

WAY IS CLEARING FOR BASEBALL TO ENJOY ITS GREATEST BOOM

Game's Fate Is Up to Magnates, Aided,
of Course, by the Fans.

(By Dave Wyatt.)

That was certainly a mighty fine pre-lenten affair that the baseball magnates handed to the fans.

One month ago it looked as though peace in baseball would be as hard to bring about as for the League of Nations pact to do any good. The plans of the factions were kept so well guarded that it was not until just three weeks ago that things began to come to a head. That was when the western club owners and the N. C. Strong enterprises held their initial confab, and later all the moguls of the middle-west held their historical love feast as the guest of Kansas City's foundation for peace before and at the

banquet is shown by the fact it required only three sessions of peace conferences—one at Detroit, one at Chicago, and one at Kansas City—before the peace pact was signed and the storm wave was wiped out of existence.

It must be recognized by this time that the recalcitrant ones surrendered and that the victory belongs to organized ball. After all, the fans will care little about who got licked and who did the licking. The thing is, baseball is once more in for an uplift. Now the time has arrived when the good old national game should get back to its feet with a rush.

The baseball skies as well as the financial skies have cleared. If the people really want baseball as much as circumstances would indicate, they should soon notify the magnates after the playing season starts in 1920. Prosperity has put the dollar into circulation, and the plain fan has his share of the dollars. If he stays away from the box office in 1920 it will be because he has lost his love for the game, and not because he is unable to qualify for a ticket of admission by putting down the price. The situation is put to order for the club owner and the players. They are in for a new

deal. How they cut the cards will play a big part in the future development of the game. There will doubtless be some bickering and heart burnings over certain star players. It probably will not be until the actual opening of

the season that it will be known what clubs will get the cream of the playing talent. In any case, the securing of these stars and probable trades among the clubs should stir the interest of the fans during the remainder of the winter and put them on edge for the opening of the new league race and the fight for the inter-sectional championship.

The fans wanted new faces in some cities and they are going to get them, both as regards magnates and players. Will the magnates and the players, however, profit by experiences of the past? They will undoubtedly endeavor to so shape their affairs that another attempt to float another warfare will not be made for years. In the meantime, the A. B. C.'s can be expected to play the same smooth article of ball that they reeled off in 1916. A large part of Taylor's work will be to instill into the minds of his men that the team has not irreparably shot to pieces by the absence of some of the once familiar faces.

The American Giants, too, will have missing links. The title holders got some great pitching last year and they are likely to get lots more of it this season, even if Whitworth will not be there to electrify and even if "Beans" Williams sticks in the East. Dave Brown is just about ready to step up and take his regular turn in the box. Detroit looks good to me. Whitworth is bound to win as many games for Detroit, and he will have an able box assistant in Roberts, the eastern crack. St. Louis will be dangerous at times; though that team lacks the punch that the others have. Many of the fans pick Kansas City for first honors. If the Kaws don't win out, they should be close. The Chicago Giants ought to give fierce battle. The way they showed up during the 1919 campaign causes them to be conceded as a formidable foe for all.

Dayton is expected to have a team of youngsters that will make all sit up and take notice. In all, 1920 should be a grand and glorious season.

Indianapolis Freeman, Indianapolis, IN

Saturday, February 28, 1920, Page 7, Columns 3 and 4


NATIONAL NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE IS FORMED

Western Managers Meeting At Kansas
City a Great Success.

(By Charles D. Marshall.)

Wouldn't the late Frank Leland rejoice were he alive today and informed of the fact that a real, live Negro base ball league had been formed by colored base ball magnets of the West.

This noted base ball man (once owner of the famous Leland Giants of Chicago) had for years labored hard to induce colored owners and managers to come together and play organized ball, but to no avail. He died with the proposition far from becoming a reality.

But today  the plan almost a surety for when the umpire shouts "play ball" May 1, 1920 it will be under a new heading for eight clubs of the

West and that will be organized ball. That will mean much to thousands of colored fans as well as hundreds of ball players all over the country. Just what they have been arguing about for the past 15 or 20 years is at last to be a realization. It was bound to happen when such strong men as Rube Foster, C. L. Taylor, John T. Blunt, Charles A. Milk, J. A. Wilkerson, John Mathews, Carey R. Lewis and Elwood C. Knox got behind the movement and made effort to see it through. Foster slipped the cog and selected the place and time to hold the meeting and out came these noble stalwarts and like magic a league was formed, officers elected, and in other words the ball started rolling by these live leaders of the great game. Of course it is to be understood that their work is not really started but an attempt has been made and the best part of it is they

have come together with an understanding. Now they are to get busy and make rules and regulations that each must abide by for the protection of all. A franchise for each club is to be made; the salary basis and limits are to be considered for the players as well as the umpires. A playing sched-

ule is to be made and park admission prices should be made for the protection of the poor fan with the understanding that the public is paying for professional major league ball playing and not outlaw or semi-professional pastime. No better selection could have been made than Andrew "Hub" Foster or president of the league for this wily old master of the great game is best suited for guiding the organization safely past all of the pit falls and loop holes that it is certain to encounter in base ball. Mr. Foster and the rest will have much to do to get everything in readiness for real organized ball playing by May 1, 1929. But it can be done very easily if every official will give it their earnest attention.

A commission should be selected to prepare rules and regulations that should be enforced. But of all things let this be ~~one~~ race organization of clean ruling with officials of no selfish motives or unfairness to hand out to one another. Give the players a square deal and in turn let the player be square and fair. Make it possible that every player in the league be given a salary according to his worth and by that let us eliminate the "tramp ball tosser." Colored baseball will always have good financial support from both

...races, and even better when clean, professional games are played. Give us more men like C. I. Taylor, "Teney" Blunt, Foster and Wilkerson who urge the playing of clean ball.

Indianapolis Freeman, Indianapolis, IN

Saturday, February 28, 1920, Page 7, Columns 6 and 7