

# A Little Knowledge May Be Dangerous, but the Hotel Astor Is Full of It

## Work of Defining an Amateur Only Begun

Representatives of 19 Organizations Tackle the Question at Astor.

### DELEGATES DISCUSS MANY-SIDED PROBLEM

Pave Way for Adoption of New Code Submitted by the I. C. A. A. A.

That unsolved and hitherto most intractable of all athletic problems, the distinction between the amateur and the professional, engaged the earnest attention of the representatives of nineteen controlling organizations in amateur sports, collegiate and non-collegiate, in a conference held in the Rose Room of the Hotel Astor yesterday afternoon at the invitation of the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America, more popularly known by the shorter appellation of the I. C. A. A. A.

It was a meeting of great moment in the history of amateur athletics in the United States, but viewed from the shortened perspective that one got in listening to the discussion that drifted through three long hours of the afternoon, it seemed almost as if it were a mere routine affair, as if there were even greater disorder than before, because a delegate from each of the organizations represented turned up and spread out to view one or more of the seemingly trivial, though not the less perplexing, problems that have arisen in the years of administering rules which all admitted to be inadequate.

Although little but a plain statement of the facts was accomplished in the first conference, there was at least the promise that the foundation had been laid for a really serious discussion at the meetings to come. The conference adjourned well past the dinner hour to meet again on Thursday for further discussion, and it is probable that then a definite organization will be effected, committees appointed and plans made for the adoption and promulgation of the new amateur code by the organizations affected.

Every Angle Discussed. Every angle of the more cornered amateur question was spread to view by those who have spent many years of their lives in administering regulations that have proved to be well nigh non-enforceable. Gus W. Weeks, chairman of the graduate advisory committee of the I. C. A. A. A., through whose initiative the conference was called, was named presiding officer, and with a few deft touches laid open the whole subject for discussion in all its minor parts by those who were sitting in consultation with him.

Howard F. Whitney, represented the United States Golf Association; Robert D. Wrenn, the National Lawn Tennis Association; Justice Bartow S. Weeks, George J. Turner and Frederick W. Ruben, the Amateur Athletic Union; George H. Hammons, the Amateur Fencers' League; Dr. Reginald H. Sayre, the United States Revolver Association; William F. Garcelon, Professor Frank W. Nicholson and Dean Le Baron Briggs, the Amateur Football Athletic Association; David A. Slayback, the International Skating Union of America; G. T. Moon, Jr., the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players; Dr. W. P. Bowen, the Amateur Research Society; Dr. Joseph E. Raycroft, the Intercollegiate Basketball League; E. L. Mocker, Douglas Stewart and Thomas W. Cahill, the United States Football Association; Norton H. Crowe, the Amateur Athletes' Union of Canada; Major Cook, the Military Athletic League; Dr. J. H. McCurdy, the National Playgrounds Association; Dr. Paul Phillips, the New England Intercollegiate Athletic Association; and Dr. George Fisher, the Allied Leagues of Y. M. C. A. Clubs, and Emil Rath, the Turn Verens and Gymnasium Union.

Comprehensive suggestions for an amateur code were submitted to the conference by the I. C. A. A. A. in the form of a booklet which contained an amateur rule phrased to meet the contingencies arising in every sport, but the only speaker who really committed himself to discussing the proposed code was Justice Weeks, speaking as a representative of the Amateur Athletic Union. Justice Weeks took a spirited part in the discussion from the beginning, and when he came to his formal address at the end it was pretty well understood that he was one of the powers behind the executive committee of the I. C. A. A. A. in its efforts to straighten out the tangles of amateur athletic competition.

The Definition. Justice Weeks spoke to the point and made no pretense of his approval of the rules set down by the I. C. A. A. A. in his definition of an amateur, "one who engages in sport solely for the pleasure and physical benefits he derives therefrom and to whom sport is nothing more than an avocation. This definition is qualified to bar all athletes who commit a fraud, compete for money, coach for money, capitalize their athletic fame and associate with professionals. The one real progressive step advocated is the power of reinstatement whereby a man dishonored for all

## Millennium via the Amateur Rule

Another possible scheme for putting an end to all war bobbed up yesterday in the conference at the Hotel Astor on amateur athletic problems. Major Robert S. Cooke, of the Military Athletic League, was discussing amateurism in the national guard and how destructive it would be to all military order if the line between amateurs and professionals were too closely drawn. "Why, if we let a registered amateur compete in a wall scaling contest against a professional where would we be?" he asked. "It probably wouldn't be long before the amateurs would refuse to fight with professionals, and then what would become of all wars?" he continued. "We—"

"Now, Dr. Cooke," broke in Gus Kirby, chairman of the conference, but he got no further because of the roar of laughter that shook the room.

reasons save fraud may be reinstated to amateur standing in all sports other than the one in which he professionalized after five years have elapsed. In his introductory remarks Mr. Kirby spoke of working under rules that fitted conditions in 1874 or 1875, but were long since out of date. He added that instead of distinguishing between athletes as amateurs and professionals that the difference today should be drawn between those who compete for sport's sake and those who compete for the sake of something else. "Better be an honest professional," he concluded, "than a dishonest amateur."

Howard Whitney, secretary of the U. S. G. A., recited the plan that has been followed in the controlling body in golf to stamp out professionalism. He said that widespread publicity and a campaign of education among the players themselves was conducive of far better results than any other method. He said that the golf body sat as a court of equity and justice each case on its merits. He was asked by Justice Weeks as to the rules of the association whereby professional baseball players are permitted to have amateur standing until they are graduated from the amateur standing had shown his good faith and had not participated as a professional within a given period of years was he allowed to play golf.

He made it clear that only after the player loses caste. In his introductory remarks Mr. Kirby spoke of working under rules that fitted conditions in 1874 or 1875, but were long since out of date. He added that instead of distinguishing between athletes as amateurs and professionals that the difference today should be drawn between those who compete for sport's sake and those who compete for the sake of something else. "Better be an honest professional," he concluded, "than a dishonest amateur."

It would seem as if George T. Adee of Julian, N. Y., president of the West Side Tennis Club, could be his logical successor, but, of course, nothing definite along these lines can be more than suggested at this time, as this is work for the nominating committee to do.

Bob Wrenn has been president of the U. S. N. T. A. for several years, and before assuming office was one of the most prominent players in the country, having held the national championship four different occasions—in 1893, 1894, 1896 and 1897. It was known as one of the most brilliant strategists on the courts during his reign, and was a master of the lob for position, winning many of his most important matches through his ability to place his baffling lobs with great exactness in the spot he desired.

W. F. Garcelon, former graduate manager of athletics at Harvard, speaking for the National Collegiate Athletic Association, advised the conference to hurry in the matter of the code, and to make the exceptions necessary in their application to that particular sport.

"There should be an annual gathering like this, and maybe two a year, but the code would be a rule that could be generally enforced. These rules have to be worked out slowly, because the line between the amateur and the professional is so faint. In this question of summer baseball alone there are one hundred different interpretations by one hundred different colleges."

## New Solution Offered For Athletic Problems

Research Society Suggests Council to Serve as Arbitrator and Straighten Out Infracture of Amateur Rules.

The establishment of a national federated athletic council for the administration and control of amateur sports in the United States was suggested by a special committee of the Athletic Research Society at its annual meeting in the Hotel Astor yesterday. The proposed council would be a central body for the straightening out of all athletic troubles arising from infringement of amateur rules and would have a paid secretary and a staff of specialists.

The Athletic Research Society, which is composed of the athletic directors of many of the larger colleges and preparatory schools and is in a measure an inner circle of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, has spent much of its time in investigating amateurism in the effort to provide a definition of the word, and as a result the scheme for a national council suggested itself to one of the sub-committees.

## Alone at Last or the Curse of a Sleepy Eye



## WRENN SAYS HE WILL DROP HELM IN LAWN TENNIS

Robert D. Wrenn, president of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, publicly announced at the meeting of representative sports bodies throughout the country to discuss the much mooted amateur question, in the Hotel Astor yesterday, that he would retire as an active force in the affairs of lawn tennis when his present term of office expires.

This was the first official confirmation of a rumor that has been current in lawn tennis circles for two months, and will be heard with regret by those who have the interests of the sport at heart.

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## Football Treat for Polo Grounds

Washington, Penn., Dec. 27.—Official announcement was made to-night that the Washington and Jefferson football team will play Rutgers at the New York Polo Grounds on next Thanksgiving Day. Arrangements had been made for the home team to play the University of Chattanooga on that day, but this game has been transferred to November 25.

## BROWN FOOTBALL TEAM REACHES COAST

Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 27.—Accompanied by two coaches, twenty-one players of the Brown University football squad arrived here to-day to prepare for the game with Washington State College New Year's Day. The squad was met at the station by Brown alumni.

## Football Dates for Army Eleven

West Point, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Lieutenant Philip Hayes, the Army's new football representative, announced the football schedule for the cadets for the season of 1916 here to-day.

The cadets will have two intercollegiate gridiron battles next fall, Notre Dame from the Middle West and Washington and Lee University from the South. Trinity, after an absence from the Point of six years, reappears on the schedule. Colgate, Georgetown and Gettysburg, three teams which played here last fall, will be missed from the Army's list.

## Taft Will Address College Men To-day

The executive committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association met at the Hotel Astor last night to make final preparations for the annual convention of the association, which will be held here beginning at 10 o'clock this morning. Former President William H. Taft, will deliver an address at the evening session.

In view of the conference on amateur rules held at the Astor yesterday afternoon by the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of America and eighteen other organizations, the annual session of the college association takes on added importance. All of the members of the collegiate body were at the conference and the discussion part at least by the Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association of America movement.

The members of the executive committee who were present at last night's conference were Dean LeBaron R. Briggs, Harvard University; Professor Frank W. Nicholson, Wesleyan University; Professor F. N. Whittier, Bowdoin College; Professor J. A. Miller, Swarthmore College; Professor W. E. Murray, University of Kansas; Professor W. T. Mather, University of Texas; Professor S. L. McDonald, Colorado Agricultural College.

## Personal Touches Here and There in Boxing

By IGEOE

The welterweight division will be exhausted to-night at Madison Square Garden, when Willie Ritchie and Ted Lewis meet. It is the first time in years that a real welterweight contest of any pumpkins has been fought.

Time was when the welters were the most formidable in the Queensberry realm. Wolcott, Ryan, Neill, Mysterious Billy Smith, Rube Ferns and Matty Matthews were all great boxers, but with their pugilistic passing went the division. The last two to make any claim on the class were Honey Melody and Mike Twin Sullivan. When they finally gave up fighting the welters faded away until the once famous circle was forgotten entirely.

There are any number of present day boxers who will make it an interesting division once Ritchie and Lewis start the ball rolling. The woods are full of near lightweights who really belong in the 142 pound class. Ritchie realized that he had outgrown the lightweights, so he wisely declared himself welterweight champion at least on paper.

Lewis wants that title if it is to be established again, and he intends to make a pretty strenuous bid for the honors to-night. He has met with one reverse since he has been boxing in this country, and that was when he lost the title to Mike Glover, a man who is in reality a middleweight. Ted lost the referee's decision in twelve rounds.

Nothing seems to stop the heading ashore of the Australian, Les Darcy, toward Steve Ketcher's vacant throne. News comes from Kangaroo Land that Eddie McGoorty has again fallen before the hard used blacksmith. It was the second time that McGoorty has been knocked out by Darcy. He lasted sixteen rounds in the first fight and all sorts of weird stories floated across the seas concerning the bout. Many of the Australian's friends claimed that he had tossed the fight after betting on himself. Al Lippe said that McGoorty surely would knock Darcy out this time. Lippe was inclined to think that because of his own bias.

Lippe knew Darcy's every move, since Jeff Smith, Lippe's American importation, fought the Kangaroo twice, losing the last time on a foul. Lippe wasn't the same high regard for Darcy's fighting ability that many others have. There may be a little flavor of sour grapes in Al's opinion because of this new bout. It was the unsatisfactory result of the Smith-Darcy bout that prompted Lippe and his charge to fly back home to that dear America. Lippe is convinced that Gibbons, Smith, Ahearn, Bartfield and George Chip will surely defeat Darcy if he comes here.

"Chip will knock him out sure," said Lippe yesterday. "There is a foul in the report about it. Darcy can't take it and I know he will be a mark for Chip. Gibbons and Ahearn are sure to beat him. We are to get a prize fight because of this new bout. Many of McGoorty's friends are convinced now that Eddie is all in as a fighter."

Dan McKetrick appeared before the boxing commission yesterday, and Dan came out without a chip on his shoulder. Oh, boy, wasn't he mad! He claimed that Florrie Barnett, the referee, had been taking a kick from the American side. He said that he had been physically unable to continue. He was physically unable to continue. He was physically unable to continue. He was physically unable to continue.

The Cleveland family doctor and when he discovered no evidence of a foul he report got out that my man had quit," said McKetrick; "and all because he was physically unable to continue. He was physically unable to continue. He was physically unable to continue. He was physically unable to continue."

The Zulu Kid attended the meeting in his own behalf. He said that he had been advertised to meet Jake Ahearn at the Clermont on Christmas afternoon without either his manager, Andy Niederer, or himself knowing a single thing about it. Furthermore, he said that he hadn't got a cent for fight-

## LES DARCY WINS IN EIGHT ROUNDS

McGoorty Badly Beaten in Bout. Seconds Throw Up Sponge.

Sydney, New South Wales, Dec. 27.—Les Darcy, the middleweight champion of Australia, easily defeated Eddie McGoorty, an American middleweight, in the eighth round of their match here to-day.

McGoorty was punished so severely that his seconds threw up the sponge. The fight was witnessed by 16,000 persons.

## BURNS TO RUN BIG BOUT ALONE

Willard-Fulton Battle to Go On Without a Hitch, He Says.

New Orleans, Dec. 27.—Tommy Burns, who was a partner with Dominick Tortorich in the negotiations for the bout for the heavyweight championship to be held here on March 4, between Jess Willard and Fred Fulton, announced to-day that he personally would take over the agreement for the match and would put it on as an independent promoter.

Burns said he was in telegraphic communication to-day with Tom Jones, Willard's manager, and T. S. Andrews, in Chicago, concerning the match, and that changes in the details for the fight would be settled when Jones and Andrews arrived here on Wednesday. A percentage of the receipts, he said, would be substituted for the \$25,000 guarantee to Willard, win, lose or draw arranged for in the original agreement.

Tortorich said to-day he would have nothing to do with a Willard-Fulton bout unless Fulton first fought and defeated the winner of the Moran-Coffey fight, which takes place in New York on January 7.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The situation involved in the proposed Willard-Fulton fight for the world's championship at New Orleans on March 4 next was further clarified to-day by the receipt by Tom Jones, Willard's manager, from Tommy Burns, co-promoter with Dominick Tortorich of the exhibition, of the following telegram:

"Tortorich didn't want to go through with the match, so I have to-day taken over his interest, and I will go through with the Willard-Fulton match myself. Get here yourself soon as possible. We can sign new articles when you arrive."

"TOMMY BURNS."

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## YANKEES PLAN TO MAKE FIGHT FOR A PENNANT

Captain and Colonel Seek to Land Archer, Fisher, Zwilling and Flack.

ALLEN AND KNETZER WOULD BE WELCOME

Deals for Lee Magee and J. Franklin Baker Already Are Pending.

By FRANK O'NEILL

The Yankees will be contenders for championship honors in the American League next season if Captain T. Huston and Colonel Jacob Ruppert are successful in carrying out their plan. They have plucked into the battle for the stars of the Federal League, and if any other club gets the men wanted by New York it will be at a staggering price.

The affable Cap Huston has entered into negotiations with Charlie Weighman, new owner of the Chicago Cubs, for Jimmy Archer, the catcher, Bob Fisher, the shortstop, and Zwilling and Flack, the outfielders of the Pittsburgh Rebels, asking that a price be set upon Frank Allen and Baron Knetzer, two of the best players in the Federal League, along with the Lee Magee and J. Franklin Baker, if he tried through, will give the Yankees a team that may make it more than a contender for the rival clubs.

Mr. Huston is, of course, anxious to make any definite answer to Captain Huston and Colonel Ruppert until the formal transfer of the Cubs is made. With Charlie's act away in Texas, it may be several days before anything can be done. Even then, certain stipulations precede themselves. Mr. Weighman will have to ask waivers on the players sought by the Yankees, and every club in the league will have to be given a chance to bid for them. To be sure, all appear eager to see the Yankees prosper, but the men in question are stars in their profession and it is not surprising that they are being sought by several clubs in the National League that would like to get welcome Bob Fisher. The waiver may not apply in the case of these players who were in the Federal League teams which were merged with the Cubs and Browns. This matter will come up for discussion at the meeting of the National Commission in Cincinnati next week.

Cap Huston and Colonel Ruppert have planned a smashing stroke. They realize that no halfway measures will do. The Yankees must be strengthened to live and win in the playground, would add great strength to the team. There are perhaps two catchers in the big league to-day who match Jimmy Archer. They are Ray Schalk, of the White Sox, and Frank Snyder, of the Cardinals. Both these men are in the Federal League. Archer has already reached the zenith of his career. How vastly superior Archer is to the catchers now in the employ of the Yankees, need not be largely upon at this time. A companion would be a injustice to him.

Bob Fisher, the shortstop of the Cubs, would no doubt replace Roger Peckinpaugh by his superior hitting ability. Knetzer was the leading first baseman in the National League last season at Washington Park. Koenigsperger declared him to be one of the best pitchers of the league at the time. Allen had his ups and downs, but he had great ability, beyond all question, but it was whispered the personal differences with the owners of the team discouraged him from doing his best.

It is not without the realm of possibility that the Yankees will take the field for the opening game with Pitt on first base; Magee, second; Fisher, shortstop; Baker, third; High, left field; Malsb, center field; Zwilling, right field; Archer, catcher, and Galt, well pitcher.

Frank Allen and Elmer Baron Knetzer were the two best pitchers for the Superbas a few years ago. If the word of the Federal club owners is to be taken at face value they have lost none of their cunning.

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When the story of picturesque characters in baseball is written, William ("Lord") Byron, the National League umpire, will be the subject of at least one chapter. If the average fan were asked, "Who is the best umpire in the league?" he probably would answer, "Bill Klem." But if the question were, "Who is the most original?" there could be only one answer—Byron.

Lord William, as he is known, came up to the major circuit carrying the handicap of minor league reputation. His individualism made him the object of every sharp-tongued player's wit, but there is no record of Bill ever coming off second best in any bout at the moment. His list of victims reach out of the ranks of players and managers and includes at least one club owner.

One day last summer Bill umpired a double-header in St. Louis. It was hot that particular day, so hot that even St. Louis complained. The Cards lost two games, and Bill got in Dutch with the fans. Nearly every close decision went against the Cardinals, and the crowd howled itself hoarse.

After the game Mrs. Schuyler Britton waited for Byron, and, meeting him, said to austere tones: "Mr. Byron, what have you against the St. Louis club?" Byron, who would be another Chesterfield, clicked his heels together, bowed low and, doffing his hat, replied: "I am Mrs. Britton of St. Louis, she said. Byron drew himself up to his full height and said: "Do you ask me as an official or personally, madame?"

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**Research Society Suggests Council to Serve as Arbitrator and Straighten Out Infracture of Amateur Rules.**

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The proposed council would be a central body for the straightening out of all athletic troubles arising from infringement of amateur rules and would have a paid secretary and a staff of specialists.

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The council would comprise representatives from all the national organizations concerned in amateur athletics, colleges, preparatory schools, the Amateur Athletic Union, the Military Athletic League and church, Sunday school and commercial leagues. It would fix national standards of amateurism, promulgate rules, formulate and adopt an honor code for all branches of sport, serve as an arbitrator between national organizations and pass upon applications for reinstatement in cases of violation of the amateur rules.

Furthermore, it would decide questions relating to the representation of the United States in such contests as the Olympic games and in international conferences.

W. P. Bowen, president of the research society, delivered an address on the selection of athletes for the teams in educational institutions. Dr. Henry F. Kallenberg read a paper on mass athletics in educational institutions.

Dr. John Brown, Jr., presented a report on the elements constituting the status of an amateur. Dr. George Meylan, of Columbia University, who was scheduled to read a report on the effects upon the individual of athletic competition, declined on the ground that the subject required two or three years' handling by a large committee.

**Bits of Baseball Chatter Heard on Winter Diamond**

By FRANK O'NEILL

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**ONE BALL CLUB MUST MOVE FROM CLEVELAND**

Ban Johnson Delivers Edict—Toledo May Get Franchise.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The American Association team must be taken away from Cleveland, according to a statement made by President Johnson of the American League before starting to-night for the Forest City to discuss with bankers there the baseball situation.

American League owners will gather in Cleveland either on Wednesday or Thursday to dispose of the question involved in the affairs of the major and minor league clubs, which are being handled by a committee of bankers for Charles Somers.

That Charles Thomas, president of the Chicago Cubs, wishes to be among the purchasers of an association franchise, with the idea of moving it to Toledo, was admitted by President Chicago, with Mr. Thomas, if his proposition is accepted, would be associated Roger Bresnahan, whose home is in Toledo.

It is understood the Cleveland bankers want to sell the Toledo grounds, franchise and players' contracts together, and that \$150,000 will be a keed for them.