

## TOM WHITE, RING EXPERT, SCORES BOXING BILL—WOULD ELIMINATE MANAGER

The following letter regarding the boxing bill now before the Illinois legislature was written by a man who knows the fight game from every angle. Several years ago he was one of the best-known fighters in the business and he knows whereof he speaks.

He is heartily in favor of boxing, but wants the game on a high plane, with the undesirable elements eliminated. He believes that the best way to do this is by cutting out the manager. Some arguments are heard that such a thing is not feasible. It has never been tried, so far as we know. Certainly men like Mike Gibbons and Ad Wolgast have done very well for themselves, and Packey McFarland overrules Emil Thiry whenever the manager arranges a battle which Packey doesn't like.

Since this letter was written the New York legislature has passed a measure knocking out the boxing commission and this bill is now up to Gov. Whitman for signature.

This letter is worthy of consideration by fans and all who have the real interests of the game at heart. It follows:

At the present time boxing is a felony punishable with a heavy fine and imprisonment. To have that penalty clause stricken out and bring boxing within the law one would only assume that some good and valid reasons were advanced where something that is now a felony should be legalized. The present bill contains nothing of a worthy character—nothing beneficial to the sport of boxing that would call for a repeal of the present law, and while modeled after the bills in other states it contains all of the vicious and bad features, without any redeeming qualities.

The people who are fostering this measure are acting in a mysterious manner; they are not taking the general sporting public into their con-

dence, and one of the members, Ed Santry, goes so far as to say in a recent lengthy article in the newspapers that he wanted athletic clubs and others interested in the sport to keep their hands out of the affair and let him handle the bill alone, lest they spoil whatever chances it might have.

Boxing is a grand old sport and there are countless thousands who would enjoy a good, clean boxing match between evenly matched men and conducted in a clean, sportsman-like manner.

There is nothing whatever in the present bill that would indicate that it was going to be a clean sport; it is simply something which, under the guise of sport, was to be used as a money-making proposition by any class of people who have heretofore cared to conduct and promote it. Nothing is said in the bill about amateur boxing—nothing whatever said about elevating or advancing sport—nothing but the repeal of the present penalty, so that the hoard of hungry managers and promoters will have the chance to get the money.

The commission form of government is not a success in other states, all newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

Recently we saw a spectacle of the boxing commission of Wisconsin passing a rule that prevented a man, because he was so unfortunate as to have been born with a black skin, from making an honest living. If a boxing bill was passed in this state we would not know what kind of men would be appointed on that commission, but could safely assume that the positions would be filled by politicians or friends of politicians, who knew but little about boxing.

The powers of a boxing commission are autocratic; their sanction to a boxing match is final, and the local authorities must sit quietly by while they exercise authority over them.