

THE UMPIRE QUESTION BASEBALL

NICK YOUNG'S STAFF

THE baseball season of 1901 will be remarkable for other reasons than the pronounced revival which characterized its opening. It will also be known as a record breaking fight producer.

No sooner had the fight between the National and American leagues subsided and the season settled down to business when troubles in the various teams of the two big leagues arose. The difficulties were produced by the attitude of certain players and officials toward the umpires. While there is always more or less difference of opinion between players, officials and the rules of the game, yet there has seldom in the history of the game been a time when hostility has been so open and pronounced as has marked the last few weeks.

The American league made a mistake in following the example of the National in doing away with the double umpire system. Had the smaller organization initiated a departure in this respect from the National it would doubtless have been accompanied by good results. The move would have been a decided benefit, particularly so at this period, when both leagues are making grand stand plays for public approval and patronage.

There can be no question among those followers of the game that two umpires are needed to properly conduct a contest. To keep a man jumping from behind the pitcher's box to the home plate during the progress of the game is to place accurate work at a premium. In early games the umpire's shades of decision do not, perhaps, make a material difference. Any seeming error he may then make will not usually call for more than a protest from a captain or a cry of "Wake up!" from the bleachers. But toward the end of the season's play, when an adverse decision may mean the losing of a game, a few points and the payment, the holder of the indicators must look well to his verdicts.

There is little ground for assertions that some umpires deliberately "roast" certain of the teams for whom they officiate. The umpires earn their living by the caliber of their work, and they will necessarily do their best. Under the existing conditions, where one umpire must count balls and strikes, decide on fouls and watch the base runners, the task is no sinecure.

The umpire troubles in the National league are more serious than many directly associated with the questions involved are willing to admit. President Freedman of New York is determined that William Nash shall not call "Play ball!" on the Polo grounds again this season. The difficulty with Nash, which arose from the latter's action in sending several New York players to the bench in a recent game, has brought Freedman into another clash with the National president, Nick Young, who takes personal charge of the umpires. And the end is not yet. Nash's performance has been condemned by so many people that Freedman takes to himself the credit of popular support. But the manifestation of public approval or disapproval is seldom needed to outline to a player his course of action. In carrying the war without delay into Nick Young's territory Freedman showed that he felt sure of his footing.

The threat that the Giants will leave the National league if President Young insists on antagonizing Freedman has been taken by many of the knowing ones as a bluff pure and simple. Andy is probably thinking to "throw a scare" into the League officials. But there seems to be no doubt that the Gotham magnate has formed a policy at variance with that of his competitors.

The American league would be glad to see the New York tossers involved in serious differences with the National executives. A strong chance of the Giants leaving the National would then exist. Ban Johnson would take them under his wing with astonishing alacrity if he had the chance. His organization would then be in a commanding position, for without New York the National could not hope to maintain its present status. New York has become one of the best paying baseball cities in the country. This year's crowds at the Polo grounds are record breakers, and consequently Freedman takes the opportunity to assert himself more strongly than would ordinarily have been the case.

There is one fact in regard to the Nash affair that is not a matter of gen-

eral public knowledge. The day the trouble came to a head in New York Nash was surrounded by a crowd of players. All were trying to get in their little say. According to Nash's story, Coach Warner of New York came up behind him and deliberately kicked Nash in the leg. Warner's steel spikes, Nash says, penetrated his trousers, making a deep gash in the umpire's leg. Nash the next day showed the wound to a well known New York newspaper man.

Tactless of this kind should not be countenanced by any team in any league. Roudyism, especially when directed at the umpires, tends to disgust the public with the game. Umpires are but human and should not be expected to suit the views of every individual player. Nick Young made a great mistake in appointing Cunningham as a temporary substitute for Nash. The troubles into which Cunningham plunged himself in the west were the result of his own shortcomings. When Cunningham was in playing trim and pitched for Louisville, he was known as one of the most turbulent men on the diamond. An umpire should at all times be able to preserve his dignity.

The best and most popular umpires in the National league this year are Robert Emslie, Hank O'Day and Frank Dwyer. Bob Emslie is the dean of the corps. He has endured an umpire's trials and tribulations since 1883, beginning this spring his eleventh successive year with the National.

"I have stood a great deal from players' season after season," said Emslie recently. "I do not wish to deprive any of them of part of their salary. Sometimes, however, patience ceases to be a virtue. I will listen to a reasonable argument any time, but I won't stand for the senseless kicking indulged in by some players."

One day several years ago at the Polo grounds Emslie, after a heated argument put "Pop" Anson out of the game, to that individual's great disgust and indignation. After the game the umpire was asked why he had found it necessary to take "Pop" out of the play.

"Why," was the reply, "he called me a blankety blank. Now, if Bill Joyce had used those words I would not have minded it, because he is continually chewing the rag; but when Anson swears at you it means something."

That will explain why umpires ignore some kicking players and are very firm with others.

Hank O'Day has been on the National staff since 1897. His characteristics are firmness under fire and a dry wit on the order of Tim Hurst's. Many a fierce attack has been turned off by O'Day with a reply that would cause even the kicker to smile.

Last summer Bill Dahlen, the crack short stop of Ed Hanlon's Superbas, found it necessary to advise O'Day to have his brain examined for signs of insanity.

"Well, Bill," answered Hank, "if the doctors ever open your head to look for brains they will find it filled with mayonnaise dressing."

Frank Dwyer was for three years a pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds. Last summer he umpired for the American league, where Ban Johnson's treatment of offenders is so strenuous as to make the umpire's life comparatively happy.

William Colgan is the youngest member of Nick Young's staff. He has had four years' experience in the Pennsylvania and Ohio Interstate league and is a capable judge of play.

The faces of many good umpires are not seen on the diamonds this year. This is a fact to be deplored. Lynch, one of the best umpires who ever stepped behind a batsman, has found the occupation ungenial, and he will not don the mask and snap the indicator during the season. Tim Hurst, another good man, has been passed over, and no one knows exactly why. There are those who believe that Hurst's affiliations with prizefighters have caused the club owners to cut him out. Emslie, the hairless one, and O'Day will always stick to the game. They have the confidence and respect of both players and patrons. O'Day on the diamond is a source of amusement to many of the "fans." He is never seen without his tightly cut blue flannel suit, which resembles a bathing suit more than anything else. He carries the spare baseball in the back of his blouse, making him look like one of Palmer Cox's brownies brought to life.

Probably the worst treatment an um-



JANE HADING, TALENTED FRENCH ACTRESS.

Jane Hading, the talented Frenchwoman who was for many years professionally associated with Coquelin, is one of the best actresses in the world. Negotiations are now on foot which may result in bringing Hading to this country for a brief tour of the large cities during the latter portion of next season. Hading is unlike most French actresses in that she makes her points through sheer force of judiciously employed repression. Her pet aversion is said to be the actress who rants. In this, it may be added, Hading is not alone.

pire ever had was received by a man but a few years ago. Many veterans and enthusiasts will remember during the season of 1894 a handsome, pleasant mannered umpire who was appointed to the National league by Uncle Nick Young. His name was Jack Hartley, and he was a well read man who had traveled extensively. He was well known in the business and sporting world. Reverses caused him to apply to Young for an umpire's commission. Young tried Hartley first on college games in the east. He did so well that he received an assignment to go west and take his regular turn. Hartley's first league trip was to Cleveland, where he was used rather roughly, for that was the time when "Patsy Bolivar" Tebeau believed in aggressive baseball. No team or umpire was long in finding this out after having reached Cleveland. Hartley did not mind the shots of the rabble and, being athletic, managed to dodge the tin cans and bricks hurled at him. Then Hartley went to Cincinnati, and his downfall became complete. He was assaulted and beaten until he was a mass of bruises. He stuck pluckily to his work, but after a few days he was compelled to give up and seek treatment in the east.

Hartley has never fully recovered from that affair and is today a man broken in spirit and health, with his mental balance, it is said, hanging on a thread.

FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.

A PRIZE RING DREAM.

During the silly season some persons regard it an interesting pastime to construct pugilistic "dope" books after this style:

Big Hart defeated "Australasian Billy" Murphy.

Billy Murphy drew with Tommy White.

Tommy White drew with Terry McGovern.

Terry McGovern defeated Frank Erne.

Frank Erne won from "Kid" Lavigne.

"Kid" Lavigne defeated Joe Walcott.

Joe Walcott knocked out Joe Choyinski.

Joe Choyinski drew with Jim Jeffries.

Ergo, Hart is in line for a go with the champion, but says he does not intend to press his claim while Jeffries is taking his vacation.

CRITIC SUEB BERNHARDT.

In reviewing the Paris premiere of "L'Aiglon" the critic of Figaro outlined the story and intrigue of Rostand's drama so clearly and lucidly that Bernhard utilized this portion of his matter as a synopsis in the playbills and souvenirs printed in the interests of her enterprise. The critic-Henri Fouquier—considered that he was entitled to a share in the profits from the sale of the souvenirs, entered suit and was given a verdict.

"YOURS TRULY" AS AGENT.

John L. Sullivan has some peculiar ideas as to the proper method of securing orders for the brand of whisky for which he is agent. Walking into a saloon, he orders beverages for all present.

These having been imbibed and paid for, Sullivan draws forth an order book and, fixing his eye coldly on the proprietor of the cafe, says: "Young feller, I'm the agent for this style of corn juice. Now, I want an order from you. Sign right here." And the former champion puts his finger on the proper place. If the saloon keeper wants a row on his hands, he attempts to side step. Otherwise he signs, upon which Sullivan bids him good day.

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YACHTING WORLD OF GOLF SPORT WITH THE CYCLERS ATHLETICS TURF

AMERICAN yachtsmen are looking forward eagerly to the races between the Constitution, the Independence and the former victorious cup defender Columbia. The Newport (R. I.) Yachting association has scheduled its regatta for July 6, 8, 10 and 12. This arrangement leaves the triangular course open July 4. On that date the fastest boats ever built on American soil will come together to decide the moot question as to the national premiership.

Fourth of July will be one of the greatest days in the history of American yachting. Then will the eagle scream, and the famous Newport racing course will be a scene of beauty and inspiration that will live long in the minds of the spectators and participants. This great regatta will be a fitting appetizer for the contest for the America's cup when Sir Thomas Lipton comes over in September.

The controversy between Thomas W. Lawson and the New York Yacht club awakened so much comment throughout the country that an added interest has been attached to the prospective races. The Lawson boat, however, is not generally credited with the ability to defeat Nat Herreshoff's Constitution. Prophecies in yachting are very uncertain, but there are many arguments in favor of the Bristol boat.

The new rig of the Constitution is almost a duplicate of the gear destroyed in the unfortunate mishap that necessitated the postponement of her trials. The old mast has been patched up, and Designer Nat says the hollow steel tube is now stronger than ever. A few changes in stays and sail cut, however, have been instituted.

There is some talk among yachtsmen that one of Herreshoff's novelties in the construction of the Belmont syndicate boat has a weakening effect on the stays and is indirectly responsible for the recent dismantling of the craft. The spreaders are fixed to the mast by means of hinges. This allows the spreader to be dropped at will, lessening the tension on the port and starboard topmast stays. The assertion is made that the hinges form a vulnerable point in the craft's equipment because of their liability to give way under extreme strain. Herreshoff, however, thinks differently, attributing the dismantling of the Constitution to a defect in the material of one of the spreaders.

The attitude of Mr. Lawson toward the New York Yacht club has been severely criticised by many people of authority in racing affairs. While the yacht club could doubtless have made the cup defending candidacy conditions much easier for him, the consensus of opinion among sportsmen throughout a greater part of the United States is that the "\$30,000 pink" millionaire has "dodged the issue." Lawson's behavior in connection with the proposed The Abbot-Borluma trotting race subjected him to much criticism. The yachting case is somewhat similar.

Lawson held out for a five heat match between Borluma, New York Fire Commissioner Scannell's great champion. He knew that such a proposition was contrary to the provisions of the National Trotting association. The grand circuit was a stranger to such an event, yet Lawson insisted on the arrangement. The result was that the match "went by the board with all standing."

Lawson, by reason of his dilatory tactics, has been denied much valuable support that he otherwise would have had. Several well known sporting men—no need to mention names—have already stated that the Bostonian "was trying to advertise himself." The merits of the claim are not satisfactory points for discussion, but it is plain to most fair minded people that Lawson could have arranged to sail his craft in the trials for the cup defense under the provisions of the deed of gift governing the America's cup if he so desired without sacrificing a "jot or tittle" of his dignity.

The postponement of the International races until middle September will, according to the weatherwise, be a decided benefit to the matches. September winds are usually more brisk than those of August. September of 1893, however, when the Shamrock I and the Columbia drifted day after day off Sandy Hook, was a noteworthy exception.

United States weather bureau reports are of interest in connection with the cup races. During the last 12 years an average wind velocity of 10 knots an hour prevailed over the Sandy Hook course in the last two weeks in August. A similar period in September averaged 15 knots. In 1894 the excess of speed in September over the like fortnight in August was nearly 50 per cent.

The pronounced boom in cycling this year, like the proverbial snowball, is gathering size and momentum as it progresses. North and south, east and west, are enjoying an almost unprecedented revival in things a wheel.

The racing cyclists are not the only ones on the upward rising tide. The staid business men and the outdoor women have returned to their former love, and the parks, boulevards and other resorts where the wheeling folk are wont to congregate are dotted with the forms of those who push the pedals for pleasure.

James E. Sullivan, president of the Amateur Athletic union, is a man who is a keen judge of sporting affairs throughout the United States. He is of the opinion that the cycling boom is partially due to the intrinsic value of the pastime and partly because of the interest manifested by the manufacturers, who are supporting large racing teams.

A few days ago Mr. Sullivan said: "You can't keep a good sport down. If there is anything in it, you will find that it will be forced to the fore. Cycling, like baseball and tennis, is taking on a new lease of life. These sports, like many others, will keep on gaining. It is the natural tendency of the time to manifest increased interest in healthful sports."

Cycling racers in the east are now in their glory. Many big meets have already been held. The chief interest seems to be centered in the motor paced events.

All the prominent middle distance cracks have been busy in this line. At the opening of the National Cycling association's circuit, July 4, the champions will settle down to a summer of continuous work. So many events are in view that the season will, although scheduled to end in September, continue through to the middle of October.

The home coming of "Major" Taylor will be of great importance. The colored wonder has worsted the champions of Europe and now has a clear title to the world's championship. He will ride in the N. C. A. races.

Harry Elkes' offer to race the "majah" will probably be accepted. Elkes is a wonderful rider. He has barrels of endurance, as his feats in the last six day race at Madison Square Garden, New York, proved, and terrific speed. He will be "up against the real thing," however, when he starts against Taylor.

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swift McMeekin, a favorite of the Brooklyn Handicap, strained a tendon, and his owner, William Harrier, was compelled to scratch him. James R. Keene's Conroy, winner of the Brooklyn Handicap, has recently had withdrawal from several engagements.

The unexpected often happens in turf affairs, and no owner or trainer is sure that his champion of today may not be a "has been" of tomorrow.

William A. Brady is now out of the fighting game for good. His failure to renew his contract with Jim Jeffries marks the passing of an interesting figure from the world of athletics.

During his career as a fight manager and promoter, which dates back about ten years, Brady kept his name prominently before the public. He never lost an opportunity to boost his fighters, and, right or wrong, upheld them in all things. In his management of the Corbett-Sullivan, Corbett-Mitchell, Corbett-Jeffries-Sharkey, Jeffries-Pittsman, Jeffries-Corbett and Corbett-Jeffries bouts Brady gained international fame. Brady says there is no more money in pugilism, and he intends to continue his theatrical ventures.

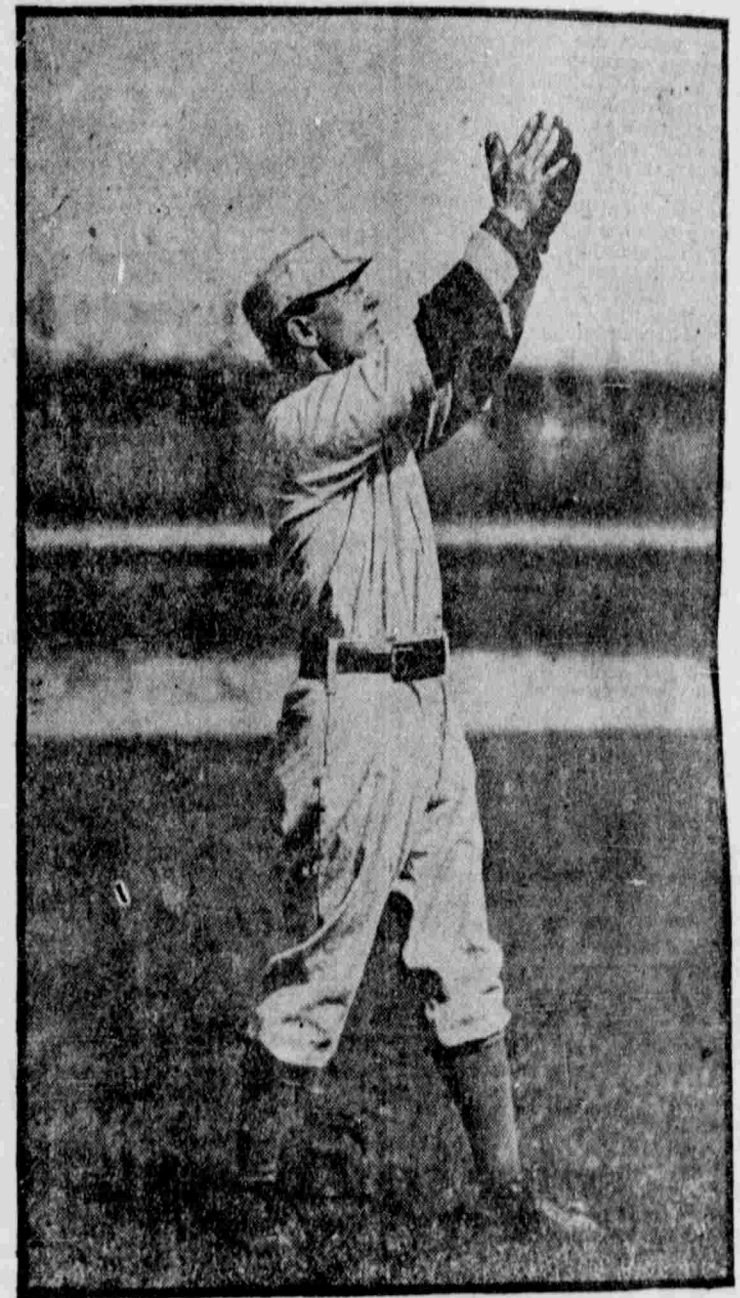
Irving K. Baxter, the famous high jumper and pole vaulter of the University of Pennsylvania, will doubtless have a victorious tour through England. Baxter arrived on the British shores a few days ago, and he intends to "with both feet." The lanky vaulter of the red and blue is a world beater, and the cold chills that he is capable of sending down the backs of the Britishers will "hold 'em for awhile."

Arthur Duffy, the crack Georgetown university flier, is to meet Baxter on the other side in July. The pair will then turn themselves loose on the transatlantic athletes. Duffy is in form that may well be styled the "best ever." He has twice equalled his world's record of 9.45 seconds for the 100 yard dash with apparent ease, and there are those who say that before the year is over he will chop the mark down another peg or two.

CHARLES E. EDWARDS.

ED SCOTT ON "THE LAST BALL."

"I think as ticklish a position as a pitcher can find himself in is to have the bases full, with nobody out and two strikes and three balls on the batsman. It requires all the nerve of a pitcher."



JIMMY SLAGLE, PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL TEAM.

Jimmy Slagle, the crack left fielder, is doing great work at the bat for Captain Delehanty this year. Slagle is one of the best of the League's timely hitters.

the game who are now swinging the clubs with all their might.

In the east, where New York, Boston and Philadelphia golfers lead the procession, the short skirted women with their gay capes and jackets are thronging the courses and sending the composition spheres through ambient air with a vim that betokens the smashing of records—and clubs—before the flying snow draws the curtain.

There are four eastern golfing women who are particularly in the glare of the calcium. Miss Frances E. Griscom of Philadelphia, present champion of America; Miss Ruth Underhill of the Nassau Country club, Glen Cove, Long Island; Miss Genevieve Hecker of the Essex County Country club, Orange, N. J., and Miss Beatrix Hoyt of the Shinnecock Hills (Long Island) Golf club, make up a quartet that will decide the women's championship of 1901. The four women are practically alone in their class.

Miss Underhill recently won an addition to her fame by defeating Miss Griscom in a club contest.

Seldom before in the annals of the running turf have so many good horses been disabled and rendered unfit to