of the seven cities named there are clubs connected with leagues that are in organized ball, the American, National, International, Tri-State, and Virginia being the circuits that the new promoters propose to test strength with. In the main, the circuit follows that of the 1908 Union, in which Washington was winning a pennant when the league skyrocketed after six weeks' life.

PLAY AT UNION LEAGUE PARK.

In this city it is proposed to use Union League park, Fifteenth and H streets northeast, where the outlaws cavorted on their last invasion. Hugh McKinnon, of Bridgeport, Conn., well known in minor league circles in the East, and a club owner in the Union League while it lasted, has been looking over the ground, and was here yesterday. Mr. McKinnon proposes to take the Washington franchise, and expects to have associated with him Fred L. Mockabee, lessee of the ball lot named, who has had some experience as a promoter of various base ball and athletic events and entertainment propositions, at this park. Plans are only in the making, of course, but, as it stands, these two will be partners in the Washington franchise.

LAWSON, PERENNIAL PROMOTER

of independent base ball circuits, isn't in on this one. The present set of promoters claim that they are prepared to go the route, and say they wish no 1908 finishes. Some of the leaders, however, are ancient comrades of Lawson. One of these is Landgraf, who will have the Richmond franchise, and who claims to have a park secured already. Dick Cogan will have Paterson, Hussey will be in Brooklyn. Weitzel may get Baltimore, Whitman already has a park at Reading, and Newark is to be owned by Fred Page. It is claimed that in all of these cities the playing fields are secured, though in only a few are these equipped. Washington has a plant, but it needs considerable rebuilding.

TO GRAB ANY PLAYERS.

This will be an outlaw circuit, pure and simple, of course, because its teams will be placed in cities already protected under the National Agreement. It will be a minor league in playing strength and in price scale, and a majority of its players will be youngsters, as was the case in 1908, and as in the Tidewater League last year. If the promoters get their league established, they will have nothing to lose by going the route against organized ball, as mere invasion of territory will put them in as badly as possible. So they plan to pay no attention to contracts or property rights, and to grab players who are dissatisfied with their

LOT IN ORGANIZED BALL.

wherever such course is probable. "We can go through once we get started," said one of the men who will have a franchise in the new league. "We don't propose to have big expenses, and don't need to

draw big crowds. Our games will be as good contests as those we oppose, which are not always well played, though the stars are in the games. And our prices will appeal to the man who has not a lot of money to spend. There is dissatisfaction with conditions in a number of the towns that we are going to invade, and we will profit there. Baltimore and Washington should both support teams well, and Richmond looks like a good field. If we go well there we will put the Richmond Club out of it, and that will mean the end of the Virginia League."

PREVIOUS WAR SHORT-LIVED.

Eight clubs made up the circuit of the outlaw Union League that operated a club here in 1908, with Arthur Irwin in charge of Washington's interests. Washington, Baltimore, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Reading, Wilmington, Paterson and Elizabeth were the original members, but Baltimore, Brooklyn and Paterson dropped out after about a month. Allentown took the Paterson's franchise, and played out the string. The league went up on June 3, with six clubs on its roster on its closing day. To make a schedule that would be

ONE OF NON-CONFLICTING DATES

would be difficult, with the circuit named, because of the number of leagues that would be opposed. The promoters say that they will frame their dates to this end in the two major leagues cities that they propose to invade—Washington and Brooklyn. If they complete organization, they will be given a warm argument from the start, as the National Commission is not charitable toward outlaw organizations any more, and will bring the great resources at its command, financial and otherwise, to crush out the opposition.

JUST LIKE ACTORS.

Star Ball Players Usually Obsessed With the Notion That They Can Play Any Position Better Than the One They Fill.

"Star ball players are seldom content to play their position," declares Billy Evans, American League umpire. "Out-



Wm. G. Evans

fielders hanker for the infield or the pitcher's job. Infielders want to play the outfield or go on the mound. Few long to be catchers. Ty Cobb is perhaps the greatest outfielder the game has ever known. He always wanted to be a pitcher. It is not uncommon to see him working with a catcher instead of cavorting in the outfield. Cobb, by the way, has a varied assortment of slants. There is Hal Chase, premier first baseman. Hal has designs on second, and may play there next season. He scoffs at the idea that a lefthander cannot play second and make double plays. He

ALSO LIKES TO PITCH

and usually goes to the rubber in exhibitions. Doc White is strong for the outfield and spends time playing the garden. Although a high-class southpaw pitcher, White hopes to play the field when his pitching cunning deserts him. His speed and batting make him look good. Joe Birmingham, one of the game's greatest throwing outfielders, prefers the infield. He played second as a bush leaguer and wants to get back to the first line of defense. Joe had a notion to turn catcher and tried the job one Spring, only to pass it up. He didn't fancy

GAZING THROUGH A MASK

for nine innings. Barney Peltz, who is one of the best pitchers in the American League, when he is right, likes the infield. His work at third and short is excellent, but his batting is so light that he will scarcely land an infield job when he gives up pitching. Although one of the greatest of shortstops, Hans Wagner likes the outfield best. He was of such value to Pittsburgh at short that he was simply forced to play there. Bobby Wallace play a brilliant shortfield, but is partial to third base. He thinks it is easier than second. Jimmy Austin wants to be an outfielder. 'Rube' Oldring was made into an outfielder by Mack, who found him playing third."

The Rashness of Fred Clarke.

Chicago, Ills., December 19.—Fred Clarke, manager of the Pittsburgh National team, was in Chicago long enough yesterday to wager 19 suits of clothes that he will not participate in a single base ball game as a player next season. Clarke declares that this means he will not step to the plate even as a pinch batsman. He called on President Murphy, of the Chicago Club, and related to him the fact that he had bet 18 suits. The West Side magnate suggested that Clarke would lose all the clothes, whereupon Murphy was the 19th "victim."

THE I. I. I. LEAGUE

Is in Doubt and Perplexity as to the Exact Composition of the League Circuit Owing to Many Obstacles Constantly Arising.

Bloomington, Ills., December 23.—The decision of the Rock Island Association Directors to retire from the I. I. I.



A. R. Tierney

League, while positive and unequivocal, is not taken to mean by President Tearney that the city will be unrepresented in the league next year. The executive is confident that other interests will take charge after the subject is given due consideration. The possibility of a vacancy has aroused the base ball followers of Decatur and Moline, and should it ultimately be determined that Rock Island withdraws one or the other of the candidates named will be chosen as its successor. The Northern clubs will naturally prefer Moline owing to its proximity to Davenport and Rock Island. Moline has a larger population than Rock Island, has a large suburban territory to draw on, and the rivalry between that city and Davenport will be fully as strong as that which has always existed between Rock Island and its neighboring city across the river in Iowa. In addition, Moline has been

WITHOUT PROFESSIONAL BASE BALL

and has long been desirous of procuring a berth in the Indiana-Illinois-Iowa. The present opportunity will no doubt be taken advantage of, and the subject is already being discussed by business men. It will be necessary to finance grounds and buildings as well as acquire players. Decatur is fortunate in possessing new grounds and a new grandstand and is ready to take a berth in the league when tendered one. There was great disappointment at Decatur when Bloomington was voted the vacancy created by the retirement of Waterloo, and efforts have been made since to purchase the Springfield franchise and players. President Kinsella, who owns

THE SPRINGFIELD FRANCHISE,

has been trying to dispose of his holdings to a new stock company, but so far without success. The destruction of the grandstand at Springfield last Summer while the team was temporarily playing in Decatur has proven a handicap in the formation of a new organization, as new buildings will cost \$5,000. While President Kinsella has made no public announcement, it is confidently believed that if no effort is made to purchase the franchise and players he will commence

NEGOTIATIONS WITH DECATUR.

The latter city would prefer the Springfield players to those of Rock Island. Should it finally develop that Springfield retains its membership and rebuilds the grandstand, Decatur will be forced to compete with Moline for the possible vacancy made by the withdrawal of Rock Island. While geographical location may result in a decision favorable to Moline, yet the magnates will probably accept the best offer presented. President Tearney, no doubt, will not call the Winter meeting of the league until it is positively determined at Rock Island that the franchise will be surrendered, and until Moline is prepared to place a bid for the vacancy.

THE DAVENPORT ASSOCIATION

has decided to form a new stock company with \$5,000 capital stock and thus distribute the burden of financing the team there. In the past a few directors, headed by J. T. Hayes, have assumed all responsibility, but it was thought best to make a change and enlist the support of 20 or 30 additional stockholders. The new plan is receiving hearty indorsement, and will no doubt be carried out as arranged. Nothing has been heard of late of Manager Dan O'Leary, of the Davenport team. He is after a number of players to strengthen some weak places and will no doubt be in a position to announce some contracts in the near future.

THE DETROIT TROUBLE.

Evidence Cropping Out of Internal Dissensions in the Tiger Camp.

The Washington "Star," the other day, spoke of the efforts being made by the Detroit Club to trade third baseman Moriarity as follows: "That internal dissension had much to do with the failure of the Detroit team last season is shown by the latest story of the run-in which Cobb and Moriarity had, and which determined Jennings that the third baseman must go. That jealousy would develop among players on a team which Cobb is a member of might be expected. Cobb is naturally always in the limelight, by reason of his wonderful ability. Other players of ability are ignored, even though they are playing remarkable

ball, with the result at least blame Cobb's affairs. No doubt Jennings' troubles because of the chances to cut a figure will again be doomed."

AMERICAN LEAGUE

It is believed that catcher

booked for a transfer by Cle

It is believed that Manager

appoint shortstop Olson as C

tain next season.

President Johnson declar

main a member of the un

ports to the contrary.

George Moriarty is the third D

within four years to be sold or traded.

and Schaefer preceded Moriarty into ex

If Clark Griffith, of the Washington

wants Jack Knight he must hand over McBride

or Ainsmith to the Highlanders, it is said.

Shortstop Bush, of the Tigers, is playing in

door base ball in Indianapolis, in company with

catcher "Dutch" Miller, of the Brooklyn team.

Only two years ago Elberfeld was sold by

New York to Washington for \$5000; and now he

goes to a minor league club at the waiver price,

\$1500.

President Hedges is authority for the state-

ment that the St. Louis Club made money last

season despite the poor work of the team on the

diamond.

Manager Griffith, of Washington, says: "There

is about as much chance for me to trade Mc-

Bride as there is for me to jump over the Wash-

ington Monument."

It is not generally known, but President John

I. Taylor, of Boston, had longed eyes on Wol-

verton for manager of the Boston Red Sox three

years ago, and other owners have also had him

in view.

After many delays work on the new American

League ball park at Kingsbridge in New York

began last week. The plant will be ready on

or about April 15, according to the latest in-

formation.

Pitcher Mullin, of the Detroit, has abandoned

basket ball and has established an indoor base

ball team at Wabash, Ind. He declares that

for real sport indoor base ball is far superior

to basket ball.

There is a chance for the Highlanders to

strengthen their position behind the bat by

acquiring the services of "Nig" Clarke, of the

St. Louis Browns, who is far from satisfied in

his present berth.

Joe Wood, the Boston pitcher, was married

in Philadelphia, December 20, to Miss May

Perry, of Boston. Joe is residing at Parkers

Glen, Pa., and met Miss Perry at a social

gathering in Boston last Summer.

Harry Wolverton, who is to manage the

Highlanders, has gone to Oakland, Cal., to

straighten up his affairs there before taking

active charge of the Hilltop club. He will re-

turn about the middle of January.

It is by no means certain that Harry Davis

will handle the Naps from the bench. If the

veteran finds that his pick for first base, Hohn-

horst, does not come up to expectations he is

very apt to put himself in the game.

Pitcher O'Brien, of the Red Sox, says he is

not a "hold-out" and doesn't intend to be. He

says that he showed the goods for Boston last

year, and that he has a price and is convinced

that the Boston owners will pay it to him.

Outfielder Tris Speaker was a right handed

thrower at first. When 10 years old he was

thrown from a broncho, breaking his collarbone.

He then shifted to throwing left-handed, and

has tossed the sphere from his port side since

that time.

Pitcher Charlie Hall, of the Red Sox, was re-

cently arrested on a peculiar charge in Cali-

fornia, where he is playing Winter ball. A fire

was raging and a deputy asked him to assist

in putting it out. Hall refused to assist and was

arrested.

Jimmy Callahan need have no fear that the

Chicago fans will chase him to the bench so

long as he puts up the kind of come-back game

he exhibited last season. It was a genuine

pleasure to see this sterling player of the old

school perform.

President Farrell, of New York, does not in-

tend to split hairs in rewarding Charlie Hemb-

hill, the veteran outfielder, turned over to At-

lanta as manager. Already the Highlander boss

has turned over eight youngsters to the Southern

League city. The batch includes Russell, Bailey

and Reville, who trained with the Highlanders

last Spring.

Jake Stahl can't see any way but straight up

this Winter, and, in Chicago, has announced

that his Red Sox look good to him as a pennant

hope. This despite the fact that a good many

folk regard the American race as in already,

with the Athletics three-time champions, and

also look to Detroit to stall off any club that

may hope to be a contender.

Vean Gregg, the Nap southpaw, has gone back

to his trade of plastering for the Winter. He

is plastering a new hotel in Gulesaco, Idaho.

Vean was a plasterer before he played ball. He

put in a bid for the contract of plastering the

Culdesac hotel the day he reached his home

after a hunting trip. His bid was accepted the

next day and then he went to work at once.

With the passing of Fred Falkenberg to To-

ledo the Cleveland Club can now boast the

youngest twirling staff in the country. The

dean of the flinging corps is Willie Mitchell, the

southpaw, who has been in major company less

than two years. Kaler and Blanding reported

to the Naps a few months after Mitchell. Krapp

and Vean Gregg made their first appearance last

Spring.

Callahan on Kid Gleason.

Manager Jimmy Callahan, who engaged the veteran "Kid" Gleason as assistant manager of the Chicago White Sox, says of his move: "I think Gleason will do us a lot of good, for he's an aggressive fellow and should be able to inspire a lot of fighting spirit in the younger players. He will be a valuable man on the Spring training trip to help size up the recruits. He's far too good a base ball man to be out of a job. Dooan told me he wanted to keep the 'Kid' on the Phillies to coach and help in a thousand other ways, but that President Fogel wouldn't stand for it."