

BRANTFORD, CANADA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1913

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## STILL BUSY DOING M'GRAW'S TRADING

Dopists Fire All But One  
or Two of the N. Y.  
Giants.

NEW YORK, N.Y., Nov. 15.—This is the time of year when every member of a vanquished championship team—with one or two exceptions—is either traded or sold to a rival outfit. Already no less than three Giants have been mentioned as probable absentees from McGraw's line-up for next season. Fred Snodgrass, Charley Hertzog and Fred Merkle are doomed to serve elsewhere than on Manhattan Isle in 1914. We have it from an authoritative source that another regular of the local National League champions, one who has hitherto not been mentioned in the winter trades, is to be disposed of by McGraw before another campaign is embarked upon. It may come as a surprise to fandom, but John Murray, the titan-haired right fielder of the Giants for a number of seasons, is implicated.

Red John Murray, he of the iron arm, is said to be headed for the base ball guillotine. Jawh has saved many games for the Giants by his headstrong and accurate pegging, but he has failed in the pinches, and McGraw insists upon a player who can produce in a tight situation.

Claudius Cooper is about ready for major league service. He has been in the McGraw school for two years now, and has absorbed a platform of base ball knowledge from the bench, with McGraw as his tutor. Cooper, according to our informant, will supplant Murray in the right pasture if Red is to become a New York out-cast.

### Thorpe Still Not Ripe

Jim Thorpe is being groomed by McGraw for outfield duty, but it will be another year before the little Napoleon attempts to play him regularly. Thorpe is in need of experience and a better batting style, in which McGraw is drilling him. The Indian athlete marvel is over anxious to "murder" the ball when he steps to the plate, and the Giant manager is doing his best to have Jim overcome this failing.

Also Thorpe's base running must be improved. Jim possesses the natural speed, but he has yet to get the

knack of devouring the ground between the baselines.  
From all indications, big Ed Konetchy of the Cardinals will cavort around first base for the Giants during the 1914 pennant chase. The attenuated Greek has been mentioned so often as a Giant possibility that local fandom is already beginning to accept Konetchy as McGraw's regular first sacker.

### SOME GRANTLAND RICE OBSERVATIONS.

Copiskey has one of the greatest young left-handers ever uncovered in Tex Russell. But working a young pitcher overtime from April to October, and then having him peg the pill around the world through fall and winter isn't our idea of the best way to conserve talent. Ed Walsh was an iron man, too, but Ed found last season that even iron carries its limit.

If Merkle is ever traded to the Cardinals they can never accuse him of ever losing another world series. Not in this present dynasty of swat. George Suggs was dropped from Cincinnati to St. Louis. It was only one flight, but the next drop will be into Noman's Land, through all the outside space there is.

Just as McGraw's pitchers concluded their rebuttal against Colliers and Baker they started weeding and bunched into Speaker and Crawford. But before bemoaning their wretched lot they should cheer up. It might have been Jackson and Cobb. We are a great little traveller at heart—a roving soul by nature—but our idea of nothing to cheer about is to go around the universe ducking two-base hits from Sam Crawford and Tris Speaker. Some day we might not duck in time.

## Basketball

### A. Y. M. C. A. League

On Thursday evening the junior and senior employed boys of the Y. M. C. A. held a meeting to organize a basketball and baseball league for the winter months. Four teams were chosen from the seniors and four from the juniors.

The captains of the juniors are G. Anderson, J. Littler, C. Miller and H. Stewart. Seniors, L. Buckborough, H. Waddington, Bob Smith and P. Vansickle.

Four basketball games a week are to be played, two on Monday night and two on Thursday night, also one game of baseball every Thursday night. On Monday evening next the opening games will be played.

## Griffith, Unlike Most Managers, Is Not Claiming Flag for 1914

Washington Leader Says He Believes That His Club,  
Philadelphia, Boston and Cleveland Will  
Make the Running Next Season.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 14.—Clark Griffith, contrary to reports flying about the country, has not claimed the 1914 pennant in the American League.

Nor is he considering it for a minute. Two, second place finishes have shown him that he must strengthen his team, if he would beat out the Philadelphia Athletics, and so far, attempts at strengthening his team have failed, except in the box. Therefore, after he comes out with this contribution to the Winter league.

"In the first place, kindly fix me right with the country," chirps the scrappy leader of the Climbers. "I have not claimed the pennant in 1914, nor do I intend to do so. But I have set a task for myself which may bring the flag to Washington, that of breaking even with the Philadelphia Athletics. Looking back over the last campaign I am convinced that we might have copped the gonfalo had we broken even with the Athletics.

"Therefore next year I shall point my team for the Athletics first, last and all the time, confident that if I can break even with them I shall have a chance for the pennant. But this will be a tough job, if the last two campaigns' count for anything. The Mackmen seem to have it on us whenever they meet us. Sometimes he gets us with our best men out of the game. Other times they simply walk in and knock the head off Walter Johnson. No matter how they do it, they hand us a beating. We've got to stop this state of affairs one way or another. Were going to, that's all there is about it. For 1914 my ambition is to break even with the Athletics. The other teams can take care of themselves. But I am not claiming the pennant, much as folks would have me to.

"The American League race in 1914 is certain to be a sizzler, I'll tell you why. To my mind, the Mackmen have the best club in the big leagues. But at the same time, Boston, Washington and Cleveland are going to be in the fight from the drop of the hat next year. Boston has a fine ball club. With Joe Wood and Helen Wagner

in shape the Red Sox will force the fighting all the way through. What would my team have done had Johnson and McRae been out of the game through the brunt of the campaign. We'd have finished in the second division, wouldn't we? The Red Sox did well to wind up in the first division under the circumstances.

"Cleveland has a good ball club. It lacked stamina last season and so fell to pieces. I made special preparations to stop the Naps when they came here for those last five games. I stopped them just as I had planned. Those five defeats kept them from winning the pennant. Had the Naps won those five games from us or even four of them, they would have caught the faltering Athletics and Cleveland would have won its first pennant. But the Naps can't play ball with us. We have their goats even as the Mackmen have ours. If the Naps could play every team but mine I'd think they had a good chance to win in 1914, but they have got to meet us, and we'll repeat in 1914 what we did in 1913, believe me.

"Then look at Detroit. There's a club that will take a lot of beating next summer. As it happened, the Tigers proved one of the toughest clubs we faced last season. They beat us out on the season's work, if you remember. Jennings has dug up some mighty promising young pitchers. Let them get started right in April and May and the Detroit Tigers will sail along like a swallow for some time. The Tigers will be dangerous even if they don't win the pennant.

"The White Sox played good ball last year and should do the same in 1914. Charley Comiskey is a sport. He is willing to spend the money to bolster up his weak places. He has several weak places in the outfit now, but even with them the team is dangerous. Callahan had some great pitching last year, indeed, his staff was one of the best in the circuit. But I don't think the Sox or the Tigers will be in the final hunt. Boston, Philadelphia, Washington and Cleveland will be there, though, till the bell rings.

Yes, I think I shall have a strong

team in 1914, stronger than it was last season. Many of the players are showing improvement with experience, notably Ainsmith, Morgan and Shanks. Ainsmith should be one of the greatest catchers in the business next year. He is spending the winter in Texas in order to build up his health. Morgan is already one of the best second basemen in the league, while Shanks boomed his batting average even though out of the game three times with bad ankles. My pitching staff is certain to be stronger. We ran along on Johnson and Boehling last year. Next year we should have six pitchers in shape to pitch winning ball all the time. Jim Shaw, Doc Ayres, Jack Bentley and Dick Williams are the best looking green pitchers I have ever seen, and I have seen quite a few. I am now searching for a hitting outfielder. If I land the man I want, I shall be able to open the campaign with a chance to break even with the Athletics. If I do that I may win the pennant. But please correct the general impression that I have already claimed it, for I have not."

### Twice-Told Tales.

"A butcher, says Baker.  
Or a candlestick maker,  
Or something like that will I be.  
I'm all through with base ball  
And 'bout this time next fall  
A business man keen you will see."  
But this self-same Baker,  
Is sure quite a fakir.  
Next summer and many years  
hence  
Will see him a-playing  
(While crows are hurrying)  
And bating 'em over the fence!

### WHAT HE SAID

"I don't see why you object to woman suffrage. Before we were married you said you'd go to the ends of the earth for me."  
"No I didn't. You misunderstood me."  
"I did not."  
"You certainly did."  
"What did you say then?"  
"I said I'd go to the polls for you."

### AS IT MAY YET HAPPEN

"Are there lifeboats for all on this ship?"  
"There are."  
"Are there enough able seamen to man each lifeboat in case of accident?"  
"There are."  
"Then give me a first class ticket and a stateroom."  
"I'm sorry, sir, but we have no room left for passengers."

## Both Are Great, All Will Admit, But Which Is Greater of the Two

Herman Wecke Furnishes Some Interesting Dope on Lajoie and Wagner, But It Does Not Answer the Question He Asks.

Napoleon Lajoie of the Naps or Hans Wagner of the Pirates. Who is the greater player of the two? There is nothing to it, but this pair is just about the greatest that ever graced the national pastime. Both of the aged veterans of the baseball world have been in the majors for a long, long time. Each spring columns and columns are written that they are through; that they are all in down and out; that they will be unable to bat as they did in years gone by, and that they would be unable to assist their teams as they had in the long years of service. But what happens? Each year the wisecracks are forced to take a back seat. When the final bell is rung and the curtain run down in the American and National League, these two battle-scarred warriors are away up in the running in batting.

For years and years this pair has been belting the opposition's pitchers for 300 averages. And they did it in 1913. During the course of the season both were out of the game owing to injuries. But, when the final unofficial averages were mailed out not so long ago it was seen that both Lajoie and Wagner were above the 300 mark. Lajoie hit .321 and his adversary .306. Hans, however, having something of a struggle to reach the mark, as he was hitting under .300 all the time practically until the final stages of the season.

### As They Found the Pitchers.

Trying to dope out who is the better of this pair and what pitchers they hit hardest is a very tough proposition. Lajoie has a slight lead over Wagner when the greatest of the great players is considered. True, some folks may argue that Walter Johnson, Eddie Collins and Ty Cobb are greater than Lajoie and Wagner. At present maybe they are. But where will Johnson, Collins and Cobb be when they have toiled faithfully in the majors for something like 17 years? Will they still be among those present, or will they have drifted into the unknown? Time alone will tell. But, to get back to Lajoie and Wagner.

Neither of the two veterans picked on the second-rate pitchers to do their hardest batting, nor can it be

said that they hit the hurlers of the second division teams harder than they did those of the leaders. It was not that way at all. Nap and Hans hit them all. No matter who opposed the Naps or Pirates, Lajoie and Wagner always made their share of the bingles. True, they hit far harder against some clubs than they did others but the weaker ones were picked on no harder than the weak ones.

During the course of the 1913 campaign, Lajoie failed to hit .300 against only three clubs in the league. These teams were the Tigers, Nationals and Yankees. Two of these, the Tigers and Yankees, were second division clubs the National alone finishing up in the running. The Naps star had the toughest time hitting the pitchers of Clark Griffith's crew. Lajoie faced Johnson, Boehling and Co. 73 times during the campaign and whacked out just 13 safeties for an average of .190, which is not much. Of this total he made five of the base knocks off Walter Johnson, the greatest pitcher of them all. He faced the National star 23 times.

Moundmen for the down-trodden Yankees proved the next hardest for the slugger second-sacker of Joe Birmingham's club. Nap picked the pill for a .281 mark against Frank Chance's slabsters, banging out 16 safeties in 57 tries.

In the games played during the season between the Naps and Tigers Lajoie went to the plate 61 times and hit hardest a very tough proposition. Lajoie has a slight lead over Wagner when the greatest of the great players is considered. True, some folks may argue that Walter Johnson, Eddie Collins and Ty Cobb are greater than Lajoie and Wagner. At present maybe they are. But where will Johnson, Collins and Cobb be when they have toiled faithfully in the majors for something like 17 years? Will they still be among those present, or will they have drifted into the unknown? Time alone will tell. But, to get back to Lajoie and Wagner.

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