

BALL SEASON OPENS IN THE SOUTH STATES

(By Associated Press)

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Heralding the approach of spring and another campaign, advance caravans of nearly all of the sixteen major league baseball clubs now are on their way south for the annual conditioning process. Training camps, scattered in lands of the palm tree and casita from Florida to California, Calif., will be in full swing for all of the clubs by the second week of March.

For the veterans, the next six weeks or so of conditioning and exhibition pastime will mean shedding excess pounds acquired during the winter lay-off and limbering up for competition with eager and ambitious recruits, hundreds of whom will strive for big league positions for the first time in their careers.

This rivalry for regular berths promises to be especially keen among several clubs going through a marked process of reorganization, including the Cleveland and Boston Americans, and the Brooklyn, Chicago and St. Louis Nationals.

Interest among fans is centered largely in the prospects of the New York Giants and Yankees repeating their triumphs of the past two seasons in the face of increasing strength among several of their more dangerous rivals.

While they are not discounting the opposition they will encounter this year, Managers McGraw, of the Giants, and Huggins, of the Yankees, are confident their teams will keep the National and American League pennants in the same city for the third straight year.

Both clubs declare their teams will be decidedly stronger, although they plan relatively little rebuilding. The Pittsburgh Pirates, in McGraw's opinion, loom as the club the Giants must eliminate to stay at the top of the heap, while the Yankee leader expects his strongest battle from Ty Cobb's Detroit Tigers, Cincinnati, in the National, and St. Louis, in the American, are picked as the next strongest contenders by the metropolitan club managers.

McGraw has announced that he will stand pat on his 1922 championship lineup, with the possible exception of centerfield, devoting most of his attention to bolstering weaknesses in the pitching staff which nearly cost the club the pennant last year. Jimmy O'Connell, \$75,000 "phenom" from San Francisco, is expected to fill the berth in midfield, but McGraw will give the veteran Casey Stengel, whose comeback was a sensation last year, and Bill Cunningham an opportunity to contest for the job with the coast youngster.

Jack Bentley, another expensive acquisition, is expected to add considerable strength to the pitching corps. Bentley started both as a portable flinger and slinger with the Baltimore Orioles for several years, but his work with the champions will be confined to the mound, according to McGraw. The Giant leader has a dozen or more recruits from whom he hopes to weed out another twirling star. He also looks for decided improvement from his veterans—Hugh McQuillan, Jack Scott, Art Nehf and Jess Barnes—besides greater effectiveness from younger moundmen like Bill Ryan, Claude Jondard and Virgil Barnes.

Pittsburgh's veteran and hard-hitting aggregation, in McGraw's belief, will prove a formidable obstacle, under the leadership of Bill McKechnie, who took the Pirates helm around mid-season last year and developed the club into a dangerous contender in the closing month of the campaign.

Cincinnati, reorganized with a brilliant young infield and good pitching, also figures strongly in McGraw's calculations, while the Chicago Cubs, with a pitching staff above the ordinary, promise to be worth watching.

Huggins bases much of his confidence in 1923 prospects upon his belief that the Yankee pitching staff, the deciding factor in last year's race, will be even more consistent this year and that Babe Ruth, if he returns to 1921 form, will bolster the morale and attacking strength of the club.

The diminutive pilot figures Carl Mays and Sam Jones, whose pitching was a disappointment last year, will flash old-time form, while Bob Shawkey and Joe Bush, 1922 mainstays, will be more effective than ever. Ruth's determination to regain the home-run hitting laurels he lost last year has been demonstrated by the strict program of conditioning to which he adhered during the winter on his Massachusetts farm.

The Tigers, formidable last season, will be much stronger, according to the Yankee view, as a result of the acquisition of Del Pratt, veteran second baseman, and Rip Collins, south-paw twirler, from the Red Sox in exchange for Howard Ehmke, pitcher. Cobb has an unusual array of heavy hitters, flanked by a promising corps of young pitchers—a combination which will be hard to keep from the top.

The St. Louis Browns, unless they are strengthened in several positions, are not rated as high as last year, when they finished just a game behind the Yankees in a thrilling finish, nor as dangerous as the Tigers.

The Chicago White Sox, with a team that developed fast last year and boasted a brilliant string of young pitchers, and Connie Mack's Athletics, who are about due to emerge from the depths, may figure prominently in this season's pennant chase.

There is a rumor that boots may again come into fashion, plain or Morocco leathers. If so, those old patriots who have worn boots all along will feel vindicated.

PRODUCTION OF TIMBER LOWER

A general reduction in production, as a result of severe weather, featured the lumber industry last week, says the American Lumberman, Chicago. The industry throughout the Pacific northwest and the Inland Empire was paralyzed as a result of heavy snowfalls, freezing weather and blizzards. As that whole section was blanketed by two to ten feet of snow, logging camps were closed down everywhere. It may require a long time before this snow is cleared away and the woods are dried out enough to become passable, so a log shortage is threatening. Transportation also was actively demoralized, stopping shipments. Reports from the west coast intimate that it probably will be some weeks before the lumber industry there can again attain normal in all departments.

Production has also been reduced in the southern hardwood and pine producing territories as a result of severe heavy rains, and floods, while North Carolina pine and other southern mills are similarly handicapped.

Demand for all the principal woods meanwhile remains strong, exceeding normal by a good margin and being greatly in excess of output. On account of the heavily overbooked condition of the mills, which has caused many of them to withdraw wholly from the market and most of the others to accept only such business as they have definite prospects.

of being able to ship, it is becoming increasingly difficult to place orders. Unfilled orders Feb. 9 at mills subscribing to the Southern Pine association totaled 2,449,225 feet per mill, or the equivalent of five and one-half weeks' production at the rate then current. Unfilled orders at 127 mills associated with the West Coast Lumbermen's association exceeded 700,000,000 feet, equal to eight weeks' of normal output.

Prices are generally steady at the levels recently established, but several scarce and popular items, especially in softwoods have shown further advances as a result of the interference with production by bad weather, so that the upward tendency is still strongly in evidence. Unless a prompt resumption of normal operations becomes possible, higher prices all around appear likely, as demand, besides rapidly cleaning up surplus stocks, is accumulating.

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INFANT WHISTLES

(By Associated Press)

VANCOUVER, Wash., Feb. 27.—Little Norma Aileen Howard, who celebrated her first birthday a few days ago, has attracted much attention because of her ability to whistle. She has been whistling for three months. While she whistles no tune, her tones are clear and bell-like. The baby began to whistle without training on the part of her parents.

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Following a custom that has proven satisfactory, and fair to all, charity work in the county has centered in the Red Cross, and each year a single drive is made for funds to maintain the work, which is handled in a scientific and skillful manner, preventing duplication and overlapping that formerly existed. You give once only during the year to this community work, so please be ready when the Red Cross solicitors call, and give what you feel like giving to this most worthy cause.

Bishop W. P. Remington Will Deliver The Opening Red Cross Community Charity
Sermon In The Methodist Church Sunday Evening.
Hear What The Bishop Has To Say Relative To This Work