

CANADIAN LEAGUE CAN DROP TWO FRANCHISES

Membership of Any Club May be Terminated for Business Reasons on Majority Vote by Constitution.

HAMILTON, Oct. 31.—There has been a movement on foot in Canadian League circles for some time to drop the two weak members of the circuit, Guelph and Berlin, and either continue as a six-club circuit or take Niagara Falls and Erie, Pa., into the fold. This movement has met with considerable support, but the Guelph and Berlin clubs are strenuously opposed to any such move, and have come out flat-footed with the statement that they could not be dropped from the league membership unless they were willing to hand over their franchises or they violated league rules and were then deprived of their

franchises. In making this claim the Berlin and Guelph owners may have been sincere, and may have believed that they were right, but if they will take time to look into the constitution of the Canadian League and read closely the paragraph headed "Termination of Membership" they will notice that there is a joker among the 13 reasons for depriving any club of its franchise. The joker comes in clause 13, which is as follows: "The membership of any club may be terminated for business reasons on a majority vote."

NO WAIVER CLAUSE IN CONSTITUTION

Wanderers Cannot Hold Up Ronan of Ottawa—Ridpath Resigns.

OTTAWA, Oct. 31.—President Emmett Quinn of the National Hockey Association put a stop yesterday to the wrangle over the services of Skene Ronan, the Ottawa Hockey Club's forward. He stated that there was no waiver clause in the rules of the association and thus overruled the objection which the Wanderers had raised. When Joe Gorman put

through the trade for the Patricks involving Carl Kendall in exchange for Ronan the Wanderer President came through with an objection on the ground that N.H.A. clubs had first call on the players, who were on the market. President Quinn, however, supports the contention of the Patricks of British Columbia, that they may exchange players without having the unanimous consent of the entire league in either case. Consequently Ronan becomes the property of the Patricks, while Kendall returns to Ottawa. It is said that Ottawa wished to get rid of Ronan because he was a "disturber and a trouble maker."

Ronan now states that he will not go to the coast, but it is likely that he will eventually decide to do so as his refusal would mean that he would have to remain out of the game. President Lichtenhein, made an effort to purchase Jack Darragh, but the latter is not for sale. He said he had made a move to get Ronan because the latter had informed the Wanderer players that Ottawa had given him his unconditional release. The Wanderer President, however, stated that he would abide by President Quinn's ruling and let Ronan go west.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE IS FASTER THAN NATIONAL

(By Tim, Murnane.)

BOSTON, Oct. 31.—I believe the American league as a whole was considerably stronger than the National league in playing strength this year. Last fall the post-season series at Cincinnati, Cleveland to Pittsburgh, New York and Boston sent well-matched teams to the field, but this season it was much different, for the American league representatives had much the best of it.

In the spring games at Philadelphia the Athletics had no trouble in taking the series from the Phillies, and this fall they made the National league champions look like second-raters. We will admit that the serious injury to several of the Giants' players was too big a handicap to carry when facing the Athletic machine, but that is the fortune of war. It simply shows that Connie Mack has developed athletes who can stand more work than McGraw's men.

Chicago fans were well satisfied during September that Johnny Evers' sluggers would easily take the series from the White Sox, but they were badly deceived, for Jimmy Callahan's boys won the series very handsomely.

The Pittsburgh Pirates made a great stand against Cleveland, but the Naps won the seventh game at Pittsburgh. Out in St. Louis there was a lively scrap between the two tail-end teams, and the honors were even. Take club for club down the line, and I figure the American league would win six of the eight series.

I was surprised to see clever baseball generals go so far astray in their daily predictions as to who would win during the last series. The Athletics opened on the Giants with their heavy guns and beat them to a frazzle at the Polo grounds. That night every one picked the Quakers for the money. Then Mathewson did some high class work the next day in Philadelphia, and the Quakers were beaten 3 to 0. Mathewson was saved by several great plays, any one of which might have lost him the day. That night while going from Philadelphia to New York I heard Ty Cobb, Jim Sheppard and other baseball men discussing the chances of the different teams for the series. Cobb felt bad over the loss of the game that day and said he rather favored the Giants, as he thought New York would have all the best of it in the way of pitchers. He asked me what I thought of it and was rather surprised when I picked the Athletics. Jim Sheppard chimed in by saying that the Athletics had no chance, as the Giants were a game lot of fighters and would surely win the series.

Sheppard's dope looked to me rather bold and insincere, and I answered that if the Athletics did not win in a walk I was willing to jump off the Brooklyn bridge. Thank goodness they won. Sheppard is now hiring in the coal country of Pennsylvania. I always figured J. Sheppard as a clever baseball man but changed my mind after that ride from Philadelphia to New York.

The same evening I had a talk with Hughie Jennings, who said that he thought the Giants were all right, but that he gave me his reasons. Then he could see that it was his sympathy for McGraw that made him think that way. There never was a move from start to finish after the bell rang that gave any indication that the Giants had a chance to get the big end of the purse and no one knew this better than McGraw himself.

The night the series was over I joined a party of friends who were holding a consolation beer at one of the Broadway hotels. Besides Jennings, Joe Kelly and Germany Schaefer, there were a dozen of McGraw's personal friends present. McGraw himself, was the life of the party. He is as much as said that the second game in Philadelphia convinced him that his chances were slim. He had a good word to say for Larry McLean, in fact admitted that he could not have won the league championship except for the big catcher.

WINNIPEG CURLERS WANTED IN LONDON

LONDON, Oct. 31.—The two rinks of Winnipeg curlers, who are to make an Ontario tour in January, will be invited to London by the Thistle Curling club. President R. D. McDonald has undertaken to do everything in his power to secure a date in this city and the curlers are eagerly awaiting the acceptance of the invitation.

Berlin and Guelph evidently intend to make a determined stand against being wiped off the Canadian League map. To-day this matter will come up for discussion at the meeting in Toronto of the magnates.

He did not play the cry baby with the men out of condition, but was rather inclined to praise his victorious opponents. McGraw said he thought Eddie Collins was the greatest player in the country, if not the greatest player that he ever saw. One of the guests remarked that Ty Cobb deserved the golden crown, and McGraw answered by saying, "I never had the pleasure of seeing Cobb in uniform but they tell me that he is a great player and I am willing to admit that he is the most valuable outfielder in the game, but there is a heap of difference between outfielders and infielders."

An outfielder may play a week without a difficult chance, while a man at second base is forced to make all sorts of plays and handle hard thrown balls with a man diving at his legs. You can get a hundred outfielders where you can pick up one second baseman, so I never believe in comparing the work of an in and out fielder. However, we will admit that Cobb is a shade stronger batter and run getter than Collins.

Now let me see what Collins stands for. He is a perfect athlete, with a long range, always in the game and immune from sprains and bruises, simply because he is an artist in the field and knows how to protect himself. His ground covering is wonderful, and he is in every play coaching the other men. His temperament is ideal for a ball player, for he is a man who works for his team first, last and always.

Before McGraw got through I could see by the expression on the faces of Jennings and Shafer that they agreed with the New York manager. Both had been famous infielders and could fully appreciate the argument of the little Napoleon. I don't see how they could help doing otherwise, for I don't believe there is a question in the world but that Eddie Collins is a more valuable man than Ty Cobb. In fact, I was surprised to find that the little party almost to a man considered Tris Speaker a more valuable man than the "Georgia Peach."

I feel that McGraw was a philosopher and that his team was a shade ahead made up his mind to get the best and think only of his own team and White Sox. That day I saw an offer of \$1500 for a short series of articles from different points on the way by re-writing. I intend cutting out writing any more of the papers as I am in need of a rest."

Joe Kelly told a pretty good story on how he met Connie Mack at the Polo grounds half an hour before the game started on the last day. He said, "Connie, you know I am against you, for I am for my old friend, McGraw. Mr. Mack grabbed him by the hand and said: 'I know you are Joe, but that's all right. Then the foxy Quaker manager took Mr. Kelly, his opponent's friend, to one side and told him he was going to pitch either Plank or Shawkey, and asked his opinion. Kelly was flabbergasted for a minute, but appreciated Connie Mack's apparent honesty, and told him that Shawkey would never go through against Mathewson. Mack thanked Kelly and started Plank."

Shawkey played in the International league before going to Philadelphia, so Joe Kelly knew all about him, and was just the man to give Connie the right dope.

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WAS 'A HERO IN BOER WAR

Earl Stacey, Nephew of Mrs. Andrews, Meets With Fatality.

The following despatch from St. Thomas refers to the death of the nephew of Mrs. W. N. Andrews, this city, a South African hero, who participated in the engagement with the Boer and Sherit, the Boer heroes met death. The young man was well known in Brantford having been a visitor here. Mr. John Stacey is a brother of Mrs. Andrews. "Word was received here by cable yesterday from Fiji that Earl Stacey, son of Coy. John Stacey, formerly of St. Thomas, had been killed by accident there on Wednesday. The young man was born in St. Thomas thirty years ago, and graduated from the Collegiate Institute. During the Boer War he joined the second Canadian contingent and was in Hart River fight, where he with McBeth of Stratford, was taken prisoner by the Boers. After being released the both joined the British forces, as Stacey remained in Johannesburg for five years. He then left for Australia where he was joined by his father. Stacey has been managing a cocoa plantation near Servat, the principal city on the Fiji Islands. Col. Stacey and his family live on an island

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