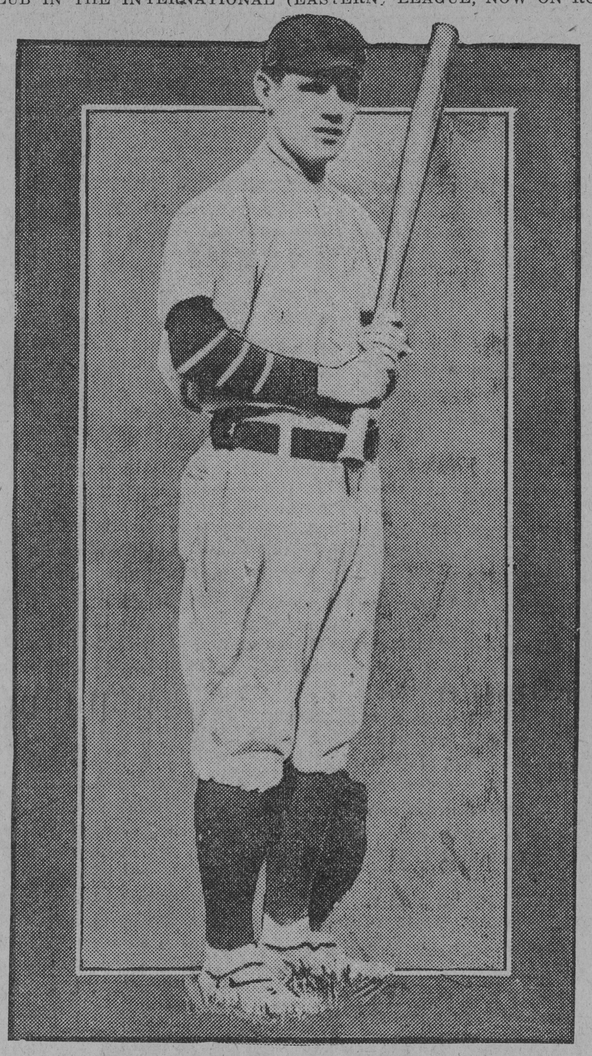
BIG LEAGUERS COUNTING ON THESE FORMER ORIOLES

GRADUATES FROM THE BALTIMORE CLUB IN THE INTERNATIONAL (EASTERN) LEAGUE, NOW ON ROSTERS OF TEAMS IN THE MAJOR CIRCUITS.

CLAUDE DERRICK,
New York Yankees.

BEN EGAN,
Athletics.

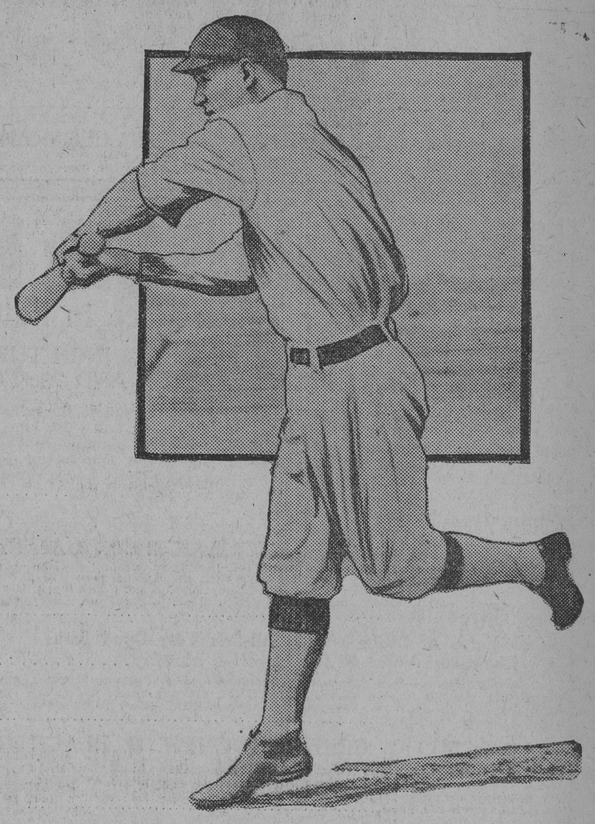
MORRIS RATH,
Chicago White Sox.



EDDIE MURPHY,
Athletics.

JIMMY WALSH,
Athletics.

MIKE MOWERY,
St. Louis Nationals.



WILBUR GOODE,
Chicago Cubs.

LEFTY RUSSELL WOULD BE BIRD

LEFTHANDER WANTS TO START OVER WITH BALTIMORE.

IS SURE HE CAN COME BACK

Should Big Ben Houser, First Baseman, Bought From Boston, Deside to Accept Position as College Coach, Manager Jack Dunn May Find Man He Needs In Young Gleichmann—Barrow Makes Announcement About Salary Limit.

[BY RODGER H. PIPPEN.]

Lefty Russell! Lefty Russell! Where have we heard that name before? Oh, yes, that's the $12,000 southpaw Connie Mack, of the Athletics, bought from Baltimore. So fleeting is fame, and so much of the spotlight has been grabbed of late by Joe Wood, Marty O'Toole and Rube Marquard, that the spectacular southpaw, who flashed up on the baseball horizon and as suddenly sizzled out, has almost passed from the memory of the followers of the game.

Just as we are relegating Lefty to the baseball scrap heap and the oblivion of his bowling alleys and poolroom in dreamy Hagerstown, a spark of news drifts in and causes a hasty search for the old headlines: "$12,000 Beauty," "Greatest Southpaw in County," "Ten Clubs After Oriole," etc.

Assimilate this slowly: Russell will endeavor to come back and is anxious to make his try with no other club than the Baltimore Orioles.

Back to His First Love.

The pitcher paid a visit to his home in this city a day or two ago, and confided his baseball intentions to a friend. Lefty is said to have spieled thusly: "If I can only get away from Connie Mack, of the Athletics, I will play ball next season. Mack is all right, but I feel I could do better work with some other leader. So far as I know, I still belong to Philadelphia, but would like to be sold or get my release. Would be pleased to get back with the Birds. My arm feels better than it has for a year, and believe I will be able to deliver the goods."

In the outskirts of Newark, N. J., there is a young fellow who didn't lose any sleep last night over the report that Ben Houser, first sacker bought by Baltimore from Boston, is seriously considering giving up professional baseball to accept a position as coach of the nine of Maine University. Gus Gleichman wants that job at first base on the Orioles. He believes he can make Ben hustle to hold his own, yet could hardly be expected to worry should his rival quit. Gus was secured by Manager Dunn in the draft from the Anderson Club of the Carolina Association, and is reputed to be some promising kid.

Praised by a Scout.

Scout Kehoe, of the Washington Americans, and others who know baseball players from imitations, have praised this squab Oriole. As baseball people know, however, winter dope is a snare and a delusion, and the real merit of Mr. Gleichman will be known only when he dons his uniform and trots out on the field for spring training at Fayetteville, N. C., the second week in March. Along the line of "busted" phenoms Scotty Cameron is still vivid in the minds of local rooters. In 1911 he burned up the Canadian League, leading that circuit in batting, running and everything else worth while. They called him the Ty Cobb of the Canadian League, and Dunnie believed he had picked up a find when he drew him in the draft. Reporting here last June, his stay with the Birds was of hours. Back to the Canadian League he went, and even there failed to repeat his 1911 performance.

Coming back to Houser and Gleichman, it is interesting to make a comparison of them from the records. Before delving into the figures we might repeat that both wield their knives with their southpaw. The same goes at first and at the plate.

How the Rivals Compare.

In his first year out Gleichmann batted .296 in the Carolina Association, a Class D circuit. In his third season in the big wagon, a season in the American Association being sandwiched between the second and third, Houser stung the bulb for .286. Ben fielded .986 and Gus .988.

Lamp these complete figures:

Houser—108 games, 332 at bat, 38 runs, 95 hits, 142 total bases, 17 two-base hits, 3 triples, 8 home runs, 5 sacrifice hits and 1 stolen base.

Gleichmann—107 games, 389 at bat, 61 runs, 115 hits, 156 total bases, 23 two-base hits, 6 triples, 2 home runs, 11 sacrifice hits and 12 stolen bases.

So far as hitting and fielding is concerned the two first-sackers look all to the merry. Judging from the records neither is a speed marvel. Houser, as is known, would have stuck in the majors had he been slightly fleeter of foot, his sticking and defensive work comparing favorably with the majority of first-sackers in the best circles.

Trouble Ahead for Dunn.

Jack Dunn, of the Orioles, should really worry. It having been decided that the International League will have no individual salary limit this year, the Oriole boss may experience some trouble in signing up Shortstop Tom Downey and one or two other players who are believed to be holding out for more of the long green. Had the $400 a month rule been put over by the National Commission at its meeting Thursday in Chicago, it would have been out of the question for Downey to have demanded a higher stipulation, but now he can demand any figure which meets his fancy. Getting it is another question, although it is a known fact that Dunnie is most liberal and pays as high salaries as any magnate in the circuit. While nothing has come to local baseball headquarters direct from Houser, it appears that the first-sacker is another holdout. The fact that he is dickering with Maine University for a coaching job indicates that the terms of the contract sent him the first of the year were not exactly to his liking.

While conflicting reports came out of Chicago about the action of the National Commission concerning the individual salary limit of the International League, the matter was straightened out officially tonight when President Edward G. Barrow announced that only the team limit of $6,000 a month will be enforced in this circuit during the coming season.

Adopt Limit Next Year.

President Barrow hinted that next year the International magnates would probably adopt an individual limit. He would not venture an opinion as to the amount, but it will probably be $400 a month, the magnates having made a gentlemen's agreement at the recent meeting in New York not to go over that figure until the commission acted upon the matter. The commission having decided to let the big minor leagues decide their own individual limits, the sum mentioned will probably go through next year.

It was because of the opposition of President Barrow, of the International; President Thomas Chivington, of the American Association, and President M. E. Sexton, of the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs, that the plan to fix an individual limit was passed up by the commission, the highest court in baseball. With President Tom Lynch of the National League, and Chairman Garry Herrmann, of the commission, seconding the views of Barrow and the others, it was decided to permit the leagues to arrange their own amount for individuals.

Argument against enforcing any individual salary limit clause was made on behalf of the Class AA leagues by Business Manager Quinn, of the Columbus American Association Club, who made this statement of his views:

A Boost for Players.

"I am strongly in favor of a reasonable salary limit for leagues and clubs, and think that such a limit should be rigidly enforced. But I am not in favor of a limit for individual players. I believe in rewarding the hard-working, conscientious and intelligent player. Suppose that we have a man on our team who is getting the limit of $350 a month. Several clubs draft him, but the luck of the draw saves him for us and takes away another player who may not be nearly as valuable to us. In a case like that the good player is forced to remain with us for another year at the same salary he was working for, and we have no legal right to raise him, even if we want to, and he deserves the increase. That sort of thing works an injustice. While holding strictly to the team salary limit, I think that managers and owners should feel free to arrange their individual salary lists to suit themselves and thus be able to reward their faithful and conscientious players, who are drawing cards at the gate and deserve an increase in salary from time to time."

Agreement was made on behalf of the class AA leagues that they would enforce team limits and also submit them to the Commission for approval without further questioning its authority in return for the abrogation of the individual limit clause.

Donlin Is Not Wanted.

The Orioles are not after Mike Donlin. Secretary Billy Wicks, in charge while Manager Dunn is away on a hunting trip, emphatically denied last night that there is the slightest truth in the reports that the Baltimore Club is dickering for Mike. "If we get a new outfielder," said Billy, "he must be fast. At present it looks as if we need speed more than a slugger."

The Newark Star said yesterday:

"Rumor has it that Mike Donlin is wanted by Jack Dunn, manager of the Baltimore club. It is said that waivers were asked on Mike Donlin by the Philadelphia National League club because Donlin demands $7,000 for his season's toil.

"Donlin is a great batter and would shine in the International League, but Dunn has as much chance of nailing Donlin as Turkey had in the recent war with the Balkan states.

"Somehow or other Dunn always seems to seek left-handed stickers, and for one or two seasons his Orioles were helpless against southpaws.

"If Dunn should by some chance land Donlin he will have to dig deep in his jeans to buy the famous Turkey. Even then it is likely that Donlin would balk, if he didn't get half of the club's net receipts for playing. The salary limit of $6,000 a month would not suit Donlin."

CAPTAIN ROBBIE A KEEN TEACHER

EX-ORIOLE KING DEVELOPER OF MOUND MEN.

Rube Marquard and Jeff Tesreau Are Among the Samples of the Handiwork of Former Star Backstop Who Is Hired by John McGraw to Instruct the Young Pitchers of the Giants.

Wilbert Robinson—Teacher of the fine art of pitching. Curves, drops, speed and control taught and perfected. Development of youngsters a specialty. For references apply to John J. McGraw, of the Giants.

If Wilbert Robinson, having sold The Diamond, should go into business for himself during the baseball season instead of drawing salary from the New York club, a shingle bearing the above information would tell briefly what the veteran catcher had to offer in exchange for his fees.

And if the old trainer, coach, instructor, or whatever you may choose to name him, wished to add a few testimonials he might get the renowned Rube Marquard, southpaw extraordinary, and Ozark Jeff Tesreau to say something in his behalf. But it would hardly be necessary for Robinson to back up his statements with samples of his handiwork. All over the National League circuit he is known as the shrewdest, wisest, as well as the most efficient developer of young pitchers in the circuit.

His success in bringing Rube Marquard prominently before the public is of too recent date to bear repetition this early. Be it sufficient merely to recall the incident. Yes, Manager McGraw aided, no doubt, but it was Robinson who coached the erratic southpaw, taught him how to conserve his strength, gain control and in a general way use his ability on the mound to the best advantage. He did all that for Rube, who will admit it, unless his recent escapades in the theatrical world have blotted it from his memory.

Developed Tesreau.

Right on top of that Uncle Wilbur took charge of 200-odd pounds of raw pitching material and after a few months of diligent modeling and molding presented fandom with the budding phenom labeled Big Jeff, the Ozark bear hunter. Big Jeff was not tossed into the pit as a finished article. There are still a few rough spots, but the polish is rapidly being applied or will be when the dandelions begin to sprout.

Probably one of the busiest little bird dogs in the Marlin camp, not even excepting Manager McGraw, will be the veteran coach.

Manager McGraw will take a large consignment of young pitchers to the spring camp for Robbie to put over the jumps and select, if Dame Fortune is hanging around willing to flirt, another budding southpaw phenom or spitball heaver of the Marquard-Tesreau types. This doesn't happen every spring. Only once in a great while. However, there is no dearth of promising material on hand this season.

Of those likely to stick there are Al Demaree, who earned his spurs at the Polo Grounds last fall when he loomed up quite promising in a game or two. Demaree holds some sort of a record for shutouts in the South, where he applied the whitewash brush with the careless abandon of a drunken calsominer. He had handed out enough goose eggs to start a good-sized poultry farm.

Then there are Theodore Goulait, formerly of Indianapolis; Larue Kirby and Lou Bader, all of whom had trials last fall and impressed the fans during the brief opportunity. Regarding Robertson, another recruit, McGraw is undecided whether he will let him pitch or play the outfield.

Alliance Juniors Victors.

The Alliance Juniors defeated the Alliance Social Club 30 to 1. The lineup: Alliance, Juniors—Berkow and Cohen, f.; Schwab and Ginsberg, g.; Bronstein, c.

Alliance—Schein and Schaurtz, f.; Bonver and Phsetzky, g.; Falk, c.

LIGHTNING HIT VICKERS

Strange Experience of Oriole Pitcher When With Williamsport.

Commenting on the exclusive story in The American about Vickers preparing to spring a new curve, the Washington Herald says:

Rube Vickers, who has pitched for clubs all over the United States, and who was twice a member of the Athletics, is going to spring a new one on the public next season. Rube declares that he is having an electric heating pad rigged up for his right shoulder, and that it will loosen up his arm to such an extent that he will be the winner of the International League this year.

"Vickers has been pitching for Baltimore ever since he made his second exit from the Athletics. After his first trial with Connie Mack, Rube pitched for Williamsport. While playing in the latter city one day a thunderstorm came up and Vickers was knocked senseless by a bolt of lightning. He recovered, for it would take more than a bolt of lightning to take the nerve out of the Rube. So Connie gave him another chance.

"For the White Elephants that time, Vickers was a wonder. He won every game that he pitched—to hear him tell it in a hotel lobby. He won many thrilling extra inning battles, and all the heavy hitters were as putty in his hands. The fans and Connie Mack had an idea that Vickers lost a game occasionally, and the official averages backed him up. So Vickers was given a ticket to Baltimore.

"One day Vickers got to thinking about the occurrence at Williamsport. He decided that his aging arm could have its youth renewed by electricity, and so he invented a heating pad for it. If the scheme enables Vickers to come back into the major leagues we may expect to find Waddell, Cy Young, Gus Weyhing, Matt Kilroy and others of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Flingers making a rush to buy electric heating pads and applying for jobs."

NEWARK TEAM READY

Manager Smith Needs Only One Man to Complete Lineup.

Newark, N. J., January 18.—When it became known that Bert Tooley would positively play shortstop for the Newark Club during the coming season, "Cap" Smith rubbed his hands with satisfaction and declared that there was just one more man whom he wanted to complete his 1913 crew before putting out into the deep waters of the "International League Sea."

There is a deal hanging fire and it may be consummated at any moment. Who the new player is must be kept a secret.

The fact that Tooley will play here was definitely decided on yesterday, when a muddle was cleared up by the St. Louis National League Club waiving on Bert. It appears that there was some kind of a mistake made in obtaining National League waivers on Tooley.

The announcement was made that Tooley would join the Tigers before the Cardinals and Braves had waived on the shortfielder. Stallings was asked to go through the fomality, but refused at first, declaring, it is alleged, that he would give $3,500 for Tooley. He was induced to waive after political persuasion was brought to bear on him.

Miller Huggins was most persistent and finally agreed to let Tooley go after Harry Smith had a long-distance confab with Huggins on a direct connection between Newark and St. Louis.

Manager Smith has practically given up hope of obtaining Kirkpatrick, now that Stallings has waived on Tooley. He fears that the Braves' boss would never allow Enos to go.

CHESTERS ARRANGING GAMES

Ready to Fill Dates With Strongest Local Aggregations.

The Chester Athletic Club Baseball team is arranging its schedule for 1913 and would like to arrange a series of games with all strong uniformed teams in the city and state. The Chesters will put the fastest team that has ever represented the club on the field this year. Manager Staab has secured the pick of the fastest teams in the state, including Anderson, the Polytechnic star; Conrad, of the Walbrook Stars; Vance, of the Virginia League; Karolus, of Westbrooks, and Schiefer, of West Forrest Park. The rest of the team will be picked from H. Hohman, Lauskey, Heim, Vogel, Phillips brothers and Heller. For games communicate at once with Secretary William C. Wilhelm, 628 North Chester street.

MAKE OFFER FOR LAJOIE

Yanks' Owner Would Part With a Neat Sum to Get Larry.

Special Dispatch to The American.

New York, January 18.—Despite the positive announcement of Manager Birmingham, of the Naps, that Larry Lajoie, the star second-sacker, will be kept there until his playing days are over, Frank Farrell, owner of the New York Americans, today opened negotiations for the Frenchman.

In a day or two a deal will be put through by which Hugh McBreen will sell a half interest in the Jersey City Club to a New York man. Terms were practically agreed upon yesterday, but there was nothing for publication. Pending the sale of McBreen's stock the affairs of the club are at a standstill. President James J. Lillis, who also owns a half interest, will sign Manager Schlafly as soon as McBreen steps out. The Jersey City team will train in Bermuda with the New Yorks, but will not leave Jersey until about March 5. McBreen, formerly secretary of the Boston Red Sox, purchased his Jersey City stock a year ago, but he was disappointed with the venture, for the club lost money in 1912. It is said that McBreen will receive about $15,000 for his holdings.

Chicago, January 18.—Charles W. Murphy, owner of the Chicago Cubs, has announced that all newspaper men who accompany the team on its trips this season will have to observe the "antidrink" rule.

New York, January 18.—Russell Ford, Bert Daniels, Harry Wolter and Jack Lelivelt have signed contracts to play with the New Yorks under Frank Chance's leadership this year. Jack Warhop signed a week ago, and Charley Sterrett, the Princeton College boy, will line up with the others, probably today.

Two months from Friday Ganzel's Hustlers will have pitched camp at Anniston, Ala. The players are due to report there on Sunday, the 16th, just a month to a day before the Hustlers are scheduled to open the season at Baltimore.

All the players of the New York Americans are delighted that Chance is to lead them next season, and especially Hal Chase, who is quoted by his friends as expressing great satisfaction over the coming of the Peerless Leader. Chase and Chance are both Californians, and each realizes the ability of the other. Chance has seen Chase play and knows what he can do. The only Hal will be of material assistance to Chance next season, not only as a player, but because of his intimate knowledge of the other clubs of the American League.

Some are already predicting that the whole American League fight in 1913 will center in the East, with Chance, Stahl, Mack and Griffith furnishing the excitement. It is a little early to say how Chance's team will line up, but the impression seems to be growing that the great leader will get back into the game, and with Chance at first this would give him the opportunity of utilizing the wonderful ability of Hal Chase in some other position.

Players as Actors and Writers.

Frank Farrell, president of the Highlanders, is not in favor of ball players posing as actors or baseball writers. Farrell thinks Roger Bresnahan had the right idea when he said he would not take money for making a fool of himself on the stage. Farrell thinks if a ball player desires to become a scribe or an actor for good, and works up business on his reputation as a ball player, well and good.

"Of course, some baseball men are good on the stage," said Farrell, "but the majority of their acts are dull and uninteresting to persons who do not understand baseball. As for the writing done by players, everybody knows the majority of players do not write the articles which appear under their names, and I do not believe in it. Many arguments have resulted between players about articles which players are supposed to have written about other players, when in reality some newspaper man wrote the stories.

"Do not think, however, I am finding fault with such men as McGraw or Mathewson, who have been making money on the stage and by writing. As long as the practice is permissable I do not blame them for getting all they can. I am not opposed to any individuals, but am opposed to the general principle of the thing.

"I think sooner or later the ball player-actor and ball player-writer will die out. It has developed into a fad in the last few years, but like all fads it will die out, and some of the players who have profited the most by writing and acting are the ones who will help to kill it."

PITCHER WILTSE MAY PLAY FIRST

VETERAN GIANT ONE OF BEST FIELDING HURLERS.

When Hooks Finds He Can No Longer Deceive the Batsmen With His Southpaw Floaters He Expects to Go to the Initial Bag, and, Being a Swell Hitter, Should Easily Make Good.

BY SAM CRANE.

Pitchers Wiltse and Kirby have signed to play with the Giants the coming season. Their contracts were received by Secretary Foster at the headquarters of the club, in the Fifth Avenue Building, New York, yesterday.

"Hooks" is no holdout. He was pleased enough to sign at the salary offered him and hustled the contract on with as little delay as conforms to the dignity of a veteran who does not want to give the idea that he was tickled almost to death to affix his signature to the document.

He did not have what could be called a blooming season last year, and still he was not a "bloomer." He had one of his bad years, but he has the happy faculty of coming back when least expected, and 1913 may be his lucky year.

Wiltse has the deserved reputation of being the best fielding pitcher in the business and, whether he is pitching winning ball or not, he still holds his end up in covering bunts, reaching up for and stopping high, hard-hit bounders that boxmen who do not have his long reach and pluck sing: "We never speak as we pass by," as the scooters and sizzlers shoot past the box.

Wants to Play First.

"Hooks" has aspirations to play first base whenever the time comes that he is put on the shelf as a pitcher, and, as I have mentioned before in these columns, he would make some of the first basemen who are now considered stars in the position, hustle like fun to outplay him in ability to cover ground and as a sure catch.

George is as active and nimble as the proverbial flea, and, naturally, his batting would vastly improve if he played every day. He hit away above .300 last season, and that is evidence—or should be, anyhow—that he would be a very valuable man at bat in case he was shifted from the box to some other position. He ought to become a fairly good base runner also, for there is nothing like a welcome change to renew the good old pepper in a veteran boxman.

Pitchers who have made good in other positions—stars, in fact—are without end in the long history of baseball, many of the most noted batsmen and fielders having graduated from the "mound." Cy Seymour being one, who, after going into the outfield, led the National League in batting, and there are others who have by their natural hitting ability, that was latent while they were pitchers, developed to remarkable brilliancy.

Now, Wiltse has all the earmarks of being a splendid fielder outside of the box, and there is no telling how high a mark he would attain as both fielder and batter should his lines be placed elsewhere than on the "hill." It would be worth while to give him a tryout at first base if the opportunity arises and Manager McGraw is not the man who will refuse to take a chance on what he considers a good gamble.

He Knows the Game.

Wiltse will not have youth in his favor, but he knows the game from all angles and what to do with the ball in an emergency.

With the ambition imbued in his mind that he can become a fielder in either the in or outfield, I should not be surprised to see George down in Marlin with the first bunch of youngsters, working his head off to get into condition.

Robertson has been mentioned as a possible candidate for the first base position with Merkle, but I am of the opinion that if his once strong southpaw wing that was injured in a football game, does not become strong enough for him to pitch during the training trip, that McGraw will groom him for the outfield.

Robertson is some hitter, one of those kind of left-handed swatters like Sam Crawford, Shulte and others, who take a toe-hold and with the tremendous power behind their broad shoulders, wallop the ball a mile, more or less. All last season McGraw predicted big things with the bat for Robertson, and he still has the same faith in his slugging ability.

Pitcher Kirby, from Traverse City, Mich., sent his contract on by parcel post, and the big bulk of the package gave one the idea that he had sent on a lengthy explanation of the $25,000 damage suit for breach of promise brought against him by a fair Michigan lass, but Secretary Foster denied this and said it was the young pitcher's record, together with some photographs, and contract. But Kirby has got something on Rube Marquard, anyhow, by not having gone on the stage That downfall or uplift, however you want to take it, may come next fall, for Kirby is sure out for a reputation the coming season—a pitching one. He said so through the parcel post.

BASEBALL AT PIKESVILLE

Yanigans Arranging a Series of Games With Strong Teams.

The Pikesville Yanigans, the star junior baseball team of Pikesville last season, has organized for the coming season and are arranging a series of important games with strong clubs. Inasmuch as Pikesville will be represented by the strong Yanigans this season, instead of the Pikesville Athletic Club team, as in former seasons, there will be more interest manifested in the team.

The team has elected the following officers: President of athletic association, E. Klohr; treasurer, Patrolman James E. Kleeman; T. E. Fields, secretary; P. Magruder, captain, and W. J. Foley, manager. Dr. E. E. Nicholas has been chosen as physician.

The baseball team is composed of Leonard Carver, Robert Corbett, Sterling Criswell, T. E. Fields, Oscar Stierholf, Patrick Magruder, captain; Edgar Klohr, Lee Cofiell, Harry Salter, Robert Finnegan, William Foley, manager; Paul Schmidt, Loraine Fields, Robert Shipley, Marmaduke Cox and William Carver. The athletic association is composed of the following: County Commissioner William F. Coghlan, T. J. Foley, William Foley, Sr., Charles K. Hahn, Edgar Belt, E. Warner, George Keyes, H. L. Parcell, D. L. Church, L. R. Ridgely, Harry A. Davis, Dr. H. A. Swartz, Harry Rupp, Guy Winchester, Clarence Crusey, John Lorowerger, James Kennedy, William Kennedy, Dr. W. P. E. Wyse, Dr. R. R. Merryman, Charles E. Troyer, P. Sadtler, J. Davis, A. Wierner, William Fisher and several others. The club grounds are located at Ralston, where a large grandstand will be erected.

Why Rush Baseball?

Somebody is everlastingly suggesting some scheme whereby baseball games will consume less time. Why the rush? Some baseball games are uninteresting because they are slow or one sided or something like that, but there always will be games of that sort. On the other hand, there are plenty of lively, close, interesting tussles, and fans don't bother about the time consumed if the play is spirited, keen and close. Unless they have to you don't see them becoming bored at extra inning games and getting up and leaving. They stay to the finish if they can, and if they do leave it isn't because the game is taking up extra time. The public doesn't relish players dawdling and wasting time, but it isn't making any frenzied howl to have the men rush through a contest, dash back and forth at top speed like sprinters. Baseball is a sport, a relaxation, and if it were carried through at high pressure all the time wouldn't be as enjoyable or beneficial as it is now. There's plenty of stirring action in the main without cutting out the breathing spaces and crowding and condensing the action into one continuous whirl.

Hank O'Day on Fence.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Chicago, January 18.—Hank O'Day, who failed as a big league manager at Cincinnati last season, has not yet made up his mind whether he'll go back to his old job as a National League umpire, or cast his lot with the American League. Hank once worked for Johnson when the latter was president of the Western League and he feels inclined to umpire for him again. Tom Lynch, the National League president, had a talk with O'Day before he left for New York and he was much surprised when he was obliged to part company with him without having his signed contract in his pocket. Hank says he will let the baseball world know on February 1 what he intends to do. He intimates there is a possibility that he won't umpire at all, but buy a block of stock in some minor league club and manage it as well.

Pitcher Ritchie Hurt.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Daytona, Fla., January 18.—While riding on a Daytona Beach automobile speedway, the motorcycle of Lew Ritchie, pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, encountered an obstruction and Ritchie was thrown from the machine and badly bruised. While Ritchie's injuries are not serious it is expected he will be sore for some time as a result of his tumble.

WINTER LEAGUE BASEBALL DOPE

SHAFER RETURNS UNSIGNED CONTRACT TO GIANTS.

SNODGRASS NOT SENT PAPER

Christy Mathewson, of New York, and Eddie Plank, of Mack's Athletics, Are the Veterans of the Firing Line in the Big Leagues. Morris Rath, ex-Oriole, Signs a Contract With the Chicago White Sox.

Los Angeles, Cal., January 18.—Art Shafer, utility infielder for the New York Nationals, mailed an unsigned contract today to Manager McGraw, despite the fact that it contained a substantial raise in salary. Shafer said he believed the automobile business paid better than baseball, but added that if McGraw "came through" he might reconsider his determination to quit.

Fred Snodgrass, the outfielder, has not received a contract yet.

Thirteen years ago this budding spring two young ballplayers left two small Pennsylvania townships for the big show. One went to New York from Factoryville, Pa., the other from Gettysburg. Today they are the oldest veterans, from the viewpoint of service, under the big tent. One is Christy Mathewson. The other is Eddie Plank.

With the vanishing of Jack Powell this pair will face the 1913 series as the veterans of the firing line.

Are they still there? Well, in 1912 Plank won 26 games and lost six with a team which finished in third place. He was headed off by the dazzling record of Wood alone.

Mathewson won 23 games and lost 12, but ranked second in his league from the standpoint of effectiveness under the new Heydler system.

So when the last campaign closed out the two veterans were several laps from being through, and for 1913, despite their long range of servitude, will be depended upon to lead the defensive play in two flag-contending fights.

In these 13 years Mathewson has pitched 458 games and Plank has spun out 453, a difference of but five games.

Mathewson has won 314 games and lost 144; Plank has won 298 games and lost 137. Mathewson's total pitching percentage is .680; Plank's, .678. Mathewson has helped win four pennants and one world series; Plank has helped win four pennants and two world series.

And now both are ready to make a bid for their fifth flag.

There has been a wild outcry as to whether Waddell, Rucker, Marquard or Gregg was the greatest of all southpaws. Ed Plank has given all four something to shoot at.

After 12 years' work this veteran was Mack's only regular who stuck by the guns. Back in 1905 he fell before the Giant rush, and six years later, in another world series, he stood them on their heads.

While Plank and Matty swung into big league action about the same time, Matty a trifle in advance, the Athletic sidewheeler is five years older than the Giant star, and must be ranked as one of the wonders of the pit. Thirteen years of it, and still able to win 26 out of 32 starts for a percentage above .800!

St. Paul, Minn., January 18.—William Brennan, umpire, today signed and mailed to President Lynch, of the National Baseball League, his contract for 1913. It is understood that the contract provides an increase of $1,000 over Brennan's salary last year.

Chicago, January 18.—Morris Rath, the White Sox regular second baseman, today wired the glad news to Manager Callahan that his baseball contract, duly signed, was on its journey Chicagoward in a mail car. Rath is one player Comiskey secured through draft process who made good in the major league. He was drafted from Baltimore, where he played great ball. He led the American League second basemen last year.

Larry Pape, the pitcher purchased by Buffalo from the Boston Americans, is a youngster, but has had three years' experience in major league company. He started with the Milwaukee Club, of the American Association, in 1907, and was drafted by the Boston Americans and has been with the club ever since. He is a giant in stature. He was used but little by the Red Sox last year, for with Wood, Collins, O'Brien, Bedient and Hall going in fine shape, he had little opportunity of getting a chance in the box, much less a regular turn at work. He was used for the most part to pitch to the Red Sox batters, and by this means was always kept in fine shape.

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