

PENNANT PROSPECTS

BASEBALL

The Season's Developments

THE National league baseball race has developed into one of the prettiest battles of recent years. Seldom has the season progressed to its present stage with a majority of the teams within striking distance of the pennant. This state of affairs makes every game played of peculiar interest, for percentages are so delicately balanced that the winning or the dropping of two or three contests will materially affect hopes of annexing the championship.

Close followers of baseball are finding much of significance and interest in the manner in which the pennant struggle is working out. Baseball, amateur as well as professional, has long been conducted on scientific principles. Managers and captains, as a rule, are "wise" to every move and variation of which the game is possible, and they do not often go wrong in their calculations. This year, however, many genuine surprises have been sprung, and the sharps have had manifold opportunities to make valuable additions to their stores of green diamond lore.

The wholesale infection of young blood into certain teams caused a deal of comment early in the season, and opinion as to its advisability was somewhat divided. Many authoritative judges stated that lots of new blood was the medium by which the national pastime was destined to be uplifted. A few lively youngsters scattered among the seasoned professionals will make the old timers look like small change," was the remark I heard made by a man who buys a season ticket to the New York Polo grounds every year. And another veteran "fan" replied: "Young ball sharps soon shoot their bolt. Things can't come their way too fast for the first month or so. But when hot weather scorches their necks they'll lie down, and the steady going veteran whose head never sways takes up the running and finishes strong."

The uselessness of a preponderance of youngsters has been practically illustrated by Captain George Davis and his tattered Giants. George considered himself "ace high" in the pack of managers when Christy Mathewson, Phyllis Nelson and others of his "colts" began to cut a wide swath. But, oh, what a difference in the morning! The Giants toppled from first perch to the second division, with its all too familiar surroundings. Nelson had to be used as a bench weight. Mathewson the mighty was knocked out of the box, and Phyllis lost his "good eye," presenting passes to first base in bunches. Pittsburgh, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Boston paraded past the Davises, and they will probably remain in the second division for the rest of the season.

Manager Ned Hamilton's trolley eluders have won admiration from all quarters by their masterful sport toward the top. Lurking in the tall grass at the lower end of the list during the opening days, Captain Joe Kelley and his hard hitting crew were thought to be destined. Hot weather loosened the joints of the veterans, and many peculiar things happened to some of their overconfident opponents.

Indeed, the showing of the "old men" of the game has been a startling feature of the year's play. Several of the ball tossers who have been cowering between the sacks ever since the eighties have been putting up a gilt edged article during these strenuous times. Van Halteren, the outfielder of the New Yorks, is setting his fellow Giants a shining example of how baseball should be played. Van is hitting the ball like a demon, and his base running is speedy and heady. Van is now about 40 years old, but he gambols on the green like an ambitious young collegian. Long of Boston is another rejuvenated

crack. Rumor has it that "Pop" was playing ball when Noah telegraphed news of the grounding of the ark on Mount Ararat, but this report is doubted by a few latter day Thomases. The able Beantown short stop, however, is doing all manner of "stunts." His timely and effective batting has pulled the Puritans out of many a bad hole. He is credited with winning for his team two games of the recent Boston-New York series. Joseph Beckley, Burckett, McGuire, George Davis, Tom Daly, "Duke" Farrell, O'Connor, "Chief" Zimmer, Kid Nichols and Corcoran are also disguising their age in the quality of their playing.

Many observing folks are now making guesses as to just what turn the fight between the National and American leagues will take in the fall. Mutterings of war again fill the air, and the report has gone forth that the older organization will wage a fight of extermination and that the first step will be taken at the close of the season, when an attempt will be made to secure the stars of the American for the National.

According to President Ban Johnson of the American league, the National intends to re-establish the 12 club circuit. Johnson's idea is that Nick Young's colleagues desire to draw to their ranks certain American league teams in order to make up a part of the four clubs needed.

Baltimore and Washington are said to be included in the plans of the National, and a strong opinion prevails to the effect that "Magsey" McGraw has already decided to remove his Orioles from under Ban Johnson's wing. McGraw has been referred to by the American president as a "Benedict Arnold," and McGraw, in turn, has characterized Johnson as a "Julius Caesar."

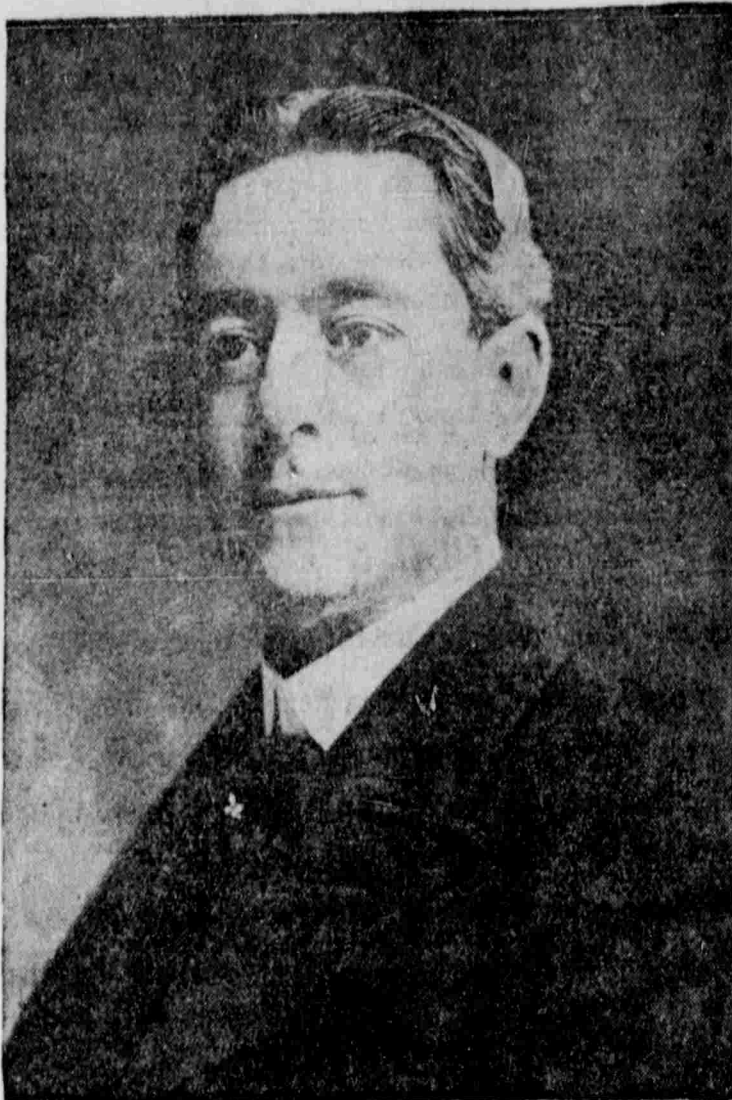
These recent troubles were caused by the report that McGraw was endeavoring to induce certain American teams to desert to the National. McGraw denies the truth of the rumors and expresses a desire to know "what particular business it is of Johnson's, who at least is nothing more than an employee."

McGraw openly declares that the affairs of the American league are run in the interests of a certain clique. Possibly he bases this assertion on the fact that he was ordered out of the game and had to stay out while Clarke Griffith of Chicago, who also was ordered out, got back at the moment when the situation was most dubious for Chicago and after he had been suspended barely 24 hours.

Breakers are looming up ahead in the American league, Johnson pretends to have a multiplicity of surprises in store for the National, but if he is not a wise young man he will find that surprise parties will become popular in his own organization, and instead of the National making overtures to the American the reverse will prove true.

Christy Mathewson's recent sensational performance when he took the hard hitting St. Louis Browns into camp without a single hit or a run is the pitching record of the year, but undoubtedly creditable as is the feat it has been accomplished more often than is generally known. Mat Kilroy, the same Mat whom Tom Loftus resurrected a couple of years ago, so disposed of the old Pittsburgh Alleghenies in Smokeville in October, 1898. Twenty-nine batsmen faced Kilroy, and 11 were retired on strikes.

During the season of 1897 "Bumpus" Jones, then with the Cincinnati Reds, let Pittsburgh down without a hit, though the beaten team managed to score a run. Theodore Breitenstein, the well known St. Louisian who in his day was the peer of any south paw, eclipsed all of his former sensational



FRANK DESHON, COMEDIAN OF "MISS BOB WHITE."

For one of the principal comedy roles in Willard Spenser's new operetta, "Miss Bob White," next season Frank Deshon has been engaged. Mr. Deshon is said to have a repertoire of 101 operas. He has done excellent work almost from the beginning of his stage career, and his friends expect his engagement with "Miss Bob White" to give him his long looked for opportunity to make a "New York success." Mr. Deshon was born in Columbia, S. C., though since his early youth he has lived in Malden, Mass., a few miles from Boston.

performances by retiring the Pirates without a hit or a run. That was the first season in Cincinnati, and he took part in that game soon after the championship play was inaugurated.

Two "no hit" games were recorded in 1899. "Donner" Phillips, who is discharging a splendid quality of ball this season for the Pittsburghs, was with Louisville then, and in a game against New York disposed of all the batters without allowing a single safe drive. Several months later the elongated Victor Willis, now a mainstay of the Boston Nationals, made monkeys of the Washington Senators, not permitting them a hit, although that misfit aggregation succeeded in registering a run. Willis passed four batters, two in the opening round. Then a wild throw by the late Martin Bergen came and netted the Senators their only tally.

"Noodles" Hahn turned the trick against Philadelphia last season, while "Doc" Amole, pitching for Buffalo in the American league, was just as successful against Detroit. This season Earl Moore, who deserted Donovan and the National for McAlleer and the American, went nine innings against the Chicago "white stockings" without allowing a hit, but loose work in the field let Coninsky's aggregation tie the score, and by hammering out a pair of singles in the tenth win out.

A very peculiar game was played in 1890 between Chicago and Brooklyn. "Silver" King, a St. Louis product, was in the box for the former, and let Brooklyn down with blanks in their run and hit columns. King had just left the employ of Von der Ahe, "Scrappy Bill" Joyce and John Ward were with the Brooklyn that year. A remarkable feature of the game in question was that Chicago made four hits off Gus Weyhing's delivery and drew nine goose eggs, while errors gave Brooklyn the final victory.

CHARLES E. EDWARDS.

John Mason, under Jacob Litt's direction, will aim to become a star. The play will be called "The Altar of Friendship" and is by Madeleine Lucette Ryley.

NETHERSOLE IN AN ATHERTON CHARACTER.

Cheering news comes from Miss Olga Nethersole's country place in England that this gifted woman, having recovered from the recent operation performed on her, has been sought out by Mrs. Gertrude Atherton, who has undertaken to collaborate with her in the dramatization of one of Mrs. Atherton's books. Here is a combination which should bring results to make M. Daudet stir uneasily in his grave, and if Olga has fully recovered and if Gertrude is feeling pretty well herself we will probably see a production that will cause the chamber stairway scene in "Sapho" to look like an illustrated edition of Mr. Young's "Night Thoughts."

Most people have never been satisfied with any of Olga's plays, for they have felt that no dramatic author has succeeded in fully appreciating the depth of the feminine nature. Perhaps this is because the authors were men—even including Clyde Fitch, who enjoys exceptional opportunities in grasping the delicacy of the feminine temperament. But with Mrs. Atherton to direct her energies to what heights may not the beautiful Olga rise—and that, too, without the adventitious aid of the stairway?

No hint has been given as to the book which is to be dramatized, but it is fancied that it will be Mrs. Atherton's first novel, which was so dramatic that it hushed and sputtered with ardent fires, more or less endangering other books and thereby causing its exclusion from libraries.

Who can say that the stage is degenerating when Olga and Gertrude are joining forces? Verily, this is the age of woman!

MECCA FOR PLAYWRIGHTS.

Harry Hamlin of the Chicago Grand Opera House, elated over the success of "Lorna Doone," says he intends to favor new productions more than ever and contemplates putting on a few during the winter season.

It will be recalled that "Arizona" had its first hearing at this house, and in the early days, when John Hamlin was active in theatrical management, opportunities were given to James A. Herne, David Belasco and Steele MacKaye to bring out plays. That policy will be the future of the Grand. Prospective authors who complain they cannot get a hearing in New York may unroll their manuscripts in Chicago, where, no doubt, Mr. Hamlin will display more interest than New York managers, who have a surfeit of new material.

There is no reason why Chicago should not be as interesting a producing center as New York. For "The Burgomaster" received its start there last year, and the only three new pieces of the summer season—namely, "King Do," "The Explorers" and "Lorna Doone"—had their first presentations there.

TO REVIVE "AROUND THE WORLD."

Stimulated no doubt by the reception of his revival of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," William A. Brady will put on a big production of "Around the World in Eighty Days" in New York toward the last of October.

There is a possibility that Wilton Lackaye may be seen in the principal part shortly after the completion of his engagement in association with J. K. Hackett at Wallack's theater, New York.

Mr. Lackaye's next move will be in the direction of producing a new play, which may also be under Brady's management.

NEXT SEASON'S PLAYS.

Mr. James O'Neill will trust once more to "Monte-Christo." Elsie De Wolf will try to achieve to the position of a star. Her trust will be in a new comedy, "The Way of the World," by Clyde Fitch. Frank Mills will come from London to his native country to take the post of leading man in her company.

Viola Allen will stay constant to "In the Palace of the King."

Ada Rehan is said to contemplate a new play by Miss Morton. She is abroad, but will return in a few weeks.

Her company will include Robert T. Haines, J. E. Dodson, Annie Irish, Tyrone Power and Max Fiegan.

Julia Marioue will continue to present "When Knighthood Was in Flower," but late in the season will revive "Romeo and Juliet." Bruce McRae will be her leading man once more.

Mrs. Sothern (Virginia Harned) will be a star on her own account, she and her husband, it is said, having reached the conclusion that the family treasury

REVIEW OF TURF AND ROWING

THE much talked of match between Jim Jeffries and Tom Sharkey will probably occur before the San Francisco A. C. Sharkey has been anxious to "get back" at the ex-bell-maker ever since Jim won from him in 1898.

The match has been talked of for almost a year, but affairs came to a sudden head a few days ago, and Sailor Tom lost no time in posting \$5,000 to bind the agreement. Of course, Tom says the prospective fight cannot go against him. If there ever was a bunch of confidence, it is that same lad from Dundalk.

"I have always been in the field," says the sailor, "and now I have got exactly what I wanted. To show that I mean business and that I think I ought to have the first crack at Jeffries I'll fight Rubin and wager that I can lick him before I meet Jim."

"But the man I want is Jeffries, the man I put up in the business. I know I can lick him. I'll fight him in any old place. Make it Frisco or Africa, the fight will come my way."

Jeffries will probably have no difficulty in planting the sailor under the dew. Sharkey never was a pugilist of the first class, and he never will be one. His ability to hit is unquestioned, but any man with muscular development can hit. From the viewpoint of pugilistic pulchritude Sharkey is alone in his class. It was formerly said of John L. Sullivan that his "Ugh!" snorted in furyatory tones as sufficient to temporarily suspend active operations on the part of his opponent. Sharkey, however, has John L. "beaten by a mile." One full face glance across the ring at the doughty sailor keeper's beautiful visage would under ordinary conditions be enough to impregnate a man's system with germs of locomotor ataxia.

Chairman H. L. Herbert of the Polo association has issued the prize list and conditions for the coming polo championship of the United States. The matches will be played Sept. 2-14 on the grounds of the Brookline Country club, near Boston. The Dedham (Mass.) team now holds the title, but they will have trouble in maintaining their supremacy. Six organizations are scheduled to meet in the tournaments, and the preparatory games have shown them all to be in top notch form.

The Dedhams, whose field is at Karlstein, won the premiership at Prospect park, Brooklyn, a year ago. They defeated the Westchester (N. Y.) Country club by one goal in one of the best and most sensational matches ever seen in this country. The winning team consisted of Allan Forbes, E. M. Weld, W. H. Goodwin and Joshua Crane. The Westchester quartet was Eugene S. Reynal, John E. Cowdin, J. M. Waterbury, Jr., and Lawrence Waterbury.

The contest this season will be a battle of giants. There has been a great effort to get formidable fours together, and this has greatly affected the Lakewood (N. J.) team. The Jersey representatives have drawn on Rockaway for Foxhall Keene, formerly the best poloist in America, while Westchester supplies the two Waterbury boys. "Rare Ben" Nicoll may play if he recovers from his attack of vertigo. With this line up Millionaire George Gould's team should make a good showing against the Dedhams and on form ought to win.

The annual regatta of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen in 1901 will evidently be held in St. Louis. While in Philadelphia at the recent meet western rowers worked hard to secure the regatta for St. Louis during the World's fair year. Eleven of the 12 members of the executive committee promised to vote for "St. Louis in 1901," and although official decision will not be made until the March preceding the regatta, yet the St. Louis oarsmen feel that they have made their claim secure. After the March meeting of the N. A. O. executives a committee will probably visit St. Louis to decide on the course. Several bodies of water in the vicinity are available. When the course is selected, St. Louis stands ready to spend a considerable sum of money to improve the natural surroundings.

Advises received in this country from prominent turfmen in England go to show that there prevails abroad a strong feeling of dissatisfaction with some of the racing in which American owners, jockeys and horses are concerned. Racers owned by the most reputable turfmen from this side have not escaped the grilling which has been administered to those owned by minor owners of the professional stripe. Particular mention is made of Falsen d'Or, Miss Murphy, Minnie Dee, Sandpiper II, Longshoreman, Chicago II and Omaha II.

The race for the July cup at the first Newmarket meeting is dwelt on as the scene of the most glaring cases of suspicious form shown by American horses. The well known filly Elizabeth M., a dual winner at Ascot, is spoken of particularly. A prominent American plunger, instead of backing this filly, as warranted by public form, put his money on American and Lord Bobs. Elizabeth M. was defeated by a wide margin. A carefully edited English sporting publication in speaking of this race said:

"Although a grand opening was given the favorite coming down the hill, she failed to take advantage of it because of evident lack of effort on the part of the jockey."

Many reports from various sources are to the effect that the very worst element of the American turf of a few years back is now reveling in prosperity in both England and France. Men whom Robert Pinkerton in New York and William Pinkerton in Chicago have barred from the tracks are now living at first class hotels, claiming intimate

could be given twofold receipts by such a course. Mrs. Sober's play will be a dramatization of "Sweet Alice of Old Vincennes." Her leading man has not been chosen as yet.

Miss Mary Manning will retain "Jasmine Meredith" until the latter half of the season, when she will be given a dramatization of George Barr McCutcheon's novel, "Graustark." Walter Thomas will be her leading man.

Kyrle Bellow, no longer the ally of Mrs. Brown-Potter, will be a star in this country the coming season. Liebler & Co. have engaged him for a dramatization of "A Gentleman of France." Miss Eleanor Robson, whose ascent last year was rapid, will be his leading woman. The tour will be begun in Chicago in October.

Amelia Bingham, whose rise as an actress-manager was the most spectacular event of last season, will be able to depend upon "The Climbers" until

POLO PUGILISM

acquaintance with leading American jockeys, thereby imposing on the public of foreign countries unable to discriminate between the true and the false.

Great regret is felt in England because of the death of Pierre Lorillard, whose horses always ran consistently and who was regarded as a bulwark of honesty, standing between the sharps of the turf and the racing public.

While there may be some ground for statements that various American horses and jockeys have not always shown consistent form abroad, yet much of the implied criticism is undoubtedly due to "professional jealousy." American turf success in Europe have been so frequent that naturally foreigners will seek to minimize the performances and to pick flaws whenever opportunity offers. Horse racing in France and England is governed by strict rules and able officials, and if patrons of the courses suspect deliberate reversals of form they know that the remedy lies in their own hands.

The announced retirement of Edward H. Ten Eyck of Worcester, Mass., champion sculler of America, leaves the title in possession of Charles S. Titus, late of New Orleans, but now a resident of New York city. Titus' victory in the intermediate single sculls in the recent regatta of the N. A. A. O. marks him as one of the greatest rowing sharps of the day.

Titus is a son of John F. Scholes, for-



LORNE C. CURRIE, OWNER OF THE THIRTY FOOT YACHT GRAY FRIAR.

Currie is the English sportsman who recently brought his fast yacht to America to race for the Seawanhaka cup, held in Canada. The Gray Friar's defeat was very decisive, and Currie is now returning home.

mer all around athletic champion of Canada. He stands more than six feet and has an ideal build for an oarsman. In all his races Titus has demonstrated that he has unusual speed and endurance. Under the tuition of expert trainers, of which he has several, he is rapidly paying the way for international honors. He is a member of the Union Boat club of New York and practices on the Harlem river.

Now that Henri Fournier, the well known French chauffeur, has entered the Pan-American automobile races, increased interest is manifested. Fournier won the races from Paris to Berlin and from Paris to Bordeaux. He will bring to America the powerful machine which he used in his continental matches and has already challenged "all comers."

Fournier says he will race any American motor carriage expert at distances of from 100 to 500 miles for \$2,500 or \$5,000 a side. He will be accompanied by Charron, another French auto racer, and they expect to turn the American automobile world upside down.

Versatile Bob Fitzsimmons! The American public may well point to the inmates of the "cottage by the sea" at Bath Beach, N. Y., and say, "There is a man."

Blacksmith, pugilist, actor, after dinner speaker, wrestler, gentleman of leisure and, now, greatest of all, author! A. J. Drexel Biddle, the Philadelphia millionaire, will shortly publish the champion's treatise on "physical culture and self defense." Bob's career as a public figure will then have been crowned.

The moot question now is, Will other "pugs" fall in line with the Cornishman? If so, we may soon see on the bookstands, "Good Things I Have Met," by John L. Sullivan; "Life and Letters of a Dreamer; or, Am I It?" by T. J. Sharkey; "What I Saw at Carson; or, Back to the Mines," by J. J. Corbett; "The Minister's Boy; or, Side Steps to Matrimony," by K. McCoy; "Done, Not Forgotten," by K. Leavins; and "To Have and to Hold," by J. J. Jeffries. These books would prove interesting

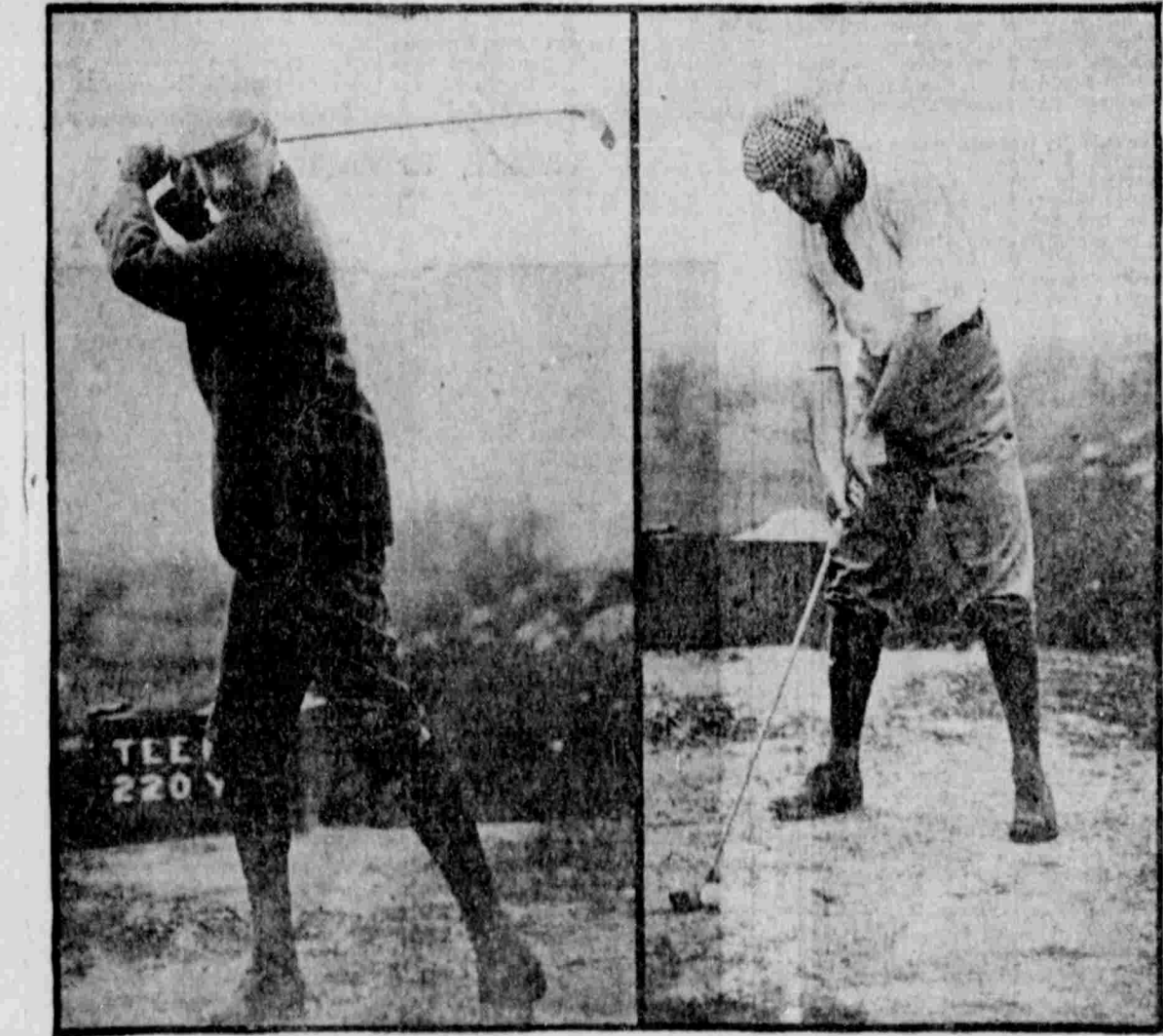
late in the year. She played it only in New York last year. Her company will be little changed. Robert Edson, Frank Worthing and Minnie Dupree remaining in the organization.

Annie Russell will continue to act in "A Royal Family" until late in the season, when it is likely she will appear in "Sweet and Twenty," Captain Basil Hood's sentimental comedy now being done in London by Seymour Hicks and Ellaline Terriss.

The announcement that Cruesen, 2:02 1/4, world's champion trotting stallion, is to be retired to the stud at the close of the present season has caused general regret. The game stallion is now doing the best work of his career and ought to have many years of usefulness left.

Amateur Canadian sportsmen appear to be having trouble enough without the projected invasion of American oarsmen. The proposition to introduce professional lacrosse on lines somewhat similar to American baseball has raised a storm of protest. Leading lacrosse authorities in the Dominion are strongly arrayed against the innovation and say that it will kill the amateur end of what has been considered Canada's national game.

Much doubt as to whether professional lacrosse could be made to pay exists in Canada. The season is short, and that respect resembles our football. All American sportsmen remember the disastrous end of the attempt to introduce professional football in the United States. Many authorities on lacrosse



C. B. McDONALD.

FINDLAY S. DOUGLAS.

C. B. McDONALD AND FINDLAY S. DOUGLAS.

These two amateur golfing experts are famous throughout the United States. They are now playing the best game of their careers. Douglas is picked by many to win the championship match to be played in the fall after the present holder of the title, Walter J. Travis, returns from abroad. Douglas and McDonald play under the colors of Long Island (N. Y.) organizations—the Nassau Country and Garden City clubs, respectively.

NEXT SEASON'S PLAYS.

John Drew, after a year's ill spent with an insignificant melodrama, "Richard Carvel," will try to sink his personality in a difficult character part in a successful English play, Captain Robert Marshall's "The Second in Command."

It would seem that his selection for the part of Binks is a dubious one, but at any rate he is a better choice for it than William Faversham, the actor

first allotted it by the seemingly universal manager, Charles Frohman. In London Cyril Maude produced the play and appeared as Binks. Miss Ida Conquest will again be Mr. Drew's leading woman.

James K. Hackett ahead of Mr. Faversham chose a play, "The Return of Don Caesar," with the same hero. Mr. Hackett's leading woman will be Miss

Florence Kahn, who last year was in Mr. Mansfield's company. The organization also will number such capable players as Theodore Roberts and Wilton Lackaye.

Mrs. Fiske has triumphed over the syndicate and acquired a New York theater, the Manhattan. Her first production in her own theater will be a play called "Miranda of the Balcony," derived from a novel of that name and constructed by Anna Crawford Fienker.

Her company will include Robert T. Haines, J. E. Dodson, Annie Irish, Tyrone Power and Max Fiegan.

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