HOWELL'S COMMENT ON THE WHIST CONGRESS.

Boston Will Entertain the League This Year—Events to Be Decided and New Systems to Be Tried.

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An unusually attractive programme of events is offered to participants in the eighth congress of the American Whist league, which takes place in Boston during the week of July 11-16.

For ten years past the annual whist congresses have been held at watering places, but this year New England, having obtained the privilege of entertaining the members of the league, could not provide an easily accessible seaside or mountain resort with sufficient hotel accommodations. A very large attendance is expected, some estimates run as high as 1,000 persons, but this figure I think is too large. The experts will certainly gather in force, as they have in years gone by, from all parts of the country, and the local attendance from the great whist center in which the congress is to be held will certainly be great. Whether or not wartime and such inconsequential things will interfere with the general interest of whist players in the congress I cannot predict.

The headquarters of the congress will be at the Hotel Vendome, in the Back Bay. This is one of the modern hostelries of the Hub. As extracts from the headquarters rooms will be sent in the Hotel Victoria and the adjacent Algonquin clubhouse, both of which are close by the Vendome, it goes without saying that everything possible will be done or already has been done for the comfortable and convenient accommodation of those who are invited to "participate" in connection with this office to process scarcely more than sufficient hotel accommodation and rooms of a size only in which to play whist. The Boston to a whist congress do little else than play whist and of course make themselves as at home with as many as are free from home care to vacation time.

Surely in the matter of personal comfort, neither cost nor trouble will be spared to make the whist congress of this year the delightful one in the eighth congress ought to be centered. It is hardly to be supposed that the committee will spend much time in seeing the Historic sights of Boston and vicinity. Where, when, from Monday till night, and in some cases, I fear, not from night till morning, will the time for the office of the congress?

The chief working hour will be spent with the congress in the hands of all committees, whose chairman, in the Junior A. Center, of Pittsburg. The Entertainment committee, which has for head and will superintend all the affairs has for its head that accomplished whist veteran, as we present of the Boston and as "Chief Marshal of the Jubilee," Mr. Walter H. Brown, who of Boston's Tercentennial and other celebrations, unless much the most prominent in the whole country to make the congress a success has been intrusted to as able a man as great success attends almost the

[illegible] of the important departments. I hereby choose to remember with Colonel D. Howard Vincent of Boston, chairman of the finance committee. Whist costs high, but we must have it.

In the way of reputation at this congress there will be the adoption of a new and steady rule of laws for duplicate whist and at least the committee will be able to formulate a series of rules for the guidance of league novices.

The committee on system of play has been in existence for years and has not accomplished anything tangible, but it is essential to report at the Boston congress. It is composed of half a dozen of the most whist experts in the United States. They are all opponents of that school of whist which is known as long sudden, and the object of their labor has been modified at by all the members of the opposite school. The attempt to fix upon principles and methods of play for the whist player of America has been criticised even by some of the most prominent long and unfriendly

[illegible] winning it at a congress and its personnel is found the highest honor in the whist world. The present holder is the Philadelphia Whist club. The play for the championship begins on Tuesday, July 12, at the Algonquin club. Tuesday afternoon and evening there are two preliminary rounds under the competitive system of play, and the eight highest losers at the end of these rounds are to play matches of 24 hours each among themselves, each against every other, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The winner of the greatest number of matches in this three days' contest will be the champion of the American whist league of 1898-9.

The most most important contest is that for the American Whist league challenge trophy. This is also to be played for now. It will be played in the Vendome, in the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by the prominent whist throughout. The challenge trophy is now held by the Milwaukee Whist club. The winner of the trophy at the congress held it until old, and during the regular whist playing season weekly matches are contested for by the winner and challenger. The object of the congress is that for the Milwaukeeans trophy to pass. This will be played at the Victoria in the afternoons from Tuesday till Saturday, the preliminaries on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and the finals on Friday and Saturday.

Another contest of considerable importance is that for the Brooklyn trophy for teams of eight or more players representing whist associations and leagues in the league. This contest is scheduled for Monday afternoon and evening.

It is impossible to say just now how many entries there will be in these several events, but it looks as though all the leading whist clubs of the country will be fully represented in the three contests for the championship, challenge and Minneapolis trophies.

Besides the main events there is to be a congress tournament of games of six by French checkers, which are familiarly known as "merry go rounds," only for fours and for pairs. Prizes are offered in all these contests. For teams of four there are prizes on Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon and for pairs on Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon. Thursday afternoon and evening and Saturday afternoon, with the customary grand whist in progress, a good time, without doubt, will be had by the whist players who are the happy sojourners in the metropolis and then of dark hard and the good old of the metropolitan of military and in some instances public entertainments. It is in this direction that the best whist people of the day is looking mainly for the encouragement of whist principle and whist practice. If the congress and other three representative whist societies of the United States are successful and indeed valuable to the national practice of the game and will discourage any further complications, it will be doing a great deal. Which really will be apparent, for the benefit of players and will contribute to such a most healthful or whist consummation.

At the annual congress, as usual, there will be the "whist review to be focused." The first is the championship for cups of four. The trophy represents the whist championship in officially form as the championship trophy, and is most fittingly called the Hamilton cup. It is held for one year by the club

[illegible] There is no doubt, however, that the league will and will do something in the near future, if not at the coming congress, to bring order out of the chaos which at present reigns among the multitudinous systems of play devised and practiced in different localities and by different schools of players. In common with a great many others, although I am a firm believer in the whist theories of the Philadelphia school, I could hope congressing and conferencing the contrary today to outlaw the cross-fertilizing, antifertilizing and intermediate systems of play, which are so, and which in my opinion, [illegible] and special whether it be pure long suits, and short suitors or sometimes combined sometimes forced upon the whist player of the hour. I think the Jacobs are the happy sojourners in the metropolis and then of dark hard and the good old of the metropolitan of military and in some instances public entertainments. It is in this direction that the best whist people of the day is looking mainly for the encouragement of whist principle and whist practice. If the congress and other three representative whist societies of the United States are successful and indeed valuable to the national practice of the game and will discourage any further complications, it will be doing a great deal. Which really will be apparent, for the benefit of players and will contribute to such a most healthful or whist consummation.

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AMATEUR OARSMEN TO MEET IN PHILADELPHIA.

Twenty-sixth Annual National Regatta to Be Held on the Schuylkill River Course, July 22 and 23.

(Copyright, 1898.)

The twenty-sixth annual regatta of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen will be held at Philadelphia on July 22 and 23. The regatta is open to all amateur clubs in the world and any amateur oarsman who is a member of the following Philadelphia associations: Pennsylvania Boat club, Philadelphia Boat club, Bachelor club, Schuylkill Navy club, Philadelphia Rowing club, Penn Boat club, Schuylkill Boat club, Crescent Boat club and Manayunk Boat club.

The races to be decided are the following championship events: Intermediate and senior single and double and sculls, single pair oared shells, intermediate and senior four oared shells, senior eight oared shell, senior four and intermediate and senior eight oared shells. The races are all one mile and a half, with one turn, except the last three, which are one mile and a half straightaway.

The prizes consist of challenge cups and plate of the National association. To every winning oarsman or sculler is presented a gold medal, and a fine silk banner is also given to his club. The prizes will be extremely handsome. The committee has recently designed and the present of $120 has been voted by the association to be spent on them.

The Schuylkill river course at Fairmount park, Philadelphia, is perhaps the best known racing stretch in the United States, and there certainly is none better suited for the purpose for which it is used. Situated at the very entrance to the park, a few minutes travel from the business portion of the city, approached by several lines of cars, it is no wonder that many thousands of people attend the regatta annually held there. The course is unusually fine beautiful. The only buoys are two lines of the regatta officials. There is little if any current. On each side of the river is a fine driveway, while a good stand capable of seating several thousand people is situated at the finish and gives a wonderful view of the boats from beginning to end. Tough water is unknown of, and these are advantages which it is not that place for holding the regatta.

The executive committee has given very full and explicit instructions to all clubs entering crews as to railroad fares, or such a great reduction has been secured. Rooms in Philadelphia and other social matters.

The N. A. A. O. will admit any club to membership which submits the following definition of an amateur:

"One who does not enter in an open competition, or for either a stake, prize or a pecuniary wager or emolument, or, or competes with or against a professional for any prize, who has never taught, pursued or assisted in the pursuit of athletic exercises as a means of livelihood, whose membership of any recognized athletic club was not brought about or does not continue because of any pecuniary advantage derived therefrom, contrary to rules, which would be of any pecuniary benefit to his business, trade or profession; who has never been employed in any occupation involving any use of the art of pedestrian, who does not abandon or neglect his usual business or occupation for the purpose of training and who shall have conformed to the rules and regulations of the association as adopted Aug. 25, 1873, amended Jan. 28, 1874 and July 17, 1895."

The boats eligible to entry are those in use on the present month, and from all indications the regatta will be one of the most successful ever held.

ROBERT LEONARD.

The announcement is made that Augustus Daly, resigning that the past season has been one entirely of revivals, intends that next year shall be one series of new productions. This news is as welcome as it seems improbable.

Stories of The Stage.

While the scouting St. Paul was coaching at Tuxedo, N. Y., some time ago Captain Sachse found time to go to the Eden Musee just to have a look at himself as exhibited there in wax. "It's a right novel sensation, as we say here in the West, this meeting yourself face to face on the first time. I don't know that I quite like it. The waxwork is worse, Dennis. In the waxing pictures you get a forward vision toward yourself until you're quite a side yourself. At first sight it's a startler. It gave me a cold chill. My own tailor made the coat for that waxdoll, and I rather scolded to see from the uniform he made most have been looking all those years. Either the waxtailor built than I am or else that tailor knows his business. The coat fits like a glove. It would have been a good deed in Heaven when I was wearing borrowed coats after my own were gone, if he had dealt with half the heat of me."

At the seventeenth annual meeting of the Actors' Fund of America it was decided to take some steps toward the formation of a site to build a sanitarium. The idea is to combine under the general control of the Actors' Fund a hospital for the indigent sick as well as a home for the aged and helpless among the theatrical profession, together with such other things as shall be thought best. Louis Aldrich, president of the fund, is the author of the idea, and at a meeting at which the plan is to be formulated will be held Dec. 29 at a place to be named later.

Miss Nethersole's new play, which Louis Parker and Murray Carson have written for her, is called "The Unchastened." It is a Spanish play and consequently allied to early American times. The London Daily Mail gives the following sketch of its plot:

"The close of the fifteenth century is the period of this fervid story of romance and the court of the Queen Isabella of Aragon is scene. Beautiful, imperious, capricious, she [illegible] scarce less of dread than love. Everywhere man must be gratified, every command obeyed. The mere coupling of the people's tongue of her name with that of the lord of the lands which adjoined her own was an offense for which he must be banished, and through her influence this unknown offender, Rodrigo of Triana, was dispatched with Columbus on his voyage of discovery. With the return of this weatherworn adventurer and his henchman, full of strange oaths and oddities, and their intercourse upon the courtly life of the lovelier princess, the courtly lights, and the surrounding scenes are occupied with the mutual subjugation of Rodrigo and Beatrix, the equally resolute and powerful spirits, and the direction which inevitably follows."

It is reported that Anna Held will spend the summer in Russia, but will return next September in this country and play in a musical farce. Meanwhile the English illustrated papers are full of pictures showing how she travelled through this country in her private car.

THREE FAMOUS AMERICAN SPRINTERS.

JOHN OLIVER HOBBES.

John Oliver Hobbes, who wrote "The Ambassador," the play in which George Alexander has made the hit of literature in London, is Mrs. Craigie in private life. She has been known in the literary world for many years. Her fame as a playwright has been attended with as much success that it is not generally known that she was formerly comic for years. Good news for the stage, but bad news for those who have enjoyed Mrs. Craigie's charming stories.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

"The Three Musketeers" is to have two versions of it played in London. Mr. Louis Waller will bring it out first and Mr. Wyndham.

Hayward stage dramatic and musical critic, everywhere accepted, recognized, capacity, [illegible] [illegible] Balmont, etc., was lately [illegible] Palace Theatre, a wealthy lady who is [illegible] a social reform and school of [illegible] in London. Mr. Hayward [illegible] the stage has been given to his position as Alnwick writer of The Saturday Review.

Mme Duse Partelor and Miss Kathrine Fiske, protégée of the Duse [illegible] Department of the Chicago exposition, have both signed contracts with Charles Frohman.

"The Town of Freedom," "The Red, White and Blue" and "The Spanish Wonderful" are titles of new Cohan plays.

The report that Charles Frohman has engaged Louis Mitchell to be leading woman of the Empire stock company next season is confirmed by Joseph Humphreys, one of Mr. Frohman's lieutenants, recently returned from England. Miss Millward will not make her first appearance with the organization in "Tristan," as has been stated. She will accompany the company on its preliminary tour to Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities, impersonating in "The Conquerors" Tyrone, the role originated by Viola Allen.

Bernstein and MacDonald have a new opera for the Bouffables, "Tiramou," by W. C. Mellhaney and Richard E. Phillips.

It is said that Eleanora Duse is not to act in Paris this year, in spite of the announcement, some months ago that she was to appear there in "Hedda Gabler," "La Princesse de Bagdad," "Werfa" and "Dogma." The negotiations evidently came to an end, and there was speculation as to the change in her plans. The reason given out was that it was impossible to secure an appropriate theatre.

Miss Nethersole and Murray Carson have written a three act comedy of intrigue called "The Fire on the Water."

Richard Mansfield has engaged Margaret Anglin to play leading parts in his company next season.

Richard Daly, in announcing his plans for next season, says that he intends to open his season at the Boston Museum in a new play by Madeleine Lucette Ryley. In the event of this new play not being completed before the middle of August he will open his season early in September with "A Man of Letters," his success of last season. There will be no change in Mr. Daly's company.

Alice Atherton will spend another season in this country and may appear in a farce comedy.