

LATEST LOCAL

# SPORTING

GENERAL REVIEWS

# NEWS

TIMELY COMMENTS

## SENIORS TO START; COUNTY ENTRIES IN

### City Leaguers Warming Up Daily—Junior Schedule Will Be Revised.

The senior baseball season will get under way at the Fair Grounds this evening with Oshawa and Kingston meeting. The motor town team is no easy mark for anything in amateur ranks and comes here highly praised. It is Oshawa's first league appearance in the Limestone City and the fans are greatly interested. No less interest is caused by speculation as to what team will take the field for Kingston. There is new material on hand this season—some of it familiar and some strange—the joyful enthusiasts will be on hand to look them all over.

The Intercounty League's closing date for entries in tomorrow and all who have not made the proper entry to Secretary Cosgrove by that time will be out of luck. Things have been slow in the county loop—partly because of the unreasonable weather—but the secretary has decided that no further delay can be given and that all entries for the Cronk trophy and the Case trophy must be right on time.

The senior city league men are coming in for their share of interest also. It is rumored that the Athletics have about the best looking team of the lot but the Hussars will only admit that after being beaten and they do not think that way at present. Both teams are lining up fast.

The Live Wires are an unknown quantity but will be on hand for their schedule. Gananoque is another unknown quantity and we earnestly hope there will be no trouble in that direction.

The junior schedule will shortly be revised in order to get the boys well under way. They are impatient to start and are reported to have much more evenly balanced teams this year. It is to be hoped that every encouragement is given them to play good baseball and to play out their full schedule this season. Another week and all will be in full swing.

### Billy Evans Says—

Batters with an average of .300 or better continue to thrive in the major leagues.

Not so many years ago if a dozen players were in the charmed circle it was considered a good showing.

To-day the weekly averages of the two major leagues reveal about three times that many in each organization. Some are swatting better than .400, others mighty close to that figure.

No longer is it considered a distinct honor to be numbered among the .300 hitters in the majors.

As a matter of fact the batsman who falls below that figure is figured to have a weakness in his style at the plate.

What is responsible for the greatly increased number of .300 hitters? Is the lively ball the dominating reason or does the trouble go back to the pitching end of the game?

During the past month I have asked a score of the leading hitters of the two major leagues to give me their explanation of the swat situation.

Naturally there is a difference of opinion on the question.

The lively ball is offered by many as a contributing cause. Some believe that it is the root of the batting orgy now existing.

It is generally agreed that the pitching is inferior to that of 10 or 15 years ago. That partly explains the base hit problem.

Of some 20 of the game's greatest batters 16 were agreed on one point. It was this—

In both major leagues there is a decided lack of curve ball pitching. A majority of pitchers in the majors seem to have discarded the twirler's best weapon, a fast breaking curve.

"The era of trick pitching has temporarily caused the passing of the curve," remarked a player who has several times led the big show.

"For years trick pitching thrived. It was easier to doctor the ball than perfect a curve. Young pitchers went in for the trick stuff.

"No pitcher will argue for a minute that a lively ball cannot be curved. Developing a curve, however, takes time and patience. In recent years the easiest way to success has had the greatest appeal.

"A great many of the present day major league pitchers do not even boast a fair curve. With that knowledge the batsman has nothing to fear on that point. The fast one, change of pace, and the knuckle ball is the

repertoire of most pitchers."

Pitching on the fast one is the batter's delight. Not until the curve comes back into its own will the crop of .300 hitters be greatly decreased, say the leading hitters.

## MILLIONS TO GAMBLERS WITHOUT ANY CHANCES

### Estimated \$2,000,000 Cleaned Up By Bookies on This Year's Kentucky Derby.

By Joe Williams

Gamblers in important betting centres cleaned up more than \$2,000,000 on the Kentucky Derby before the race was even run and without risking so much as a thin, undernourished dime.

They got the "breaks" in the winter books—and got them in rich, unending profusion, totally without parallel in the history of turf gambling.

The three winter book favorites, Wise Counsellor, St. James and Sarazen, were withdrawn several days before the running of the annual classic.

These three colts were heavily played at inviting odds by turf bettors in all parts of the country.

Of the three Wise Counsellor drew the heaviest play, being the top-most favorite, in addition to the "Hope of the West." It is estimated by betting men that more than \$1,000,000 was laid on Wise Counsellor alone.

The bulk of this money was placed in Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati and Cleveland. Wise Counsellor is owned by a Chicagoan.

St. James and Sarazen are eastern owned and were equal favorites with eastern bettors to win the Derby. Most of the betting on these two colts was done in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. At least \$1,000,000 was laid on the two at winter book odds.

**Loss Every Dollar**

Wise Counsellor and Sarazen did not round to fast enough and were withdrawn. St. James pulled a tendon and was retired for the year. Wise Counsellor was 6 to 1 in the winter books, Sarazen 12 to 1, St. James 15 to 1. Millions were bet at these odds.

And every single dollar bet went to the bookies without a contest.

That's the catch in the winter books. If your horse doesn't start you lose your dough. The bookies keep it, smile blandly and remark, "Better luck next time."

**Didn't Collect on Zev.**

Of course the pale-face fish who play the winter books know this in advance, so they have no legitimate squawk coming. The bookie explains that the possibility of withdrawal is his "edge," that's why, he tells you, he can afford to offer 6 to 1 on a horse that may be held at 5 to 3 on the day of the race—if he starts.

Last year Zev was heavily played in the winter books, opening at 20 to 1 and closing at something like 6 to 1. Zev sentiment ran especially high in New York, and a tremendous play was made on the Sinclair colt. Zev started and won the race. But few of the winter book layers collected.

The bookies had packed up and moved to parts unknown!

Beating the big-hearted bookies at the track is tough enough.

The bird who tries to beat 'em in the winter books is three parts goof and one part simp.

**Baseball Scores**

**TUESDAY'S GAMES.**

**International League.**  
Syracuse 5, Toronto 1.  
Baltimore 15, Jersey City 2.  
Reading 6, Newark 0.  
Rochester 4, Buffalo 3.

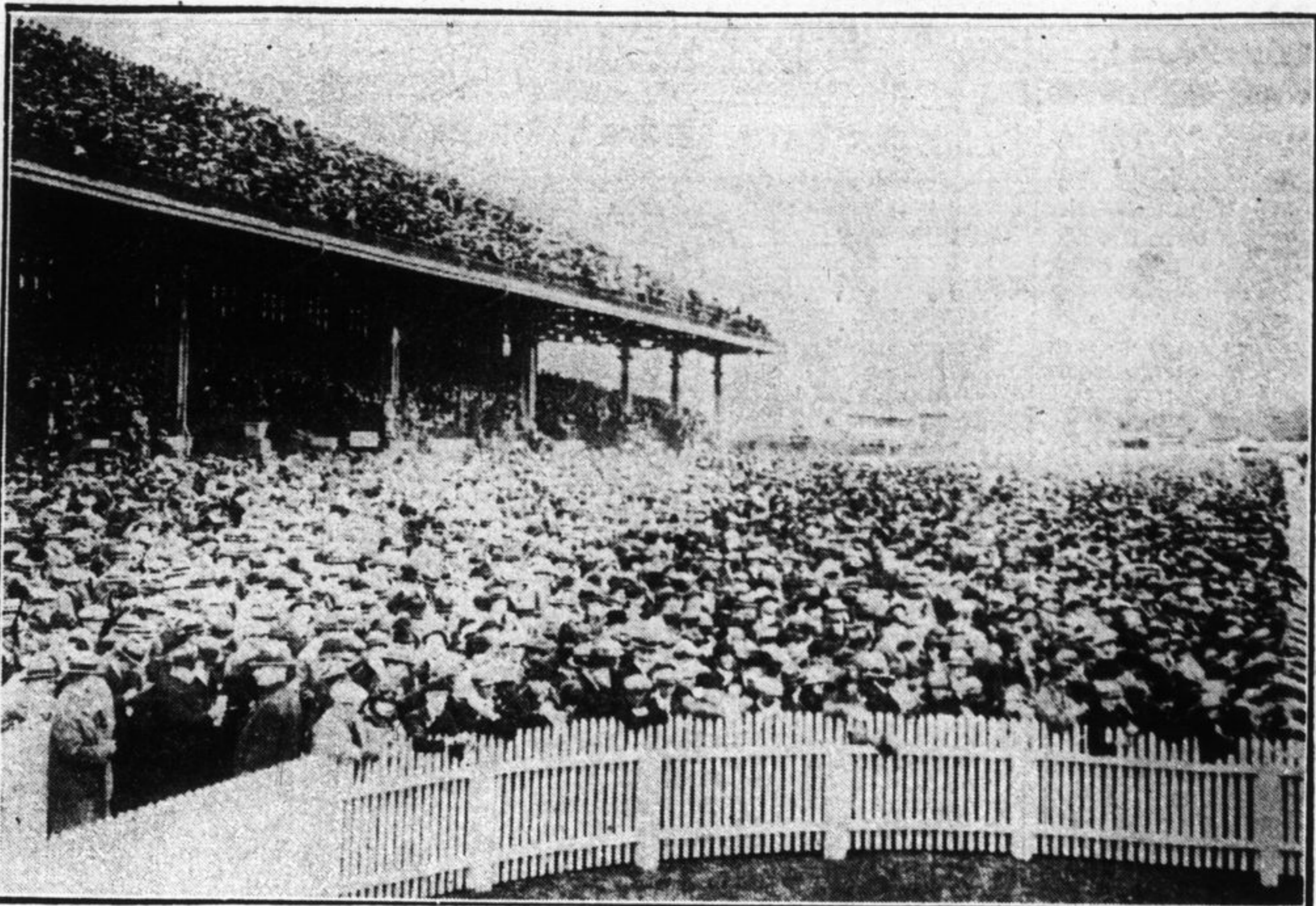
**National League.**  
Pittsburgh 22, New York 3.  
Chicago 7, Philadelphia 4.

No games in American League owing to rain.

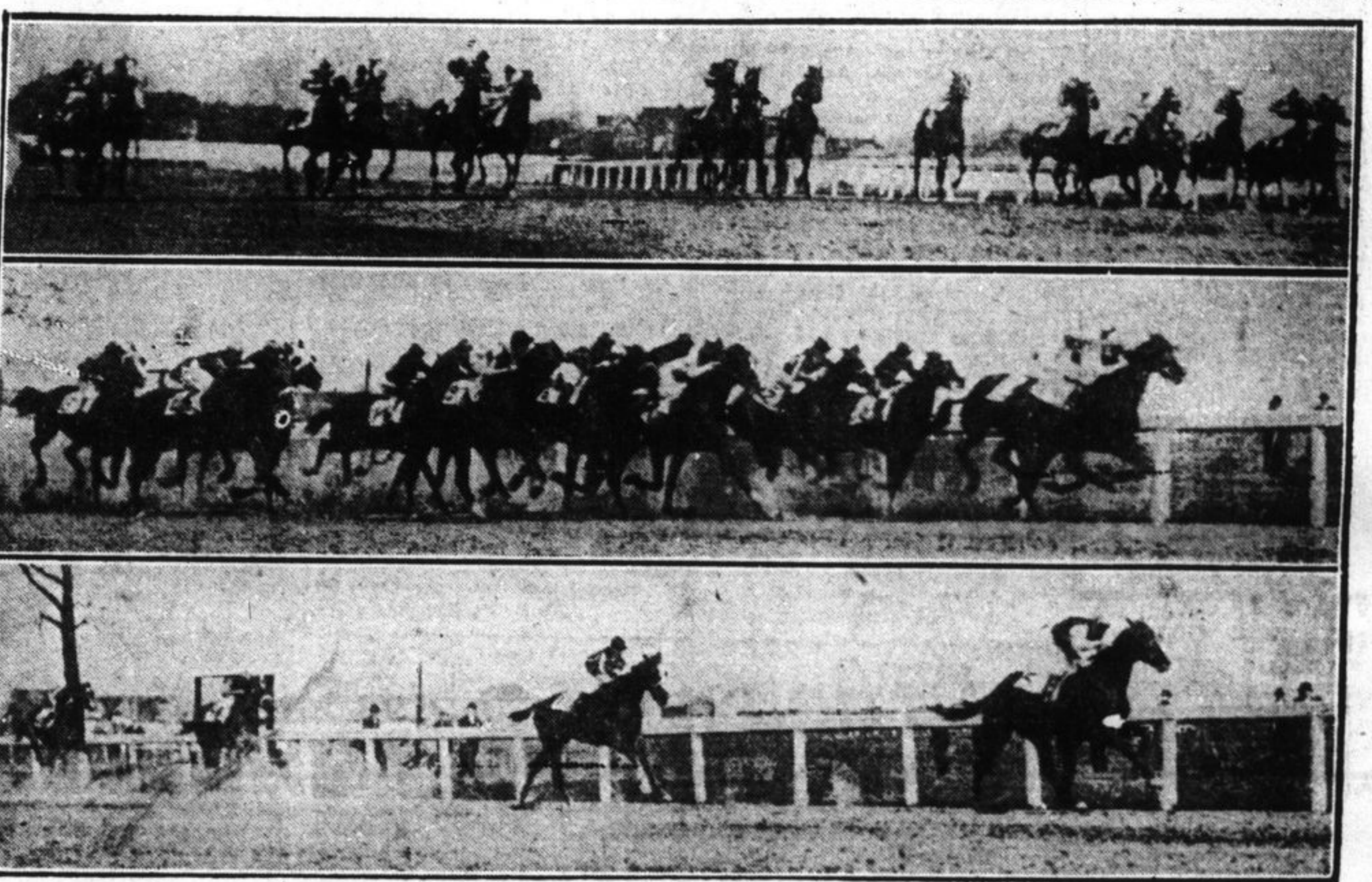
**Stars Full Tendons.**  
Allan Woodring, the Olympic 200-meter champion, is laid up with a pulled tendon. So is Les Wittman of Michigan University, one of the greatest sprinters in the middle west.

Booth Tarkington is the only author who has twice won the prize of the Pulitzer School of Journalism for the best novel of the year.

The boll weevil bug is estimated to cause an annual loss of more than \$2,000,000 to growing cotton in the United States.



Almost a record crowd witnessed the sixty-fifty running of the King's Plate at the Woodbine race track last Saturday when Maternal Pride won the coveted guineas.



Above is shown the running of the King's Plate at the Woodbine race track Saturday. The sixty-fifty running of the Canadian classic was a great surprise to the 25,000 horse lovers as an outside horse in the betting, Maternal Pride, romped home two lengths ahead of Thorndyke, while the favorite, Isoletta, was unplaced. The top picture is the start, the centre is the first time round showing the horses well bunched. The bottom tells the story of the finish, Maternal Pride first, Thorndyke second, two lengths behind, and Maypole third, a length and a half behind the second horse.

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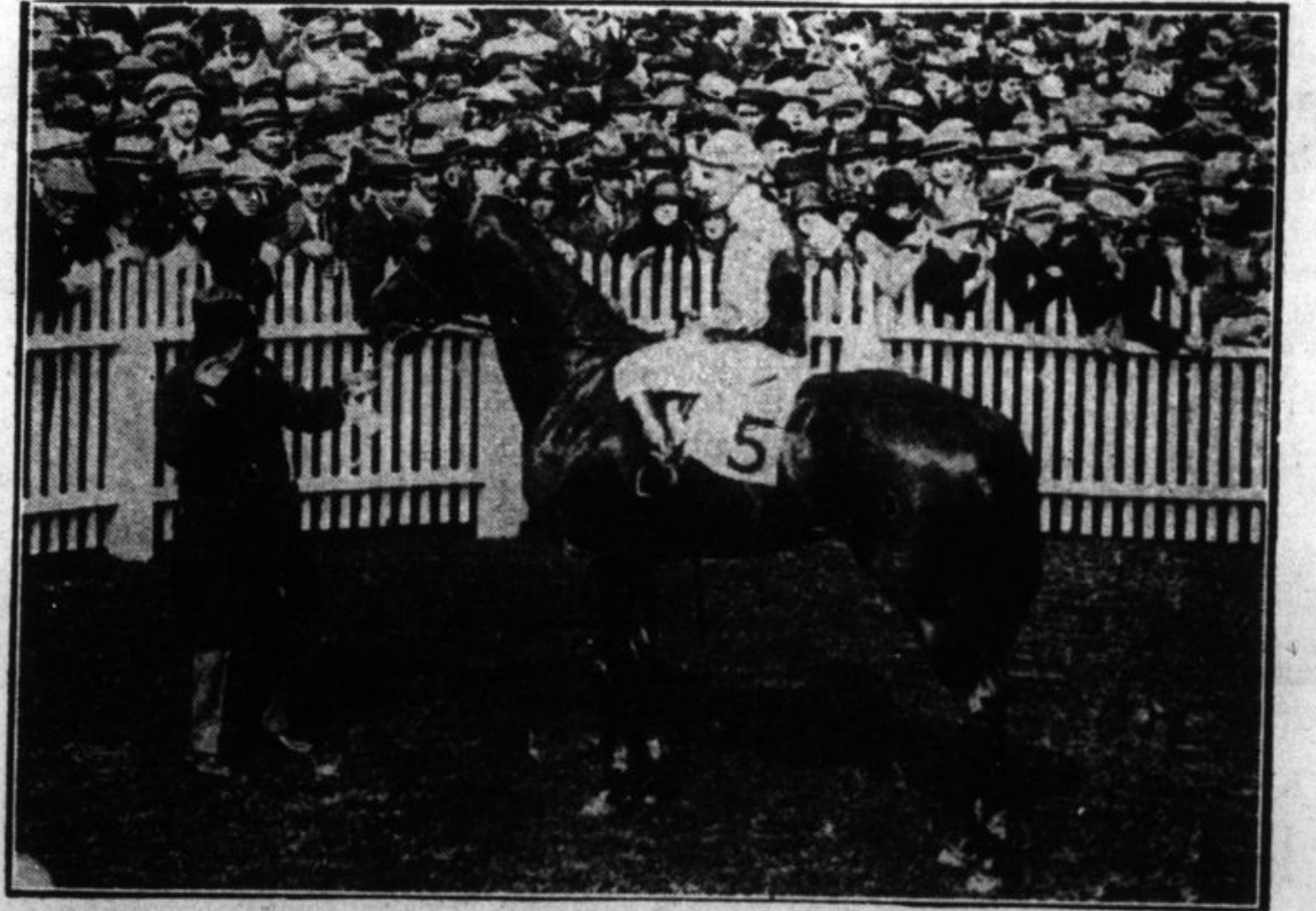
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Maternal Pride and smiling trainer in Woodbine paddock after winning the King's Plate.

**Great Filly Through.** Untidy, great little filly of the Whitney stable, has not been training well this spring and will be re-thred for all time. Untidy has always suffered from a bad knee.

**The Ukraine is the richest and most densely populated part of Russia.**

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