



SPORTING GOSSIP.

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WILL BE NO FIGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO

Governor Orders Attorney-General to Prevent Johnson-Jeffries Battle

San Francisco, June 15.—Gov. Gillett today ordered Attorney-General Webb to take measures to prevent the Johnson-Jeffries fight in San Francisco.

The fight promoters were dumfounded, for the Governor in an interview in the East and since his return had declared that responsibility for the fight rested with the District Attorney of San Francisco.

The Governor's purpose to prevent the fight was outlined in a letter addressed to Attorney-General U. S. Webb. On receipt of the communication from the Governor the Attorney-General and his chief assistant, Raymond Benjamin, went into conference to consider the legal phases of the case.

Governor Gillett is evidently determined to put an end to prizefighting in California, for late this afternoon he sent a telegram to the Attorney-General ordering him to stop the Langford-Kaufman fight scheduled for next Saturday afternoon in San Francisco. This despatch intensified the gloom that hung over the headquarters of the prizefight promoters, as it was recognized as the death knell of pugilism in California.

No promoter can afford to antagonize the Governor, as the Attorney-General's deputies could stop any boxing match as soon as blood was shed and the spectacle became brutal. All talk about taking legal measures against the Governor's action is recognized here as absurd, for every professional contest in the ring held here in years has been a genuine prizefight and under the law a felony.

The action of Gov. Gillett was a hard blow to the sporting men, but what they don't know is that the Governor's hand was forced from Washington. The Governor in his letter declares that he has become convinced that the function slated for July 4 will be a prizefight and not a boxing contest, and as prizefighting is declared by California law to be a felony he feels it his duty to stop the contest.

This is the Governor's official position. But the real reason that prompted him to take this action was a telegraphic warning he received last night from Congressman Bennett of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Mr. Bennett wired that unless the Governor prevented the Johnson-Jeffries fight in San Francisco he would not hope to get the Panama fair. Virtually the same despatch from Mr. Bennett was received by William R. Wheeler, president of the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco.

This ultimatum made the Governor take quick action, especially as it was seconded by despatches from California Congressmen and Senators. On the other side are business and hotel men of San Francisco, who are up in arms because of the Governor's action. They do not appreciate the danger of the city losing the Panama fair.

The Governor's letter to the Attorney-General follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE.

Sacramento, June 14, 1910. The Hon. U. S. Webb, Attorney-General, San Francisco.

Dear Sir: I desire call your attention to a so-called prizefight to take place on the Fourth of July next in the city of San Francisco between one Jim Jeffries and one Jack Johnson.

Many complaints are received at this office from prominent citizens of the State protesting against the so-called fight and requesting that some action be taken by the proper authorities to stop the same.

The District Attorney of San Francisco has informed me that he does not propose to interfere in the matter.

The first session of the Legislature held in this State in the year 1850, enacted a law making it a felony for two persons to fight each other upon a previous agreement, upon a wager for money or any other reward. This law has been amended from time to time, but never so as to make prizefighting lawful.

In 1903 the Legislature again amended the law relating to prizefighting. Where the law as amended permitted "sparring exhibitions" for a limited number of rounds with gloves to be held by a domestic incorporated club, it did not remove the ban which the laws of the State have always placed upon prizefights, and while a "sparring exhibition" under certain conditions and restrictions is permissible under this act, a prizefight still remains a felony.

Therefore, the question arises, "What is a prizefight and what is a sparring exhibition?" The former is a crime, the latter is lawful.

It is claimed by many that the contest soon to take place between Jeffries and Johnson is to be a prizefight, as that term is understood in the law, and therefore a crime under our statutes.

If this is true it should be prevented, but if carried out the guilty parties should be punished by law. I believe that you should investigate the matter and take such legal

steps as may be proper in your judgment if warranted by the facts in pressing the case to the court for its decision and ask to have all interested parties enjoined pending the hearing.

Our Supreme Court has never defined a prizefight and I believe that an opportunity should be given it to do so. Since the amendment of exhibitions" prizefighting under the guise of this amendment has greatly increased and has been tolerated in California until today our State is a Mecca for prizefighting, so much to our discredit.

Our people have the right to demand that prizefighting shall cease in this State, and it will if our present laws are enforced, especially if our courts follow the direction of the Supreme Courts of our sister States in defining a prizefight.

The Governor then reviews reports of the Moran-Marthy fatal fight and the Nelson-Wolgaat fight to show that they were real prizefights. He concludes:

If these contests were not prizefights then the historic battle between Heenan and Sayre was not one. I have no doubt that the coming contest between Jeffries and Johnson will be a repetition of the brutality mentioned in the foregoing fights, only on a larger scale.

If "sparring exhibitions," as permitted by our laws, means fights where men are killed, beaten into insensibility and their faces "cut into ribbons," are lawful acts then it is time that the Legislature should interfere and make such exhibitions or contests a felony.

Such contests are prizefights not permitted by the law and should be punished as such. Those who engage in them are prizefighters and make their living by fighting each other for prizes and rewards.

The whole business is demoralizing to the youth of our State, corrupts public morals, is offensive to the senses of a great majority of our citizens and should be abated as a public nuisance and the offenders punished.

If the court upon your petition refuses to grant the relief prayed for therein and permits the parties interested to proceed as advertised by them then I desire you on behalf of the people of the State to gather all evidence possible and if the contest is carried out as advertised and the parties fight for a purse of money or a reward and inflict upon each other bodily injury then you are to cause the arrest of the principals and those interested with them in promoting the fight and try them on a felony charge for violating section 412 of the Penal Code.

Yours truly, J. N. GILLETT.

Attorney-General Webb said after studying the Governor's letter to him:

"The letter of the Governor is a positive and peremptory command addressed to this office to prevent the Jeffries-Johnson fight. The Governor states that facts as presented to him show that the fight, if held, will be a prizefight and the prizefights are prohibited by the laws of this State. This command the Governor has the right and power to make and it is the duty of this office to comply with it. I shall take such action as the law warrants to prevent the fight being held."

The Governor's instructions will be followed to the letter. I am not at liberty to state just the character of the proceedings that will be instituted, but such action of actions as may be necessary to accomplish the ends desired by the Governor will be brought."

Tex Rickard was plainly rattled when he heard of the Governor's action. It is the first time he has lost his nerve since he began the campaign to pull off the battle. He said this afternoon:

"As soon as I receive official notification of the Governor's action I shall order all work stopped on the fight arena and move our camp at once to Salt Lake City."

"It seems strange that the Governor should interfere at this late hour especially after his many public statements that he would not do so. We can't buck Gov. Gillett, and if he is determined to stop the mill I will immediately arrange to stage it in other parts. Reno and Ely, Nev., and Salt Lake City are prepared to handle the fight, and can put it on for July 4."

"Manager Woods of the St. Francis Hotel has just telephoned that he will call a meeting of business men of the city tomorrow to protest against the Governor's latest move. The business men of San Francisco will lose a barrel of money if the fight must go to other parts. Only today I sold 1,000 tickets to some of the richest men of Canada, who would have spent a great deal of money here."

Jack Johnson when seen at his training quarters took the Governor's decision philosophically. He said, with a grin that showed all his gold teeth:

"I am ready to go to any part of the world to defend my title, providing the contest cannot be held here, but I can't understand why Gov. Gillett should take such an arbitrary stand so late in the day. Why, no later than two weeks ago he denied having any interest whatever in the exhibition beyond the general interest which is taken by practically every man, woman and child in the State. I can't believe he has switched around so completely."

"Go to Nevada? Sure, I shall go there or any other place that Jeffries agrees to go, Salt Lake, Australia or Kingdom Come. Though I don't suppose either Jeffries or myself would be at our best in a high altitude after training at sea level, I am ready to do anything within reason that Glenn and Rickard ask me to do. But I still think that contest will come off at Eighth and Market Streets per schedule."

Rowardennan, June 15.—When the news broke here that Gov. Gillett had ordered the big fight stopped there was consternation. At first no one would believe it, and Jeffries was most obdurate of all. "I can't believe it, I can't believe it," he moaned.

"It's almost impossible that the Governor would interfere at this hour. If he intended to take action he would have done so before. The Governor has been quoted as saying he had looked into the law and found that the match was not a violation of

any of its provisions."

Upon being assured that the report was authentic and that Gov. Gillett had ordered the Attorney-General to act, Jeffries suddenly became taciturn and it was hard to get a word out of him. He joined Mrs. Jeffries on the porch of the hotel and they quietly discussed the latest turn events had taken. After much persuasion Jeffries finally said:

"If the news is correct I will continue training until I hear from Rickard and Gleason. After that my actions will be guided by their plans. If they want us to fight... elsewhere I suppose we will have to, but that will be up to the promoters."

After relapsing into another spell of silence he resumed:

"I can't see how this affair differs from any other fight I have had in California. If we are breaking the law now I broke it when I fought Monroe, Fitzsimmons, Corbett and the rest. My articles I signed with Johnson are the same as I signed with these others fighters. Look them over for yourself. California has a law that allows boxing bouts and we are boxing under it."

Reno, Nev., June 15.—There is no indication that the Jeffries-Johnson fight promoters will be interfered with if they decide to pull off the event in this city or Ely, both having made bids for it. As soon as the news of Gov. Gillett's action reached here today local sports wired Tex Rickard to bring the fight here and a mass meeting of business men was held tonight at which a committee was appointed to secure the big event.

Large subscriptions were announced and the committee expects to be able to raise at least \$100,000 before tomorrow night.

Gov. Dickerson is absent from the State, but other State officers are in favor of allowing the fight and say that they know the Governor will not interfere with it.

The laws of the State provide that if a license fee of \$1,000 is paid, men may battle in the prize ring on any conditions they please and for any number of rounds.

It is believed here that while Rickard and the principals would prefer Salt Lake to any Nevada city, the Governor of Utah will interfere. In that case the fight would have to come here, as it would be out of the question for Texas or any Southern State to get it at this season of the year. A telegram was sent to Rickard this afternoon offering to provide an arena and pay the State license if he would bring the fight here.

FIGHTERS WILL MOVE TO NEVADA

Promoters Give Up All Hopes of Holding Battle in California.

San Francisco, Cal., June 20.—With the departure of Tex Rickard today for Reno, the question of a stage for the heavyweight championship fight on July 4th was shifted definitely from California to Nevada. After the interview, that Mayor McCarthy held yesterday with Governor Gillett failed to produce any positive results the promoters admitted that the last chance of holding the fight in California had gone glimmering, and the command went forth from Rickard to the training camps to pack up for a journey to Nevada.

Both camps obeyed orders, and are now awaiting final instructions from Rickard, who reaches Reno tonight. As he expects to hold an immediate conference with the respective fight promotion committees from Reno and Goldfield, it is believed that the two camps will receive marching orders tomorrow.

That active preparations are making to shift the Langford and Ketchel fight to Nevada was manifest today, when Joe Woodman instructed his Reno representative to prepare training quarters at Reno for Langford, Sid Hester, who promoted the Nelson and Wolgaat match, is in Reno, and it is believed that he is trying to get a permit for a fight between Langford and Ketchel.

Dickerson May Oppose Fight.

San Francisco, Cal., June 20.—Reports that Governor Dickerson of Nevada, may declare himself against the holding of the Jeffries and Johnson fight in the Sagebrush State was received at the Johnson camp today. Johnson himself was the recipient, but he refused to divulge whence the information came.

It cast a noticeable gloom over the training quarters. Jack said he intended to leave the beach Thursday evening for Reno, but that he would wait until he received word from Tex Rickard or Manager Flanagan that Governor Dickerson was in favor of the bout. Billy Delaney also expressed himself in favor of waiting until the news had been received from the promoter.

Will Start Another Protest.

Columbus, O., June 20.—George W. Rockwell, chairman of the "Stop That Fight" post card movement, which "claimed a share of the credit" for removing the Jeffries and Johnson fight from California tonight announced that tomorrow a similar movement of protest to Governor Dickerson, of Nevada, would be started against the holding of the contest in Nevada. Ten thousand petitions directed to the Governor will be sent to prominent persons throughout the country, and the recipients will be asked to get from 20 to 500 signers for each and forward them to Governor Dickerson.

Will Break Up Ben Lomond Camp.

Ben Lomond Cal., June 20.—James J. Jeffries, accompanied by trainers, sparring partners, court jesters and one manager, will bid adieu to Ben Lomond tomorrow and start for Nevada. From the quiet retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains, where Jeffries transformed himself from actor to fighter, the former champion will go to Oakland and stay until the Jeffries special train leaves for Reno tomorrow night.

Blot Backs Up, "Postponing" Mill, Making It Certain That Big Bout Will Be Fought in Nevada Ring.

San Francisco, June 18.—"On to Reno" is the cry of the fight brigade. Convinced by the "postponement" of the Kaufman and Langford match that San Francisco definitely had been eliminated as a possible scene for the Jeffries and Johnson fight, positive announcement is expected tomorrow "that the battle of the century" will be fought in Nevada.

Tomorrow night, at Reno, Tex Rickard will receive bids for the big contest from committees representing Reno, Goldfield, and Ely. The city offering the most substantial fight in money, he said, will get the match and the winner will be immediately announced. It is generally said, however, that Reno will be the choice.

The laws of Nevada do not prohibit prize fights and no serious obstacle to staging of the great battle in that State is anticipated. After his turbulent experience of the last few days, a calm appears to have set over Rickard. Breathing freely once more, he is inclined to jest about his troubles.

"I think we are getting this championship into a safe port at last," he told the newspaper men today, and he smiled grimly over the pun.

FIGHTERS ARE READY TO MOVE

Both Jeffries and Johnson are awaiting the word to move. Preparations to break camp have been completed, and on Monday morning the exodus of fighters and trainers from Ben Lomond and San Francisco is expected to begin. Tentative arrangements for training quarters at Reno already have been made for both Jeffries and Johnson.

The capitulation today of Louis Blot, promoter of the Langford-Kaufman contest, as a result of Gov. Gillett's order to prevent the fight, ended a stressful situation. Blot's determination to hold the fight, though short-lived, was fraught with exciting possibilities, involving the calling out of the militia; but, despite the promoter's open defiance of the State's chief executive, no serious importance was attached to his attitude and his "back-down" caused little surprise.

A big crowd surrounded Blot's arena this afternoon, curious to witness the test of strength between Blot and the authorities. Mounted police threaded their way among the spectators, and a detail of patrolmen managed to keep the sidewalks clear.

Blot stood at the entrance of his arena and greeted Adjutant General Lauck and Chief of Police Martin when they motored up to ascertain what was happening.

Neither Kaufman nor Langford appeared, however, and finally the crowd melted away.

INSISTS HE WILL MAKE TEST.

Blot said that it had been decided to withdraw the main fight in favor of a third rate bout to be held Monday, with the intention of forcing the governor to interfere "with his troops." Blot said, after which the matter would be taken into court as a test case. A decision, he said, would be secured in 48 hours, and the way cleared for the Langford-Kaufman fight.

When informed of Blot's plans, the governor, who was in Sacramento, stated to the Associated Press this afternoon that Blot would meet with no interference in conducting a boxing contest, as boxing contests had nothing to do with prize fights.

That the governor and the adjutant general were prepared to take military measures if Blot had persisted in his intention to hold the Kaufman-Langford fight, there is no doubt. It is understood that a strong force of militia, now in camp at the Presidio, was ready for a dash to the arena and would have arrived there within fifteen minutes of the issuance of the governor's order.

Blot persists in his assertion that the contest has been merely "postponed" until next Saturday, in order to stage a minor boxing event against the holding of which he hopes the governor will take action, so that a contest case can be put up to the courts.

ACTING MAYOR IS PEEVISH.

Sputterings of the controversy between the governor and the local authorities continue to attract attention. Acting Mayor J. A. Kelley issued a signed statement this afternoon, protesting against "the threat of the governor to send troops into this peaceful community" to prevent Blot's contest if the city officers refused to take action.

As the situation now stands, Gov. Gillett is the victor, and prize fighting in California is over, for the present at least. Rickard's attorneys are urging him to take the matter to the courts, assuring him that the Governor is in the wrong and that he will win out and be able to pull off the fight here. But Rickard declares he has no intention of opposing the State authorities, and that the fight will surely go to Nevada.

It is a significant fact also that both Jeffries and Johnson are looking for training quarters in Reno.

JOHNSON'S "FAREWELL DAY."

Champion Will Box With Partners Before Leaving for Reno.

San Francisco, June 18.—San Francisco fight fans will have their last opportunity to see Champion Jack Johnson in action at his training quarters tomorrow morning. He will box twelve rounds with his sparring partners, and will put in a long session in the gymnasium.

It will be known as "farewell day." All hope has been abandoned by Johnson and his manager of having the fight with Jeffries take place in San Francisco. Preparations have been made for a quick departure on Monday for Reno.

Johnson announced today that he would box four rounds with Cotton, a like number with Dave Mills, and four rounds with Kaufman tomorrow. The champion put in 8 miles on the road today. He then jumped on the scales, which registered 213

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down. They are the gamest lot of men I ever saw. This morning a committee of Goldfield business men offered to take me to a local bank and guarantee me \$200,000. I decided on Reno, however, for several reasons. In the first place, I did not feel that fight "fans" of the East and West should be compelled to take that hot desert to Goldfield. Then, again, the people from San Francisco can get here on the morning of July 4 and leave the same night in order to be back to business Tuesday morning. For this reason I think probably one or two thousand will come from San Francisco that would not go to Goldfield. The Reno people have done all they could. They will build a suitable arena and pay for the \$1,000 license for me. TEX RICKARD. The Goldfield delegation, which had made a determined effort to swing the "battle of the century" to Rickard's home town, accepted the announcement with expressions of regret, but with promises to "host the game" to the extent of their ability. Reno's fight fanatics are wildly elated over the defeat of Goldfield. Jeffries and his trainers are expected tomorrow. Flanagan has sent a telegram to Johnson, advising the negro to lose no time in reaching Reno. — Times-Dispatch, June 22.

M'CARTHY WILL NOT TALK

Reaches Home and Asks for Time to Inform Himself on Situation.

San Francisco, June 18.—Mayor P. H. McCarthy returned today from the East, where he had been for the last six weeks on business, still suffering from a broken ankle, which he received in an automobile accident in Indianapolis. The mayor was taken from the train at Oakland. Mole in a wheel chair to an automobile, which he carried him to the ferryboat. He was met at the Mole by District Attorney Fickett, Chief of Police Martin, the police commissioner, and other city officers.

The mayor refused to discuss the action of Governor Gillett in stopping the Langford and Kaufman fight, saying that he would not discuss the governor's acts in this connection until he had time to inform himself thoroughly of the facts of the case.

RENO SELECTED FOR BIG FIGHT

State Authorities Will Make No Attempt to Interfere.

Reno, Nev., June 21.—With Reno definitely fixed as the battleground, with assurance from Governor Dickerson that no attempt to interfere will be made, by the State authorities and with preparations already under way for building the arena, the Jeffries and Johnson fight seems certain of fulfillment on July 4.

The selection of a site for staging the big fight was made this afternoon. It is a rocky field in East Reno, about a mile and a half from the heart of the city. It is familiar in ring history as the scene of the Hart and Root contest of July 4, 1906. It is regarded as an ideal place, as it affords plenty of ground for a spacious structure.

Contractor McLaughlin went over the place today with Rickard and the Reno fight committee, and immediately began to carry out plans already prepared for the construction of the arena.

A building about 300 feet square, modeled along the lines of the structure begun in San Francisco, will be put up. It is hoped to have it completed by the first of next month.

TRAINING QUARTERS CHOSEN.

Another selection made this afternoon was training quarters for Jack Johnson. Tom Flanagan, the champion's manager, after looking over several sites, finally settled on a road house, three miles southwest of Reno, known as Rick's resort. According to Flanagan, it is an excellent place for a training camp, and affords all necessary facilities.

Jeffries will be stationed at Moana Springs, three miles south of Reno. Nothing, according to Manager Berger's reports, is lacking at this place that could be desired in connection with a fighter's camp. Natural hot and cold springs, an open-air pavilion already provided, comfortable sleeping quarters, and nearby fishing streams and lakes are among the inducements offered.

A double fight will be Reno's offering on July 4 if Sid Hester succeeds in carrying out his plan to stage the Langford and Ketchel fight on the morning of the big battle in the same arena. Hester was busy today endeavoring to arrange a permit and in looking over numerous sites for training quarters for his fighters.

RICKARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

Rickard's announcement of the selection of the battleground for the Jeffries-Johnson contest was made in the form of a signed statement as follows:

"I have decided to hold the Jeffries-Johnson fight in Reno. In making the selection I wish to give my reasons for so doing. Goldfield made an offer which it was hard to turn

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