

NEW BILLIARD BODY SOON TO BE FORMED

Tentative Arrangements for Organization of National Association Made Here.

COMMISSION TO CONTROL

Would Be Like Former Baseball Board—Meeting Next Month in Detroit to Perfect Plans.

At a two days' informal meeting, which was concluded in this city yesterday, tentative arrangements were made for the formation of a National Billiard Association for the control of the sport, both professional and amateur, in this country. Representatives of the various interests that are directly connected with billiards as a sport attended the session and decided to call a big preliminary meeting, at which the definite organization of the association will be perfected, to be held in Detroit during the week of July 25. It was decided that at least 2,000 letters should be sent out immediately to the leading room owners and players throughout the country inviting them to attend. At that time the organization will be perfected, and it now seems assured that the National Billiard Association will be functioning by the start of the next season.

Although the meeting in this city was purely an informal one and was held solely for the purpose of selecting a date and a place for a big preliminary meeting, tentative plans for the organization of the association were outlined. It is proposed to have an organization that will be composed of a billiard commission, a promotion and organization committee, rules committee, tournament committee, legal and legislative committee, publicity committee and a board of directors.

It is planned to have the board of directors composed of seven members representing the State Billiard Association, professional players, amateur players, billiard rooms, clubs, press and manufacturers. In this way all of the interests that are vitally concerned with billiards as a sport would be represented. Over all of these committees and the board of directors would be the billiard commission, which it was suggested should be composed of a chairman and two other members and a secretary. In short, this billiard commission would be similar in almost every respect to the old National Commission of baseball.

To be Governing Body.

It would be the real governing body of the sport. It would be the court of last appeal. All questions arising in the conduct of billiards would be settled by the commission, as well as all disputes. Acting as the Chairman of this commission, it is proposed to have a man of national prominence, and his office would be similar to a great extent to that now occupied by Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

The National Billiard Association not only would have complete charge of the drafting of the rules of play, but it would also have complete charge of all championship tournaments. The plans now call for State championships being played throughout the country, the winners to meet in district championships and the winners of these affairs to meet in the national championships at balkline, three-cushion and pocket billiards. Eighteen States in this country now have State billiard associations and ten more will be so organized by the end of this month, making twenty-eight States in all.

It can readily be appreciated that the National Billiard Association will have to have the enthusiastic support of the room owners in all sections of the United States. Many of them have already been approached on the subject, and the response has been unanimously in favor of the organization of the association. Players, too, both amateur and professional, are enthusiastic over the plan and are already lending their unqualified support to the movement.

It is because this support is necessary that it was decided at the meeting in this city to urge as many as possible of the leading room owners and players to attend the meeting in Detroit during the week of July 25. Detroit was decided upon as the meeting place because of its central location. It would enable the enthusiasts of the sport who are situated on the Pacific Coast as well as those in the East and South to get together without having to make a trip entirely across the continent. The latter part of July was suggested as an ideal time for such a meeting, because the business of the room owners is more or less lax at the height of the Summer season, and they would be able to spare the time from their rooms to attend the session.

To Find Ways and Means.

At the meeting in Detroit ways and means will be devised for the defraying of the expenses incurred in the government of billiards. It has been suggested that the different rooms of the country could be charged a very nominal initiation fee, and they could pay a small amount in annual dues for each table in operation. It would also be possible to take a small percentage of the gate receipts at all championship tournaments, such as is done in the world's series in baseball. These were merely advanced in the nature of suggestions, of course, and will have to be definitely worked out at the coming meeting in Detroit.

The need of such an association has long been felt in billiards. For years those who have the best interests of the game at heart have agreed that a governing body was needed for the sport, but it was not until toward the close of the last season that anything resembling a definite step toward the realization of the plan was taken. It was Irvin (Cy) Huston, one of the leading room owners of the Middle West, with his headquarters in Detroit, who furnished the needed impetus to start the movement. He sent out a circular letter to many of the leading room owners and players and to the sporting editors of the different papers outlining the scheme and requesting that they make any suggestions they might think of that would further perfect the organization.

Hundreds of replies have been received, and in the majority of instances enthusiastic support has been assured. Among the leading players who have given their support to the movement are George B. Sutton, Chicago; George F. Slosson, Boston; Otto Reisel, San Francisco; Nathan Hall, Boston, formerly national Class A amateur balkline champion; Louis A. Servatius, the veteran amateur of New York City; Benny Allen, Kansas City, and Jerome Keogh, Rochester, former professional pocket billiard champion. The majority of room owners who have expressed an opinion are agreed that it will be the greatest boon the sport could be treated to, and there is not the slightest doubt at this time that support will not be lacking once the preliminary organization has been completed.