DENTON JOURNAL.

Published Weekly, Every Saturday Morning, by

MELVIN BROTHERS & HOBBS.

Saturday Morning, June 20, 1885.

WHAT BASEBALL COSTS.

High-Salaried Players—Pitchers the Most Costly—Ground Fitting, Privileges, Etc.

Of the thousands who daily witness a baseball match, very few have any idea of the actual cost of maintaining a first-class professional club during a season. Very few ever stop to inquire about the expenses or receipts of a club during the seven months in which the games are in progress, but are apparently contented in paying their money to see the high-salaried men play for their amusement. This is probably just as satisfactory, as managers as well as players, are not over-anxious to give any approximate figures as to the loss or gains of the speculation.

When engaged to play ball for the season each player is compelled to sign a contract, in which the amount he is to receive, how it is to be paid and other important points, are clearly stipulated. The contents of these documents are known only to the parties interested unless it is desired to make the agreement known.

The lowest estimated cost of running a first-class baseball club is, as nearly as can be estimated, about $65,000 a year. The salary list of the clubs vary somewhat, but a representative nine, such as the team of New York, Providence, Boston or Chicago, average between $35,000 and $40,000 annually. The average salary paid to individual players is between $1,500 and $3,500. Some of the men, however, receive more than this. In addition to this extraordinary salary list, the expenses of the players while they are traveling is fully covered by the club, as the men are only taxed fifty cents a day. This includes first-class board and other hotel accommodations, as well as various expenses on the road. The expenses for travelling annually foot up to about $10,000, and the number of miles covered by each club is about 7,500. The next large item on the expense list is the renting of suitable grounds. As many of the clubs have this year been compelled to find new quarters, the expense of fitting them up with grand stands and other requirements will somewhat increase the bills. The renting, however, of grounds amounts to about $10,000 a year. In addition to this the services of the gatemen, ushers, ticket takers, and other attendants amount to $3,000. Advertising and various other items will bring the total for the club fully up to $65,000, the amount stated, if not more.

Each player in the League is compelled to furnish his own uniform, as well as the bats he plays with. In the American Association, however, the club furnishes the uniforms. The first year or two a club seldom more than pays its expenses. To start a new club requires additional expense. The expense of securing the release of a good player from the club he previously played with must be taken into consideration and a higher salary must be offered to induce him to make the change. When the release is secured, advance money is paid in order to prevent his signing with another club. The advance of money is often a mere speculation, as the players subsequently prove unsatisfactory and the club is so much out. Thousands of dollars are paid out through the advance system every year. When a good nine becomes a drawing card it pays well, but not before that. The salaries of the best paid men run about as follows:—First and third base men average from $2,000 to $3,000; second base men, $2,500; shortstop, $3,000; outfielders, from $1,500 to $3,500 according to their ability at fielding and batting. A good catcher rarely receives less than $2,000 and often as much as $5,000. The pitchers are the most expensive players in a club. The position is the most difficult to fill and the game depends largely upon the power of his delivery. Radbourn, the champion pitcher of the League last year, is contented to remain with his own nine at $3,500. McCormick and Shaw, who was recently reinstated, are being paid $2,500 each for this year's work, in addition to the payment of the fine that was inflicted by the League managers.

Sweeney will cost Manager Lucas even more than this sum. O'Rourke was induced to leave Buffalo and join the New Yorks, by an offer of $6,000, but he won't get over $4,500. Ewing and Ward, of the New Yorks, receive about $3,000. Mullane, of Cincinnati, has cost that nine $5,000. Hecker, Louisville's great pitcher, and the champion of the American Association, is demanding from $3,500 to $4,000 for the season's work. Galvin gets $3,000 from the Buffalos, whose salary list is not far from $15,000. In all of the principal clubs there are players whose salaries run from $2,500 to $3,500 a year.

Where the money comes from is apparently a great mystery. The League clubs usually make money. The League charges fifty cents admission to their games. In the League the home club is compelled to pay the visiting nine thirty and one third per cent. of the entire gate receipts of every game. The visiting club only allows nine persons to pass in free of charge, and all above that number have to be accounted for by the home managers. In addition to the admission fee about one-half of the patrons pay an extra quarter for a seat in the grand stand. This the visitors have nothing whatever to do with. When it is stated that in the larger cities the interesting games between the strong clubs draw from 7,500 to 10,000 persons, the mystery will be somewhat solved. Then, the various privileges that are let out on the grounds amount to considerable. For instance, the bar and refreshment counters turn in from $5,000 to $10,000 a year; while the contract for selling score cards is not as small as might be supposed, and the ground, if it is a good one, is seldom unused. When baseball is not being played upon it, other clubs engage it for athletic and all sorts of sports. During a season fifty-six championship games are played on the home grounds. These are interspersed with exhibition games.

HANDEL, THE MUSICIAN.

A Favored Child of Genius Who Was Born a Great Lover of Music.

Handel was born at Halle, in Saxony, Feb. 23, 1685. Unlike most of the great musicians, he does not seem to have inherited his talent; his father was a barber and surgeon, nor can we discover in the family any special love for music.

Handel, however, seems to have been "a born musician;" he turned everything he touched into sound. For some time he astonished and amused his parents and all who heard him; but as his love for music seemed ever to grow within him, his father, who had destined him for the law, banished every musical instrument from the house, and declared that the boy should hear no more of them. The boy, however, managed to smuggle a clavier, or key-board of a clavichord, organ, or pianoforte, into the house, and hid it in the attic; and night after night, when all in the house were asleep, he practiced on the muffled keys, teaching himself until he could play upon it with much skill.

About this time his father decided to visit a relative attached to the household of the duke of Saxony at Wessenfels. The duke was very devoted to music, and Handel, who had probably learned this fact, implored his father to take him, too, but in vain. Nothing daunted by the denial, the persistent little fellow ran after the carriage until his father discovered him and took him in. He became a great favorite at Wessenfels, and one Sunday afternoon, after the choir had finished singing, the organist lifted the child to the stool and told him to play; and play he did, with so much expression and delicacy that the duke demanded his name, and sent for his father. He begged the latter to give up the project of making a lawyer of his son, predicted a brilliant future for him if his musical genius were cultivated, and sent the child away with his pockets filled with coin and the father converted to the idea of a musical education for his son.—*St. Nicholas.*

What Think You?

Would it be death to our heart's repose?
Would it awaken the sleeping past?
Would the thorn appear 'neath the pure white rose,
Or our sky become o'ercast;
If only mine eyes on your face might rest,
Should I touch your hand with my finger-tips;
Did I lay my head again on your breast,
Should you touch my cheek with your lips?
I often wonder, while sitting here
In the glare of the present day,
What might have been had that other year
Not have died in that strange, sad way.

Hope.

Companion gay that ever leads
Through verdure and through flowers,
And talks, where're the tempest breeds
Of sunshine after showers.

BEAUTIFUL

-SPRING!-

Spring time in all its loveliness is fast approaching. Mother Earth, whose face has been covered by the ice and snows of the dreary winter months, and whose deep furrowed lines give evidence of age and exposure, now begins to bedeck herself with beauty and grace (as the young maiden) preparatory to being ushered into fashionable society, adorned with all the loveliness of young womanhood, attracting the gaze and admiration of all creation, becoming entranced by the sudden transition from the cold, icy features to the glowing warmth and beautiful countenance of lovely Spring.

Her coming is heralded by the musical notes of the feathered warblers, who sing themselves into ecstacies of delight at her approach, and continue their musical festivities until the now young and blushing maiden blooms into full womanhood of Summer, and are her constant attendants thro' the watchful and careful period of Autumn, and depart with her when old Winter throws his icy mantle over the form of this once young and charming daughter, and she passes away; but to be heralded again by the faithful harbingers, whose concerts always precede her return.

Thus it is with all Nature; we bud, blossom, bloom and our places are filled by others who come after us, little knowing that we ever preceded them, but when the gray hairs of the autumn of life admonish us of the approaching winter of death, we thoughtfully look, as if to peep into the coming future and wonderingly inquire: "Have we the necessary requirements which adorn those whose abode in that future is one of joy and gladness throughout an endless eternity?"

Our feelings are naturally averse to the bleak and chilly blasts of winter, and we instinctively turn to the genial warmth of approaching spring, and with all nations hail with joy her lovely advent.

The farmer now looks forth with anxious longings when the level fields shall be broken up and prepared for the reception of the coming grain.

The busy hum of business generally will supersede the dull, monotonous months just passed away, presenting a much coveted aspect.

While every business, professional and otherwise, have received a fresh impetus by the return of spring, the active merchant has also been moved and his merchandise put into proper trim for the spring campaign; large accessions of new goods of the latest designs have been received and ready for the trade, and the readers of this article are kindly invited to inspect the grand exhibition of all the latest designs in Ladies' and Gents' Dress Goods now on exhibition at the Grand Emporium of

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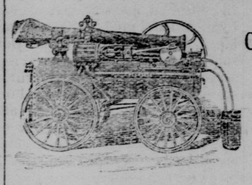

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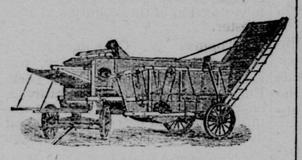

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6 50	2 38	Easton,	11 45	9 37
7 00	2 49	Chapel,	11 33	9 24
7 08	2 55	Cordova,	11 27	9 17
7 18	3 05	Queen Anne,	11 18	9 08
7 29	3 16	Ridgely,	11 06	8 58
7 39	3 26	Greensboro,	10 56	8 48
7 48	3 36	Goldsboro,	10 46	8 38
8 55	3 43	Henderson,	10 40	8 32
7 02	3 50	Marydel,	10 34	8 26
8 11	3 58	Slaughters,	10 26	8 18
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