WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH SOUTHPAW GEORGE WILTSE FOR THAT JOB OF FIRST-BASING WITH THE GIANTS NEXT YEAR?

GEORGE WILTSE JOINED THE GIANTS IN 1904, BUT NOT UNTIL 1913 DID McGRAW DISCOVER HIM TO BE ONE OF THE BEST FIELDING FIRST BASEMEN IN THE LEAGUE.

Will Fred Merkle play first for the Giant aggregation next year?

Any number of fans were asking themselves this question; Merkle is with the world-tourers in Asia; so is McGraw, but the effort of the New York business manager to trade Merkle, Snodgrass and and an armful of bats for Ed. Konetchy, at the National league's annual meeting, indicates that McGraw wants to rid himself of the big fellow whose errors of omission have made him a marked man.

There appears to be little reason why McGraw should go outside his own team for a flashy first baseman. The work of George Wiltse during the last post-mortem series was so high class that it was startling.

It was old "Hooks'" wonderful fielding that gave the Giants the only game they won from the slashing, run-away Mackmen.

The idea that Wiltse cannot hit well enough for a first abseman need not last very long; Wiltse hit .326 in 1912, and, although this may have been a flash, it shows he is capable and if he played every day and had a chance to get his "eye upon the ball" Wiltse might surprise some of the home folks in Syracuse.

Wiltse is about through as a pitcher. He has been with the team since 1904, when he was purchased from the Troy team of the New York State league. Control has always been his frote. His best season was the never-to-be-forgotten year of 1908, when he and Mathewson pitched the Giants into a pennant, only to be Merkled out of it.

When Wiltse went to the Giants he was the cleverest fielding pitcher in the N. Y. S. L., and has always ranked high as a fielder in the National. He is one of the pitchers at whom opponents never bunt the ball, because he never falls over his feet in getting the ball.

With Troy in 1913 Wiltse participated in 70 games, hitting .260, and in many games he played right field and first base, showing exceptional ability in both positions. As an outfielder Wiltse became a terror by winging out many a runner who was inclined to take it easy going to the bag after the ball escaped the infield.

On first "Hooks" performed spectacularly and it was no surprise to the residents of Troy to read of his sensational fielding in the world's series.

In fact, it will not surprise the Trojans if they read the Giants' line-up next fet-away day and saw the name of George Wiltse in the line formerly occupied by Fred Merkle.

MILLION IN STAKES

According to figures furnished by the Horse Review, a total of 815 trotting purse and stake events, each worth $1,000 or over, were contested in Canada and the United States during 1913, the gross value of which was $1,619,062. Of these races, 406 were trotters and ranged in value from $14,000 for the Kentucky Futurity, to $1,000, and 409 for pacers, which ranged in value from $6,000, at Kalamazoo, to $1,000.

These races were contested and the total amount distributed in 126 different meetings held in eleven different cities, of which 101 meetings were held in 91 different cities in the United States, and 25 in twenty different Canadian cities and towns.

A total of 698 events of that value, worth $1,100,019, were held in the States, while twenty-five meetings in Canada hung up 117 events worth a total of $164,000, which is only a portion of the whole Canadian distribution.

The figures further state that the total number of horses accredited with winning $1,000 events was 393, of which 200 were trotters and 193 pacers. Of the 126 meetings that gave purses worth $1,000 or over, 42 were held on mile and 84 on half-mile tracks.

GIVE PLAYERS A CHANCE

New York, Dec. 30—Strict discipline on the baseball field is one of the things President John K. Tener, of the National League will demand of his umpires, according to his secretary, David L. Lees, with whom he has discussed the umpire problem.

The only person who can preserve order on the ball field is the umpire, President Tener said, and he added by way of emphasis, that in matters of discretion and judgment, where the umpire is not specifically guided by the rule, he should be supreme.

President Tener's idea of what the ideal arbiter should be was expressed as follows:

"I do not wish to be understood as meaning that an umpire should be a law unto himself; that his manner should be dictatorial, his attitude arregent, and his entire demenaour evince a self-satisfied air that would brook no argument or intercession. On the contrary, I think an umpire should be conciliatory but firm, positive but polite, quick but undemonstrative, strict but reasonable."

Regarding the disciplining of players, the new president said that he was opposed to the general practice employed in meeting out punishment to players for offences committed on the field. He said:

"One of the cardinal principles of justice is that every man should have an opportunity to be heard, to present his side of the case. If a player is guilty of the charges submitted by the umpire and has no equitable or reasonable defence, the ends of justice and the morals of discipline can be served just as well by suspending the player three or four days after the violation has occurred, and all the evidence received and investigated as by an immediate suspension following the report of the arbitrator.

"To my mind the club owner is really the one who suffers most by a player's suspension. The player's absence weakens the team, and in the end, the club owner is the real sufferer.

"There is no reason why such cases should not be considered in the most lenient attitude possible, and by all means obtain the facts in the case from both sides before the player is punished by suspension."

ATHENS SPORTS ARE OFF

Athens, Dec. 30—The Greek Olympic games, which were to have been held at Athens in the spring of 1914, have been indefinitely postponed. The committee in charge has found it impossible to make adequate preparations in so short a time after the war.

IS KILBANE CHAMPION?

(By Tom S. Andrews)

Is Johnny Kilbane, king of featherweights, to retire from the division without having had a real contest at the weight for the title?

The feathers are not in so bad a fix at the middle and welterweights, as the class can at least boast of legitimate champion in Kilbane, whereas the other two are without a recognized leader.

Stories have been circulated that the little Cleveland wonder has decided to become a full-fledged lightweight.

This may be true, but I have my doubts. Recently, while dining with Johnny and his manager, Jim Dunn, in New York, I put the question to Kilbane and his answer almost qualifies him as a Yankee, for it was a question.

"Why should I take on 133 pounders when I can get good money for meeting 122-pound boys?" he demanded.

Little Johnny is satisfied to go along with the feathers, and don't think I cannot make 122 pounds ringside. I never weigh more than 127 and more often 124. This talk of me weighing 130 is pure bunk."

Basing my opinion upon Kilbane's statement, I cannot believe he intends to risk his title just to get matches. He may give away weight to some fighters, but when it comes to a championship fight you will find Johnny scaling 132 pounds and he won't be in a hurry to take on a 133-pound man.

Kilbane never received the credit he deserved as featherweight champion. He whipped Abe Attell when many thought Abe was going back. If this was true then, what right has Attell to meet Kilbane again? Surely he has not so much chance to win from the Cleveland shadow as he had two years ago, for Kilbane is 25 per cent better than when he won the title.

There are few featherweights in the country who can class with Kilbane, although some who make a poor showing in short bouts might do better over the long route.

George Chaney of Baltimore has been coming at a fast clip and may prove a strong card. His quick defeat of young Britt shows he has class. He has put many opponents away by the knock-out route.

Young Herman, the Perkin (Ill.) boy, may be heard from a little later, while "Louisiana" is creating a stir in the east. Knockout Mars of Cincinnati, is another who should be heard from. There are plenty of 122 pounders "in the making."

This brings up the weight question. Most countries have accepted 126 pounds as the limit, while our state commissioners have made it 125 pounds. The United States alone holds the limit at 122 pounds. Should the weight be raised there may be many contenders for Kilbane's title, but while it remains at 122 the chances are he will hold onto his crown and I hope he retires a champion, for if ever there was a clean-living upright boxer with a happy family and a host of friends among real men it is Johnny Kilbane.

MERKLE MAY GO

Fred Snodgrass may play first base regularly for New York next season. The addition of Bob Bescher to the list of Giant outfielders will give them six good men to choose from for the outfield berths, and may result in crowding out Snodgrass.

Snodgrass, however, used to be a first baseman, before he went to the outfield, and can play the bag even better than Merkle in the opinion of many. He is as good a batter as Merkle, and less apt to get rattled in exciting moments.

Merkle lost whatever popularity was his through the medium of numerous "bone" plays. His "bone" in the last world's series between the Athletics and Giants, which paved the way for the Athletic's victory, disgusted the Gotham fame. Ane it seems quite certain that the Giants' management will heed the clamor of the New York fans and get rid of Merkle, either by sale or trade.

FREE WALKS BARRED

Chigago, Dec. 30—Some plan whereby the giving of international bases on balls can be eliminated from major league baseball is being sought by President Ban J. Johnson, of the American league, who recently has received many letters from followers of baseball protesting against the practice.

For several weeks President Johnson has been searching for some remedy for the passing of men in this way, but without success. "The great majority of the games, patrons seem to oppose it; so do I. But what are you going to do about it?

"Many complaints have come to me recently suggesting pitchers giving intentional bases on balls be penalised, but no means have been found for doing away with it. If we pass a rule forbidding the pass, the pitchers will simply make a bluff at making an effort to put the ball over the plate and give star batsmen their base on balls just the same.

"The result would be a lot of wrangling if the umpires tried to penalize for what they thought were intentional passes, because the pitchers invariabley would protest that they were trying to put the ball over.

"Some have suggested penalizing all bases on balls with equal severity, but that would not cure the disease. Few pitchers would make good should the rule be made."

KING WILL RACE AGAIN

London, Dec. 30—It is has been given out officially that King George will take up steeplechasing. This announcement will put an end to several late rumors foretelling his discontinuance of his racing stable.

A review of racing in England during the past year is disquieting for form followers, as it shows frequent disasters for the favorites, beginning with the Derby won by Aboyeur, an 100 to 1 shot, and ending with the City and Suburban, won by Durman, a 10 to 1 shot.

MAT AND MITT NOTES

Carl Morris has once more decided to retire from the ring, and has gone back to Oklahoma. It is to be hoped that Carl will now keep out of the fighting game for good. He had two chances to become the savior of the white race, but he fell down woefully when put to the test. Carl will take up his old duties as a locomotive engineer.

Johnny Dundee and Freddy Welsh are matched for a 10-round bout in New York New Year's afternoon. This bout should prove a good drawing card as both of the men are first class exponents of the boxing art. Welsh is the holder of the English light-weight title, while Dundee has recently gone into the light-weight division in the hope of working his way to the top.

Leach Cross, who was beaten on the coast not long ago by Joe Rivers, is to clash with Bud Anderson, at Los Angeles New Year's day. Anderson has a grudge to settle with Cross, who knocked him out some time ago. Anderson was coming along nicely when the New York dentist set him back. Bud is determined to fight his way to the front once more and welcomes this chance to even up the old score with the eastern man. That there will be something doing when the two line up together goes without saying.

Manager Gibson of the Madison Square Garden Athletic Club, intends to pull off several more heavy-weight battles. After the Willard-Morris burlesque he announced that he was through with the big fellows, but he has changed his mind. Battling Levinsky, the sensational light heavyweight, has been signed to box 10 rounds with Jim Coffey, the Dublin giant, in the Garden December 22. The same night in the same ring George Rodel, the Boer, will tackle Fireman Jim Flynn, in a 10-round scrap. The winners of these battles will be matched to box in the Garden later on.

"BIG TOM" DISSENTS

The chances now look that the Canadian Rugby Football Union will alter the playing rules for next fall and that we will have twelve-man rugby, with the snap-back system. The Q. R. F. U., the O. R. F. U., and the Intercollegiate Rugby bodies are in favor of this change, and only the Big Four is opposed to it. While the Big Four may be against the change of rules, it is probable that Interprovincial clubs will fall in line with the others if the changes are put through. The Alberta Rugby Union is also in favor of the change. The idea is that the alterations in the playing rules will open up the game to a greater extent and produce faster rugby. When the C. R. U. meets at Montreal it is very probable that the playing rules of the game will be altered in favor of the snap-back, and that a fair catch will be substituted for the yards rule.

THE KING'S GOLD PLATE

The gold plate belonging to King George and which is kept at Windsor Castle, is said to be worth at least $5,000,000. For purposes of state banquets at Buckingham Palace four tons of this gold plate are transported to London in vans bearing the royal arms, and tons more are left behind.

In these vans there are epergnes of gold weighing several hundredweight, according to Tit-Bits. There are dishes, two or three of which are as much as any man would care to carry, and half a dozen of the dinner plates even are a sufficient load for one man. As for the candelabra, it takes three strong-armed porters straining their muscles to deposit one of them in the van.

There is one dinner service alone, designed by such artists as Flaxman and Stothard, and fashioned for the fourth George by Rundell and Bridges, for the mere making of which $1,000,000 was paid some ninety years ago. The gold of which it was fashioned—generations of derelict court plate melted down—was valued at $2,500,000.

There is a complete service for 149 diners—centre plaques to represent water epergnes, candelabra, tureens, entree dishes, plates by the hundred, all of pure gold, with thirty dozen other gold plates to fall back on in case of need.

CALLED AT BERGEN ONLY

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 31—In order to save time during the busy tourist season, the directors of the Norway-American line have decided, with the consent of the Board of Trade, to make Bergen their only Norwegian port of call for steamers of their line, during the months of May and June.

Shiloh 25
"The Family Friend for Children." A never failing relief for Croup and Whooping Cough.

CHANCE'S CAREER BEGAN IN THE RING

"Peerless Leader" Was Once a Star Boxer, and no Novice at a Game of Cards

Way back in the nineties Frank Chance thought his calling in the world was to be under the jurisdiction of the old Marquis of Queensbury rather than on the baseball field, and he didn't make such a bad showing, either. He succeeded in presenting his case so strongly that nobody in Fresno had any desire to stand up opposite him in the squared circle.

Frank weighed about 180 pounds then, was as active as a kitten and possessed plenty of skill with his hands. He used to add suits of clothes and athletic goods, as well as an occasional purse to his collection by taking on all comers at Fresno Hall.

One day there came to Fresno Hall a young giant from the Middle West who tipped the scales at 220 pounds, and who was heralded as one of the coming heavies. On the strength of the records he brought to town he was duly installed as constable.

The new constable had not become well acquainted with his star before Frank's friends got busy with a challenge which was promptly accepted. A purse was made up, an evening's bout arranged, and the tickets for the exhibition were at a premium at a dollar a seat.

The two went at it hammer and tongs for four rounds without either one having much of an advantage. In the fifth round the big fellow swung a vicious upper-cut that went wild and Frank swung one that took the constable on the point of the jaw. Nobody counted. Somebody yelled for a doctor, and seconds and referee worked over him for two hours before they could bring him to, while Frank sat over in his corner frightened into believing he had laid out his man for keeps.

That's about the last time that Chance ever handled a pair of gloves. One's enough for him now.

The game of poker is one always dear to a ball player's heart and Frank Chance was no exception. Frank, however, was always blessed with such an amount of luck that opponents were scarce. Now, it happened that Fresno, at this time, although a town of no large dimensions, nevertheless possessed a Chinatown. Here, often, with a crony or two, did Frank try his skill. But the "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" succeeded in taking nearly every pot.

One evening Frank's companions scented a little "fixing" in the air and promptly hit one of the Orientals in the eye. It was a long way home, but Chance never made a better run around the sacks than the way he stepped it out in front of that mob of howling Chinese.

As a football hero, Chance made a great record, but he was on the injured list most of the time, as he took little care of himself in the scrimmages. A baseball knockout is not much worse than a gridiron quietus anyhow, and Chance seems to be used to both.

WORLD'S LONLIEST SPOT

An English historian has finally decided on the loneliest spot on the earth. Tristan a Acums it is called, and it is an island hundreds and hundreds of miles away from its nearest neighbors. A tiny oasis in a boundless ocean, no matter which way you go. It is rocky, with a solitary mountain 1,000 feet high. A shepherd community lives there, farmers, cattle raisers, etc. In the valley of the island are fertile fields where potatoes are grown, and the food of the people consists of beef, fowls and fish. The island formerly produced many fruits and vegetables, but they can no longer be grown there, for the island is overrun by rats which escaped from a ship and the people have never been able to rid themselves wholly of them.

Messages for the Future

The modern Historic Record Association has formed a novel plan of delivering messages from its members to their descendants 100 years from now.

Two envelopes of durable Japanese vellum are sent to each member, with the request that genealogical memoranda, messages and photographs be inclosed. The sealed envelopes will be deposited in lead-lined steel chests. One will be stored with the association's collections in the New York Public Library.

A copperplate inscription will direct that the other chest be put in a vault near the Cheops pyramid in Egypt, in this way the insurance is taken against possible destruction by war or natural causes.

The chests will also contain documents, tablets, and photographs relating to affairs of the present day.

Mirrors at Road Crossings

Mirrors at road crossings for the use of warning automobiles are commencing to be used in England, and the results are very good. They are put in places where the crossings are specially dangerous, and the use of large mirrors allows the driver to see the reflection of cars which are coming in other directions. Another use for mirrors is upon heavy-power wagons, where the driver cannot hear the signals of automobiles back of him so as to have him take the right-hand side of the road to allow them to pass, for the noise of the power wagon often prevents the horn from being heard.

Drink With Care

A new form of sanitary bubbling fountain for public places has four knife edges radiating from its opening to prevent a person putting his mouth against the orifice.

Australia's production of gold has decreased steadily for the last three years.

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LARGE BUDGET INCREASE STIRS UP AUSTRIANS

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 31.—The federal budget has shown that though there is to be no fresh taxation, none that has been imposed can be removed. It is with great difficulty that the obligations entered upon by the previous government can be met.

The enormous increase in the expenditure on the government of Australia is somewhat alarming, for the country is not receiving benefits commensurate with the increase in expenditure. The federal public service is increasing in numbers and cost, and can only continue to do so as the activities of the commonwealth expand, but there is an uncertainty that "judicious economy" is strictly observed. Every department displays a tendency to growth as soon as it becomes a separate organization.

A short time ago the prime minister had one secretary only, now he has a full-fledged department. Departments like the postoffice must necessarily grow as the scope of their operations is widened, and in four and a half years, ending June, 1912, the permanent staff of the postmaster-general's department had increased by 3393 officers; during the past year 1598 more were added, bringing the staff of permanent officers up to a total of 16,484.

The salaries expenditure has grown enormously; in five years it has risen over three-quarters of a million. The postoffice annual pay sheet, exclusive of all temporary assistance, has reached a total of £2,231,242; the greater part of federal employment is in the postal service. The whole federal permanent service now amounts to 18,845 and the salaries total £2,719,360. The public service commission draws attention to the fact that public convenience is seriously effected by the excessively liberal provisions for holidays in the public service Act, and shows that there is a lack of economy with regard to that matter. These figures may not appear larger to older and more densely populated countries, but it must be remembered that in Australia the numbers have not yet reached 5,000,000.

The budget of the New South Wales treasurer reveals a deficit of over £1,000,000, and for that State there is the prospect of an increase in income and stamp duties. In Victoria the treasurer's budget shows a surplus though a small one. The revenue for the year has exceeded the estimates by £76,000, and the whole constitutes a record, having passed £10,000,000. This record is remarkable as the population has not yet reached 1,500,000.

The West Australian budget reveals a deficit of £191,000. This can in a measure be accounted for by the socialistic experimenting of the government. It started a steamship service over which money was lost. A retail butchering business was bought in Perth, and fattening country bought in the midland district, cattle were purchased dear and sold cheap; then government sawmills were started. Mr. Thomas, who was minister for external affairs in the Fisher government has an idea which he hopes to see realized by which the railways will be free to all users and the whole cost be placed on the land.

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