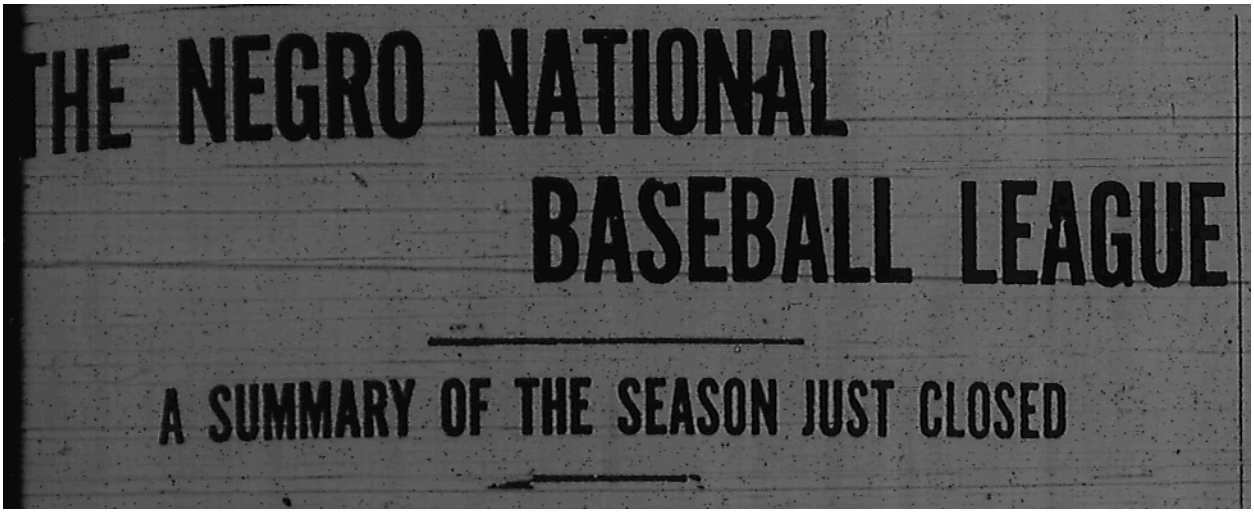
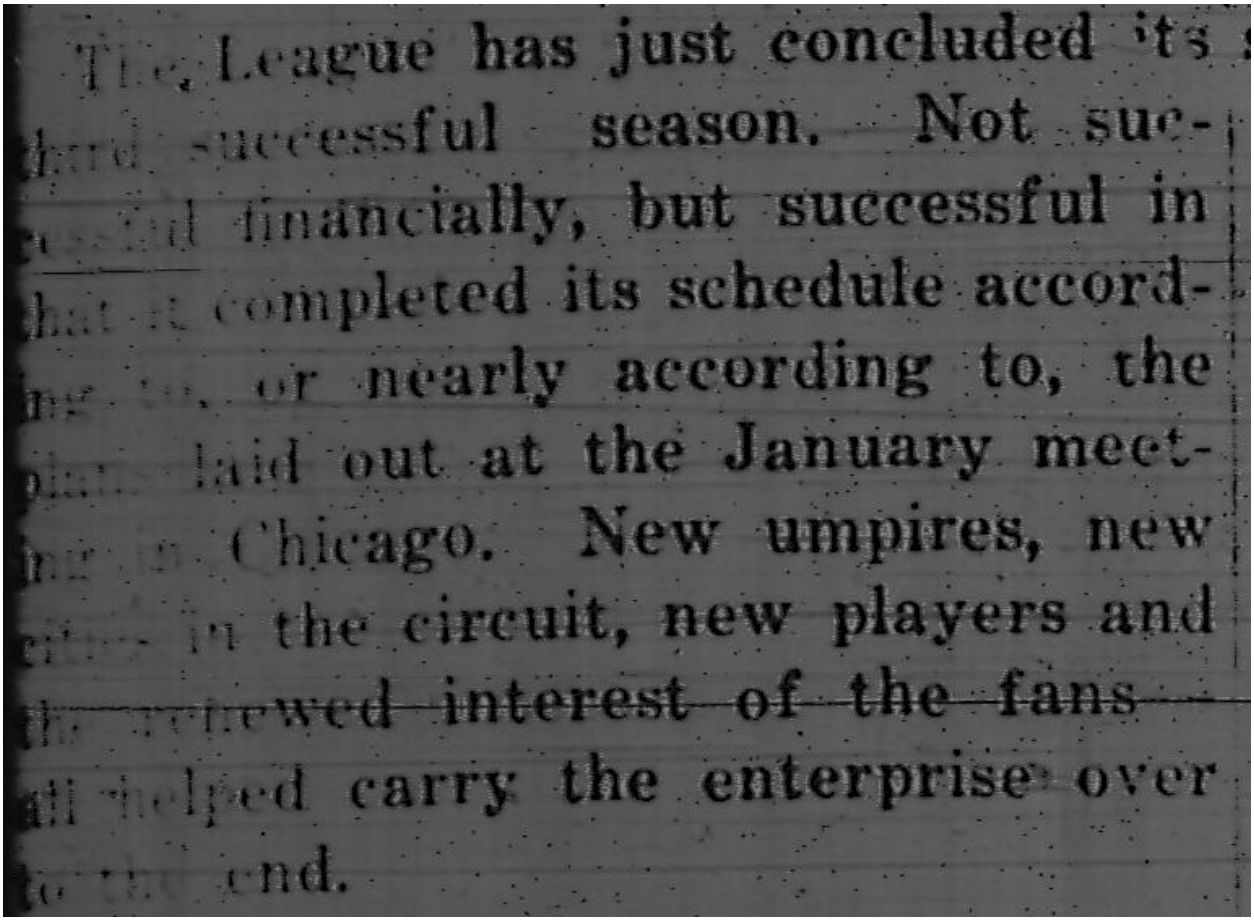


THE NEGRO NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE

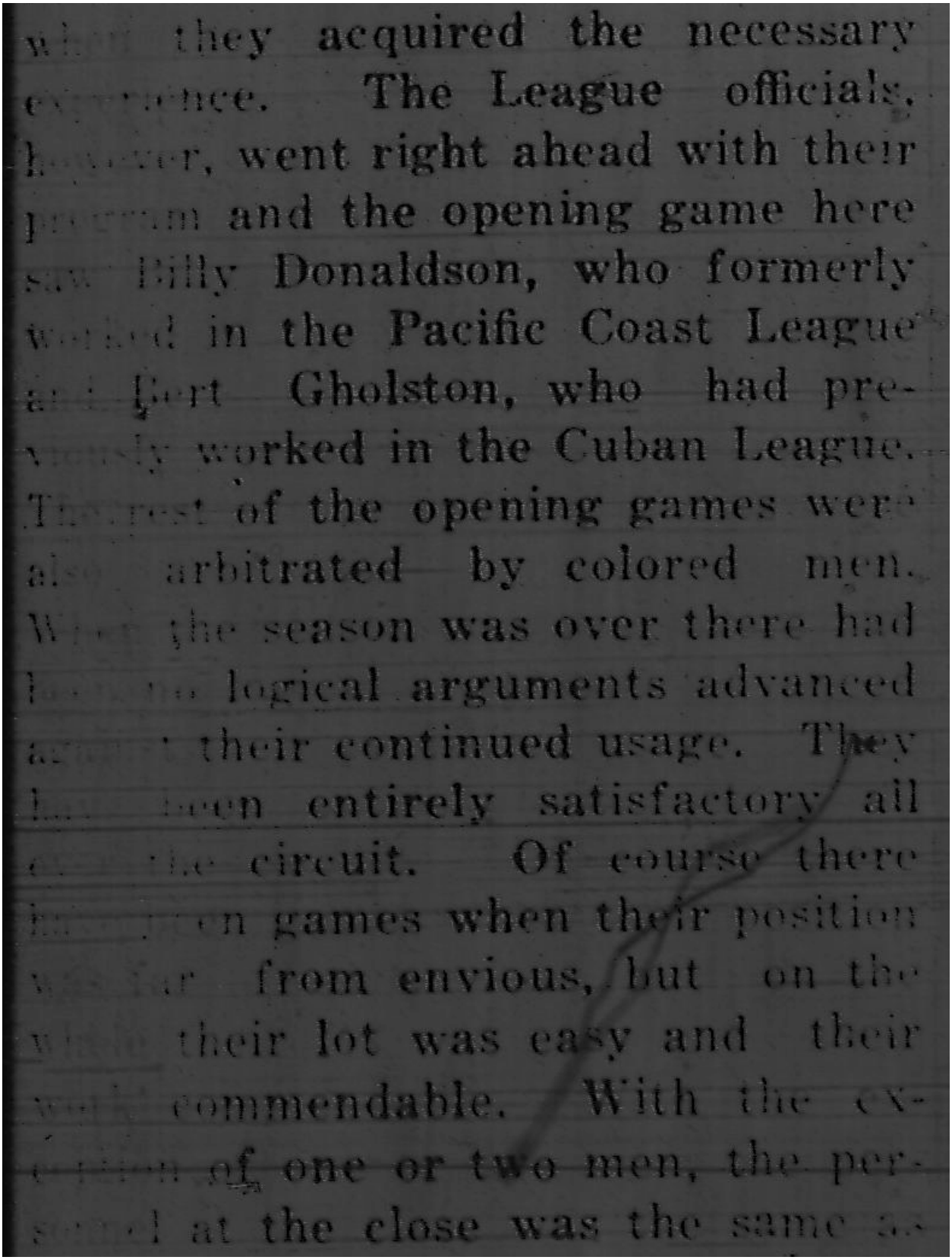
A SUMMARY OF THE SEASON JUST CLOSED



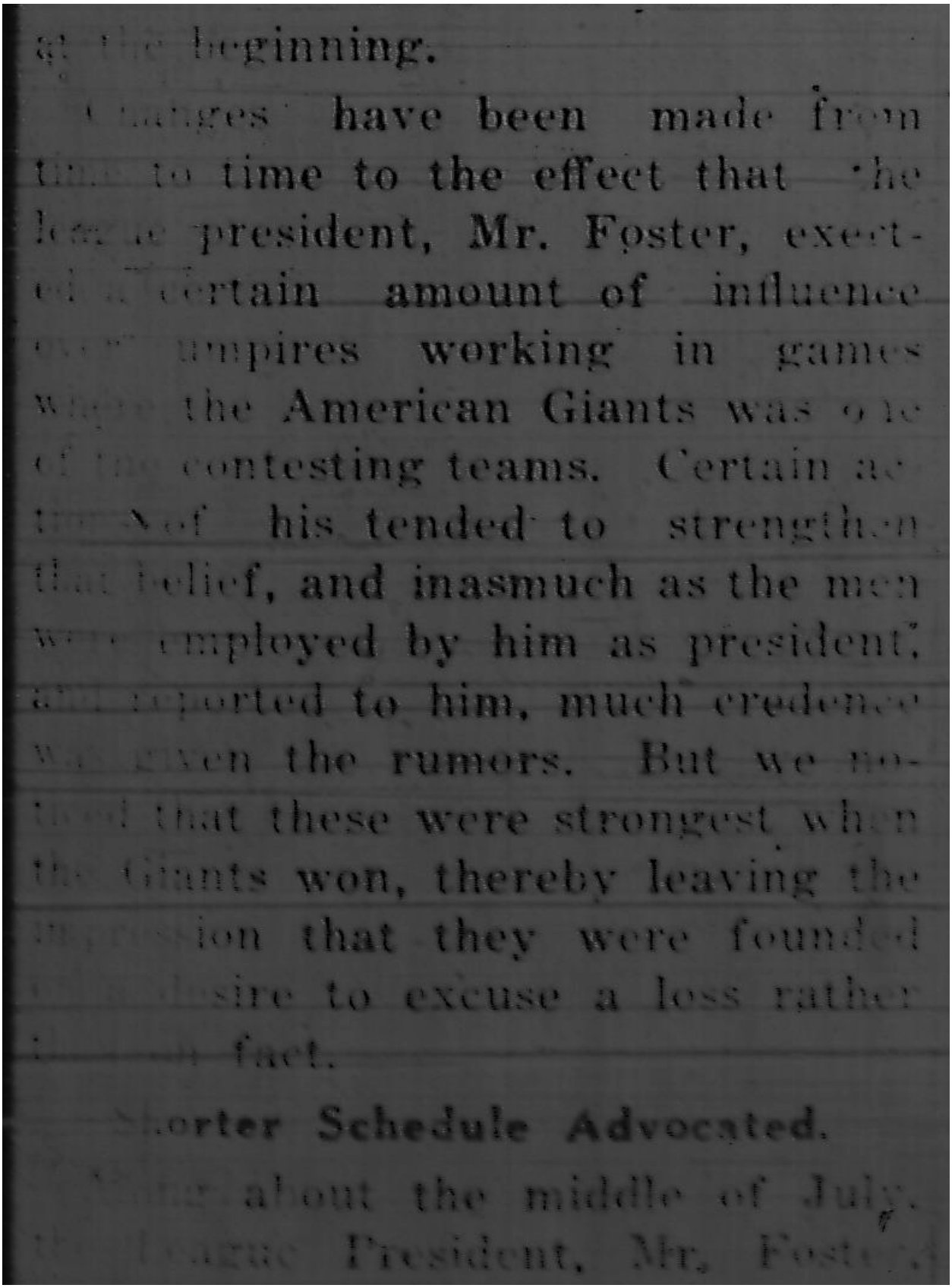
The League has just concluded its third successful season. Not successful financially, but successful in that it completed its schedule according to, or nearly according to, the plans laid out at the January meeting in Chicago. New umpires, new players in the circuit, new players and renewed interest of the fans all helped carry the enterprise over to the end.

New Colored Umpires.

Probably the most important change made in the policy of the league was the change from white to colored umpires—a natural and inevitable change, but one which did not meet with the approval from all fans. Various reasons were given by the dissenters as explanations for their attitude, the principal being that of inability to find enough experienced men to handle the games. Why change? White umpires had been giving satisfaction for two years." They forgot that this was not a white league and that most of all it was not a training school for white umpires who would probably change over, as some of them did, to white leagues



they acquired the necessary
ce. The League officials,
r, went right ahead with their
and the opening game here
Billy Donaldson, who formerly
in the Pacific Coast League
Gholston, who had pre-
worked in the Cuban League.
of the opening games were
arbitrated by colored men.
the season was over there had
logical arguments advanced
their continued usage. They
entirely satisfactory all
circuit. Of course there
games when their position
from envious, but on the
their lot was easy and their
commendable. With the ex-
of one or two men, the per-
at the close was the same

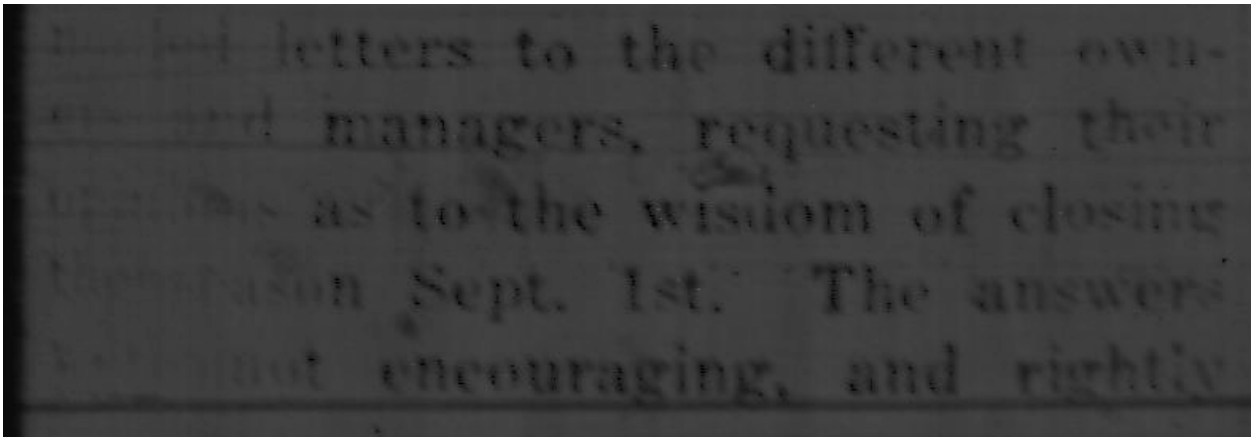


at the beginning.

Charges have been made from time to time to the effect that the league president, Mr. Foster, exerted a certain amount of influence over umpires working in games where the American Giants was one of the contesting teams. Certain actions of his tended to strengthen that belief, and inasmuch as the men were employed by him as president, and reported to him, much credence was given the rumors. But we noted that these were strongest when the Giants won, thereby leaving the impression that they were founded on a desire to excuse a loss rather than fact.

Shorter Schedule Advocated.

Later about the middle of July, the league President, Mr. Foster,


letters to the different own-
managers, requesting their
as to the wisdom of closing
season Sept. 1st. The answers
encouraging, and rightly

so. The fans had been led to believe that the schedule would end in October, and, while it probably would have been better from the financial viewpoint of the League to shorten it, each individual owner had visions of post-season games with big league All-Stars to bolster his hopes. Had the season closed September 1st, that would have left over a month for [illegible] to hold his team together, waiting for those post-season games.

There is no question of the advisa-

bility of a shorter season, provided that the schedule is cleared of most of the midseason exhibitions now cluttering it. The time for exhibition games is either before or after the regular season.

Publicity For The League

The one thing that causes the books of any athletic organization to show "credit" or "debit" at the end of the season is interest of the fans. That interest is created only by publicity—lots of it and of the right sort. That is what the Negro National League has lacked in the past. There should be some means of getting the results of each league game played over the circuit, to each city comprising the circuit and to all the race papers in the city. Ne-

gro newspapers, generally, haven't a bankroll of the proportions allowing them to send men around with the teams, as the white papers do. Even if they did have, they would then only get the results of the home team games, which they at present manage to do under an agreement with the secretary of the club or one of the players.

The interest of the fan is only retained when he or she is able to pick up the local paper and see the results of the entire week's league games together with such detail as makes interesting reading and a table of standings. Occasionally a picture would be sent along—an ac-

tion picture of some particular play or player which might interest local

fans. A tabulation of averages—team fielding, batting, individual averages, etc., all tending to create additional interest. Under the present arrangements these things are impossible, and without them the fan merely goes to the games because that's the only place to go—not because he is really interested in the League battle for supremacy. With game after game, solely exhibition, creeping into the schedule, which have no bearing on the final result, it is impossible to correctly tabulate the number of games played and least of all, the standings. The misunderstanding this season was a result of this condition.

Remedy Lies With League Heads

The remedy for the foregoing lies with the league officials themselves.

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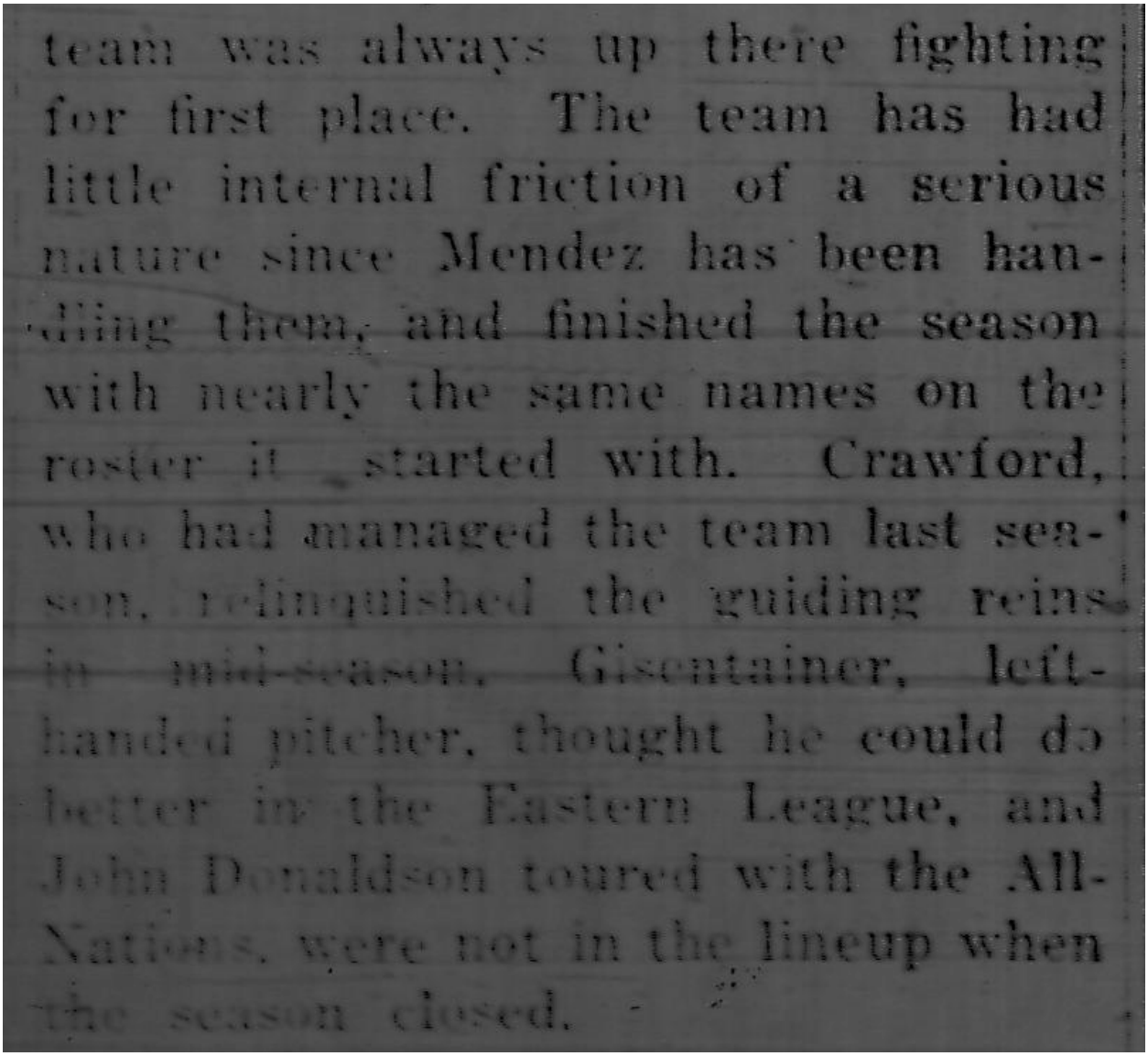
etc.

The Local Situation.

Kansas City has had a very good season—at home. On the road things didn't go so good for the Owner, Mr. J. L. Wilkinson. He says he's in baseball now simply because it's a habit—not because he expects to make any great amount of cash out of the game. The team travelled clear to Milwaukee twice for series with the Bears, and the total receipts at the gate for the two series was less than $3,000. The expenses of the Monarchs alone for those trips was far more than that.

The management reports that the attendance locally has been cut to about half what it was last season, and that despite the fact that the



team was always up there fighting for first place. The team has had little internal friction of a serious nature since Mendez has been handling them, and finished the season with nearly the same names on the roster it started with. Crawford, who had managed the team last season, relinquished the guiding reins in mid-season. Gisentainer, left-handed pitcher, thought he could do better in the Eastern League, and John Donaldson toured with the All-Nations, were not in the lineup when the season closed.

Kansas City Call, Kansas City, MO

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