

SOME SIX SOLID COLUMNS ON THE SPORTING NEWS HERE AND ELSEWHERE

FITZ DID AN UNMANLY THING

He Should Not Have Forgotten Himself and Struck Ball--P. N. L. Meeting in Spokane--Mose LaFontise Is Out With a Big Proposition to Fight Anybody of His Weight--Sporting Gossip.

Fitzsimmons made no friends by his assault on Clark Ball last night at the Thornton hotel. When a man who has the reputation of being able to deliver a harder punch than any other man in the world deliberately walks up to a smaller and weaker man, and sends that punch to the point of the jaw, where it does instantaneous damage, he commits an act which is unmanly, if not cowardly.

Fitzsimmons was undoubtedly the most popular pugilist that ever set foot in Butte when he appeared here with his show; the people followed him in droves when he walked on the streets and the lobby of the hotel where he stayed was crowded night and day by men who wanted only a glimpse of the greatest fighter, living or dead.

But Fitz lowered himself materially in the eyes of his Butte admirers when he smashed his manager and sent him bleeding and unconscious to the floor.

Ball may have acted in an unbusiness-like manner by signing Munroe, when he was looking after the interests of the other people; he may have aggravated Fitz by so acting; he may have become "hot" and spoken sharply to the Cornishman, or he may even have used abusive language, but none of these things gave the pugilist a right to assault him.

Fitzsimmons has a dangerous punch and the blow that knocked Ball unconscious might have killed him. Under the circumstances Ball would have had a perfect right to retaliate with a weapon as he was not the equal of his assailant, and in the event of serious damage to the pugilist any jury would have acquitted him.

Words do not justify an assault and Ball's conduct did not call for the brutal treatment that he received at the hands of his protegee and brother-in-law, Robert Fitzsimmons.

Fitz's courage is not questioned. He has shown in a hundred terrific and grueling battles that he is unacquainted with the meaning of the word fear. But he lost for a minute his manliness when he struck without warning a smaller man.

A special meeting of the directors of the Pacific Northwest league is called for this afternoon over in Spokane. Butte will be represented by President Charley Lane, and the latter is authorized to stand by Lucas and the old league to the bitter end.

The primary thing to come before the meeting is the proposition of forming another club in Portland to fight the encroachments of the outlaw league from the Pacific coast. It is expected that Salt Lake, Ogden, Poetello, Baker City and other cities of the West will send in bids to become members of the Pacific Northwest league in the place of Portland, whose club has withdrawn, but it is the intention of the directors to give Portland the first chance.

If the people of Portland do not want to come into the fold then the matter will be placed in the hands of Eastern capitalists who are anxious to get in on the proposition.

President Lane stated before his departure last night that he has all the confidence in the world in President Lucas' arrangements are being made to bring Aurelio Herrera and "Kid" Oglesby together for a 20-round bout in Butte. Herrera has wired that he will fight the Helena lad at 128 pounds and Oglesby says he can make that weight without trouble.

At present Herrera is under the management of the well-known fistic promoter, Biddy Bishop. Bishop is anxious to take his man away from the coast and show inlanders what he is made of.

"Kid" Oglesby is the only lightweight in Montana who ever got a decision over Jack Clifford. This fight was in Helena and lasted 20 rounds. Oglesby had had all the best of the milling and the decision was his without question.

The Helena lightweight has never been decisively defeated. He fought Wade and the latter got a decision over him, it is true, but Oglesby understood that the fight was to go to the limit and was resting when the referee gave Wade the decision in the twenty-first round.

Since coming to this country from Australia, Herrera has proved a wonder. He has met and defeated some of the best lightweights in the West. The fight between him and Oglesby, if it can be arranged, will prove a great drawing card.

It will be brought off at one of the opera houses under the auspices of the Broadway Athletic club.

Meet me at the Pfister.

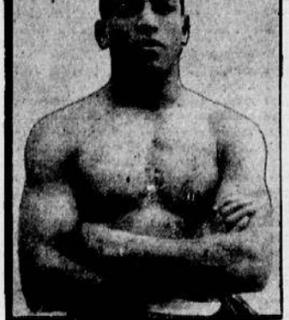
Fits All Tastes THE Harvard Cigar

BLACK JOE GANS IS ALIVE AGAIN

CUTS UP A NEW ENGLANDER IN HIS FAST STYLE--JIMMY BRITT MIGHT DO JOE UP.

Joe Gans, the lightweight champion, is again being heard from. The other day in Hartford, Conn., the black fighter met and defeated in three rounds a young New Englander named Wilson.

Reports from the East have it that Hereford's protegee will not fight Gus Gardner, the lightweight brother of George Gardner.



JOE GANS.

Gardner, who recently defeated Jack Root in Salt Lake.

In Gardner, Gans meets a man worthy of his metal. Gus is a member of that famous fighting family, and his name has become one to be feared in fighting circles. He has beaten some of the fastest lightweights in the business.

Joe Gans, however, should be the favorite in the betting. The Baltimore count is the most dangerous man at his weight in the ring and when he lands a blow it counts. He is not only wonderfully clever, but is tough as a mule.

Aside from Gardner there is none who can match him, unless it is the new champion of the coast, Jimmy Britt.

NEW CHAMPS ARE IN SIGHT THERE

SAN FRANCISCO SPORTS THINK THEY HAVE A COUPLE OF COMING MEN IN THEIR MIDST.

There is a new fighting wonder in San Francisco who promises to become a champion some day.

His name is Kelly, and they call him "Toothpick," for short, or, more properly, for "long," as he is nearly 7 feet tall, and quite as heavy as big Ed Dunkhorst.

"Bill" Naughton, the veteran fighting critic, is one of the coast authorities who think well of the giant. He says:

"Winter is racing in full blast here now, and boxing has received a kind of sympathetic boost.

"We have more high-class novices than you could shake a fist at, and the promoters are looking forward to a highly productive season.

"San Francisco sports think they have an embryo world's champion in 'Toothpick' Kelly, though just why he was called 'Toothpick' I can't fathom.

"He is about 6 feet 6 inches high, and weighs 240 pounds, trained. He is as fast as a featherweight, and he knows how to send them in.

"There is a crackjack feather here, too, in the person of Ed Hanlon. He is a body fighter, and just tears the ribs out of the fellows who oppose him. I shouldn't wonder if he becomes a good second George Dixon. He is a white boy.

"He has a rival, by the way, in Frank Neal, who is to box Harry Forbes. Neal and Hanlon boxed a draw about a year ago.

"Down at Los Angeles they have a couple of promising colored heavies. These are Jack Johnson and Sam McVey. The former has defeated Jack Jeffries, Frank Childs and George Gardner. He is a graceful boxer, and is very precise in hitting and blocking.

"He reminds me of old Peter Jackson, but he is just a little shy, I think, in the delivery department. McVey recently knocked out big Fred Russell, and is regarded as a very likely man."

JIMMY BRITT IS AFTER THE CHAMP

Unless he can get a rap at Young Corbett's head Jimmy Britt will not fight this month. Corbett is the only flower in the bunch that he would pluck if given a chance, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

After the holidays Jimmy will be ready to polish off all comers and will not be particular about his game, providing it is white. The Hayes Valley club has sent Young Corbett an offer to meet Britt, but there is small chance of him accepting it, as he has his attention centered on Terry McGovern, who looks easier to him.

Corbett would be foolish to meet Britt at 130 pounds, for he can easily make this weight. If Corbett is shrewd he will stick to his class and not go looking for young rugged lightweights.

It is a funny item, indeed, to read where Corbett sought the match with Britt. It is exactly the opposite. Britt has been challenging Young Corbett for the past six months, agreeing to take on the local boy at 130 pounds ringside. Now that Corbett is ready to accept a match on those terms he insists at 130 pounds at 3 o'clock. Not much for a match well made is a match half won, and that's one thing the Denver boy has certainly learned during the past year.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN ON HIS LONG PAST

EX-CHAMPION HEAVYWEIGHT OF THE WORLD TALKS ON SOME OF THE MEN HE MET.

"Talking of hard punches, I never met a man who really hurt me. Men like Kilrain, Mitchell and Ryan landed on me, but their blows never did me any damage," said John L. Sullivan in a recent interview. "When I went into the ring I was prepared to stand anything that came my way. The present-day fighters are a good lot. There is Jeffries. He's in a class all by himself. Jeff is too big for men like Fitzsimmons. Jeff is a great fighter. His record shows that. Because he is big he does not seem clever, but he is faster than people imagine.

"Next to Jeffries, Fitzsimmons is the best fighter. I think he can defeat any man in the world at his weight. While in England I tried to get on a fight with Tug Wilson. I was meeting all comers and offered Wilson \$250. He replied that he would not enter the ring for the Bank of England.

"Kilrain was one of the greatest fighters I ever fought. I don't say he was better than the other men I have met. His battle which lasted for 75 rounds, stamped him as a great fighter. Kilrain went down many times, but he gamely came after me. Yes, it was a fierce battle while it lasted--a little more than two hours.

"My go with Mitchell, which took place in Chantilly, France, lasted only 30 rounds, but it was a much longer battle than the Kilrain bout. The exact time was three hours and ten minutes. Mitchell was a very clever fellow. He was a good all-around fighter.

"Paddy Ryan was another topnotcher in his day. Those fellows were not quite so clever as the boxers of today. We went in the ring for business, not to dance around. We all had enough science to get out of a pinch when it came our way, but in those days men did not care for decisions on points. A man wanted to win as quickly as possible, and the sooner his man was put out the better.

"Corbett is the cleverest man I ever boxed. He is the fastest big man in the ring. His only trouble is he has not got the punch. That's what tells in the fighting game.

"When I was going to fight Flood in 1881 on a barge anchored off Yonkers I was to be thrown overboard. Everything was fixed for me to lose, but Al Smith, the referee, was too honest for any such game. He did his duty and I won. After the fight I was the whole thing. The bout lasted eight rounds. I never would stand for any unfair deal. I was always out to win on my merits.

"A man can be honest, no matter what game he is in. Then if you have lost honestly that is better than winning unfairly."

THORNTON TRIO DO THINGS TO CRACKS

PICKED TEAM IS NOT IN IT--SOME OF THE HIGH SCORES MADE AND WHO MADE 'EM.

A picked team of bowlers, composed of McMillan, Trembath and Richards, were not in it with the Thornton trio at the Thornton alleys last night. The Thorntons again demonstrated that they are the logical champions by taking five straight games and winning by a total of 379 pins. The Thorntons made the splendid total of 2,779 pins. Captain Ellis made the high average of 189, and Sheehan the high score of 226.

Table with bowling scores for Thornton's and Picked Team.

Table with bowling averages for Thornton's and Picked Team.

MASS PLAYS ARE TO BE ABOLISHED

New York, Dec. 29.--It is asserted by persons usually well-informed in such matters that the intercollegiate football rules committee will have to abolish mass plays before the beginning of the next season, or that failing such action on the part of the committee, the authorities of a number of universities will take such steps that the framers of the rules will be forced to legislate against the close formation method of attack.

A statement to this effect was made recently by the president of an Eastern university, and since then it has become known that various college authorities have had considerable correspondence regarding the methods of play and that Chairman Walter Camp, of the rules committee, has written to the universities regarding the advisability of calling a meeting of the committee in January for the purpose of revising the rules.

Those who run the faculty end of athletics in colleges are, it is said, just about unanimous for a radical alteration of the rules. They say that the physical well-being of the young men committed to their charge, if nothing else, demands a change; that football as it is played today has come to be too much a contest involving mere brute force and that the injuries sustained are too serious and too frequent to permit of its continuance in its present form.

Meet me at the Pfister.

TOD SLOAN IS NOT BROKE

Brother of the Famous Jockey Arrives in Chicago and Denies Report That Tod Has Lost All His Coin--Gossip About European Tracks and Some of the Fellows Over There We Read About.

Chicago, Dec. 29.--Cash Sloan and Frank Rutter, two of the most prominent American jockeys who rode in Russia during the racing season just closed, arrived in Chicago last week.

Sloan, accompanied by his wife, Rutter, Bert Knapp and Henry Shields, two other American riders and bicyclists Jimmy Michael, Eddie Bald and Harry Elkes, the latter two fresh from their campaign on the French cycle courses, landed in New York last Wednesday.

"Cash," who is a brother of the famous Tod Sloan, and, in the opinion of many horsemen, just as clever a rider, has been for two seasons employed by the famous singers, Jean and Edouard de Reszke, who own one of the most extensive racing stables in Russia. Both Sloan and Rutter have nothing but praise for the Russians, and say that all the boys were treated royally in the land of the czar.

"We all left Russia with well-filled pocketbooks," said "Cash," as he flashed a big roll of banknotes, "and most of the lads will go back next year. Rutter and I, however, are likely to ride in France next season, although I don't care to state who for. We were in Paris eight days on our way over, and while there were offered very flattering contracts."

"Did you see Tod in Paris, Cash?"

"Yes, and he was looking finer than silk, and is evidently taking good care of himself."

"Was he broke?"

"Broke? Well, if he was I saw no indication of it. He said he was pretty easy and took us for a whirl in a brand new seventy horse-power automobile. He made Rutter and I both holler murder, too, before we got through."

"I thought a mile in .39 astride a good horse was going some, but say, you ought to take a trip with Tod."

"How did you find the feeling in Paris regarding Johnny Reiff and Milton Henry?"

"Well, the opinion seems to be pretty general that Reiff and Henry have been mistreated, and it would not surprise me if both boys were exonerated of the charges made against them and reinstated. They are immensely popular there, and I heard a lot of talk about jealousy on the part of other riders having been at the bottom of the trouble. Reiff and Henry swept everything before them, and I guess the other fellows got tired of the Yankee boys winning all the races and started a howl.

"We had a great time in Russia fighting it out for the jockey honors. First one Yank would be in the lead and then another. Bert Knapp was in front for awhile, and then 'Indian Jimmy' Morgan set the pace. I was always close up, and toward the end of the season managed to

get to the top, but Carl Mitchell, who rode in great form all year and had the advantage of an American trainer, Jack Keane, to prepare most of his mounts, came along at the finish and beat me a nose for the honors. Mitchell first, myself second, Knapp third, Morgan fourth and Rutter and the other boys in a bunch close upon their heels, was the order of the finish.

"The English riders never had a look in, but one Pole, named Boris (like the duke), and two Russians--Kassackath and Bolentoff--were really good jockeys. They coupled the American seat in the saddle and rode with fair success, improving steadily as they became more experienced.

"Morgan won the Warsaw Derby on a horse called Bravo Lascanza. This is the richest of all the racing events, and is worth 35,000 roubles, or \$17,500.

"The next biggest race is the Moscow Derby, and this fell to Mitchell, who rode Sirdar to victory, trained by Jack Keane.

"By the way, Sirdar is the best horse I ever saw on a soft track. He looks for all the world like the American horse, Ethelbert.

"Mitchell also won the St. Leger at St. Petersburg. I was second on Santiago, not the old fellow 'Lucky' Baldwin used to own, but another bearing the same name. Rutter was third on Burlock.

"The tracks in Russia are circular, and usually a mile and a third in circumference. They use the starting gate for the younger fields and send the other fields away with a barrier.

"The fields are large, consisting in most cases of from fifteen to twenty horses. The racing stewards are very strict as to foul riding or crossing, but are at the same time extremely fair, and none of us ever got into trouble.

"The betting is all done by the Russian mutual system. The government manages the pools and gets a rake-off of 10 per cent of the money wagered. No one can make a bet less than 10 roubles, and the never knows the price until after the race is run.

"The betting, however, is light, and the sport is therefore clean. The stables are all owned by wealthy noblemen, who love to see their horses run and care little about gambling. They run from ten to twelve races a day in the summer time, beginning at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon and ending at 10 o'clock at night. The climate is much the same as ours, a trifle cooler, perhaps. The weather was unusually wet last season.

"I was amused at the stories printed in the American papers about Joe Piggott's being broke in Memphis and begging for funds with which to go to Frisco. Piggott rode all season in Russia and when I left was well fixed. He hasn't seen Memphis in a year at least."

JACK MUNROE IS TO GO WITH BALL

REJECTS OFFER OF BOSTON THEATER FOR A BETTER THING--LOCAL MEN GOING ALONG

Jack Munroe suddenly changed his mind yesterday concerning his engagement with the Walden theater of Boston and decided to accept the offer of Clark Ball which is some better than that made by the Boston crowd.

According to the contract signed by the men, Munroe is to get \$500 per week for 10 weeks to show on the road under Ball's management and also 75 per cent of the gross receipts. This is better than the Boston theater offer as theirs was just \$500 per week.

The combination will tour the state of Montana and will then go East. A couple of Butte boxers will travel with Munroe. Mose La Fontise will go along and will take on any man of his weight, agreeing to stop here.

Doc Flynn and Howard Opie will also go along and will try to do things to all lightweights who try to oppose them.

WILL FIGHT OVER JOCKEY

Keene Wants a Boy With Whom He Says He Has a Three Year Contract.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 29.--Trainer J. C. Keene left today for Chicago to claim before the Western Jockey club the services of Grover C. Fuller, a famous jockey who has just signed a \$10,000 yearly contract to ride for Durnell & Herz at New Orleans.

Keene has a contract with the boy for three years, having engaged him at \$20 a month and board to teach him to ride. There will be a big fight over the contract.

Seton Thompson's Father. Toronto, Dec. 29.--Jose L. Thompson, father of Ernest Seton Thompson the writer of animal stories, died yesterday. He was 80 years of age.

A Delicate Affair. Brussels, Dec. 29.--The Petit Bleu has published M. Girou's own story of his relations with the crown princess of Saxony, in which he admits the paternity of her sixth child.

NEW MAN TO BOX CHAMP. JEFFRIES

Sam Fitzpatrick, it is said, will soon bring to this country from Australia Bill Dorothy, a heavyweight, to pit against Jim Jeffries. Australia in years gone by sent to America some of the greatest fighters known to the ring, foremost among them being Bob Fitzsimmons. It is not likely that Sam has discovered a man who can fill the elanky one's shoes; but he may import one who might prove big and strong enough to secure him a match with the present holder of the heavyweight title.

Recalling the fact that Australia in the past has furnished us a plentiful supply of mitt masters, it may be interesting to know what has become of the various fighters who crossed the Pacific to earn fame and fortune in touring old Yankee land. Bob Fitzsimmons is touring in the West with Jim Jeffries. Jim Hall, who whipped him in his native land, is managing Kid Abel in Chicago. Dan Creedon has returned to his home in Sydney, and will soon fight there. Steve O'Donnell is residing in Boston. Joe Goddard is in Philadelphia, not yet fully recovered from a bullet wound in his head received in a fight at Camden. Peter Jackson died at his old home several years ago. Jimmy Ryan is boxing instructor at West Baden. Tom Williams holds the same position at French Lick. Billy Smith is located in Texas. Frank Slavin is still fighting in the Klondike.

Billy Murphy is a railroad watchman at Sioux City. Young Griffo is making his home in Chicago. George Dawson is located in the same city. Young Pluto is back in Sydney. Abe Willis, who fought George Dixon for the championship, is boxing instructor of the Gaiety Athletic club in the same city. Tommy Treacey is still fighting through the West. Billy McCarthy has not been heard from in years. Jerry Marshall is somewhere in the East. Billy Edwards is touring the states boxing now and then. Harry Daley, the bantamweight, who was Griffo's equal in cleverness, died in England several years ago.

There is not an Australian in America today worthy of a match with the champion in any class. A few years ago they were contenders for every honor belonging to the prize ring in America.

The Elixir of Life Centennial Beer Renews the Vigor of Youth. Try It.