SPORTS OF THE DAY

EWING WORKS TO GET NORTH TOWNS

Coast League President Would Entice Seattle and Tacoma Into Fold.

GAMBLING ELEMENT IS ENCROACHING ON GAME

Low Browed Touts Desert Race Track and Seek Corner of Bleachers to Make Bets on Baseball—Pop Van Haltren Shaves.

By Will J. Slattery.

San Francisco, July 18.—The Pacific Coast Baseball league has now entered upon a new era with the admission of Sacramento and Venice into the fold. The six-club circuit for next season is assured, but still conditions are far from being ideal and it is very likely indeed that the fans of Portland will be among the first to complain ere the season of 1909 is many weeks on its way.

From the standpoint of the northern fans there is too much California in the present circuit. Five southern cities and but one lonesome northern city is far from being equal representation. Everything looks fine and rosy for the southern magnates and the California admirers of the national pastime, but the Portland people are still to be reckoned with.

President J. Cal Ewing is laboring under the impression that he will be able to entice Seattle and Tacoma into the fold and thus make an eight-club circuit out of it, comprising five California cities, two from Washington and one from Oregon. This would be more businesslike and practical, but still there are many obstacles to be overcome before the dream of the big magnate has been realized, and from what the Seattle people say now, it never will come to pass.

There is no question but the new circuit will be a profitable one and a great attraction in California. The men behind the Venice and Sacramento clubs are all good sports and true with plenty of money to go right to the mat and give the fans the sort of baseball which they demand. Ed Kripp, the Sacramento manager, used to run the capital city team in the old California league some seven or eight years ago. He ran it up to the time that Henry Harris got busy and made a magnate out of Mike Fisher. Kripp made good money in baseball and this is the reason why he wants to get back into the game again.

Though a gambler by occupation and the owner of a couple of race track books and many fast horses, Kripp is one of the most bitter enemies that baseball gambling has. This may sound strange to the average fan, but nevertheless it is true. Purity of the diamond is one of Kripp's hobbies. In the old days here he made more trouble for the gamblers than all the other magnates combined and practically succeeded in running them out of Sacramento when they threatened to wreck the sport in that city.

Mayor Harper of Los Angeles is one of the strong men behind the new Venice club. Harper is an old-time sport and admirer of the American game. He holds a block of stock in the Los Angeles club and is a great fan. Jim Jeffries, the great undefeated champion of them all, is also in with a little bundle. Like Harper, he has a piece of the Los Angeles club. The newcomers have plenty of money behind them and there is no reason in the world why they should not make the game go.

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While the magnates are devoting all their efforts at present toward perfecting the new circuit it is very likely that they will shortly have a difficult task on their hands coping with the gamblers who now infest the San Francisco and Oakland parks. Little by little these corrupters of the game have forged ahead till now they have become a potent factor of the game here and across the bay.

The league officials announced at the opening of the season that they would put the crusher on the first man caught making a bet on the outcome of a game of ball. The press was behind Ewing and the other powers of the league and their determined stand seemed to frighten the gamblers who laid very low for a month, hardly daring to show themselves.

But little by little they became more bold. They commenced by making private bets of a few dollars among themselves in a secluded portion of the bleachers. Finding that everything worked well, the gamblers became more cheeky till at the present time they congregate in portions of the grandstand and bleechers and openly invite allcomers to step up and make a little bet on the outcome of the game.

These men bet as high as $500 on a single game. There are four or five regular bookmaking men who place money for everybody on the regulation commission of 5 per cent on every dollar. They will take anything that is slipped to them. The odds vary from even money to 10 to 6 and 7 and thousands of dollars change hands every day in the betting ring.

Since the racetrack has closed down the baseball betters have been in their element. It may sound rather strange to the fans of Portland, but it is true that several hundred touts and hangers-on at the races made a few dollars on the ponies during the winter have remained here to play the ball games instead of taking another whirl at the ring in Seattle. These fellows are the most vicious type of gamblers. They overlook no bets and if the present state of affairs continues it will not be at all surprising if some of these low browed touts get to many of the weaker ball players and induce them to toss games.

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Mike Fisher, the windy manager, who formerly handled the championship Tacoma nine, is perfecting his plans for taking the American stars to the orient at the close of the present series. Backed by Jesse Woods, the wealthy Honolulu hotel man, Mike started this talk when he returned from his successful trip to Honolulu and the island towns last winter. Everybody thought that it was a bum at first, but now that Fisher and Woods have made reservations on the magnificent steamer Manchuria, which is billed to sail for the far east on November 1, the trip looks about in.

By dint of much talk and cheap advertising Mike has succeeded in interesting all the National league and American league stars in the trip. Right now he is in receipt of letters from Ty Cobb, Napoleon La Joie, Rube Waddell and Christy Mathewson, asking for places on the team. It is likely that Philly will lose Cobb and La Joie. He hasn't found a fit when Waddell sent in his application, for Mike is jerry to the Rube and never wants to lay an eye on him again if he can possibly still it.

The probable lineup of the star team will be: Catchers, Ruse of St. Louis Nationals, Berry of San Francisco; pitchers, Overall of Cubs, Burns of Washington, Henley of San Francisco; infielders, La Joie of Cleveland, Chance of the Cubs, Delehanty of Washington, Zelder of San Francisco; outfielders, Hildebrand of San Francisco, Cobb of Detroit, Jiggs Donahue of White Sox and Hal Chase.

This will be one sweet ball team and it gives promise of getting a lot of money in the far east. The players simply go for the trip. All their expenses are paid, but they receive none of the profits, which are shared by Woods and Fisher. Woods is now in the Orient booking the team. It will play in all the large cities of Japan, China and the Philippines and on its way home will stop over two weeks in Honolulu.

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The Oakland fans have been raising an awful howl lately at the way their team has been playing ball. They sure have a wail coming for the work of the Commuters have been about class Q for the last month or more. Always a good baseball town, Oakland is beginning to show a great falling off in interest lately and Captain Van Haltren and President Ed Walter have been striving desperately to get hold of a few live players who may put the nine on its feet again.

Bill Miller, the new infielder, is on the job, but thus far Van Haltren has not quite decided where he shall play him. However, when the Oaks show in the north this week the Portland fans likely will see a newly reorganized team in action, though most of the old players will be on the job.

Pitcher Harry Nelson, the big Alameda southpaw, has not proved such a find as the Oakland fans expected he would. Nelson went against Los Angeles in three games thus far and every time he started the champions hammered his shoots to the remote corners of the lot. Nelson was pounded so hard that he had to be taken out each time.

Southpaw Killian, the pitcher who was given to Mobile, Alabama, in exchange for Nelson, is still sticking around. He refused to go to the southern league for the reason that he has not been offered salary enough. Killian tried to get on with the outlaw organization here but failed to land. He has been pitching for independent teams in and around this city.

Old "Pa" Van Haltren has shaved off his moustache for the first time in about 20 years and he looks awful. The fans kidded Van so strong that the old boy's pride was stung to the quick and now he is again nursing the brush and the chances are that it will be in full bloom once more when he lands in Portland with the team next week. Though the oldest man in organized baseball, Van Haltren is playing a better game right now than any others of the Oakland team.

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The town is again flooded with pugilistic celebrities and they are all clamoring for a chance to get at one another. Just look over the list of the heavyweight stars. Battling Nelson, the new champion, Joe Gans, the fallen idol, Packy McFarland, who has hopes, and Freddie Welch of England, one of the cleverest of them all. You cannot pass along the street at night without bumping into one of them, with the possible exception of Gans, who took to the woods a few days ago.

McFarland is hoping against hope that the proposed Gans-Nelson mill at Ely, Nevada, on Labor day will never be pulled off. He is pining for a crack at the champion. Like all the others, he promises to make a monkey out of the Battler and like the rest of them he is figuring without the consent of Nelson, who has now gone down the line and cleaned everybody.

McFarland's dream may possibly be realized at that. Tex Rickard, the Nevada promoter, has not yet made good with all of his first $10,000 guarantee for the $30,000 purse and unless he comes through within the next few days negotiations will be called off and then McFarland stands a good chance of getting on with Nelson here on Admission day, September 9.

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Gans has taken the advice of Jeffries and hied himself to Harbin Springs, one of the wildest and healthiest portions of California. Here the defeated champion will pass a month with the hope that he will be able to build up and regain some of his lost vitality. Joe intends to sleep out of doors and spend his time in mountain climbing and deer hunting. The springs are practically isolated from the outside world, not even having railroad communication.

It was at Harbin that Jeffries always prepared for battle and everybody knows how fit he was each time he entered the ring to defend his title. The champion of them all paid more attention to entire them to training or gymnasium work. In a heart to heart talk to Gans, Jeff told the black wonder that his only salvation lay in the simple, outdoor life. Gans weighs more than 140 pounds already and looks better than he ever did since he first showed in this city more than 10 years ago.

HUNT CLUB TO GIVE SHOW IN OCTOBER

October 15, 16 and 17 are the dates decided upon for the second annual horse show by the Hunt club. There will be a matinee each day, and with the promise of even a finer exhibit of horses of every class last year's initial success will be overwhelmed. The board of directors met at the club headquarters in the Lumber Exchange on Wednesday evening and every detail of preparation was specifically outlined so that the immense task of preparation for this gigantic undertaking will run smoothly and without interruption.

The Oriental building at the exposition grounds, in which the show was held last year, will be given many additional touches at very considerable expense, and guests will be as comfortable at the matinee and evening exhibits as they would be in a theatre.

Additional driveways will be laid out from the building to the outer street, so that carriages and automobiles can be handled well.

There are already accommodations for 500 head of horses in the commodious stables erected last season, but large canvass stables will be provided, as it is expected there will be many more to take care of. In addition to housing the horses there is a coach house, harness room and feed rooms, no detail for the comfort of the animals and the convenience of owners and grooms being overlooked.

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Jake Beckley, now with Kansas City, had two teeth knocked out recently. Jake was dreaming of the time he played with the Hot Swatters back in 1898, when the ball whizzed up and slammed him in the pie entrance. Jake had the nerve to say they were genuine molars and not store teeth.

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As a home-run swatter Manager Jack Dunn of Baltimore will never win more than eight cases of shoes. Two "bowees" for the circuit in 13 years, one in 1895 and one this season is Jack's record.

SNAPSHOTS OF EMOTIONS OF THE PORTLAND BASEBALL FAN IN ACTION

AT BAT

A SINGLE

A SACRIFICE

TWO OUT

TWO STRIKES

WE SCORE

Billy Dills, the popular stage manager of the Baker theatre, caught in characteristic attitude during one of the games against Los Angeles. Billy is an ardent enthusiast and knows the game from A. to Z. He sticks up for the Beavers, too, and can show you where they can't lose the rag this year.

GOSSIP OF TRI-CITY LEAGUERS

Grave Talk of Shortening Season Owing to Poor Patronage.

OFFICIAL STANDING OF TEAMS.

	Won.	Lost.	P.C.
Woodburn	18	4	.818
West Portland	12	6	.667
Vancouver	15	8	.652
Salem	11	12	.478
East Portland	8	12	.400
St. Johns	7	15	.318

The above is the official standing of the league teams as shown by official reports and score sheets now on file.

Games scheduled for today:
East Portland at St. Johns.
West Portland at Salem.
Vancouver at Woodburn.

Umpires assigned for the day:
Giles at St. Johns.
Jack Rankin at Salem.
Provost at Woodburn.

The interest of the Tri-City league fans centers around the game played today between Vancouver and Woodburn at Woodburn. Neither of these teams has lost a game for several moons. One is in first and the other in third place. These teams have not crossed bats this season, this being the first of a series of several games between them. Vancouver has played one more game than Woodburn, but both have played four more than West Portland, which sticks in second place. Should Vancouver win today and West Portland lose the teams will change positions. Hope sheets throw all the advantage to Woodburn although it is conceded that Vancouver has a formidable team.

Another battle scheduled for today is that between the "Apostles" and the "Commuters" at St. Johns. This is the first game to be played on the St. Johns grounds for several weeks, owing to the poor support given the St. Johns team by the fans of that burg. These two teams have met on two previous occasions once on St. Johns when the Eastsiders walloped the saints to the tune of 12 to 2 and once on the Vaughn street grounds, when St. Johns trounced the Commuters 2 to 0 in one of the fastest games played in the Tri-City league. The total time for the nine innings was one hour and 15 minutes. The teams are now more evenly matched, and a pretty game may be looked for. Either Hurlbert or Nelson will twist 'em over for East Side and "Ruby" Crosby will officiate upon the mountain for St. Johns. The game is set for 3 o'clock.

Fandom at St. Johns is a peculiar commodity. While the home team is winning every player is a "hero" and the residents support the team to the limit. But when the home team loses—then, ah, then!—the players are veritable "dubs" and the fans scuttle out of the park like rats from a sinking ship. When the team loses, the manager is to blame, and when the team wins the pitcher is the boy, and there you have it, all sealed and government inspected.

"Timmy" Concannon, the boy with the awful windup, who for two years past brought the bouquets to Woodburn, will be given a chance to pitch against his old teammates today. Arrayed against him will be the peerless southpaw, Bowen, who has lost only one game this season. Vancouver fans to the number of a hundred or so will accompany the team to Woodburn and bet the peanuts on the Pioneers.

Colly Barrell, the clever little second baseman of the East Portland team, discouraged over his slump in swatting the ball and for business reasons, has resigned from the team and will play no more this season. Manager Pomeroy will use Neal, one of his utility men, on second sack in today's game. Neal is a tall, rangy player, who has been out of the game for three years, but is working out nightly and is coming back. Three years ago he wore a uniform in the Three-I league and showed enough class to attract the attention of Hugh Jennings, the American league manager, but, for business reasons, he did not follow the profession.

There is grave talk of shortening the league season to end August 9, owing to the poor patronage given some of the teams and the violent opposition to Sunday ball in Salem. The situation at Salem is acute and visiting teams are much adverse to filling the remaining dates on the Salem grounds and taking the chances of being thrown into the calaboose. It seems there is a state law which prohibits the playing of baseball where an admittance fee is charged and the Ministerial association of Salem is up in arms and has determined to put the Salem team on the blink.

This being the case, the west side Frakes, which are billed for Salem today, may not take the trip. With few exceptions the players in the Tri-City organization are young men who play the game solely for the love of the sport and hold reputable positions which they will not jeopardize by locking horns with the law. With these boys Sunday is the only day in the week when they can enjoy their favorite pastime, their employment and business keeping them busy on week days. Should Salem be forced to quit owing to the opposition of the churchmen, some other team will have to be dropped to even the schedule. Rumor has it that Woodburn is willing to quit, as the attendance does not warrant the keeping up of a paid team. This would bring the league down to four teams, West and East Portland, St. Johns and Vancouver, to finish the season. As neither St. Johns nor Vancouver are pulling very strong attendance the managers may decide to meet and close the season earlier than last year. This would not mean that the league would disband, for it will hold its organization for the coming year.

"Maggie" Magness and Troy Myers, the blond left fielder and the diminutive shortstop of the East Side team, have gone to the seashore to listen to the murmuring of the waves far from the strenuous life of the ball field.

"Big Bill" Kotteman, Lodell and Houston have returned from La Grande, where they have been converting in the Inland Empire league. As all of these players are members of Tri-City league teams they will doubtless report for duty to their respective managers. Kotteman and Houston belong to the West Side team and Lodell to Vancouver.

Newspaper notices give Webb Morrow, formerly with the Cubs of last year's Tri-City league, now with the Bradleys of Spokane, a great wonderful. He is hitting the ball at a .310 clip and leads the City league of that burg in stolen bases.

Spokane has Portland beaten to a frazzle as a baseball town. On a recent Sunday the Northwest league and City league pulled off games in separate parks, the total attendance nearing the 7,000 mark. Over two thousand of the fans attended the City league games, one of which was a 14-inning affair and the other 10.

Taken as a whole, the grade of baseball played by Tri-City league teams this season is much better than last year and the games are pretty fast and remarkably free from bungles, when one considers the fact that the players are not salaried men and play but one game a week with no time to practice.

Advice just received from Salem states that games will be continued in that city and no hand will be taken by the authorities to stop them.

"HACK" A WRECK.

London, July 18.—Word was received here today from Aix-la-Chappelle that physicians attending George Hackenschmidt, the Russian Lion, former champion wrestler of the world, have declared that he will never be able to wrestle again. The exact trouble is not given, but it is understood that the wrestler is very weak. Two of his fingers are partially paralyzed and one of his knees is weak.

It was reported several weeks ago that Hackenschmidt had died. After his match with Frank Gotch the big fellow declined rapidly. He was said to have had water on the knee. Whether or not the trouble is due to the terrific hardship imposed upon him by Frank Gotch, the American, who wrested the title from him in Chicago, is not stated.

On Eastern Diamonds

In spite of injuries to their players the Chicago Cubs keep on the job.

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The Springfield, Ill., club has released Pitcher Jokerst. This is no time for any bum puns.

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Rube Waddell says they can have their Hans Wagner day and Cy Young day, but as for him he prefers pay day.

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Sam Crawford is playing a great game at Detroit. "Old Sun Down" is keeping swell step with Ty Cobb.

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About the worst case of grouch that baseball fans take on is when their team wins a pennant one season and then sticks near the bottom the next year.

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The Toronto club has released "Sandow" Mertes for being too slow. A few seasons ago "Sandow" drew $7,000 per from the New York Giants.

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The Philadelphia Nationals came very near sending the Pittsburg Pirates down in West Virginia, with all hopes for the pennant gone.

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And now Stanley Robinson is going to jump the National league and place his St. Louis team in the American association. As Confucius once said, "St. Louis is the home of bunk baseball stories."

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Battorroff and Magorkurth is a battery possessed by the Canton team in the Illinois and Missouri league. Sounds more like a saengerbund than baseball.

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Clark Griffith's quitting the New York Americans has caused a big difference in the playing of the Highlanders. As soon as the managerial change was made the Kilties started to move—toward the bottom.

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Managing the Kansas City team must have soured Monte Cross' disposition. Monte has been chased by the umpires several times this season. And Montrious was such a quiet chap in Philadelphia, too.

SOUTHPAWS HAVE NOTHING ON BUNCH

Raftery Best Fielder in the League—Still Talking of Bernard's Stunt.

Peculiar how these Beavers take to left-handed pitchers this season. This is at variance with the popular idea that a southpaw has the goods on a left-handed batter. In the eight hits off Gray last Tuesday, Ryan copped two, Casey one and McCredie one. Against Sutor the preceding week, Ryan and Casey got two hits each and McCredie one, making five of the seven safe ones secured by the Beavers. They don't throw 'em too crooked for this hard-hitting brigade.

Raftery has pulled off some plays in center field during the week that stamp him the best man in that position on the coast. Thirty-one flies were gathered in by the fleet gardener in the eight games he has been in up to yesterday. The one error was made on a bad throw to second to head off a runner. Several of the plays Tom has participated in were of the hair-raising variety and could have been called hits had Tom been less fast.

They are still talking about that batrattling incident in which Curtis Bernard was so severely criticised for his unsportsmanlike conduct. A lady said the other day that she thought Bernie was the one man in the Coast league who was above reproach on the ball field. Perhaps the psychological impulse that caused Bernie to pull off the dirty play against Whaling will never be explained. It would have been far less offensive, had Bernie not doffed his cap in contempt to the grandstand when it jeered him. Funny characters these ball players.

That brilliant light of the diamond, Kid Mohler, lets out a howl that reverberates up and down the coast as soon as he gets back to his own ballwick. The Bay City crab tells a Frisco scribe the following: "When we were north the Portland papers had a lot to kick about. The boys with the pencils were after me strong, but what I cared I so long as we won games. They gave me a dig about protesting a game. I was on the field and a ball was hit down to me. Casey ran between the ball and me and interfered with my fielding. It was a palpable case of interference and Casey should have been called out. The papers said I was unreasonable and unfair. The truth of the matter is I am right. Mohler is the only one who thinks so.

Now and then a baseball play is pulled off that couldn't be better if it was in a book. With the score 1 to 0 against him in a recent game, Manager Low Drill of the Terre Haute team hit for a home run, scoring a man on base and winning the game 2 to 1. Happening in the last of the ninth this stunt netted Low a hat full of silver jingle.