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SECOND BASEMAN MCCONNELL.

When President Comiskey recently traded Frank Smith and Billy Purcell to the Boston Americans for Lord and McConnell, the latter, it is understood, was thrown in to "sugar" the deal. Up to the present time, however, McConnell has been showing up remarkably well. His batting has been good and he fields his position cleverly. It is not saying too much to state that McConnell has proven to be equally as good a player so far as Lord and that the White Sox did not lose anything on the deal.

RETURN OF FARMED PLAYERS

National Commission Gives Out Long List of Sanctioned "Options" on Minor Leaguers.

The national commission has announced that the following list of options on minor league players had been exercised by major league clubs and approved:

- American league—By Washington—From Minneapolis, Warren Gill; from Scranton, Miller; from Peoria, Mercer.
- By Detroit—From Williamsport, John Ness and George Harding; from Wilkesbarre, Delos Drake; from Scranton, J. Kirke; from Rock Island, Cavitt; from Fort Wayne, Gainer; from Toronto, Renfer.
- By Boston—From Chattanooga, Yerkes; from Worcester, C. A. Thompson; from Lynn, J. W. Buzick; from Brockton, Dullin.
- By Chicago—From Birmingham, Messenger; from Wichita, Koerner; from Des Moines, Owen; from Quincy, Burg.
- By Cleveland—From Roanoke, Doane; from New Haven, R. Peckenpaugh; from Portland, S. A. Long and Gus Fisher.
- By Philadelphia—From Scranton, Charles Staley and Charles Friene (now with Danville).
- By New York—From San Antonio, Abeles; from Jersey City, Walsh and Johnson.
- By St. Louis—From Monmouth, Williams; from Springfield, Ill., Earl Hamilton; from Omaha, Corridor; from Newark, Waddell; from Toledo, Gilligan; from Montreal, Kritchell.
- National league—By Brooklyn—From Sioux City, H. H. Meyers; from Milwaukee, W. Schardt; from Chattanooga, Miller.
- By Cincinnati—From Fort Wayne, D. D. Young; from Buffalo, Carmichael; from Denver, Alvin Dolan; from Birmingham, Harry Coveleskie; from Buffalo, Mike Konnick; from Wheeling, Joseph Burns.
- By Chicago—From Danville, Fisher; from Spokane, Ray Keener; from Lincoln, Clyde Giest.
- By New York—From Rochester, C. Spencer; from Troy, H. L. Buck; from Memphis, Klawitter; from Lynn, F. Metz; from Newark, Kiebler.
- By Philadelphia—From Scranton, Edward McDonough, Bert Humphries, George Chalmers; from Albany, Ralph McBride; from Grand Rapids, Harry Welchone.
- By St. Louis—From Omaha, Melter; from Memphis, Johnson; from Louisville, Magee.

Keene to Retire From Turf.
 Antirace legislation is likely to result in the retirement from the turf of James R. Keene, vice-chairman of the Jockey club, who for many years has been one of the largest winners in the country, says a New York dispatch to the Chicago Journal.
 Mr. Keene says that he will retain about ten of his yearlings to be raced or sold next year. The others will be disposed of at public auction.
 The Keene horses have not been so successful as usual this year, and it is said that his big stable has been run at a loss even though the winnings are close to the \$50,000 mark. Last year the stable cleared \$111,000, and in 1907 he hung up a world's record with winnings of \$397,000.

Fielder Jones Will Be Back.
 President Johnson is authority for the statement that Fielder Jones contemplates returning to baseball next year somewhere and somehow, probably as part owner and manager of an American league club.

MURPHY IS KEPT VERY BUSY

President of Chicago National League Club Hits on Unique Plan to Secure Recruits.

"Almost every mail brings me letters telling of some undiscovered wonder," said President Charles W. Murphy of the Cubs, who recently hit upon the most unique plan ever attempted to recruit young ball players and today has 3,000 fans working for him. The plan of the Cub president is as simple as it is unique.
 He wrote a personal letter to these 3,000 fans requesting them to forward



President C. W. Murphy.

names of the most likely looking youngsters in their locality. He promised to pay a liberal sum to the discoverer of the youngsters who finally made good with the west side team. The letters were sent out several days ago and already many answers have been received.
 "You would be surprised at the answers I have," he says. "Fans in the most remote parts of the country have written me recommending the likely prospects in their territory."

PAID \$12,000 FOR RUSSELL?

Connie Mack Thought to Have Been Asleep if He Ever Paid That Sum for Pitcher.

They say Connie Mack paid \$12,000 for Pitcher Russell of the Baltimore club. Acquaintances of the astute manager of the Athletics are from Missouri, however. If Connie Mack ever paid \$12,000 for any player, he must be addicted to sleep walking, or has changed his system most radically, says Chicago Sunday Sporting Telegram.
 Heretofore Connie has been content to get his players very cheaply and develop them himself. Plank, Bender, Coombs, Collins, Barry and Krause did not cost him a cent. He got Morgan in trade for Schlitzer. Harry Davis came to him with the franchise, as did "Topsy" Hartzel. Danny Murphy may have cost him a few hundred, and Baker, Oldring, Atkins, Dygert and Heltmuller cost him a few thousand apiece, but it is doubtful if all the men on the Philadelphia payroll cost Mack much over \$12,000 at the outset.
Swacina Making Good.
 Swacina, once a member of the Pittsburg team, is now the big hit of the Mobile team of the Southern league.

JUMP STARTED "ART" HOFMAN

Started in Baseball to Reach Some Other Profitable Business—George Huff Found Him.

By ARTHUR HOFMAN.

I always played ball for the pleasure of it until I saw that there was a chance for me to get into fast company and make a better salary than I could as a bank clerk. Also I decided early in my career that baseball was the best means for me to reach some other profitable business.
 I started playing ball with my brothers and the neighbor boys around St. Louis and joined a semi-professional team before I was sixteen. That led me to a job in a bank, which maintained a baseball team. I noticed that I received more attention and was more thought of because I was a good ball player and decided to become a better one. I had no idea of devoting all my time to the game. I played Saturdays, Sundays and holidays and worked in the bank the rest of the time.

I got into the Trolley league and played good ball, but never had an idea of becoming a big leaguer.
 I was getting \$10 a game for playing, with a proviso that, if weather did not permit the game to be played, I got nothing. One day we were playing in East St. Louis and the river rose suddenly and swamped the ground. I wanted the \$10 and claimed the weather did not prevent the game because the sun was shining. The management kicked and I jumped. It was that jump which made me in baseball. I went to Alton and there was discovered. Pittsburg got me, but they put me on the bench and I never



"Art" Hofman.

was a good bench player. Pittsburg never gave me a chance but sent me back to the minors and finally George Huff found me and brought me to Chicago. There I had a lot of trouble until Selee left the team. That shows how lucky a player may be. If Selee had stayed with the team I probably never would have been heard from. He did not think I could play ball and wanted to let me go. Chance, however, had confidence in me and I think Chance's confidence did more to make me a ball player than anything else. I felt that he was risking his own reputation on me and wanted to make good for him as well as for myself. It is that confidence, one in another, that has helped make the Cubs a great ball club. A young player just starting in the business should think first whether he fits into a team and is in sympathy with it, and seek a berth with some club he likes and feels will like him.

AROUND THE BASES

Frank Sparks, the old time Phillie pitcher, is making good as a Southern league pitcher.

"Texas" Covington of the Evansville baseball team of the Central league has been sold to the Detroit Tigers for \$1,500.

Jimmie Doyle of the Louisville team has been purchased by the Cubs. He will not report until the end of the American association season.

President Comiskey does not think Melan will lose his batting eye as the result of being rapped on the cobb by that "bean" ball the other day.

Down at Arcola, Ill., Ernest McDowell pitched a perfect game against Lovington, allowing no hits, no runs, and no base on balls. Arcola won over Lovington, 3 to 0.

Arrangements have practically been completed for a post season series between the two New York clubs at the end of the regular baseball season. There is a lot of rivalry between the clubs.

Happy Smith, who jumped the Brooklyn team recently, has been located in the outlaw Pacific Coast league. He quit the Superbas because he was in love with a girl in the far west, it is rumored.

The San Francisco and Oakland teams are fighting it out for the pennant in the Pacific Coast league. It is the first time Oakland has been in the running for years and Harry Wolverton is getting all kinds of praise from the fans across the bay.

Manager Jennings predicts that the Athletics are sure to have a slump. "Every team has its slumps. We have had ours and the Philadelphia men are bound to have theirs. Our men are rounding to form and will be going right in a few days, for they are hitting the ball hard again. I am satisfied with my men as they are."

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Before the Passion Play.

As the time for the first production approaches, the religious spirit of the people deepens. The productions are given several times a week during every tenth summer. They continue from May to September, and are now going on. At seven o'clock the nights preceding the performances, a band of musicians marches from one end of the town to the other announcing the next day's performance, with the intention of warning all those who expect to attend to prepare for it. At five o'clock the next morning the village cannon, placed at the foot of a high peak crowned with a large cross which stands guard over the town nestling at its foot, calls all to early mass, both villagers and visitors, and they are expected to respond.
 At seven o'clock the musicians again march through the town to warn those who have no reserved seats that they had better hasten to the theater. At eight o'clock the cannon sounds again, and the play begins. Before the curtain is raised, the 500 who are to take part join the pastor of the church in silent prayer behind it, and with this preparation the drama opens.—Harper's Bazar.

Preserving String Beans.

"I thought I knew as much as the next person when it comes to preserving fruits, vegetables and the like," said a New York housekeeper to a friend while waiting for her change in the grocery store. "But I've just learned of something new—a very simple way of making it possible to have fresh string beans throughout the winter, and at their lowest summer cost too.
 "The process is extremely simple. As soon as the beans are picked they are sorted and care should be taken to see that they are clean and dry. Then in the bottom of a wooden box lined with paper place a layer of dry table salt. On top of this place a layer of beans, then more salt and more beans in as many layers as you wish. Put a generous layer of salt on top of all, cover over with paper and set in a cool dry place.—The beans can be taken out as wanted and will be found as fresh as when picked. Indeed, my informant assured me she had had fresh beans in March which had been picked the previous summer. You must be careful to get the real string bean, though, green in color, for the other kinds, like wax beans, won't keep."

The Frugal Life.

The average workman in Reichenberg, Austria-Hungary, lives on 20 cents a day, his meals being as follows: Breakfast, bread, butter and coffee; forenoon lunch, bread and butter; noon meal, soup, sausage, potatoes and coffee or beer; afternoon lunch, a little bread; evening meal, potatoes and buttermilk or coffee. At the Sunday noon meal he has pork or beef, in addition to the usual work-day meal.

Health a First Requirement.

Miss Caroline Hazard says that "it is to the development of household economics and in physical training that I should say the growth of Wellesley college girls during my administration may be attributed." Wellesley does not take any girl with any organic disease or serious functional disorder. The health of a girl is considered of paramount importance in the beginning of her college work.