

**SPORTING COMMENT AND KINDRED SUBJECTS**

(Continued from Page Six.)

as the Athletics, New York and Boston ahead of it and all going at a winning clip.

From present indications it looks as if there was an excellent chance of the American league race being won by an eastern team. The Athletics are running a race that will be hard to beat, but New York is sticking pretty close, and the Bostonians are playing in great form. With these three teams in such grand shape Detroit does not look to have a chance at present, but Jennings' crew have been further back than they are now and won out. They still have a chance to repeat unless the other three clubs continue their winning career.

Of the Athletics, New York and Boston, the former appears the strongest, and if Mack's pitchers hold out and no accidents occur to weaken the infield the Athletics have a splendid chance to capture their third championship pennant.

The American league race looks like a close contest to the finish, and the team with the staying qualities will win out.

The National league race is almost as big a problem to solve as the American. Chicago looks to have the best chance at present, but New York is making a great fight, and the Pirates have at last shown something of their last season's form. The Giants have been playing in and out ball, however, and with a pitching staff that cannot be relied upon outside of Matthewson, McGraw's clan appears to have a contract on its hands that it can hardly fill.

By bolstering up his pitching staff Frank Chance put the Cubs in the running again, and the team's hitting strength and ability to play inside baseball make it a strong choice for the pennant. Weakness in the box has practically kept the Pirates out of the race so far this season, but with a half season to go the Pirates may make a strong finish, and if the pitchers regain their form Chicago and New York will have to keep hustling to bar the Pirates out of first place.

New York's weakness so far has been against second division teams, Boston and Brooklyn throwing several jolts into the Giants' aspirations.

**HE GREETED THE CZAR.**

Experience of Nicholas II. With a Parisian Street Arab.

On one of his visits to Paris Nicholas II. was left alone for a moment in his carriage. The czar was delighted at the feeling of freedom and ease. Looking out of the window with all the zest of a schoolboy playing truant, he saw before him one of those picturesque street arabs who seem to sprout between the paving stones of Paris. This particular specimen, seated against the railing, with his nose in the air, was whistling the refrain of the Russian national hymn. Suddenly their eyes met. The street boy sprang to his feet. He had never seen the emperor, but he had seen his photograph, and the likeness was striking.

"Suppose it is Nicholas?" he said to himself, greatly puzzled.

He resolved to make sure without delay. Walking up to within a yard of the carriage and bobbing his head, he shouted in a hoarse voice to the unknown foreigner:

"How's the empress?"

Picture his satisfaction—for, in fact, he thought that it was only a good joke—when the stranger replied, with a smile:

"Thank you, the empress is very well and is delighted with her journey."

The boy lost his tongue. He stared at the speaker in dismay and then, raising his cap, stalked away slowly, very slowly, to mark his dignity.

Nicholas II. afterward often amused himself by scandalizing the formal set around him with the story of this private interview with a true Parisian.—McClure's Magazine.

**A SERIOUS PLAY.**

The Author Was Willing, Though, to Turn It into a Comedy.

The gallery god, no less than the patron of the padded chair, aspires to write for the stage. I have a vivid remembrance of the first of all the plays submitted for production at the New theater in New York. It was from an employee in a local railroad station, probably a baggage man, and I shall betray no confidence in recording that the author's name was Murphy.

Though Mr. Murphy called his work a play, it was in reality only a scenario. It was entitled "Jim's Wife." The plot was as follows: In the first act Jim had no wife, but he took his girl to a dance. Action—They danced. In act second came the "great scene." The scene was caused by the fact that Jim's girl danced with another man. Jim felt impelled to kill him, but he refrained, reflecting that such things did not occur in the best circles and would thus be socially displeasing to his lady. The curtain fell on his act of self sacrifice in not killing the other

dancer. In act third there was still more action. Jim's girl rewarded him for his delicacy by marrying him. Final curtain.

Mr. Murphy seemed weighed down by a fear that his play was too serious for the New theater. In his letter he said: "If you would rather have it a comedy I will send you the jokes. I have a few jokes too."—John Corbin in World's Work.

**Heels to Match Walk.**

"In every theater audience there are critical persons who are prolific with suggestions for making the play more realistic," said a stage manager. "Some of these hints are worth considering too. In one play that was staged not long ago the biggest hit was made by a character actress who had to wear down-at-the-heel shoes. On the third day of the New York run I received a letter from a shoemaker, who called my attention to the fact that the woman's gait and her shoes did not match. Her heels were run down on the outside, whereas the walk she assumed on the stage must inevitably cause her shoes to run over on the inside. That was a point that had escaped the notice of everybody in the company. Upon looking into the matter we found plenty of evidence to uphold our critic, and we secured a pair of property shoes with heels worn away on the inside."—New York Press.

**Sporting Notes.**

The Boston Yacht club has 784 members.

Prizes aggregating over \$250,000 are offered for aviation meets throughout the country.

The newly formed National Athletic Union of England will cater to both the amateur and professional athletes.

The log of the power cruiser Caroline, a contestant in the recent Philadelphia to Havana race, shows the best day's run as 193.5 miles.

**Short Stories.**

Street letter boxes were first erected in March, 1855.

In strong contrast to the many hot water geysers of Yellowstone park a new one ejects ice cold water.

The Charleston (S. C.) Bible society, which was organized in 1810, six years before the American Bible society, recently celebrated its centennial.

The United States government has spent more than \$250,000,000 for the improvement of inland navigation and more than \$40,000,000 for irrigation.

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**FRUIT**—Oranges, 50c per dozen; lemons, 45c per dozen; bananas, 40c per doz.; cherries, 25 to 35c per gal.; red raspberries, 2 boxes for 25c; blackberries, 2 boxes for 25c water-melons 3c lb.; cantaloupes, 10 and 15c lb.; peaches, 10c lb.; plums, 10c lb.  
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**Portland Markets**  
**BUTTER**—Extra Creamery, 33c; store 24 @ 24 1-2.  
**BUTTER FAT**—Delliver f. o. b. at Portland, sw cream 31 1-2; sour 29 1-2.  
**EGGS**—Local, candied, 24 @ 27c.  
**POULTRY**—Mx. chickens 16@16 1-2; 7c; fancy, 17 1-2 cents; turkeys alive, 20 & 21; pigeons squabs, \$2.50; dressed chickens, 1 to 2c higher than alive.  
**BARLEY**—Producers price, 1910; Feed, \$23; rolled, \$25; brewing, \$24.  
**WHEAT**—Nominal—track, club, 90c; bluestem 88c; Willamette valley 86 & 87c.  
**MILLSTUFFS**—Selling price—Bran \$20; middlings, \$29; shorts, \$21; chop, \$19@25.  
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