BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

R. Edgren's COLUMN

National Government is Taking Up Boxing as the Best Training for a Soldier.

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WAR is proving the utter foolishness of the professional "reformer."

Recently a "reform" was urged against the existence of boxing in New York State. Probably the people who inspired and pushed it through are sorry, by this time, and more or less ashamed. For the National Government is taking up boxing as the best training for a soldier. Every soldier in the American Army will have to practise the use of the boxing gloves. No soldier who doesn't know how to box can hold his own in modern hand to hand fighting. Boxing has become the most important feature of bayonet practice. It teaches a man how to avoid injury, and how to inflict it. It teaches soldiers (and other people) self control, an erect carriage, lightness of foot, quickness of hand and quick decision in any emergency. There is no other sport that can approach boxing in efficiency in all these things. In the Canadian and the British Armies soldiers are ordered to box, just as they are ordered to drill. Boxing is a universal and compulsory part of military training.

By those who carried on the late attack that succeeded in repealing the Frawley law, boxers were regarded as a ruffianly set of men whose profession should be without legal protection.

Yet that very profession is about to be honored by the United States Government, as it has already been honored by the French, Canadian, English and Australian Governments.

The boxers who will, after Nov. 15, be restrained from exhibiting their skill in New York State, will hold honorable positions as instructors of boxing in various departments of the United States Army. Probably some of them, acting as instructors, will be made commissioned officers, so that they will have proper authority over the men they are handling.

There will be boxing in New York State, under Government direction.

There will be boxing in every State in the country.

In Canada, so Col. Greer informed me a couple of weeks ago, the holding of professional ring battles, between skilled professionals fighting for purses, was considered a splendid thing for the soldiers in camp. The Government built one arena seating 15,000 men, so that large numbers of soldiers could look on and study the boxing methods of different men, and enjoy the contests, both in the regimental championships and at professional matches.

The same thing will no doubt be seen in New York State, for no petty prejudice will be allowed to interfere with the proper training of our soldiers.

Boxing, after years of maladministration and of persecution by the soft handed and soft headed "reformers," is about to be recognized for what it is—a sport that makes MEN.

AND there is football. For years the reformers have been threatening to abolish the great American college game. In some few cases legislation has been directed against football. Half a dozen years ago there was a widespread attempt to prohibit the playing of football. The sole excuse for this was that football was "rough." Some players were killed. Some broke bones and twisted a joint or two. It was, is and always will be a real game for men, not a game for mollycoddles. In every sport it is possible to have fatal accidents. And fatal accidents come more frequently to those who haven't taken part in sport. A record of the accidents in sport is interesting. But how much more interesting would be it were possible to compile it) a record of the instances in which the lives and limbs of men have been saved because of their experience and training in the rough sports of football and boxing! I know of scores of these. So does every one interested in sport. I know a man who was in an automobile struck by a train, with three others. This man escape death because, as he was flying through the air when hurled from the car, he instinctively pulled himself into a ball like a football player thrown under a mass of tacklers. I have had a similar experience myself, when carried over a forty-foot drop on a mountainside by a small landslide.

The men who play through school and college years on a football team are better men for it all their lives.

To-day see what football has done for our college men. The faculties of various colleges, recovering slowly from the hysteria that led them to call off all sporting schedules immediately after the declaration of war with Germany, are talking of renewing football. Many colleges will soon have football squads in training. But they will be squads of new men. The regulars are practically all in khaki men now. At Dartmouth the entire squad has enlisted in various branches of military service. The same can be said of the football squads at Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Pennsylvania, Colgate, Princeton and other well known institutions. At West Point and Annapolis football and other sports will naturally languish this year, because men being trained for army and navy will be graduated more quickly than usual, and all their time will be needed for training in military and naval affairs.

BASEBALL has been criticized, and only the strength of the professional leagues has disgraced the "reformers" who wished to attack the national game. A number of men have been killed while playing baseball. Thousands play it, all over the country, and as there is danger of accident wherever there is strenuous work or play going on, there have been more cases of injury or death in baseball than in any other sport. But the people who harp on baseball fatalities will have little to say this year. Baseball will rank next to boxing as an army training pastime. Perhaps, being such a splendid game for regimental competition, it will even rank ahead of boxing. There will be regimental championships, company championships, and in all thousands of games played in the training camps and at the front. Baseball will be one of the sports depended upon to keep the soldiers amused, interested and careless of the hazards of battle.

At Vimy Ridge the Canadians played the final game in their battalion championships on the battleground two days after driving the Germans out. Our boys will be doing the same thing one of these fine days.

IN THE SPORT SPOTLIGHT

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Bottled Up "Good Thing" Trotted Out by Frank Weir

Old Rosebud Trainer Starts Jack Hare Jr. and He Romps Home.

By Vincent Treanor.

TRAINER Frank Weir is having his innings in the East. He won the Queens County Handicap with Old Rosebud on Saturday, and yesterday he put over another good thing in Jack Hare Jr. This two-year-old won like a real good one with the three time winner and favorite, Thistle, only third. Jockey Knapp, who rode the Weir good thing, was very careful to win not too far off. Evidently he had instructions not to show the colt up. Jack Hare jr. followed the favorite and Little Devil to the five-eighth, then drew away, to win very handily. Little Devil tailed off in the final eighth and finished outside the money. Thistle, or perhaps his rider, J. Williams, seemed well content with third money.

There was nothing of the hustling, bustling finish that has been characteristic of Thistle's recent races. Either his jockey was tired or the colt was tired. The more kindly view of the race is that Thistle tired badly in the last eighth. The Schwartz Brothers are said to have backed Thistle with confidence. If they did, they only dropped some of their previous winnings on certain members of their own stables. Jack Hare jr. is a good colt and very probably will beat better fields than he met yesterday.

Jockey Troise, perhaps the best of the lightweight apprentices, will be out of the saddle for some time to come. Celtabel, his mount in the third race, went to the post very fractious and tossed the youngster out of the saddle. Besides this Celtabel stepped on the boy and broke his left arm. The track auto was rushed back to the paddock and a new boy, Watts, was engaged. Meanwhile every jockey in the race dismounted and walked around till the new jockey arrived. Celtabel, still in a crazy mood, promptly threw Watts out of the saddle at the barrier. He was finally mounted and got away with his field, but never figured in the running thereafter.

Sam Hildreth put a good thing over in Fragonard in the third race. The Hastings colt won as he pleased after running Ballast, the favorite, and Edith F. to the ground. Edith F. ran a good race and looked like an easy winner in the final sixteenth, but hung badly when the real pinch came.

Daddy's Choice is a wonderful colt. He seems able to run any way the betting indicates. His owner, Emil Herz, is a genius at placing horses. Daddy's Choice can lose as gracefully as he can win, but never are his form reversals questioned.

Races like the sixth at Aqueduct yesterday should be prohibited. Fields of twenty horses are altogether too big, and as races they develop into wild scrambles. The association has been lucky that many fatalities have not attended their runnings.

Johnny Whalen started what was regarded a real good thing in Federal Girl in the sixth race. He said she could run and run fast, but it was her first race in a long while. She performed very well at that, but Shuttinger didn't seem to persevere after Viewpoint headed his mount. Federal Girl will win a maiden race before the season is over.

Athletic Notes

After months of indecision it is practically certain now that St. Louis will hold the track and field and all-around championships of the Amateur Athletic Union on Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and 3. More evidence reached New York to-day that the St. Louis committee is meeting with success in its eleventh hour attempt to raise the guarantee fund of $5,000, and it is expected that the whole sum will be subscribed before the present week ends.

Jimmy Clark of Em-Manuel House, President of the Long Island and Intersectional Athletics Leagues, is planning to take a course of training at a military camp with the purpose of being named a non-commissioned officer in the new National Army. Clark's personal efforts were responsible for the big turnout at the Intersectional League meet at the City College Stadium on Sunday, the biggest athletic meet New York has had in years.

Fistic News and Gossip

By John Pollock

The Pioneer Sporting Club is the only club in Manhattan staging a boxing show to-night. In the star event Pete Hartley, the crack Danish lightweight, who not only is clever but can hit, will meet Young Gradwell, the rugged Newark lightweight. In the ten-round semi-final Frankie Conifrey, the Fighting Fireman, and Joe Mooney, the west side boy, who boxed a draw with Billy Defoe of St. Paul last week, will clash.

At the Harlem Sporting Club of Hammels Station, Rockaway Beach, to-night, Bob McAllister, the clever California light heavyweight, who soon leaves for home to join his regiment, will meet Joe Rondis, the clever heavyweight from Seattle, Wash.

Harry Pollok writes as follows: "I have signed Irish Patsy Cline up to a long term contract and am going to 'point' him for the world's lightweight championship. For a nineteen-year-old boy Cline is the most promising material in the ring to-day. He has done everything that has been asked of him, and there seems to be no limitation upon what he might do. He is going to spend a couple of weeks with Freddie Welsh at the latter's Health Farm in Summit, N. J., and will then be ready to take on all the topnotchers in the lightweight division. Cline wants to meet all of the best and only the best. He wants to take as short a cut to the championship as possible."

Ed Patterson just can't keep out of the boxing game. He recently announced his retirement as a manager when Chink Sinkler and Al Reich deserted him. He is back in the business again. He announces that he has three heavyweights under his management, Jim Savage, Bob Devere and Andre Anderson. He says he has signed up Savage for two matches—with Cisco Hawkins at Pittsfield July 12, and Fred Fulton at Racine July 20.

Willie Jackson bones Eddie Wallace a twelve-round bout to a decision in Boston to-night. Both boys left on the 5 o'clock train last night. Jackson says he'll knock out the Brooklyn lad, a beat Benny Leonard was unable to accomplish in several attempts. In the semi-final Benny Valgar, the French champion, meets Joe Stanton of the Hub.

The first open air boxing show of the season in Philadelphia will be held at Shibe Park, the home of the Philadelphia Athletics, to-morrow night. The main attraction for the occasion will be a six round no-decision contest between Johnny Dundee, the fast Italian lightweight of this city, and George Chaney of Baltimore. The men will battle at 133 pounds, weigh in at the ringside. Dundee is to receive a guarantee of $1,200, with an option of 50 per cent. of the gross receipts.

A match between big fellows was clinched to-day by Tom Bodkin, the light promoter of Pittsburgh. The heavies signed up for the go are that boat Smith and Tom (Bearcat) McMahon, the game and aggressive fighter of Newcastle, Pa. They will come together in a six-round bout at the Academy of Music in the above city on Saturday night.

Judging by the advance sale of tickets for the twelve-round go between Mike Gibbons and George Chip, the former middleweight champion, the indications are that one of the largest crowds that ever witnessed a boxing contest at Youngstown, O., will be on hand to see them in action to-morrow afternoon. They will come together at the baseball park of that city, and Promoter Stamboulis, who is staging the show, says that the advance sale has already reached the $5,000 mark. It is expected that the gate receipts will figure up to about $15,000.

Silent Martin, the deaf mute middleweight, and Augie Raiser, the promising fighter of the Bronx, will come together in the main go of ten rounds at the Bronx A. A. of Far Rockaway on Friday night. Martin has not fought for several weeks on account of a cut eye.

John Weismantel to-day completed his card of bouts for the next show of the Broadway S. C. of Brooklyn on Saturday night. There will be two ten-round main attractions and several preliminaries. Bill Brennan will meet Jack Clifford of Brooklyn in the feature bout, while Young Charlie Mitchel of the Seattle A. C. of Bushwick section will go against Charlie Kid Goodman of Williamsburg in the other contest.

Frankie Burns, the sensational Jersey City fighter, and Dutch Brandt have been signed up to meet in the star bout of ten rounds at the Bronx A. A. of Far Rockaway on the evening of July 13.

Battling Kopin of Jamestown, N. Y., will probably be matched to-day to meet Walter Lanett, the west side welterweight, for ten rounds at the Pioneer S. C. on the night of July 17. Kopin bested Jack Britton and many other stars in the welterweight division with good success.

Jimmy Johnston lost a decision and two teeth to a trackman in the Bronx yesterday. Johnston, it seems, was driving his car when a truck bumped into it. Harry Thomas, the retired English fighter, who was with Johnston, jumped out of the car and argued with the driver of the truck. Quicker than you can say it Johnston was hit on the jaw. A policeman took the belligerents to court, but after making complaints against each other both Johnston and the battling trackman withdrew them.

AQUEDUCT ENTRIES.

AQUEDUCT, N. Y., July 3.—The entries for to-morrow's races are as follows:

FIRST RACE—For three-year-olds, and upward; selling; six furlongs. *Mr. W., 100; Margaret L., 95; Plenitude, 113; Tobacco Box, 108; Pollyanna, 95; Nine Spot, 110; Inspector, 118; Opus, 105; Wanda Pitter, 113; Trebuhler (imp.), 95; Armistead, 113; Anfoe, 113; Photo (imp.), 95; Grenza, 105; *Mario Henry, 108; Tecoram, 113; Bowl (imp.), 100; Balgoe, 113; Mother Macree, 100; Dar, 110; also eligible to start: Hidemiane, 108; Brownwalk, 118; Quartz, 108; Yankee Notions, 113; Fruitlet (imp.), 108; Mr Snow, 113; *Intriguer, 100.

SECOND RACE—For two-year-olds, and upward; steeplechase handicap; selling; about two miles. Shannon River, 119; Krisky, 145; Lemisa, 152; Joe Madden, 150; Ben Walker (2), 150; Ben Ali, 150; Ben Ali, 150; Ben Ali,