

PLANS FOR IMPROVING PENSACOLA HARBOR

By Brig.-General Marshall, Chief of Engineers.

The available depth across the interior bar at the entrance to Pensacola harbor in 1879, previous to any work of improvement, was 19.5 feet, the width of the channel being contracted by the encroachment of the Middle Ground shoal to the southward.

The project of 1877 considered only the removal of the wrecks; that of 1878 called for the removal of these wrecks and for making a survey to determine further recommendations for improvement.

A New Channel. In 1891 a special board of engineers presented a project for opening a new channel across the Caucus shoal, following the direction of the ebb current, by means of two jetties, assisted by dredging, if necessary.

That dredging be tried, using one of the hydraulic dredges, belonging to the United States to open up a channel 26 feet deep at mean low water and as wide as practicable on the line of deepest water across the Caucus shoal and approximately on the line of the axis of the jettied channel proposed by the board of engineers in 1891.

In 1896 the same board that recommended the first amendment to the project of 1891 submitted a second amendment providing for the expenditure of all funds available in continuing the work of dredging across the Caucus shoal and for building a dredge and opening the channel across the Caucus shoal 30 feet deep at mean low water to a width of at least 300 feet, with such side slopes as the material would assume, if sufficient funds were made available by congress.

The river and harbor act of March 3, 1899, extended this project to "securing a channel depth of 30 feet at mean low water from the Gulf of Mexico to the dock line at the east end of the city of Pensacola."

The river and harbor act approved June 13, 1902, appropriated \$220,000, of which \$150,000 might be used in constructing a sea going suction dredge. This dredge, the Caucus, was built and turned over to the district in August, 1905. The same act modified the project, which now provides for dredging a channel 30 feet deep and 500 feet wide from the Gulf of Mexico to the dock line at the east end of the city of Pensacola.

There was received for salvage work of the dredge Caucus, \$4,752.44, and from sale of unseizable property, \$26.77. The project is about 30 per cent completed.

Commerce of Port Large. The commerce of the port is very large. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, the foreign exports were reported as \$13,741,540, no record of the coastwise exports being available; in 1904, as \$15,893,456; in 1905, exports as \$15,295,057, and imports as \$985,840; in 1906, exports as \$18,432,931, and imports as \$387,377; in 1907, exports as \$20,229,414, and imports as \$618,363; in 1908, exports as \$20,322,649, and imports as \$675,503.

The completion of the project will give greatly increased facilities to the large commerce of Pensacola, but will not materially affect freight rates. It is proposed to apply the appropriation recommended in dredging operations toward completion of the project and maintenance of the project depth.

employed by the navy department on salvage work at the Pensacola navy yard, resulting from the storm of September 26-27, 1906, and upon completion of this service she was laid up at the navy yard for repairs. Due to crippled facilities and lack of labor at the yard, these repairs were greatly delayed, and dredging was not resumed until May 11, 1907, when the Caucus commenced work with one pump, pending completion of repairs to boilers. These repairs were completed and work resumed with both pumps on July 25, 1907, since which time work has been continuous, except for delays due to bad weather and repairs. These repairs include docking at Mobile, Ala., installing new propeller and one new furnace.

The maximum draft that could be carried over the improvement at mean low water on June 30, 1908, was 20 feet, and the ordinary range of the tide is about 1.1 feet.

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July 1, 1907, balance unexpended \$106,275.97 Received for salvage work by dredge Caucus 4,752.44 Received from sale of old property 26.77 \$111,055.18

June 30, 1908, amount expended during fiscal year: For works of improvement \$20,000.00 For maintenance of improvement 51,879.19 For construction of the dredge Caucus 842.88 \$72,722.07

July 1, 1908, balance unexpended 38,333.11 July 1, 1908, outstanding liabilities 9,649.60

July 1, 1908, balance available \$28,683.51

July 1, 1908, amount covered by unexpired contracts 3,820.70 Amount that can be profitably expended in fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, for works of improvement and maintenance, in addition to the balance unexpended July 1, 1908, \$150,000.00

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GOSSIP OF THE RING

By Knox Blockoff

New York, Dec. 19.—With the world's heavyweight championship battle between Tommy Burns and Jack Johnson now only seven days in the future, the fight fans of New York are beginning to sit up, and take notice of the affair. Although the bout will be staged in far-away Australia—a locality about as indelicate as the moon to the average Broadway sport—the distance has only served to add enchantment to the battle.

Already several wagers on the result have been made, with the big money as a favorite. Johnson has been telling things about himself to the reporters for the Australian newspapers—yes, Bo, they have newspapers in Australia, and good ones, too—and in everything he says there is an assurance of victory that amounts almost to contempt for his doughty antagonist. If you want to call Burns that, among other things, Jack announced that he could whip Marvin Hart any time easier than any man he ever met, and contended that the decision against Hart when he met Hart was most unfair, and he was willing to submit that question to any American sporting writer. That decision was a disgrace to the ring.

Johnson said he had been prepared to fight Burns under any conditions, and had chased Burns out of London, Paris and America, and hoped that he would not chase him out of Australia. He did not think he would, but that it would be a good fight and show who was the better man. The reporter remarked that Burns said he would settle in Australia after his fight with Johnson.

The latter's manager remarked: "Tommy is a great leg-puller. He said something similar in Ireland, England and France, and now proposed Australia, the greatest country on earth." Johnson also expressed a hope so that he met the great Squibs whom he considered a good man and true sport.

Among the metropolitan sporting authorities there is a wide difference of opinion in regard to the coming battle of the heavyweights. Bob Edgerton thinks the match Squibs whom he considered a good man and true sport.

"Tommy Burns has proved himself a great business man as well as a great fighter. Jack Johnson and his staff of managers have been badgering Burns for a fight for over a year. Burns went to England to whip Gunner Moir, and Johnson followed. If Burns had fought Johnson a year ago he would have made, possibly, six or eight thousand dollars out of the deal. As it is he has taken in \$50,000 already in Australia, not counting the \$30,000 in cash that makes up his end of the purse in the coming fight, and numerous items of transportation and expense money. Foxy Tommy intended all along to fight Johnson when he became worth while. He delayed simply to boom Johnson's reputation and make him a drawing card.

"Burns was offered a far greater sum for fights in Australia, and went there. He found Australia ready to pay enormous purses for championship fights. After shipping the two best men in that country Burns found himself in a position to demand his price, which he had set at \$30,000. He accepted the offer of that sum by Mr. McIntosh, an immensely wealthy Australian fight promoter. Mr. McIntosh bargained with Johnson and got him for a comparatively small purse. Johnson was hurried out to the battlefield.

Willing to Fake. "Johnson is noted for his willingness to fake. But he won't have a chance to frame with Burns. The champion always fights to win on his merits, and with a knockout if possible. He thinks he can whip Johnson, and he'll go in to do it from the first going.

"Johnson's weight and size and great cleverness may possibly win for him. There's no bare chance of that. But Burns is fully as clever and fast, and as hard a biter, although much shorter and lighter. Moreover, Burns is game and Johnson is yellow. If Johnson does 'lie down' it will be through a desire to quit and avoid punishment. Such an ending would hardly surprise anyone who knows the two fighters. A comparison of records shows Burns to be decidedly 'the class.'

Tom Dorgan claims to be wise to a few things about the mill that makes it look like a cooked up affair, and deposes thusly: "Johnson's name has been connected with a crooked fight, the same as Fitzsimmons's, the same as Gans's and the same as Jack O'Brien's; but Tommy Burns, ah! How can they be so cruel!

"It is true, however, that Tommy's former manager, a Mr. Blay Gee, of Chicago, has letters from the angelic one asking the manager to frame up a few fights for him. He wanted the other fellow to put up \$5,000 in the hands of an outsider as a guarantee that the affair would be won by Burns.

"It is true that he faked with Jack O'Brien in Los Angeles, and then, at the last moment, double-crossed Java.

but these little things are likely to happen to any one. "Probably, Tommy was fooling or didn't know the difference, as Fitzsimmons said about the fake with Jim Hall. We don't know the innermost thoughts of the pure Burns. We can surmise a few things, though.

"Jack Palmer, in England, declared that Burns put up his (Palmer's) forfeit for the great go they had, and also said other things about promises to Tommy.

Looks Queer in East. "Eastern sports, of course, remember these, and then, when they hear of Burns actually agreeing to fight Johnson after running away from him all over the world, they can't think of anything else but frame-up.

"Burns said the day he left for England that a \$25,000 purse was hung up by would fight Johnson. Jim Coffroth offered that money, but Burns refused to fight. When he was cornered in England and roasted by the British press, he declared that he would never fight Johnson unless his own win, lose or draw, was \$30,000. Still he claimed that he was the greatest fighter on top of the earth.

"Johnson went to England and Tommy beat it to Australia. When he got that far away from the rest of the world, somehow or other he thought it was a good time to fix up a go with Johnson.

"Burns has made some money on his tours, while Johnson has just made a wee bit more than he needed. Now Burns is the dictator. Will he do as an ex-champion light-weight thinks—make the Johnson people bet their end on Burns will win. The Burns is double-crossed the Johnson people will be broke?

"Will he bet a wad on Johnson himself and take to the mat rather than stand up and take the licking? Will he pay Johnson \$20,000 to take the count, and that Johnson will win. The world without being disputed as the greatest champion we ever saw?

"There are those who think that the affair is on the level and that Burns will beat Johnson's head off. There are others who believe it's honest, and that Johnson will win. The majority are afraid to bet a nickel if we could see the fight over here, where both men are known, we could tell in a minute. Many believe that Burns is afraid of the big tar baby, and that he wouldn't sign up unless the thing was fixed.

Also on the Coast. Out on the Pacific coast, too, they have their doubts about the go between Johnson and Burns. Many of the leading sporting writers of that section think there is a nigger in the woodpile in the arrangements for the bout. H. M. Walker, of Los Angeles, voices his suspicion in these words:

"It would be folly to overlook the fact that here in Los Angeles the Australian match is looked upon with serious suspicion. It is known that neither Burns nor Johnson is above 'jobbing,' and it is the sincere belief of eight out of every ten of the local followers of the boxing game that Burns and Johnson are preparing to pull off a trickin the far off Antipodes.

"The arguments advanced in substantiation of this suspicion are almost endless. The writer has yet to talk to a well-posted man who is willing to go on record as believing that Burns and Johnson are going to fight strictly on the square.

"Tommy Burns was 'made' right here in Los Angeles, so far as his ring career is concerned. The men who know the pugny Canuck best are the quickest to voice their belief that Burns would never take a chance with the Galveston negro unless the latter had been 'seen.'

"All of which may be a rank injustice to both of the principals in the Australian battle. Only the developments of the next few days can prove or disprove this suspicion of crookedness. For the good of the boxing game it is to be sincerely hoped that the Burns-Johnson match will be decided strictly upon its merits and that the victor will come away without a taint of suspicion being attached to his achievement.

A Real Conversion. A member of the Union League, of New York, was praising the character of the late Oliver Hazard Perry. He said:

"Here was a man of sincerity. He was talking one day, I remember, of a maid servant who had got religion; and it seemed to me, as I listened, that his own character was of the same thoroughgoing sort as that which followed the maid's change of heart.

"So you're converted, Maggie?" the maid's mistress said to her.

"I don't know, ma'am," said the maid, seriously, "but I seem to be. A great change has come over me." "How great a change?" said the lady.

"Well, ma'am, replied the maid, "since that there revival I always sweep under the mats now."—Washington Star.

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