

# SALE OF ST. LOUIS BROWNS HANGS FIRE

## American League Committee to Investigate Proposed New Owners of Club.

The American League finished its annual meeting at the Hotel Wolcott yesterday afternoon without taking definite action on the proposed sale of the St. Louis Browns. The committee which has been appointed to investigate the matter, including President Johnson, Charles A. Comiskey of Chicago, and Frank J. Farrell of New York, told the League when it met this morning that the proposed sale should be thoroughly investigated before it was approved. The American League owners are in close combination and have virtually agreed to a compact of twenty years with Ban Johnson at the head, and for that reason they will know thoroughly who the prospective buyers of the club are before they approve of their entrance into the League.

President Johnson said yesterday that it was a mistaken idea that Robert Lee Hedges, the present owner of St. Louis, was being forced out of the League. Mr. Hedges denied it also, and said he was getting out of his own accord. He said that he was tired of baseball, that it was too much excitement for him and was

getting on his nerves. He wants to take a long vacation in South America and recover from the worries and tribulations which go along with a tailend club. He says that he has a valuable property in the St. Louis Club and the ball park in that city and believes that he can get close to \$1,000,000 for it. The price which has been named in the gossip concerning the proposed sale is \$800,000, which includes the franchise and ball park.

There is said to be much ill-feeling against the American League in St. Louis because of the poor showing the team made last season as compared with the fine showing it made with Jimmy McAleer at the head in previous years. Another bone of contention in St. Louis seems to be Fielder Jones, the former manager of the White Sox. Jones, after his tilt with Comiskey in Chicago, which resulted in his refusal to play, was approached by Hedges, so the story goes, and was offered the minority stock in the club and the place of manager. Comiskey still holds Jones on his reserved list and said that St. Louis was meddling with a reserved player.

President Johnson refused to announce who the prospective buyers of the club are. One of the men who is interested in the deal is Benjamin Adkins, the present Vice President and Water Commissioner of St. Louis. Adkins is said to have interested Mark Ewing, a well-known and wealthy St. Louis resident, in the scheme, and also his brother. Ewing is a Councilman in the Mound City. Other St. Louis men interested in the new syndicate are said to be Messrs. Hall and Hodgden, well-known business men.

The only action the American League

took in the matter yesterday was to instruct the committee to go to St. Louis next week and interview the men who want to buy the club. President Johnson and Comiskey of Chicago were booked to go to Bermuda at the end of the week for a vacation, but this trip will be postponed until the St. Louis matter is adjusted.

The meeting yesterday was brief and little work was accomplished. The League did not set a date for the schedule meeting, but will wait to see when the National League Schedule Committee meets.

No action was taken on the appointment of a Rules Committee, as in former years, but it is believed that the different committees will be appointed by President Johnson before the February meeting of the League.

No deals of any prominence were put through by the American League yesterday. Barberick, a pitcher which the Boston Red Sox bought from Providence, was turned over to Montreal. Hugh Jennings of Detroit was in conference with several of the American League managers. He is willing to get rid of some of his present material, but after several talks with John I. Taylor he could come to no agreement about trades or sales. Wild Bill Donovan was seen talking with McAleer of Washington, and it is said that if Detroit asks waivers on the pitcher Washington will get him.