SPORT *and* Classified Section

EL PASO HERALD

SPORT *and* Classified Section

Friday, March Nineteenth, 1915.

SPORTS, RECREATION, OUTDOOR LIFE—CONDUCTED BY A. H. E. BECKETT ("BECK")

MAD SCRAMBLE FOR PENNANT CONFRONTS AMERICAN LEAGUE

Four Teams Will Be in Battle For the Pennant, While Two Others Look Like Dark Horses in the Running; Red Sox, White Sox, Athletics and Senators Are Leading the Field as Contenders.

BY FRANK G. MENKE.

IT LOOKS as though there will be a mad scramble for pennant honors in the American league this season. At least four teams can be considered certain battlers for the bunting, while two others look like "dark horses." And as for those other two—well, you never can tell. Remember the Braves.

The best part of the American league outlook is that the eight teams seem more evenly matched than for many years. No one team has a big bulge on the others, as the Athletics had in other years. No one team is hopelessly outclassed, as was the case of the Yankees and Naps last year.

There is a difference between the teams figured for the first division—Red Sox, Senators, Athletics and White Sox—and the other four that are figured for the second division. But the difference isn't so great.

Team Seem Bunched.

In other years from 250 to 350 points seperated the first and last place teams in the American league, but this year the difference may be only about 150 points, a fact that would make the race a thriller all the way down the stretch.

The Red Sox are being touted considerably. There is no ducking the fact that they look most powerfully good. But that doesn't mean that they will have an easy job of it.

The White Sox, aided and abetted by Eddie Collins, a bunch of pitchers that have but few peers in baseball, a brace of good catchers, and some likely looking outfielders have created pennant dreams in Chicago. The Sox, on the pre-season dope, surely look as though they are able to put up a great enduring battle.

Senators Have a Chance.

Johnson, can be figured as having a chance for the flag. The Senators have not lost any of the old strength since The Senators, now that they have recovered their star high jumper, Walt the 1914 season closed, and some of the youngsters that Griffith has picked up may round into stars.

Athletics are Not Dead.

The Athletics will be in the fight. Don't think that the absence of Collins, Bender, Plank, et al will act as a death blow. Connie Mack and some young pitchers will have a chance to work regularly this year and those boys ought to "come through". Lajoie is a bit beyond his prime and his batting eye has dimmed slightly, but the great Frenchman ought to play the sort of game that won't make the absence of Collins felt so keenly.

The four teams above look to have the best chances for the pennant. But it's well not to overlook the Detroit outfit. Hughie Jennings still has his wrecking crew—Cobb and Crawford—and he has snared a few pitchers that promise to deliver in nice shape. If they do, and if Cavaleskie and Dubuc have good seasons, those Jungle Boys ought to be very much among those present.

Yankees Are a Problem.

The Yankees are a problem. The pitching staff will be made up about the same as last year. Maybe "Wild Bill" Donovan can get for better work out of it than Frank Chance did last year. If he does that will mean a better rating for the Yanks. The New Yorkers have been strengthened through several trades and purchases since the new owners became active, that have bolstered up the infield and outfield. Just what this new Yankee team will do constitutes one of the big baseball questions of the hour.

The Indians—there's another baseball question mark. They don't look good on paper. The pitching staff, based on its 1914 work, is one that cannot inspire first division hopes. But the pitchers may get back into their stride in 1915, and those Indians may be the surprise of the 1915 season.

Browns in Second Division.

The Browns right now don't look good enough to finish any better than far down in the second division. They have been strengthened a bit since last season, but not enough. They have some good pitchers—but none are real wonders. The infield is good, and the outfield is likewise. That is as it concerns fielding. But the team isn't a team of hitters.

JOHNSON WOULD BECOME A CUBAN

Negro Champ Has Plans For a Big Hotel and "Monte Carlo" at Havana.

HAVANA, Cuba, March 19.—If Jack Johnson defeats Jess Willard when they meet in their 45 round world's championship battle here on Sunday, April 4, he will remain in Cuba, become a citizen of the republic and engage in the hotel business here. Already a syndicate of Havana business men has organized a company to back Johnson in a gigantic hotel and health resort in Havana.

Despite the fact that thousands of tourists visit Havana annually, there is but one good American hotel in the city. There is nothing resembling a health sanitarium, and this in the face of the fact that Havana today is the healthiest city in the world, and has a death rate lower than any other city of its size on earth.

"There's room here for a big American hotel, and a sanitarium on the style of the Battle Creek resorts," Johnson recently remarked to Col. Jose DeEstrempes, rich Cuban planter and politician. This was Col. Estrempes' cue, and within 48 hours the proposition was put up to Johnson to take charge of the hotel and sanitarium when it is built. It is expected to have the new palace in full operation for the American tourist season of 1915.

Plans a Monte Carlo.

"I've been in the ring nearly 20 years," says Johnson. "I know the end must come soon. So this chance of engaging in a legitimate business appeals to me. I will have a miniature Monte Carlo in the hotel; baths, swimming pool with salt water from the Gulf of Mexico; a gigantic gymnasium for men and another for women, and a hotel with at least 500 rooms at reasonable charges. Waiters and chefs will be taken from the United States, and the hotel will have its own truck garden and dairy outside the city. I expect to make it the most popular hotel on the island, and more than $1,500,000 already has been pledged toward the project."

Johnson has received assurances that after he is in Cuba for one year he will be allowed to take out first citizenship papers in the island republic.

BURNS EXPECTS WILLARD TO WIN

New Orleans, March 19.—Tommy Burns, from whom Jack Johnson won the world's heavyweight championship, looked from his 5 feet 6 altitude up at the lofty dome of Jess Willard, the new Richmond who is going to fight Johnson with the hope of restoring the championship to the white race, and said to him while the big hope was here Sunday:

"Jess, if you don't win from Johnson I will never try to pick another winner in the ring. I think you are absolutely sure to win.

"I fought Johnson wrong," continued Burns. "I played into his hands, thinking I could outgame him. If I had boxed him I could have stayed the limit, and won the decision. For Johnson, I think, is the poorest champion we ever had. On the defensive he is a great man, but he won't carry the fight. Sting him and he'll run. If he lands a blow or two, and doesn't hurt you, he gets discouraged. I don't see how he can hurt a big fellow like you, and if you play your cards right in this fight, you surely will be the next champion.

"And I'll give you an illustration," continued the last of the white champions. "Why, I say that Johnson is not a great fighter. He knocked me silly in the first round, and do you know what he did? Instead of coming in and finishing me, as he could have done, he backed away, and when I went to him, he did that favorite old trick of his of putting both hands on my shoulders just to keep me from hitting him. What do you think of that, me nearly out, and still he wouldn't fight one second in the aggressive. If I ever had a man as near out as he had me in that round, you can bet I'd be right on top of him until I had him out.

"That was the only time he hurt me, though. I wasn't in a bad way when they stopped the fight. In all my other fights, especially those against big men I always was pretty near 'all in' after it was over. But after this fight I got into my street clothes in a hurry, drove my motor car 30 miles, went home and shaved myself, and felt fine and dandy."

Willard was an attentive listener.

"Yes I think you've got him down right," he told Tommy. "I know his style pretty well. He's always waiting for you to do something. Well, he'll find that he can't make a sucker out of me, and he'll find that I am neither a wreck like Jeffries, nor a dub. I've got to win this fight, and I'm going to win it, it matters not how. You know a finish fight is not like a 20-round fight. You are in there to stay until one man is beaten, and there are more ways than one of beating a man. I think I know Johnson, too, Tommie."

Then spoke promoter Tom Jones:

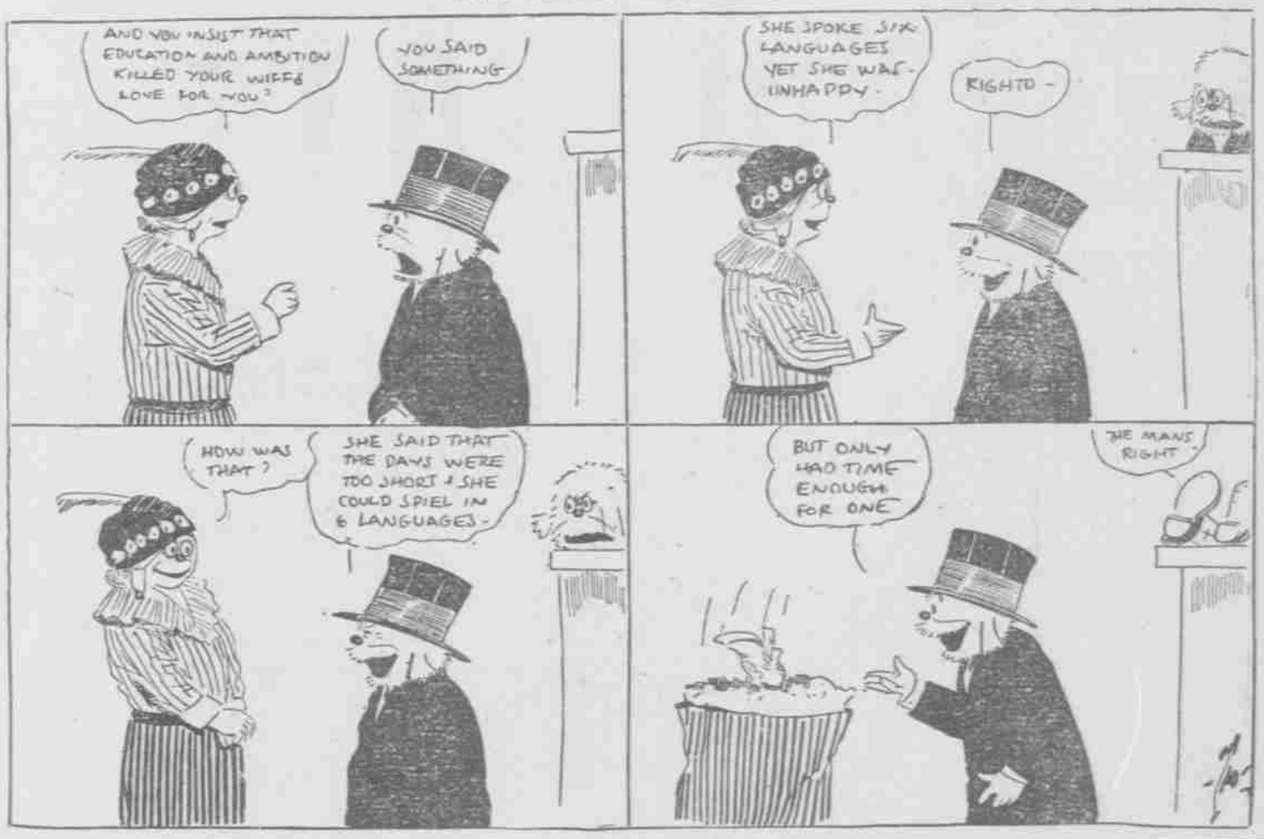
"Say that was an awful blow, having to call off things at Juarez. Our advance sale had already reached $25,000 in actual cash, all of which has been refunded. This thing has cost us so far nearly $15,000. Johnson hasn't spent a dime. We are not letting expenses stand in the way of getting him into the fight for we know that when we do, we'll have a new champion."

HUEY LEADS BILLIARD PLAYERS IN TOURNAMENT

Chicago, Ill., March 19.—The standing of players in the world's championship three cushion billiard tournament here at the opening of Friday's play was:

Player.	Won.	Lost.
W. Huey, Chicago	5	0
G. Moore, New York	5	1
J. Daly, New York	4	1
A. De Oro, New York	3	2
A. Kieckhefer, Milwaukee	3	2
C. Morin, Chicago	3	2
C. Ellis, Cleveland	2	3
J. Capron, St. Paul	2	4
F. Eames, Denver	2	4
J. Hahman, Minneapolis	2	5
L. Jayne, Salt Lake	1	5
J. Lean, Chicago	0	5

THE DAY'S TOO SHORT -:- -:- -:- BY TAD



"Beck's" Amen Corner

BY "BECK."

ST. LOUIS Feds are training down in Cuba because, it is said, they want to learn Spanish. Why didn't they come to El Paso?

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GREEN was the danger signal in the Venice road race on Wednesday. The regular danger flag on the race course is yellow but the Irish riders in the race set up a howl at using such a color on St. Patrick's day. Mayor Gerety, who had charge of the race, agreed to a change.

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JUST when things looked lovely for Jess Willard, Tommy Burns had to butt in and declare that the big hope would surely beat Johnson. Now, if Jim Jeffries would join in the chorus we would be willing to take a flyer on the big smoke.

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THE Hexathlon events will be resumed at the "Y" tonight. You have only two more chances to boost for the boys, so get out tonight and then encore Saturday night.

PEACE was effected between the American Automobile association and the "outlaws" when the A. A. A. sanctioned the formation of a Southern California racing board, with headquarters at Los Angeles. There was a fuss over the postponement of the Vanderbilt cup race at San Francisco, recently, as it threatened to clash with the Venice race. As a result of the rumpus, the A. A. A. abolished the Los Angeles board. Now the Los Angeles Auto club, the strongest in America, has dropped out of the A. A. A., and the auto racing war is likely to open again.

* * *

DECATUR, Ill., plans something new in baseball. All its home games in the Three-I league will be free. But double price will be charged for the holiday games. The club hopes to help baseball and also to make money by this move. But just suppose it should rain on all the holidays!

THEIR ONE BEST GAME

AS VIEWED BY MODERN PITCHING STARS

BY BILLY EVANS

Written Especially for This Paper by the Famous American League Umpire.

CARL HAMILTON, the crack southpaw of the St. Louis Browns, who was badly injured in an automobile accident shortly after last season closed, was regarded as one of the greatest pitchers in the business. If Hamilton is through as a pitcher, as the reports have it, the St. Louis team will have suffered a decidedly severe blow to its pitching staff. Though not a big fellow, Hamilton had a world of speed for a southpaw, a snappy curve, and a wonderful slow ball which floated up to the plate so lazily that one could almost count the stitches in it.

Made Fast Progress.

When he joined the St. Louis club, he looked like a mighty fine prospect. He made good all the nice things predicted for him by making rapid strides in every department of the game. During his short career as a big leaguer, he has come forward with a number of sweet exhibitions of pitching. In 1913 he put over two games which just fell short of being no-hit affairs. The New York club was the victim on each occasion. On May 21, 1913, he shut out the Yankees 5 to 0, allowing only one hit. With one out in the eighth, Cree singled, but was caught napping a moment later. On July 15, 1913, he beat the Yankees 3 to 0, shortstop Peckinpaugh being the only member of the New York team to hit safely.

Joined No Hit Twirlers.

It was on August 30, 1913, however, that Hamilton came through with a magnificent exhibition of pitching which secured for him a place in the charmed circle of no-hit twirlers. Pitted against the hard hitting Detroit team, Hamilton held the Tigers in the hollow of his hand, not a single player reaching the initial sack on a safe drive. Despite his great work in not allowing a hit, he was unable to score a shut-out, the game ending 2 to 1 in favor of the Browns.

As would be expected, Tyrus Raymond Cobb was the individual who kept Hamilton from making his no-hit game all the more impressive by recording a shutout. In the fourth inning Cobb reached first base on a pass, Hamilton losing his control momentarily. On the hit and run, Crawford drove a hard one at second baseman Pratt, who fumbled the ball. Taking in the situation at a glance, Cobb headed for third. Pratt's throw to get him at third arrived too late for Austin to make a play. Austin, noticing Crawford trying for second, shot the ball back to Pratt. Immediately, Cobb set sail for home, and with one of his wonderful fall-away slides, managed to beat the throw and get the decision from the umpire. It was a great piece of base running in a great game featured by Hamilton's pitching.

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COMMERCIAL LEAGUE READY FOR SEASON

Purity and Everybody Teams Meet Sunday in Exhibition Game; Feldmans Work Out Saturday.

El Paso is a hot baseball town, judging from the preparations now being made by players of all ages for the coming season. There will be more boy's teams than ever before and professional baseball will also be an innovation here. The Commercial league, however, believes it will have a chance not only to live but to flourish and will be conducted along amateur lines this season.

The Purity's and Everybody's, of last year's league, have decided to come in again and will have most of their old players. Sims Davis will look after the bakers, while H. Livingston will manage the department store nine. Howard Rix has been named as manager of the Feldman team, a new entrant into the circuit.

The league promoters are looking for another team. The soldiers at Fort Bliss have suggested that they be given a chance to enter and it is likely that this permission will be given. They have some good ballplayers out at the fort and they should add strength to the league.

"We are not going to attempt to buck any professional league," declared manager Rix, of the Feldmans, this morning. "McCloskey's club is going to draw most of the patronage of the El Paso fans but there are a lot of young fellows who play baseball for the love of the game and they are the boys we want to get in touch with.

"We are looking for the boys who have graduated from the younger teams and can quickly find openings for any players from 18 years of age and upward. The fellows who hope to make a summer's living out of the game needn't trouble looking us up."

The Purity's and Everybody's will likely meet at Washington park on Sunday in an exhibition game, while the Feldman's will have a workout at the park on Saturday afternoon. Players wanting a tryout should be on hand.

West Side Soccer Team Wins Game

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Senior Elevens Scheduled To Clash

BY "BECK."

WEST Side Grammar schools all-star soccer team Thursday afternoon won the game with east side all-stars for the city honors, the score being 3 to 2. The game was every bit as exciting as the score indicates and the deciding tally was kicked through in the second overtime period, after some strenuous play. This game was the first of two between teams representing the two sections of El Paso and the teams were picked from the junior division of the grammar school soccer league. This afternoon, at the high school athletic field, the senior elevens will clash and a great game is looked for. The game will start at 2:45.

West side's victory Thursday is all the more notable for the fact that at half time, the east siders held the fat end of a 2-0 score. It was an uphill fight for the west siders but they proved equal to the emergency and, evening up with five minutes to play, notched what might have been the deciding goal about ten seconds after the whistle had blown for full time. The boys were good sportsmen and made no kick on not being allowed the goal but insisted that overtime be played to decide the honors. The first period was scoreless but Pedro Galindo, who was one of the stars of the game, decided to make it with a well placed kick about half way through the second overtime period.

The soccer was rather ragged in the first few minutes but the boys soon settled down and showed their knowledge of the finer points of association football. The ball itself was not a very good one but the youngsters handled it like veterans.

With all-star aggregations, team play is not to be looked for, yet the west siders, after the first ten minutes, had worked up a nice combination and only the sturdy defence of the east side backfield saved the latter team from disaster.

Kidwell Made First Goal.

Joe Kidwell, left halfback for the east siders, notched the first goal on a nice kick. Just before half time, in a scramble in front of the goal posts, the ball went through again and it looked very much as though it had been heeled in by one of the west side players, scrambling about in an effort to get it out of the danger zone.

There was a brisk wind blowing by this time and in the second half the west siders had it with them. Jimmy Hunter put up the first figure for west side and then Pedro Galindo, on a pretty kick from a considerable distance, beat Sherrod Mengel for the goal that tied things up.

Pedro Galindo was one of the stars of the winning team, though it would hardly be fair to pick up any players for particular praise, so well did each and every boy perform. Jimmy Hunter was another big factor in his team's victory while Captain Bloom showed headwork in the handling of his men.

Mengel Encouraged Team.

Sherrod Mengel, captain and goal of the east siders, was the particular star of the losers. When the tide turned against his team he did not appear in the least discouraged and kept urging his men on to their best efforts. Joe Kidwell and Martin Silverman were also prominent. In fact, the back division of the east siders was remarkably good.

Ed Gaffney, of the 16th infantry, made a very impartial and efficient referee, having good control of the game at all times.

The teams lined up:

West side—Clarence Bloom, left wing; George Cross, left inside; Pedro Galindo, right inside; Jimmy Hunter, right wing; Sam Bromberg, center; James McCoy, right halfback; Roy Butler, center halfback; Paul Herbert, left halfback; Ignacio Sanchez, right fullback; Fred Schneider, left fullback; Ray Lawrence, goal. Guy Walkup and Byron Stolaroff, substitutes.

East Side—Louis Oberkamp, left wing; Fred Sanders, left inside; Homer Boynton, right inside; Bennett Boyd, right wing; Bob Osborne, center; Kenneth Wells, right halfback; Edward Wheeler, center halfback; Joe Kidwell, left halfback; Martin Silverman, right halfback; Ray Pollard, center half back; Wren Moore, left half back; Sherrod Mengel, goal; Rudolph Jackson, substitute.

Officials: Referee, Ed Gaffney; Coy Friend and Sam Lisso, linemen; Art Fuller, chief constable.

WHITE SOX BEAT OAKLAND.

Oakland, Calif., March 19.—The Chicago Americans blanked the Oakland Coast leaguers Thursday, 5 to 0.

Athey cloth-lined weather strip keeps out the cold. Rathbun-Mix Co.—Adv.

Liners From the Big League Camps

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Ball Teams Are Rounding Into Form

NEAL, one of the stars in the last world's series, is playing a great game for the St. Louis Federals in the exhibition series in Cuba.

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George Burns, Giant outfielder, sprained his ankle at Dallas, last week and will be on the hospital list for a month.

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John McGraw thinks he has a "find" in Pick, one of the recruits, who has already won the title of "Home Run."

* * *

Richard Niehaus, a pitcher who has been carried with the Cardinals for two years, is said to be hitting his old stride and is rated as a real comeback.

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A couple of Cardinal infielders are likely to be released to the Rochester Hustlers of the International league.

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Bob Harmon, Pirate pitcher, has invented a new twist which he calls the "hesitation." Pete Standridge, a Cub recruit, has the "fork ball." Will the new twisters trouble opposing batters?

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Branch Rickey, manager, and Joe Sugden, coach, went in as pinch-hitters at Houston last Saturday to show the regular Cardinals how to "line 'em out." They batted exactly .000. Now, how can they kick when the other fellows fan in pinches?

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Herzog claims the Red catching staff is the best in the National league while the advent of Groh has rounded out the infield. The pitching staff is also reported as strong. Of course, Cincinnati is expecting a pennant. They usually do until about May 15.

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Catcher Forest Cady is the first member of the Red Sox to suffer injury this season. He had a nail torn from one of his fingers the other day.

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President Gilmore, of the Feds says Newark will get the Kansas City franchise all right, and that all the trouble will be settled out of court.

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St. Louis baseball writers say when it comes to swapping punches, pitcher Del Griner of the Cardinals is a real white hope. Last year Griner took decisions from Cather, Wingo and Magee. Cather was sold to the Braves and Wingo to Cincinnati, while Magee jumped to the Feds, so Huggins will have to sign up a few more sparring partners for the Dixie boy.

* * *

Charles A. Comiskey believes the South American tour for the White Sox and the Giants next winter will eclipse the late junket around the world of these well known clubs. The old Roman has invited Tommy Connolly, dean of American League umpires, to make the trip.

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Report comes from Paso Robles, the camp of the White Sox, that pitcher Reb Russell reduced his weight from 224 to 208 in one day's hiking over the hills. If this is a sample of the speed that manager Rowland has been talking about then other teams may as well surrender.

* * *

The Pacific Coast league clubs continue to hand out those unwelcome unconditional releas . Charley O'Leary the veteran shortstop, is one of the latest, having received his permission from San Francisco to shift for himself. O'Leary might have had a job, but he wanted more money than a real live player with prospects would pay for.

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Critics of McGraw's team have pointed out pitching weaknesses as a reason for last year's failure and this year's uncertain prospects. The acquisition of an experienced and capable pitcher like Perritt therefore, is a big boost for the Giants. McGraw counts on Tesreau and Perritt to win 40 or 50 games next summer, and with Mathewson still on deck, the possibility of Marquard "coming back," and a new crop of hurlers coming along, the Giants may make a great race. Perritt won 18 games last season for a young team. He has been a big leaguer only two or three seasons.

Another cripple who seems ready to come back with a display of old-time form is Joe Boehling, the crack southpaw of the Washingtons. Boehling's knee became so stiff last season that he couldn't run a step. He was compelled to retire from the game and an operation was performed. Boehling, after a long rest, has reported to Griffith in good condition. He is pitching effectively at the Senators' camp and the Old Fox is enthusiastic. With Boehling fit to take his turn with Walter Johnson, Jim Shaw, Doc Ayers and the other Washington pitchers, Griff says the American league pennant is a cinch.

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Having been turned adrift by the National league, Hank O'Day has just seen Ban Johnson for the purpose of securing an umpire's berth in the American league. President Johnson has eight umpires under contract, but two of them are experiments. If they do not come up to the usual standard O'Day and the former White Sox catcher, Billy Sullivan, may be engaged.

What will the spring training trip of the Giants cost? McGraw has nearly 50 players at Marlin, and all of their expenses must be paid. It is estimated that railroad fares will amount to about $5000. The hotel bills will consume at least $6000 and the New York club probably will spend $2500 more in meeting various other items. The Giants, therefore, will be about $14,000 in the hole when the season begins at the Polo grounds on April 14. The Yankees, it is figured, will spend nearly $8000 to condition the players at Savannah. The exhibition games to be played by these teams will not amount to much in the way of gate receipts. Baseball sharps estimate the cost of preparing all the major league and Fed teams in the south this spring at $200,000.

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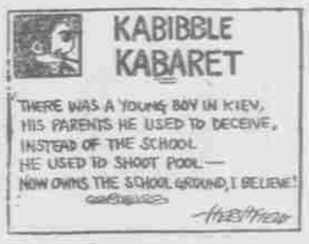

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