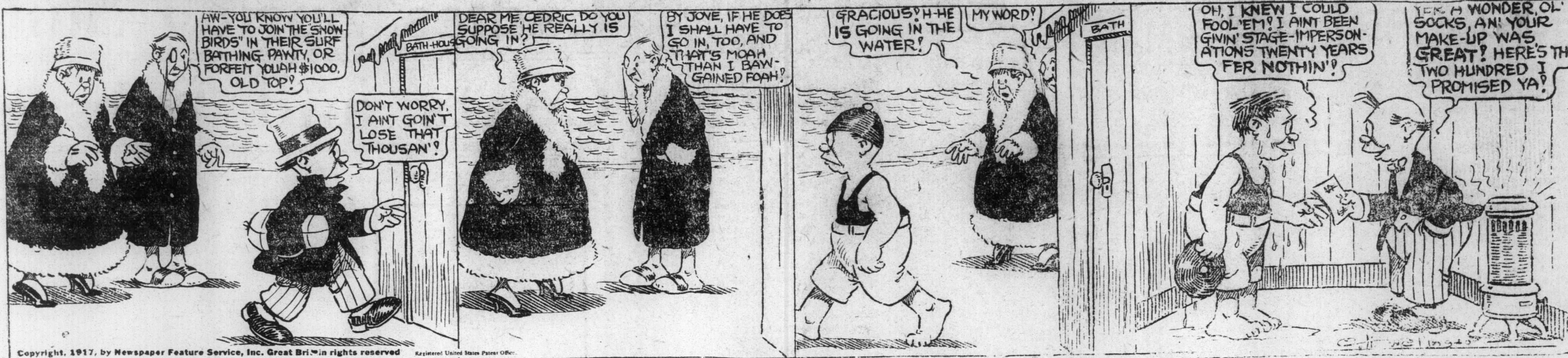


## THAT SON-IN-LAW OF PA'S

---By Wellington



## Mack is Building a Strong Baseball Machine

Athletics May Prove a Surprise in the American League, Hitting Power of the Team Sure to Prove a Winning Factor

The manager who has the least to say and the greatest task before him for the 1917 baseball season in the American League is Connie Mack of the once-famous Athletics. Every West is interested in the reconstruction of the White Elephants. Several tourists representing the City of Brotherly Love have called upon the veteran general to learn his opinion of the players in training at Jacksonville. Mack merely expresses his confidence in the new team and leaves the remainder with the observer.

After the disastrous season of 1916 Mack came well prepared this spring to lift the former world's champions from the rack. By securing experienced men for the foundation the club has been strengthened. The Mackmen during the coming season will be considerably stronger at the bat. Mack looks for "Ping" Bodie, Amos Strunk and Frank Thrasher to form one of the best wrecking crews in the league, although competition in that respect is keen in the Ban Johnson circuit. Bodie should play a better game of ball for Mack than he did while with the White Sox. Ball players who have been associated with Bodie for several years past say that he would have done better with any other club in the major leagues than with Jimmy Callahan, who during the Ping's stay in the Wrigley City was manager. Coast players are confident that Bodie will have a record this year as a run-getter and hitter.

Thrasher a Clean-Up Man. Thrasher was with Mack long enough last season to convince Shibe Park fans that he can pile up a good batting average. Like Bodie, Thrasher is a hard hitter, and will be used as a "clean-up" man. He came from

the Southern League with a reputation as a hitter and with a fairly good fielding average. Mack is sure to use him in right field.

The next best bet for a varsity outfield job is Billy Johnson, a left-handed clubber, who was picked up in the Chicago semi-professional ranks. Johnson is as fast as Strunk, both on the bases and in the outfield. If this boy can show any kind of an average with the stick he will be wearing a regular uniform.

The most promising looking youngster to do sub duty as a shortstop is John Mitchell, from Boston College. This youngster, aged 20 years, has a pair of hands bigger than any other person's in the camp. He has a strong arm, covers a lot of ground, and can hit hard. He leads the squad in extra base clouts, but is not the timeliest clubber. Mitchell will make a good ball player in time.

At the present time the Athletics have four pitchers who can be relied upon. Elmer Myers, who shared the twirling honors with Joe Bush last season, is destined to have a banner year. The big fellow has been taking things easy here, but by the time the train starts northward he should be prepared to enter the first game. Myers has developed into a powerful man, and has learned considerable since his first trip here two years ago. Bush is in great shape and will no doubt have another big year. And this is looked for by Mack.

Jack Nabors, whose fielding and defensive work in general have shown a marked improvement, is ranked with the leading four. Manager Mack has spent a great amount of time with Nabors and expects to see him win a lot of games. Russell ("Jin") Johnson, with whom

Mack has spent hours and hours, is picked to take his regular turn in the league contests and hang up a record for himself. Johnson is a heady heaver and has a fine assortment of curves. He will have a better chance of studying the American League batters this season right from the start. Another twirler who should help "Connie" this year is "Rube" Schauer, the player brought from Louisville after being sent there by McGraw. The big Russian will be some time getting into shape, but possesses enough experience now to go into a game against some of the weaker clubs and pull through with some hitting behind him. This can be said of several young pitchers in Mack's surplus squad.

It looks as if three Johnsons will be carried along for the opening of the league season. Ellis Johnson, a fine-looking, right-handed, side-arm curver, comes from the Vernon club with a pretty good record. He was slow in cutting loose down here, but when he did several of the veterans were forced to sit up and give him recognition. Johnson is a steady pitcher and has a sharp-breaking curve. Recently he has unloaded a great deal of speed, enough to warrant his trip with the regulars against the Braves. The Minneapolis man should develop into a first-string twirler. He has had some experience, which will count in his favor.

The Athletics have a string of fine looking young outfielders this year. Eddie King, who is a clean fielder and timely hitter, although young and somewhat inexperienced, has been worked as a first sacker during the training season. The New England lad has been given individual coaching by Connie Mack and Harry Davis. Harland Rowe is too strong with the bat to be turned away without a thorough tryout. He is fast getting down to first from the left side and can cover plenty of ground. Fred Ley, who comes from Colorado, can cover as much territory as any of the outfielders, but in the practice games has not been connecting safely with the ball. This will come to him, however, and in time he should develop into a big leaguer. Ray Hamilton is another fast boy who will pick up a great

deal on this trip. The majority of Mack's outfield candidates are youngsters who have never been in big league uniforms before.

Another weak spot that has been filled for the first time since Baker left in 1914 is the third base position. In signing Ray Bates, of the Vernon club, the Athletics have an experienced and steady player. Bates was tried a few years ago by Cleveland, but had no chance when Turner and Oleson were starting. Bates is really the star candidate of the Athletics this year, and will surely win the good will of the Shibe Park fans. He has settled well into the Mack system of play now, and the average fan cannot realize the strength he has put into the team in general. His hitting will mean a great deal.

## Lawry a Strong Choice

It looks as though Otis Lawry would be called upon to do regular second base duty, although Roy Grover is not out of the running. Lawry is a grand example of what Connie Mack can do with a youngster. Since last summer, during which time

young Lawry was ill, Mack has seen possibilities in the former University of Maine boy. Now that he has taken on weight his stick work shows improvement. He is a fast boy in getting down to first, and in the practice games has been fielding in sensational style. Grover has had more experience and may meet the crisis more readily than Lawry, but Mack hopes to develop the latter into a finished player. The same can be said of Lawton Witt, who has the first call for shortstop. Young Witt has a great deal to learn about baseball, particularly fielding, as he threw away many games last year. The Goddard Seminary grad is playing a much steadier game on the defense, and by the time he reaches a regulation diamond should complete the left angle of the infield. Jack McInnis is playing with more confidence this year since there are more experienced men with him. Mack is fortunate in having such a man as McInnis to steady youngsters on the other end. "Stuffy" is expected to hit better than he did last season. He is confident that the team

in general will show a better batting average.

The veterans of the Mack clan have a lot of confidence in Harry "Sox" Seibold, a stocky, broad-shouldered right-hander, who finished the season of 1916 with the Athletics. He has had minor league experience and appears to have a well-balanced think-tank. He was with the Wheeling club, of the Central League, lives in Philadelphia during the off season and is a plumber by trade. Winfield Noyes, the spitballer, persuaded to come from the Portland club for another trial in the big show, will land a regular job, but his true value will not be seen until the season wears on. The climate at Jacksonville and the sandy field are about as welcome to this spitballer as a blister on a trouzone player's lip. Noyes has had enough minor and big league experience to give him a good start, although Mack has taught him a great deal about twirling. He no doubt would have been in better shape had he reported with the advance squad.

## Southpaws Making Good.

Two left-handers will likely be included in the list until the American League season is well under way. Clifford Hill, a strong-looking athlete from the Texas League, has an easy delivery and can field his position well, but is a trifle wild. Walter ("Lefty") Anderson will make a great curver. He is considerably under weight, caused by having an operation performed on his nose shortly before the opening in the training season. Every person who has seen the youngster in action predicts a bright career for him. He is only nineteen years old and naturally needs careful nursing. He still has a tendency to go wild when a few hits are picked from his offerings. Mack has four more good-looking left-handers in Robert "Lefty" Smith, the Oklahoma harvester; Rolo Naylor, Horne and Bill Adams. The team leader has such a large squad of pitchers in camp that it is likely to cause him loss of sleep in selecting those he will carry through the season. Adams and Smith have shown plenty of stuff in the daily drills

against the regular batters.

David Keefe, a youth from Witt's territory of New England, is in line to make the major circuit before many years pass. He is a hard, steady worker with plenty of gray matter. The Athletics have a string of hard-hitting backstops. Schanz, Meyer, Haley or Pienlich will compare favorably with any in the American circuit. The silent general will have a better club than is expected, and it would not be surprising to see it at the top of the second division, providing the hurlers hold up.

## BASEBALL

The following are the scores of the respective teams in the Automatic Baseball League game played on Wednesday night between P. Johnson's team, the winners and J. Barry and his four fellows in defeat:

## F. Johnson's Team

Davis	.....	#6	41	48	135
Maddock	.....	32	30	32	94
Shannon	.....	43	42	43	123
Barry	.....	27	27	27	81
Johnson	.....	43	47	51	141

Total ..... 579

J. Barry's Team					
Kennedy	.....	27	27	27	81
McGraw	.....	35	30	37	102
Moss for Brown	.....	50	59	55	164
J. Bowden	.....	31	34	32	97
J. Barry	.....	41	41	42	124

Total ..... 568

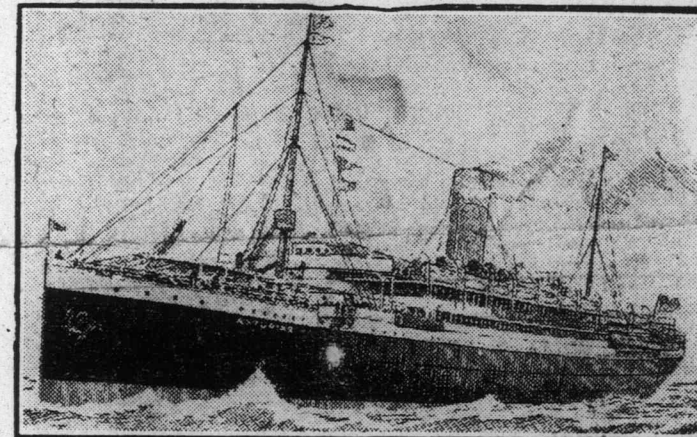
## QUIT EIGHT HOUR DAY.

By Courier Lensed Wire.

Petrograd, March 29.—via London.—The workmen in all the factories engaged in manufacturing for the national defense have decided to renounce for the period of the war one of the fundamental items of the labor program—the eight hour day. It is announced here semi-officially. The decision was taken in view of the necessity of augmenting the output of munitions.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

## HOSPITAL SHIP, ASTURIAS, TORPEDOED BY THE GERMANS



The German Government admits to-day the sinking of this vessel, which they knew full well was a hospital ship.

## SELECT YOUR Easter Togs HERE

Our Big Boys' Dept. is Brimful of All The New EASTER STYLES

Mothers take pride in her boys—you can get here clothes that are the products of the best makers of this country.

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Children's Fancy Suits, \$2.95 to \$6.50

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Easter Furnishings for Boys New Shirts and Neckwear, Caps, Stockings, Collars, Everything for Boys is here for your Easter Choice

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Only one more week to select your Easter Outfit. Why not do it To-morrow and do it here? Never has our showing been more representative—never were we in a position to so perfectly meet the requirements of every man and young man—no matter what he is willing to pay. Smartness, quality and value go hand in hand here. Don't fail to select your Easter Suit or Topcoat here To-morrow.

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NEW EASTER GLOVES, SHIRTS, NECKWEAR, HOSIERY, HATS, CAPS, COLLARS, ETC. SEE THE NEW W. G. & R. "SOMME" COLLAR—NOW ON SALE. NEW UNDERWEAR, PYJAMAS

## YOUR EASTER HAT IS HERE

Men's Soft Felt Hats

The New Styles for Easter are very smart. Here's wonderful value for, only—

\$2.00 \$2.50

NEW EASTER CAPS, 50c to \$2.00

Here's The Winner Soft Felt Hats

New Pearls, Slaters, Green Sumatra, with contrasting bands. They're it this Spring—

\$2.00 \$2.50

New Moore's Hats of London

To try them on before our mirrors is enough—you'll like them—newest Spring styles and colorings, priced at—

\$3.50

New Italian Hats Borsalinos

You'll realize the smartness of appearance of these Hats when you try them on. New styles and colors at—

\$4.50

Men's Merino Underwear, Shirts and Drawers

Shirts and Drawers, good quality Merino, just the right weight for Spring wear, the 50c garment, only—

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