

# MATTY'S BIG LEAGUE GOSSIP

BY  
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THE GIANTS' STAR PITCHER



"I'd want to see the money in the bank if I was going to join the Federals," declared Tesreau the other day. "A ball player would be a sucker to take a chance if he didn't."

But, considering the money that the Federals already have tied up, there must be a bunch of capital behind the new league. At this writing at least \$200,000 in cold cash must have been disposed of for players, leases on park sites, etc. According to the announced plans and raids, much more will be spent. It does not seem as if the new organization would take a chance on sinking all that money if the backers were not sure of its going through. If I had been Tinker or one of the other big leaguers who jumped, I would have had a lawyer go over the contract with a very fine tooth comb to make sure that there was no "loophole" in it or loop-hole through which the backers could leak out in case of disaster. Tinker doubtless did this, as he is a pretty good contract maker. At this writing, I have not found any one who has seen a Federal League contract, so there is no chance of saying how strong it is or what it provides.

The old saying that all is fair in love and war should be revised and expanded. Now, it should read, or, in fact, it always should have read, "All is fair in love, war, and baseball."

For years, Tinker and Frank Chance were the closest of friends while both were on the Cubs, and even afterwards when Tinker took hold of the Reds and Chance of the Yankees. I recall a series that Cincinnati was playing in New York last summer while the New York Americans were winding up a western trip. Chance left his team for the last game and hurried to New York so as to meet Joe Tinker. He hastened to the Polo Grounds in his car, and had a long talk with his old side kick, the two remaining together all the evening. They talked over their managerial troubles, and each had plenty to say at that time, and much sympathy to extend to the other. After the meeting between the two, Tinker said:

"Frank Chance is the best friend I have in the world. He gave me the chance to become famous as a Cub and he has stood by me through thick and thin. He taught me all the baseball I know, and showed his confidence in me by turning over the team for me to take charge of whenever he was forced to miss a game while leading the Cubs."

Said Chance: "Tinker has had a rotten deal in Cincinnati, but he is going to make good because he is the smartest ball player I have ever known."

Now, Joe has gone and stolen King Cole, on whom Chance had been counting to do a lot of pitching for him next season and to strengthen his staff. It is no secret that Cole is a bad actor, but Chance managed him one year and got a lot of baseball out of him. He thought he could again. However, Joe may not be altogether to blame for this move. In fact, I don't think he is, knowing him as a square fellow, as I do. Probably Cole thought he saw more money in Chicago and Tinker's backers forced him to sign the pitcher in spite of Chance.

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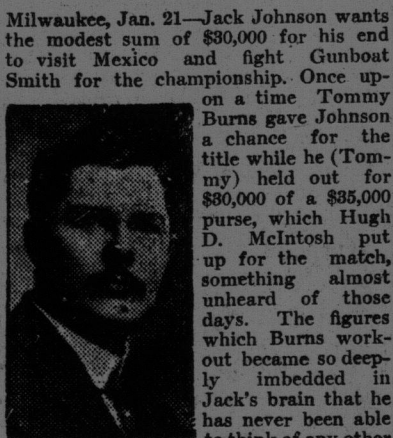
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USE THE WANT AD. WAY

## Johnson Likes \$30,000

(FROM T. S. ANDREWS)



Milwaukee, Jan. 21.—Jack Johnson wants the modest sum of \$30,000 for his end to visit Mexico and fight Gumbout Smith for the championship. Once up on a time Tommy Burns gave Johnson a chance for the title while he (Tommy) held out for \$80,000 of a \$85,000 purse, which Hugh D. McIntosh put up for the match, something almost unheard of those days. The figures which Burns worked out became so deeply imbedded in Jack's brain that he has never been able to think of any other since that time. Every time a promoter suggests a match he immediately accepts on one condition—that the price

of his bit be put down at \$30,000. He might take part of it in stage money, as at Las Vegas, but the original amount must be with the word "thirty" leading. There is a possibility that after he gets through in France he may be able to think of some other figures besides \$30,000.

Battling Levinsky, after resting for at least two days, after his contest with Bob McAllister, met Porky Flynn of Boston and from all accounts handed the Boston man a beating. It is evident that Porky has gone back or else Levinsky must be getting good. He is meeting all the hopes, big and small, and not one of them has been able to stop him or even get anything on him, with the exception of McAllister, who beat him to the punch every time. Whether Levinsky can give away weight to a man like Gumbout Smith and hold his own remains to be seen.

## Woman's Tongue.

The following three jokes are written by men:

The Battle of Tongues.—Wife: "Yes, in a battle of tongues a woman can always hold her own." Husband: "Perhaps she can—but she never does."

Needed a Stimulant.—Wife: "The doctor said right away that I needed a stimulant. Then he asked to see my tongue." Hub: "Heavens! I hope he didn't give you a stimulant for that!"

At the Telephone.—"You are wanted at the telephone." "But I am so hoarse I can't talk." "You won't need to talk, it's your wife."—From Houston Post.

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