YANKEES SEEKING TO PLUCK THE GEORGIA PEACH FROM JENNINGS'S TREE

YANKEES MAY GET COBB IN BIG DEAL

Huggins Holds Conference with Detroit Owner in Attempt to Make Trade.

TIGERS SEEKING PITCHERS

Local Club Has Players Needed by Jennings, Which May Bring Georgia Peach Here.

A prolonged whispering discussion between Manager Miller Huggins of the Yankees and President Frank Navin of the Detroit Club caused a flurry among the baseball men assembled at the Hotel Wolcott yesterday and started the sensational report that Ty Cobb might be tempted to wear a Yankee uniform next season.

Huggins and Navin were very much in earnest during the long confab and after it was over both refused to mention the names of any players talked about during the conversation. That the lure of good pitchers, which Detroit needs badly, and a substantial money temptation on the side, would persuade Detroit to part with the Peerless Peach of Georgia is not at all out of the question.

Stranger things have happened in baseball. It was once predicted that if Tris Speaker was sold by the Boston Red Sox the club would go to pieces; but it didn't. Fans insisted that the Phillies would not dare part with Alexander; but they did. It used to be treason even to hint that McGraw would ever let Christy Mathewson go; but that came about without leaving any ill feelings.

Of course, Cobb is practically the whole Detroit club as far as drawing crowds to the gate is concerned; but Cobb's bat, without the proper kind of pitching, does not bring pennants to Detroit. Detroit is just as badly in need of pitchers as the Yankees are in need of batsmen, and no two clubs are in a position to make a trade which would be of such mutual benefit.

That Cobb's name had been mentioned Huggins would not admit after the secret conference, but he stated that he was after a prominent outfielder. "We are negotiating to land two outfielders," said Huggins, "and Clarence Walker is one of them. I am not at liberty to give the name of the other man we are after, but I can tell you he is a great player, and if we are able to put the deal through it is going to be a pleasant surprise for New York fans."

That Huggins is after Cobb or one of the other Detroit outfielders seems pretty certain. Bobby Veach or Harry Heilman may figure in a deal if the Tigers refuse to part with Cobb. Jennings has said many times that he would not part with his great player, but Cobb has been the star attraction in Detroit for many seasons, and the best of attractions will tire a local public in the course of time.

The fact that the relations between Cobb and other players on the Detroit club are not harmonious lends substantial value to the rumor. Recently Sam Crawford was let out by Detroit, and he made a number of statements which showed that Cobb was not liked by the Detroit players. Crawford stated that Cobb, and not Jennings, was the real manager of the club, and ran things to suit himself. Crawford hinted that Cobb had outlived his usefulness to the Detroit team because he was a disorganizing influence on the team.

While the addition of Walker would add to the Yankees' batting strength, Manager Huggins realizes that he needs a better hitter than the Boston player to be able to keep up with Chicago and Boston in the American League race.

Huggins left town last night, and said he was going to Cincinnati for a week or ten days. It is believed that one of his objects in going away is to visit Detroit and see if he can put through a deal which, if it materializes, may be the means of putting the Yankees in the pennant race. It is also stated that Huggins will visit Gettysburg before he returns, and will try to persuade Eddie Plank to change his mind and join the Yankees this Spring.

Plank is badly needed by the Yankees, not only as a pitcher but also as an adviser and coach. No player knows American League batters and methods as Plank does, and his long experience as a player under Mack and an aid to the tall tactician will make him an invaluable coach for Huggins, who is not yet thoroughly acquainted with American League methods.

The settlement between the Brooklyn, Newark, and Pittsburgh Clubs of the Federal League and Organized Ball was effected at a meeting between officials and attorneys at a meeting held at National League headquarters yesterday. When peace was declared between the major leagues and the outlaw league late in 1914, Organized Ball agreed to reimburse the three clubs named for their losses in payments for the rental of their baseball parks in Newark, Brooklyn, and Pittsburgh.

While the exact terms of the settlements will not be announced until the attorneys for the parties concerned have worked out the details of the method of payment, the general terms of the settlement were that Edward W. Gwinner of Pittsburgh was to receive $10,000 for a period of five years, amounting to $50,000; Harry F. Sinclair, owner of the Newark Club and the Federal League park in Harrison, N. J., was to receive rental of $10,000 a year for ten years, amounting to $100,000, while the Wards of Brooklyn, who invested most of the money which was sunk in the Federal League venture, were to receive $10,000 a year for a term of twenty years, amounting to $200,000.

These parks now become the property of Organized Ball, and a committee representing both the National and American Leagues will soon meet to decide on the disposition of the property. It is believed that Washington Park, in Brooklyn, will be sold, and that apartment houses will be built on the site after the city puts a street through the property. The park at Harrison may be retained by the major leagues, and at some future time they may decide to play Sunday games there.

Those who attended the meeting were President John K. Tener of the National League, H. N. Hempstead of the New York Club, John A. Heydler, Secretary of the National League; President Ban Johnson of the American League, Frank J. Navin of Detroit, William Harridge, secretary to President Johnson; Joan Conway Toole, attorney for Organized Ball, and James E. Hindman of Pittsburgh, attorney for the Federal League interests.

No mention was made in the statement after the meeting concerning the suit of the Baltimore Federal League Club, which has held up the negotiations since 1915. It is understood, however, that counsel for the Brooklyn, Newark, and Pittsburgh Clubs have given assurance that the Baltimore suit will be withdrawn. Baltimore sued Organized Ball for $900,000 damages, on the charge of conspiracy. A similar suit had been previously brought, but on June 15, 1917, it was voluntarily withdrawn by the Baltimore plaintiffs, after which another suit was brought in Washington.

Frank J. O'Rourke, who covered third base part of the time for Brooklyn last season, signed his contract yesterday. This season O'Rourke will have a rival for the position in Chuck Ward, who was obtained from Pittsburgh. Manager Robinson figures on Daubert at first, Ollie O'Mara at second, Olson at short and Ward or O'Rourke at third.

The latest holdouts of the Cardinals are Cruise and Long, the two outfielders, who have refused to accept the cut in salary made by President Branch Rickey. As Jack Smith refused to sign his contract a few weeks ago, the entire Cardinal outfield is now in a state of rebellion.

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