# JEFF AND FITZ LAUGH AT CORBETT'S CLAIMS

JEFF AND FITZ AT SPOKANE THEATER TONIGHT.

Together, James J. Jeffries, champion pugilist of the world, and Robert Fitzsimmons, ex-champion, arrived in Spokane today and met their friends and members of the Spokane Athletic club, who had assembled at the depot to meet them.

The two men seem to be on the best terms, and there was nothing to indicate that a few months ago they had battled with each other as rivals and enemies. Both have fleshed up since then. Jeff is heavier than usual and is not in as good condition as Fitz.

Accompanying the party is Clark Ball, Fitzsimmons' manager, and J. P. Egan, Jeffries' representative. Billy Delaney is not with the party, but will join it in Kansas City.

The contract which brings the heavyweights together is only one of mutual agreement and may be broken at any time on two weeks' notice by either. If the tour is financially successful, they will probably remain together for some months, touring the world.

This is the sixth stand the champion and ex-champion have made on their tour and at every place they have been greeted with packed houses.

FITZ TALKS.

"If proper inducements were offered," said Lanky Bob in response to an inquiry, "I would again consider entering the ring. I would rather meet Jeffries than any other man.

"Corbett talks as though he would like a fight, but it is too early for anything definite. I have fought all the big men twice, except Corbett, and it may be he will get another chance. I am not through fighting, and as soon as we get east will begin to talk business.

"After our tour Jeffries and myself may meet again in the ring. I am willing to if he is, and ready to put up my end of the deposit."

JEFF ALSO TALKS.

"For my part," said Champion Jeffries, "I am willing to fight any man for the championship at any time he puts up his end of the purse and granting he is of sufficient importance to be in a position to demand the fight. Like Fitzsimmons I am not looking for any and every one who thinks he has a claim on the championship and who would not make a fight at all.

"Regarding that proposition of Ruhlin's, do those people think for a minute that we would stop to accommodate them for $2500 when we are clearing more than that in a week under the present tour?

"We are doing well on the trip and will probably cross the water before we separate.

"Corbett can't knock any of the big fellows out and his proposition is all wind as far as we are concerned."

"We cleaned up $5000 last week," said Clark Ball. "Can the clubs touch this in any offer they wish to make?"

He emphatically denies the reports that they will stop over for any fistic encounter at the present time.

# SPORTING NEWS.

## TONIGHT'S SHOW.

The sports are promised their fill of the game tonight at the Spokane theater. The S. A. A. C. has worked hard to make it the biggest fistic event of the season. They have secured a much better program than that given in any of the cities yet visited by the Jeffries-Fitzsimmons aggregation.

Elsey, who has made many friends here by his good ball playing, has never appeared before the sports of the city in the role of a boxer, but he is said to be fast. Fitzgerald, who will go six rounds with the ball tosser, is known here as a hard man to best. Their bout tonight will be for a decision.

Billy Armstrong, physical director, and "Dude" Lewis, the colored fighter, will meet in four rounds of what in Butte is styled "muscle exercise."

Tom Downey and V. Pownell and Al Moorman and "Kid" Harris are also on for three-round bouts.

Dr. H. B. Luhn will be referee and Phil McArdle and "Jack" O'Brien will be timekeepers. H. L. Plummer is master of ceremonies.

## GOSSIP FOR PUGS.

Fighters are not worrying much about the price of coal these days, and even if porkchops are a dollar a pound the pugs will eat, as boxing clubs are springing up all over the country. Twenty-round bouts are allowed at San Francisco, Fort Erie, Louisville and Windsor, Canada, and the short distance boxers can acquire easy money in six-round bouts at Chicago and Philadelphia.

The convincing wallop "Kid" Carter gave Peter Maher in their recent bout sent Peter one notch closed to "Hasbeenville." It was thought that Peter had a good chance to beat the Brooklyn Swede in the second round, but Carter is never beaten until the referee counts 10, and after taking almost the full count he arose and jammed his right meal ticket against Peter's jaw and Peter was forced to be content with second money.

The most important event to come off soon is the go between Tommy Ryan and Jack Root. They have settled the "pound of flesh" wrangle and are now waiting bids from the various clubs. Fort Erie has offered a $7000 purse for the battle, and as it is the highest bid offered it will probably be accepted. It will undoubtedly draw a $15,000 to $20,000 house, and the club that gets the mill will make money.

A thousand dollar purse was a fortune for an ordinary fighter 10 years ago, but at this stage of the game any fighter who is touted as a championship possibility can demand at least three times that much before signing articles. The fighting game is flourishing and any champion who fails to connect with the long green this winter should retire to the tall uncut.

Frank Erne's defeat at San Francisco by Jimmy Britt, the lightweight, shows one of two things—that Erne has gone back or he met a Tartar in the young western aspirant for championship honors.

Champion Jeffries in a letter to a friend in the east says that his fight with Corbett is practically arranged and he expects to add the clever Californian's scalp to his belt before spring.

Bantamweight Champion Harry Forbes and Frankie Neil, the Pacific coast bantam, are to meet at the Reliance Athletic club of Oakland, Cal., on the night of December 23. Forbes has agreed to make 115 pounds, notwithstanding the impression that it is hard to reduce weight on the coast.

## BASEBALL TALK.

Appearances to date would indicate that the California league has secured a firm footing in both Seattle and Portland. How an all-coast league will pay is a conundrum that is bothering more than one baseball fan. Portland is not an exceptionally good ball town and the proposition in that town is which one will freeze out first.

Magnates of both leagues say they are determined to fight to the end and it may be expected that both sides will have good players and play good ball. Perhaps both will be content to lose money rather than back down in the matter.

Baseball fans, of course, will patronize the league which puts up the best ball, and, as both are determined to have the best, one thing is certain—the joyful fan will not be the loser. Why not take Salt Lake into the Pacific Northwest league? It is a far better ball town than Portland.

Portland, Ore.—Director J. P. Marshall of the Portland team states that Portland will represent the Pacific coast league next year, and that a majority of the players have been signed. Sam Vigneux will probably manage.

Paris.—American experts at the game with the cue and ivory ball were conspicuous today at the opening of the preliminary tournament to be held next month for the international billiard championship. George Slosson, Jacob Schaefer, George Sutton and Leonard Howison are among the Americans who will take part, and "Willie" Hoppe, the 16-year-old expert, who is well known in America, also hopes to become eligible to meet the world's best players in the principal tournament.

The defeat of the Spokane High school football team by a score of 11 to 0 by the Waitsburg academy Saturday was not unexpected. The team was crippled by the hard game at Walla Walla Friday, which they won by a score of 6 to 0. This defeat will not affect their chances for the championship, as Waitsburg academy is not denominated as a high school.

# PERSONAL MENTION

Frank Dana of Seattle is among the city's business guests.

J. D. Robinson of Missoula, Mont., is visiting in the city.

Eugene Giles of Salt Lake City is a guest at the Spokane.

Mrs. J. J. Kelly of Bonner's Ferry is the guest of friends in this city.

J. D. Robinson of Missoula, Mont., is a guest at the Pacific hotel.

Fred A. Bull and wife, prominent in Spangle, are visiting in Spokane.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Gibson of Sprague are enjoying a brief stay in this city.

C. E. Olbin, a business man from Wenatchee, is looking up business matters here.

Mrs. C. M. Fassett has returned from a visit to her old home in Nevada, accompanied by Miss Bender of Reno

Mayor J. W. Palmer and family of Republic, Wash., is in the city.

E. F. Younger of Pendleton, Ore., is spending a few days in the city.

David T. Murray and family of Moscow, Idaho, are visiting in Spokane.

O. M. Payne and wife of Chicago arrived in the city yesterday on a short visit.

Mrs. A. C. Cowherd has returned from an extended visit at Loomis, Okanogan county.

E. H. Barker, an old hotel man of Chesaw, Wash., is in Spokane, looking for a location.

C. H. Williams of the Security Trust company has left for New York on mining business.

Colonel J. P. Moore, formerly a member of the Montana governor's staff, is in the city in connection with a homeseekers' enterprise.


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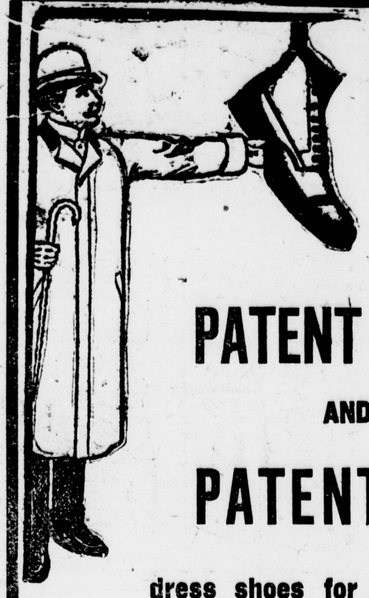

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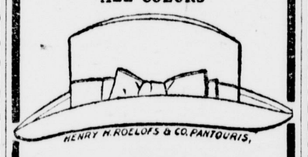


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