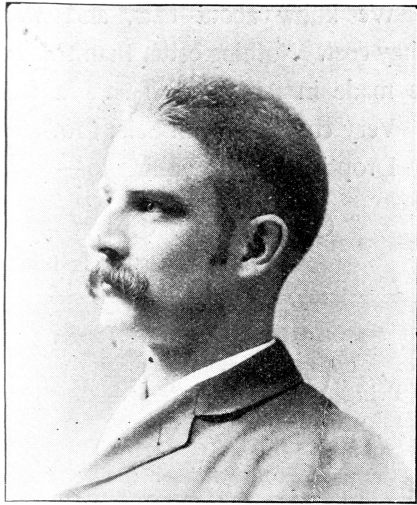


YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY

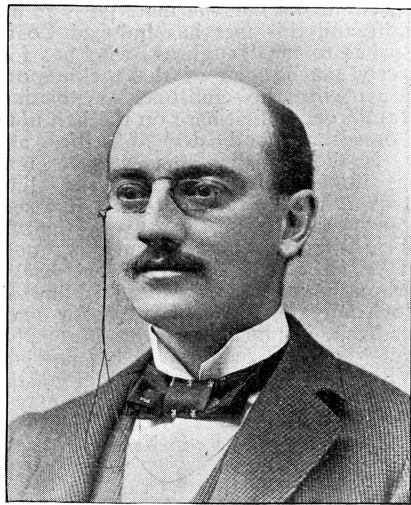
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NEW HAVEN, CONN., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1897.

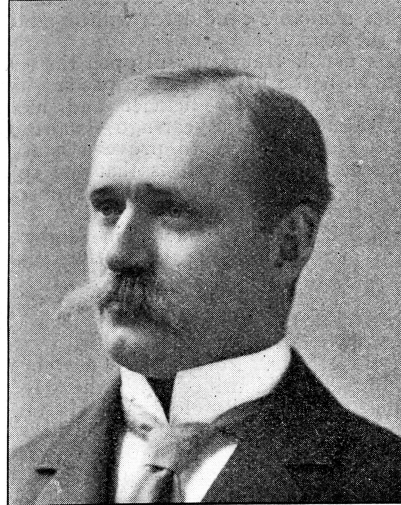
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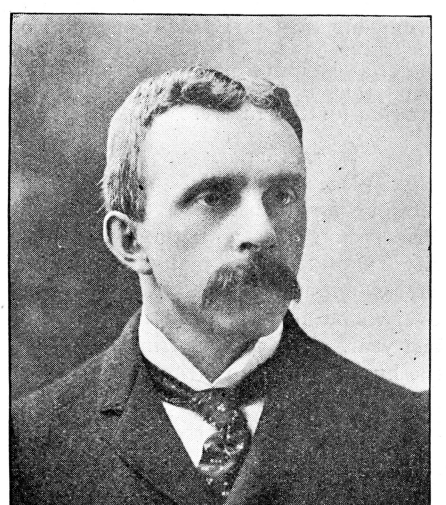
CHARLES E. BEECHER.



LOUIS V. PIRSSON.



ROBERT N. CORWIN.



WILBUR L. CROSS.

HARVARD--PRINCETON--YALE.

Mr. Camp Reviews the Football Situation.—Yale's Disorganized State.

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With the Harvard and Princeton games looming up before us, and that too with little over a month of possible preparation, the Yale football contingent begins to take a most immediate interest in the probable form of the elevens that are being developed at Princeton and Cambridge.

AT PRINCETON.

Strength or weakness does not come to a football team over-night, and many times not, indeed, in a single season. An eleven of really high grade is the product of the work expended upon team and substitutes for two or three years preceding, and, as a kind of compensation, a team that has reached this grade will carry its successes for a year or two, even without great expenditure of further labor on the part of the coaches. Princeton's team of last year was the result of the work performed upon such men as Kelly, Bannard, Church and others for some years. Had their defense in 1895 been as strong as their offense they would have come close to the top, for they were, even at that date, a scoring team. And they will be hard to beat in 1897 even under light coaching, doubly so under the drive which the present regime is likely to enforce. The loss of Gailey and Church would, to a team of star players, be serious; but Princeton has for two or three years realized most fully the value of team play and the necessity of building from the bottom, and these two principles together gave her deserved success and will not improbably add more successes, in spite of the loss of some of even her best men.

RE-ARRANGEMENT.

Many are the suggestions as to how Princeton should arrange her team for this season. Such suggestions make an interesting study. It seems safe to conclude, however, that in spite of scepticism regarding published comment the greatest factor in the Princeton equation this year, outside of her strong line, is the excellent kicking of both Baird and Wheeler. As long as neither of these men meets with injury—and no football player seems invulnerable—it is wisest for Princeton to plan out such an arrangement as shall enable her to mask her kicks far more than she did last season. This can be done, either by using Wheeler as one

half while Baird remains at full-back, or by playing Wheeler at full-back and Baird as quarter. In the former case the play could be readily worked in such a manner that it would be impossible for the opponents to know which one of the two crack kickers was to receive the ball, and thus would make Princeton a far greater team in the kicking game than she was last Fall, when the unexpected breaking down of Baird's defense rendered it necessary for Princeton to resort to running tactics. This use of two men as kickers is likely not only to help over this trouble, but also offers a wide range for fake kicks, as illustrated by Thorne and Jerrens of Yale two years ago. The placing of Baird at quarter would mean a reversion of Princeton to the snap direct from center to kicker upon occasions, and would also admit of some pretty variations in the running line. In fact either combination looks attractive from a strategic standpoint, and Princeton is to be envied the possession of two such kickers as render these combinations possible.

HEAVY LINE.

Princeton will also be well weighted up in the line this year and the tendency of the entire team will be to make flesh. There is something about the calm mind of men who have played upon a winning team that leads them away from worry and gives them sometimes so easy a conscience as to lead to avoirdupois. Weight is by no means a bad thing to have, and any team that attempts the game of 1897 without it will have to be astonishingly adept to make the scales balance. Certainly Princeton will not be defeated by any team that is not well above the average weight. Princeton's running game will naturally be after the order of that used last year, which beat last year's defense down so repeatedly. With this style of play a heavy line, that has enough spring to start the opponents off their feet, works admirably. Princeton always gets a lot of benefit from her quarter-back. From the days of Poe and Phil. King down, Princeton's use of quarters has been strong, and last year was no exception, the play being so good that had the man's name been more unusual it would have been written down as one of the shining lights of that position. This year, too, Princeton will, with her system, get an admirably close connection between the forwards and the backs through the medium of the quarter.

AT CAMBRIDGE.

The situation at Cambridge is, as usual, unique. For a number of years Harvard paid the penalty that a lack of study upon detail always exacts.

Whether the reaction and return to severely analytical methods is likely to lead them to extremes is now the question that this year's work is to answer. At least the preparation is to be based upon the collected opinions of a great majority of football men and the training will follow Mr. Lathrop's views, which are those of a man of wide experience. The principles involved in both the training and the play, and especially in the latter, are those that have stood other teams—notably Yale—in good stead in former years, and as matched up against the lack of definite system which seems likely to prevail at New Haven this year, through the inability to secure continuity of action, should have decidedly the advantage. Harvard will have a good line, and it has long been a belief of those who have followed the sport most closely that a good stiff line was a better possession than a strong back-field, especially if the latter were at all meteoric in performance. Princeton has especially made the belief a strong one, winning upon forward work, and sometimes losing when possessed of the best of material behind the line. Yale's coaches, too, have never felt secure except when a stiff forward line was developed by the first of November.

Harvard will certainly have from the very start a strong and able line of rushers, with plenty of substitute material upon which to draw. Especially at tackles is she well supplied, and at this position the great burden of the play now concentrates.

Behind the line, while not badly off, Harvard is not as well equipped. The loss of Dunlop and Wrightington is especially severe upon Harvard, as both possessed excellent qualifications in the way of spirit and were also experienced men.

HARVARD'S GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.

The element of common football sense has sometimes been missing in Harvard's teams, and its lack has cost them a victory. In this respect Harvard has materially improved and the "old-timer," who believes that "on principle" a Yale team can beat a Harvard team, is likely to have his eyes opened this Fall. Harvard's defense against Princeton last year was admirable and showed that her teams must be reckoned with more seriously in that regard than formerly. Harvard's chief difficulty will be in securing unity of action between line and backs and in teaching the team smoothness of method. The men will be carefully handled and much time expended in going through the plays. The campaign will be laid out very early and outside of the games the practice will be sharp, rather than long or hard. Under such a system the

team will exhibit much dash and more ability to score than last year's team.

HARVARD COACHING.

The coaching at Harvard is to be under the charge of Mr. Forbes, assisted by an Advisory Committee of three, Messrs. Brooks, Deland and Emmons. Probably a large part of the field coaching direction will devolve upon Mr. Emmons. He was a player not so long ago that everything is fresh in his mind, and as a captain he had the right kind of experience. He was always insistent upon one cardinal point, and that was fast play. The fact that he is a member of this committee then insures one thing, and that is that Harvard will play a fast, quick game. No matter how heavily the line may be weighted, there will be enough drive put into the backs to accelerate the pace. In the case of slow line men, they will be crowded up to rapidity at any cost, and if they cannot stand the speed, they will probably be replaced. To tell the truth, this combination is likely to make Harvard much more formidable and give them what many times they have apparently lacked, namely, ability to score. It is hardly on the cards for Harvard to have as great a variety of plays as they have possessed in some bygone seasons. They will probably select the best of the plays of past years and, with some modifications and a very few additions, endeavor to perfect a limited number and bring them up to methodical precision through constant daily practice.

AT NEW HAVEN.

At New Haven the number of experienced men is so much smaller than at either Harvard or Princeton as to make the losses of the latter two seem slight. In fact, there has never been a period in Yale's football history, save perhaps in Peters' year ('85), when the outlook for serviceable men has been so gloomy. At the present writing it appears that the men remaining from last year's team will not be more than three, and for two or three years the material that might be relied upon to replace veterans has been growing light. The exigencies of the present have been so pressing that to-morrow's needs have been lost sight of, and the result is that, instead of the feeling, so often voiced by Yale coaches, that the substitutes (and that means often the next year's team) were as good as the regulars, there has been a sense of insecurity and an abnormal dread of accident to chosen men. Last year a full-back had to be made of a good end, a quarter had to