

FIGHTERS' GOOD FORM

BETTING IS EVEN ON NEILL-RILEY CONTEST.

Both Pugilists Claim That They Will Win, and It Seems Hard to Pick a Winner.

The way orders for seats for the Neill-Riley boxing contest are pouring in has surprised the most sanguine expectations of the local managers and they are taking every precaution to have ample seating capacity for all who care to attend. The little knots sent over from Seattle have not had the desired effect, as the local managers of the fight, and Grant to pay attention to the soreheads on Puget Sound, who wished the contest to take place there.

Neill and Riley have trained to the minute. Both are at the required weight and will enter the ring at the Exposition building fit to put up the banner contest of their careers, whether it be a winning or losing one.

Riley was seen at his quarters yesterday, after coming in from a ten-mile spin. He was wearing his perspiration and the statement made by him that he was two pounds lighter than when he started out was borne out by his appearance. His superb condition was noted by those present and brought forth a word of approbation. "He is hard as nails," was one of them, and "Fast as chain lightning," was added by a man who had seen him work in the past. The field is rather uncertain as yet, except the initial bag, which will be held down by Captain Barnard. For positions in the outfield, Neill is the leader, and best ever seen in the local arena, if he does not win.

Neill is not working very hard in the gymnasium, but takes to the road early every morning. He says: "Road work is all I need to build up my strength. I have found nothing better for that purpose and will stick to it. I have done twice as much road work in Portland, as I have come to the conclusion that there is nothing left for me to learn about it. I have fought all of the best men in the west in my time, and with the exception of Tommy Ryan and Walcott, as my record will show, and have profited by the experience gained. Therefore, I cannot see what more I can do, but will give one talk of making Riley a favorite over me. I assure you I will beat him. I took Mr. Riley's measure in our last contest and will win from him. I will beat him in my next fight, as the statement made by Riley that the Neill combination would be a sick looking lot on its return to California, and says: "If Jimmy Riley will consent to a fight, I will consent to my part in the preliminary. I will be only too glad to box him winner take all."

Ross and Sayer, who appear in the ten-round preliminary, are in fine fettle and will put up a fast and interesting bout.

The betting on the contest has become quite brisk. Even money rules and the agents of both men are backing their opinions heavily.

THE LIGHTWEIGHT MATCH.

Local Managers Did Well When They Obtained Britt and O'Keefe.

Fred T. Merrill, who has just returned from an extended trip to the East, says he saw a number of boxing matches while he was gone, but that they were not up to the standard of the Britt-O'Keefe fight.

"While in Chicago and Philadelphia," he said yesterday, "I took time to visit some of their best boxing shows, and I assure you that I saw nothing that was equalled in any way those given by the Portland Pastime Club. I think that the local managers should be congratulated in getting the Britt-O'Keefe match, as the latter is considered in Chicago as the coming lightweight champion."

The articles of agreement for the Britt-O'Keefe fight, which will take place here on March 5, were signed by the two men Saturday afternoon. O'Keefe is expected to leave San Francisco for Portland this evening, accompanied by his manager, Hart, of Chicago, and the backing of the two men, George Siler says.

"When Jimmy Britt defeated Frank Erne and drew the color line on Joe Gans it was thought that he would grow high for the want of something to do in the walloping business. Recently, however, he has been besieged with challenges. The first fight taken at him was with 'Kid' Parker at one of the local possibilities, but at present has been following in rapid succession came challenges from 'Young' Corbett, Jack O'Keefe and Benny Anger.

"Corbett's proposition was to fight at 128 pounds, weigh in at 6 o'clock, or 130 pounds ringside, weights which were considered too light by Jimmy. O'Keefe offered to take 135, and Benny Anger, Yanger named 128 at 3 o'clock or 130 ringside, or the same conditions Britt agreed to.

Jimmy, it seems, wants to get a whack at Corbett, and several days ago accepted his proposition to fight at 128 pounds, weigh in at 6 o'clock. The conqueror of McGovern, however, thought better of his proposition and proposed to fight at 135 pounds, and to have any fight dealings with Britt. O'Keefe and Yanger were ready to talk business with Jimmy and word was received on Friday by O'Keefe that the fight was arranged between Jimmy and Jack, to take place at Portland, Or., next month.

Hart and O'Keefe are expected for Portland tomorrow. In point of science and ring generalship O'Keefe is without doubt the equal to Britt."

ATHLETICS AT A STANDSTILL.

University of Washington Students and Faculty Fail to Agree.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, Feb. 8.—(Special.)—Athletic affairs at the University of Washington are at a complete standstill. The faculty has indicated a system of control of managerships which has not altogether met with the approval of the students. Owing to the mismanagement by student officers the faculty decided to take matters in their own hands to a limited degree, and they adopted the idea of a graduate manager to have general supervision over all the different managers of the various branches of athletics. They also retained for themselves the power to submit a list of nominees from which the students must choose.

That all athletics should be under one head readily met with the sanction from the 'varsity' association, but as to the list submitted there has been much complaint, for only one name was handed in by the students. The faculty, however, has no objections, and had the election been held on the 25th of the month, it would have undoubtedly been their unanimous choice. That the faculty, however, should dictate to the student body whom they should select has met with much opposition from many students.

The students say that unless the action of their governing body should be revoked they will refuse to take up athletics, while on the other hand the faculty stands determined to call off all athletic contests unless its regulations are followed.

A compromise, will likely be affected some time during the coming week. Laube and a number of men who are closely associated with athletics intend to do everything within their power, so that a definite settlement may be reached which will be satisfactory to both parties. The possibilities for success on the track and on the baseball diamond were never brighter than at the present, and the existing difficulties, if the university will go after the championship of the Spring sports full of hope.

Professor Van der Vere, who has always had charge of the training of the track men, has decided that he will not be able this year to look after the boys, as his duties in his department have been greatly increased. The man who has taken his place is Professor Van der Vere, who has been noted for the large number of fast men he has developed in the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard, the 400-yard and the half-mile run. Every old man will feel that the man who has taken his place is Professor Van der Vere, who has been noted for the large number of fast men he has developed in the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard, the 400-yard and the half-mile run.

The man who stands next in favor is J. C. Knight, who coached so successfully last season, but who is leaving the university. It is an all-round athlete, and if he is engaged an agreement will be made to secure his services for both baseball and track.

With rowing, little will be done, as the 'varsity' is not in a financial condition to bear the sport this Spring. In this division of athletics Knight has his best recommendations and best records. It is the director of every event by the coming year the university will be able to take up this trust of sports.

PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT. Washington Agricultural College Will Have Winning Track Team. WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Pullman, Feb. 8.—(Special.)—Active training at the Washington Agricultural College, for baseball and track events.

Captain Barnard and Coach Loughhead are rapidly setting the best track team on the large squad of aspirants out for places on the baseball team. Many members of last year's team are back, and are trying for positions. Miller, last year's catcher, will be found at his old position; but for the pitching staff, there are several new candidates. Among the likely ones are Wallace, Lasher, Lasher, and the other promising candidates in the running and jumping events are Godman, Cowell, Pare, Rosenoff, Maloney, Sopp, Atwood, Year, Rodgers, Parker. It is proposed this year to secure a meet with the University of Oregon, and Manager Turner is bending every effort to arrange the financial end of the matter. This year is the turn of the local team to go to Seattle and meet the team from the University of Washington.

BIG STAKES AT BRIGHTON.

\$70,000 in Premium List for the 1903 Meeting in August.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—C. A. McCully, secretary of the New York Trotting Association, has announced that the grand circuit meeting at Brighton Beach next August. There are five stakes valued at \$45,000, the largest amount ever offered at any one meeting for light harness racing.

THE INCREASE OF HUMUS

Practical Suggestions From a Practical Man on the Subject.

PORTLAND, Feb. 8.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to say a few things on the subject of how to increase the amount of humus in our Valley soils, in the most economical manner. First, humus is a vegetable carbon, formed in the soil by the growth and decay of plants, and every fertile soil is found to possess a large quantity of it. Constant cropping our Valley soil to grain without rotation or other crops has greatly reduced its humus and consequently reduced the ability of the soil to return to the agriculturist so great a grain crop as it used to 20 or 30 years ago. How shall we best reproduce this humus in the soil? Is the idea your writer would like to present to your readers. Humus is not a plant food itself. It is a retainer of the essentials for plant growth, such as moisture, nitrogen, etc., and it is destroyed by oxidation and exposure to the sun's rays. Hence it requires to be reproduced by the successful farmer. I find it is a great

known country. They passed the headwaters of the Missouri and then started directly west over the continental divide. The traditions of the expedition say that the men were many times reduced to the verge of starvation, and when they reached the mouth of the Columbia River their meager and clothes were torn to tatters, their ammunition exhausted, and nearly every member of the party almost disabled from the hardships of the trip.

Major Clark, the grandson of Captain Clark, has had peculiar honors heaped upon him. He is the eldest son of the eldest son, and a hereditary descendant of an officer of the Revolutionary War, so that he is entitled to be a member of one of the Cincinnati and Antec societies. For several years he was one of the members of the Board of Surveyors, Collectors and Appraisers at the port of New York, and is now being prominently mentioned for a Government appointment to work of the same character in New York.

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Certainly every member of the robin family within the city limits was present at this festival, and if any were overlooked in first invitations, messengers were dispatched to bring the forgotten ones to the feast. To see 500 or more robins gathered upon the trees of a single block, is a sight well worth witnessing, and is largely due to the efforts of the Human Society in protecting the birds of our city and state. Without birds insects would thoroughly destroy all fruit and vegetable products of the earth. Few persons care for birds or the brute creatures which contribute so largely to man's comforts and needs, and simply because they fall to study their habits and usefulness. The robins in Portland are a source of enjoyment to all lovers of birds. As Spring is now approaching our lawns will soon be covered with these welcome messengers, and children should be encouraged in treating them kindly, which will be fully repaid with many a sweet song.

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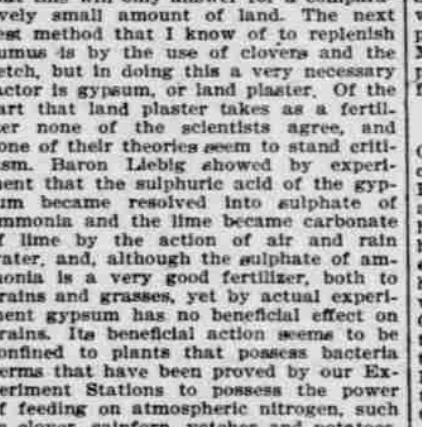
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FEAST OF THE ROBINS. An Annual Banquet With All Accessories Graphically Described. PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—Perhaps one of the most interesting, harmonious and largely attended banquets of its kind ever witnessed in Portland was held on Sunday last on the residence grounds of the late Judge Whalley. The weather, though crisp and chilly, did not deter the arriving of guests as early

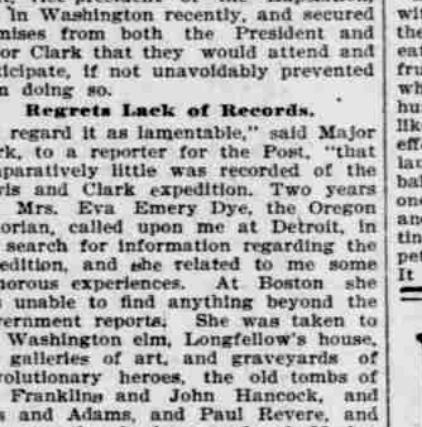
bird could get its vest out of such quantities of food in so short a time. Observing as we did these happy creatures from 7 A. M. till after sundown, ample time was given wherein to note their queer operations. After eating several berries they would fly to the neighboring trees seemingly to rest and give a little time for digestion. But soon back they came to the tempting red fruit—apparently as hungry as ever. The trees bearing the berries are fully 20 feet high, with wide, spreading branches, a mass of red in the morning, but were stripped of their fruit at the close of the day.

Certainly every member of the robin family within the city limits was present at this festival, and if any were overlooked in first invitations, messengers were dispatched to bring the forgotten ones to the feast. To see 500 or more robins gathered upon the trees of a single block, is a sight well worth witnessing, and is largely due to the efforts of the Human Society in protecting the birds of our city and state. Without birds insects would thoroughly destroy all fruit and vegetable products of the earth. Few persons care for birds or the brute creatures which contribute so largely to man's comforts and needs, and simply because they fall to study their habits and usefulness. The robins in Portland are a source of enjoyment to all lovers of birds. As Spring is now approaching our lawns will soon be covered with these welcome messengers, and children should be encouraged in treating them kindly, which will be fully repaid with many a sweet song.

W. G. SHANAHAN, Cor. Sec. Oregon Humane Society.

THE CHINESE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

Officers of the Chinese Young People's Association



The Chinese Young People's Association was recently organized, and last week held its first public entertainment. The photograph shows the officers. In the top row reading from right to left are: Lee Hong, second secretary; Chan Quong, vice-president; Chan Hong, second treasurer. In the lower row are: James Kan, secretary-treasurer; and C. P. Hule, president.

of the historic expedition, none feels a keener interest than Major William Hancock Clark, the eldest son of the eldest son of Captain William Clark, who is now temporarily residing at 1906 K street, in this city. Major Clark has devoted himself to a study of the exploration of Lewis and Clark and the incidents which led up to their overland trip to the Pacific Coast, and has given to historians of recent days much information which had been carefully guarded in the family annals.

Unless something unforeseen interferes, President Roosevelt and Major Clark will have an important part in the opening of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition at Portland in 1906. Harvey W. Scott, vice-president of the Exposition, was in Washington recently, and secured promises from both the President and Major Clark that they would attend and participate, if not unavoidably prevented from doing so.

"I regard it as lamentable," said Major Clark, to a reporter for the Post, "that comparatively little was recorded of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Two years ago Mrs. Eva Erns, Dye, of the Oregon historian, called upon me at Detroit, in her search for information regarding the expedition, and she related to me some humorous experiences of her father. She was unable to find anything beyond the Government reports. She was taken to the Washington elite, Longfellow's house, the galleries of art, and graveyards, and the revolutionary heroes of the old days of the Franklin and John Hancock, and Otis and Adams, and Paul Revere, and even to the lowly mound of Mother Shipton, but nobody knew anything about Lewis and Clark."

"Mrs. Dye went to Philadelphia and called at the office of the Historical Society and found that the