

AMERICAN LEAGUE MAY SPLIT WITH NATIONAL—OPENING OF POLO SEASON DELAYED

AMERICAN LEAGUE SEEKS TO SAVE ITSELF; DISREGARDS THE NATIONAL

Ban Johnson Confirms Evening Ledger Story of Peace Move With Federals—McGraw Has Turned Loose Whole Team of Stars in Last Four Years.

Ban Johnson, president of the American League, admitted in Boston yesterday that a movement was on foot to have the Federal League's suit against organized ball withdrawn and settled out of court. That this plan was under way was published exclusively in the EVENING LEDGER on Monday of last week. The EVENING LEDGER stated also that Ban Johnson was acting on a tip from Judge Kenesaw M. Landis. Mr. Johnson would not deny or confirm the latter, but admitted that it was a fatal blunder ever to permit the case to go into court.

President John K. Tener, of the National League, and August Herrmann, chairman of the National Commission, profess to know nothing about the matter. The EVENING LEDGER's story of the peace plans stated that the National League had no representative at the meeting, but it was thought that they would agree to the plans.

American League Acting Independently

The acting of President Johnson yesterday means that the American League is acting on its own initiative, and the National League either must follow suit or take its chances alone. The abolishment of the National Commission was asked by the Federal League in its suit, and it is predicted that the National Commission will be abolished, as will the world's series, before the close of the present season.

Several Federal League magnates have been quoted today as saying they knew nothing about the arrangements, but it is certain that these remarks were only to safeguard their interests until they knew officially that Ban Johnson had made the statement credited to him from Boston. Mr. R. B. Ward, owner of the Brooklyn Federal Club and principal backer of the independent league, merely remarked that Johnson's statement was a surprise to him, but did not deny that he knew of the agreement reached by the attorneys of the Federal and American Leagues in Chicago two weeks ago.

Since the baseball war started the National League has been in the courts with the Federal League continually, while the American and Federal Leagues have only the case of Walter Johnson between them, and this virtually has been settled, provided the present plans go through. The American League, or rather, Ban Johnson, who does pretty much as he pleases about the league affairs, fears that the Landis decision will go against organized ball, if Judge Landis is finally forced to hand down a decision and does not intend to allow its interests to be jeopardized when a peaceable settlement can be made.

Federals Insist on Their Demands

Last December, when the Federal League was holding its meeting at the Hotel Biltmore, in New York, Lloyd Rickart, then secretary of the Federal League, but now president of the St. Louis Club, stated to the EVENING LEDGER representative that Ban Johnson was willing to make a settlement then, but that the Federal League did not think it could trust Johnson until it had placed him where he must settle. Evidently Johnson has convinced the Federal League that he is sincere, but the new league will not withdraw its suit until it has arranged terms that are satisfactory.

If Johnson goes through with the plan to make a peaceable settlement out of the courts, it is generally believed that the National League must join hands or shift for itself. It is a matter of doubt whether either the National or American Leagues could shift for itself and survive a war such as is certain to follow any break in the plans.

Denials and confessions will flow thick and fast from the magnates within the next week. Possibly some of them are in the dark, but that has been the main reason the whole affair was a success and a secret until the EVENING LEDGER published its statement last week. Perhaps the National League may be able to induce Johnson to abandon his present attitude and allow the war to continue, but those who know the American League president believe there is no chance of swaying Johnson when he once makes up his mind on any subject.

McGraw's Idea of a Winning Combination

Manager McGraw, of the Giants, believes that his team is certain to come back strong and be in the race for the National League pennant. But McGraw would no doubt like very much to have some of the ball players he has turned loose within the last three seasons. There is no question about McGraw's ability as a manager, and yet he has permitted more star players to get away from him than any other major league leader.

Several reasons may be advanced for this apparent lack of ability to size up a ball player, but McGraw's probable explanation would be that he is a great believer in combinations. He has always contended, and reiterated his statement just two days ago, that all the star players in the country are of no use to a club unless they fit into a certain style of play and are willing to hustle.

A man may be a star of the greatest magnitude and yet be of no use to a man whose system works like that of the Giants. His championship teams have had men in the line-up who did not compare, in the eyes of the critics and fans, with another player that McGraw has released, but they fit in right with his style of play, and while not as brilliant as their predecessor in individual ability, they are of far greater value to McGraw.

A Team of Stars Released

McGraw has made his mistakes and serious ones, but he contends that of all the men he has released in the last five years, the only ones he would take back are Charley Herzog and Ernie Shore, though one must believe that George Chalmers and a few others might be acceptable to McGraw, particularly with his team in its present crippled condition.

A fine ball club could be formed from men passed up by McGraw in the last four years. Some of the pitchers that have drawn releases or been traded by the Giants on the ground that they have outlived their usefulness are stars such as Dick Rudolph, of the Braves; Chalmers, of the Phillies; Ernie Shore, of the Red Sox, a sensational performer for a youngster; Al Demaree and "Red" Ames, Catchers Gowdy and Jack Adams were let out by McGraw, but the former was a first baseman at the time.

Heinie Groh, of the Reds, one of the best infielders in the National League, and Buck Herzog were passed up by McGraw, to say nothing of Milton Stock, Al Bridwell, Jake Daubert, Beals Becker, Bob Bescher, Steve Evans and numerous unexercised options on men now starring in the major leagues.

Federals Welcome to Murray, Says Dreyfuss

Barney Dreyfuss, president of the Pittsburgh National League club, says he owes a vote of thanks to the Federal League for "stealing" Billy Murray, ex-manager of the Phillies, who has been scouting for the Pirates for three years. As a manager, Murray was not bad, though never a howling success here, but as a scout he does not rank very high in the opinion of Dreyfuss, and Dreyfuss does seem to have convincing proof.

The Pittsburgh club has "working agreements," which are practically farms, supposed to have been eliminated in recent years, with the Columbus club, of the American Association, and the Youngstown Club, of the Centre League. Recruits who are not to be retained are sent to these clubs. With its Pittsburgh recruits, Columbus has won two out of 17 games played, while Youngstown thinks it is a holiday when the team wins.

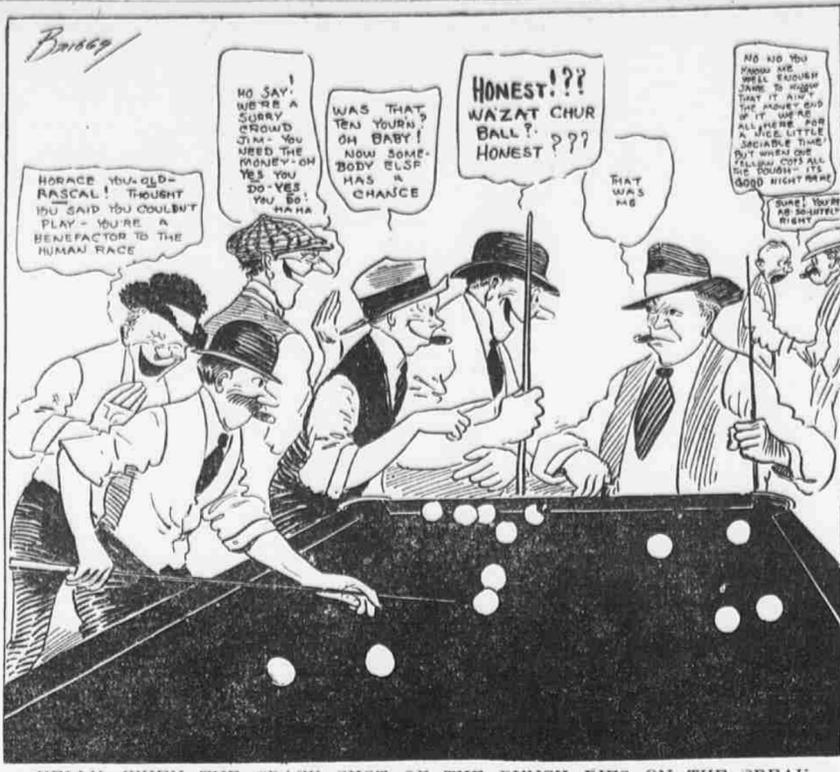
There does seem, then, to be some logic in what Dreyfuss says. If Murray's "finds" cannot help a minor league club, it is difficult to see where they could aid the Pirates. But Murray has received a large contract from the Federal League to act as agent and scout.

Walter Johnson Offers Weak Alibi

When the Yankees gave Walter Johnson a severe drubbing on the Polo Grounds a short time ago, Johnson "explained," or perhaps "alibied," that the new turtle-back diamond built by Harry Fabian, groundkeeper extraordinary, had caused his defeat. Johnson says that the pitching hill is too high on the Polo Grounds and that it is a particularly hard box for a visiting slaban. He also says that it was still harder for him, as he was a side-arm pitcher.

If memory serves aright, did not Grover Cleveland Alexander pitch from that same mound a few days before and make the Giants look like a minor league aggregation? Alexander is a more pronounced side-arm pitcher than Johnson, and yet it did not bother him in the least.

In these days of high salaries star ball players are always looking for alibis, but that one offered by Johnson was just a little too raw. Why not give the Highlanders credit? They have hit all pitching hard to date, both at home and abroad.



KELLY—WHEN THE CRACK SHOT OF THE BUNCH DIES ON THE BREAK

TENER BALKED PEACE PLANS FOR BASEBALL, SAYS ST. LOUIS STORY

Agreement Actually Signed by American and Federal Leagues, According to Statement—Truce for Year, Then Amalgamation.

ST. LOUIS, May 5.—The flat statement that a "peace agreement" between the American League and the Federal League has been signed was made in a story published here today. The article followed:

"Peace terms were signed between the American and Federal Leagues at the recent peace meeting in Chicago, at which the highest officials of the two leagues conferred and then stood pat on a policy of silence. The National League is now the only obstacle to the consummation of baseball peace.

"Absolute verification of the signing of such an agreement was received last night. The attorney who drew up the pact admitted that the American and Federal Leagues came to an understanding at the Chicago meeting.

"The terms of the agreement, in substance, follow: 'Hands off the present situation this year; the resending of all contracts as they now stand; the withdrawal of all suits now pending; the continuation of all three leagues this season with meetings during the summer to arrange for a readjustment of the baseball map, which would be completed and arrangements made for 1916 at a meeting next winter after all details had been threshed out.

"Permission was to be given to Federal League owners to buy totally or in part into clubs of organized ball, their affiliations with such clubs not to be announced until the present season's races have been run. This section would allow baseball men who had the money to come to the relief of any club which faltered financially, or fell by the wayside during the season.

"It is believed that the Marsana case caused the big talk on the part of the National League, together with the fact that neither Schuyler P. Britton in St. Louis, Taft and Murphy in Chicago or Ebbets in Brooklyn would agree to any arrangement which might force them to sell their franchises at a price to be set by appraisers of the three leagues."

OPENING FOR POLO DELAYED

Wet Field Compels Postponement of Tourney Until Tomorrow.

There will be no polo at Bala today. The tournament for Special Cups presented by the Philadelphia Country Club will start tomorrow.

The teams drawn for the first match are the Aiken Tigers, composed of E. F. Brooks, Jr., Earl W. Hoping, Captain J. B. Lindley, S. S. A., and A. P. Perkins, which will line up against Point Judith, J. R. Fell, P. S. P., Randolph, Sr., Gilbert or Victor Mather and P. S. P., Randolph, Jr.

Forty of the fastest ponies in this section which have been groomed to the minute, will afford the mounts for these teams, and a rare exhibition of horsemanship and a keen contest is anticipated.



There Isn't, Isn't There? There is nothing new under the sun... old Proverb.

April has come and has gone—April the fierce young man; May is now centering on, centering on into summer; Yet in this baseball cast, Apart from the legal intrigue, The Mackian line-up is last—AND THE YANKEES ARE LEADING THE LEAGUE!

Both Time and Nature repeat! On to an infinite ranging; Life at its best is regular; With a routine forever unchanging; There is nothing new under the sun—All is still old and fatigued; BUT THE MACKIAN LINE-UP IS DONE.

AND THE YANKS ARE STILL LEADING THE LEAGUE!

Mack's pitchers still persist in yielding anywhere from six to twelve bases on balls. There was a time in the good old days when they could issue twenty passes and romp in ahead of the Baker-Collins artillery—but not this season, Estelle, not this season.

As related in these dispatches before, if Fritz Maisel ever bats over .500 he will not only steal all the bases there are in the American League but the archives of the National Commission as well.

A Retrospect Dear Sir—The supreme confidence of Harvard '08 is rather characteristic. This time last year his slogan no doubt would have been even more supercilious, not only in regard to the boat race but the baseball series and the track meet. However, the results of these three series are fairly well known and this year's outcome remains to be seen.

Shakespeare was absolutely correct. There is nothing in a name. Nothing whatsoever. Wheeler Dell is Brooklyn's leading pitcher.

The U. S. A. is getting to be the Federal League of the nations. They take what they like from us and what they don't like they blacklist. And we protest like Mr. James A. Gilmore and let it go at that.

On U. S. Soil The Franco-German controversy has been transferred to American soil. Wagner is in his nineteenth campaign, and Louis is his twentieth, and the battling battle between this pair is raging as keen as it did 15 years ago.

The remarkable part is that both the Teuton and the Frenchman, despite their age and previous condition of servitude, are over .500, smashing the ball almost as well as they ever did "when all the world was young, lad, and all the fields were green."

The Difference When the old Cub machine began to slip it skidded slowly, dropping back only after desperate resistance. Even in 1911, when it was supposed to be all through, with many stars missing, it fought the Giants up to the closing days of September before it surrendered. And in 1912 it came back from a 15-game deficit on July 4 to within four games by late August.

The old Tiger machine, after three victorious years, also subsided gently, without any dizzy descent. In 1911 it led the league up to August before it was overhauled by the Mackmen.

So the early cave-in of the Mackmen and the Giants has come as an additional shock. The repulse of the Mackmen especially is one of the greatest reverses ever seen in the game. A year ago at this date Mack had an almost unbeatable machine—one to be compared with the old Cubs in their years of glory. Yet here within less than a year the four-time winners have not only slipped back but have broken in two. They lost stars.

\$30,000 OFFERED TO WILLARD FOR GUNBOAT SMITH BOUT Denver Seeks Battle for Twenty Rounds Between Pair.

DENVER, May 5.—A flat guarantee of \$30,000 was offered Jess Willard today in a box 30 rounds to a decision here with Gunboat Smith on Jimmy Clabby.

Johnny Corbett, manager of Young Corbett when the latter won the featherweight title from Terry McGovern, is matchmaker of the local club. He expects to confer with both Willard and Smith before the end of the week, the vaudeville schedules bringing both here.

Smith outpointed Willard in a similar bout in California a year ago last winter.

Harry Cline Easy Winner WILMINGTON, Del., May 5.—In a match for 100 points, 12-2 balls line billiards, at the City Club last night, Harry F. Cline defeated Dr. Walter E. Dunsheimer, of Philadelphia, 200 to 58. Cline's longest run was 118 and his average was 184.

SENSATIONAL KNOCKOUTS TOLD BY REFEREE SMITH

Jack McCormick, of Philadelphia, Lands Ponderous Right on Ray McCoy's Cheek, Continued to Jaw and Breast and Then Cleverest of All Boxers Dropped to Floor.

By ED W. SMITH There are many kinds of knockouts, all classified under that broad and sweeping term of "K. O." In parlance of the glove arena they mean pretty much the same thing to the fight fan—defeat, always defeat.

Sensational knockouts have been so frequent in the last 25 years, or since John L. Sullivan, under the able guidance of Billy Madden, brought the five-crown glove into lasting popularity as a means of Queensberry demonstration that it would be a too difficult task to pick out one that could stand as the most sensational of all of them.

For that reason we will approach that portion of the subject with diffidence by stating that the most sensational knockout ever handed a boxer was dealt by Jack McCormick, then of Philadelphia, with Norman Selby ("Kid McCoy") as the victim. This battle created more ring chatter at the time than any other because of the prominence of McCoy. McCoy didn't weigh much over 100 pounds at the time and looked like a little boy alongside the massive 180 pounds of solid front that Jack presented to him.

It was plain that McCoy had all the skill and speed in his favor, and his splendid footwork, without being flashy, carried him so nicely out of range that McCormick, during the first minute was made to look like a truck horse. A half-dozen lightning-like lefts to McCormick's face put plenty of pink there and appeared to fluster the big man.

McCormick never let up in his rushing tactics, however, twice sprawling badly as the Kid side-stepped and clipped the big man as he flew by. Then McCoy made a fatal mistake. He stood still evidently looking for an opening through which to land that left hook of his. He knew he could bring the giant down with it if he landed.

McCoy waited near the ropes at the front side of the ring right in the glare of the footlights. McCormick rushed in close, being held off slightly with the parrying left. Steadily himself McCormick leaned near the ropes, dropping his ponderous right almost to the level of the ring and brought it around in a huge sweeping circle half over McCoy's head, every ounce of strength he possessed.

McCoy must have seen it coming, for he wise he must have miscalculated the reaction and force. The smaller McCormick learned near the ropes, dropping his ponderous right almost to the level of the ring and brought it around in a huge sweeping circle half over McCoy's head, every ounce of strength he possessed.

The big crowd, stunned for a instant, broke into a frantic yell, and those who could reach McCormick carried him around his head, keeping him standing and just ripping him to bits.

It was the McCoy method of getting revenge.

WILLIAMS DISTRESSED OVER LOUISIANA BOUT

Champion Not Anxious for Return Match With Local Lad. Demands Exorbitant Purse.

Kid Williams, bantamweight champion of the world, is looking forward to his catapult from the top of the "15"-pound bean and wants to make hay while the sun shines, or else he is not very anxious to engage Louisiana in the squared circle again.

The proposed return match between the bantams, which has been hanging fire since the local lad dropped the titleholder at the Olympia Club, about a month ago, has not yet been clinched. Matchmaker Jack Hanlon announced last week that the fight was virtually on. He arranged for the semifinal to the bout, which he expected to stage as the chief attraction of a special show next Wednesday night, and finally decided on the prices for the performance.

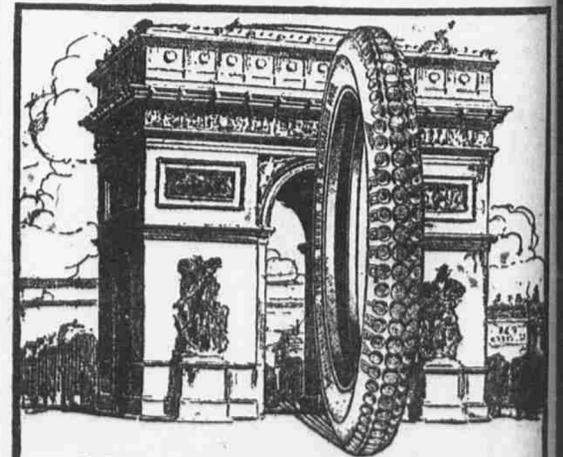
However, after offering Williams a flat guarantee of \$2000, with a privilege of 40 per cent, Hanlon declares the Baltimorean absolutely refused to sign up for the match unless he gets the purse he received for his last go with Louisiana. Hanlon says Williams' demand is entirely too exorbitant.

Muggsy Taylor says the advance sale for the Joe O'Donnell-Young Diggins bout has come up to expectations and that the Broadway Club will be crowded to its utmost capacity tomorrow night. O'Donnell has conditioned himself for a knockout and, with Diggins depending on his cleverness to win, a corking contest should result.

Johnny Clark, of Little Italy, who is under the management of Joe Wenke, has been booked to pair off with Leo Tracey, Tioan Italian featherweight, in the star number at the Quaker City A. A. Friday night. Clark gave Lew Shivers and Mickey Gallagher hard battles in his last two matches.

The result of the Johnny Mealey-Frankie McCoy fight the other night was even more sensational than the one between Willie Moore and Joe Heffernan. Mealey was nearly knocked out in the opening round, but he showed great recuperating powers and also hitting ability when he knocked McCoy unconscious in the third period.

PHILLIES VS. NEW YORK Game at 3:30 P. M. Admission, 25c in and 75c. Box Seats, \$1. On sale at Gilman and Spalding's.



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All Styles and Sizes. Also plain treads. PHILADELPHIA BRANCH & SERVICE STATION 707 North Broad St.

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—HIS UMP'S QUIGLEY IS STILL HERE, BUT BE GENTLE, LOUIE, BE GENTLE

