FIGHT GAME DYING OUT IN CALIFORNIA

COAST LEAGUERS BITE INTO HARD FIGHT

By Will J. Slattery.

San Francisco, Oct. 17.—Live boxing matches are getting very scarce in this city, as is shown by the card for the present month, Boer Unholz and Cyclone Johnny Thompson. This is failing some, especially after the fans look back one short month and ponder over the two championship matches, the Gans-Nelson affair and the Attell-Moran mixup.

Some time ago there was talk of killing off the fighting game here, but no such strenuous action will be necessary if the present state of affairs continues to be in existence during the next couple of months, for the game will die a natural death for want of suitable talent and suitable promoters to foster the sport. The fans of San Francisco will stand for a low-brow card now and then, provided that a few championship matches are sandwiched in between, but when it comes to handing them one quince after another, then they are bound to rise up and rebel.

The last time that Unholz started here against Joe Gans early last summer, he made an awful blunder and the vigilance committee was getting ready to apply the hook when the Boer beat it quietly. It was then that everybody went on record as saying that they never would pay out their good money to see such a tramp in action again. They did not really believe that this statement was necessary at that, for nobody even thought that Unholz would have the gall to come back again.

But he is one of those sort of fellows who cannot be stopped. If he thinks that he can pick up a few shekels, he will take a chance any place or at any time. He slipped quietly into town the other day and kept his presence here a low down secret till he had flimmed Charles Lercari, the amateur promoter, into signing him up with Thompson. Then he went around town with his chest out many feet and his head high in the air. He talks of challenging Nelson for the title and says other foolish things, but nobody is paying much attention to his mutterings.

Thompson is a tough, rugged fellow without any class. The last time he fought here, some six months ago, he gave Johnny Murphy an awful beating. On paper, he promises to murder Unholz, who is nothing more than a clown in the ring. The men are carded to go on October 29 and the affair will be a 20-round one.

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The Australian promoters who will stage the Burns-Johnson fight for the heavyweight championship title at Melbourne early in December made an effort to land Jim Jeffries as the referee of the conflict, but when the big fellow sent in his terms the kangaroo sports quit quickly and decided to give some native a chance.

Jeff values his services highly, and without batting an eye he cabled that a $5,000 fee and car fare both ways would go for him. It took Jack Wren and his associate promoters about two days to recover from the shock. Then they cabled the big fellow that referees come much cheaper than his figure in their land, and that they would try to do the best they could with home product at a much smaller tax.

Burns and Johnson are doing far better in Australia than they could do in any other country in the world, and if the present dope that is handed out can be relied upon, then Australia is the grandest country in the world for big fighters. The story that goes the rounds is that Burns and Johnson are to battle for the sweet sum of $42,000 Of this, Canadian Tommy will cop off a cool $30,000, and Black Jack the remaining $12,000 for his bit.

Assuming that this is correct, then it is safe to predict that Burns will do no more fighting in the event that he loses to Johnson. Tommy is after the coin and nothing more. He cleaned up something like $50,000 in England, fighting a lot of suckers and the $30,000 he will get for taking on Johnson this time will about hold him if he loses.

But in the event of his beating Johnson, the way Thomas can come back to the land of the Stars and Stripes and get a lot of coin without doing any fighting. He will be a great card for the stage and the music hall. He could easily grab off another $15,000 in a year here without going into training once. This should prove enough to hold any pug for awhile and as Burns is one of those fellows who knows how to hold on to the almighty dollar, there is no danger of him going broke as John L. Sullivan, Joe Gans, Jack Dempsey and other great ones of the past did when their careers of usefulness were ended.

They must all take off their bonnets to Burns. He is the wisest of the wise brigade. He makes all his own matches, gets the best of every one, banks his coin and laughs in his sleeve at fighters and promoters alike. He is a true disciple of easy money.

While President Ewing of the Coast league and the other magnates are doing the best they can to whip the Outlaw California league into line by fair means or otherwise, the powers of that organization are getting ready to wage war on the big league during the coming season and now it looks as though the baseball situation will resolve itself into a bitter struggle instead of a love feast as was expected.

Cy Moering, the man who runs the champion Stockton team, the best money maker in the league, is making ready to transfer his aggregation of talent to Oakland next season and thus fight the Coast league on its own field. It remains to be seen whether or not Moering makes good and if he does, the coast powers will have to show a lot of speed in order to win out.

On his lineup, Moreing has such stars as Henny Henderson, who helped win the pennant for Portland two years ago; Danny Shay, the former New York Giant second baseman; Bill Moriarity, claimed by Cleveland; Patty Hackett, the ex-Oakland catcher; Hal Chase, the king of all first basemen, and Dr. Moskiman, the old-time Oakland pitcher, who jumped his contract with the Pittsburg team.

This is sure a sweet bunch, and a ball team that should make good in any town. The Oakland fans have been very sore this season, for the reason that their team has been in the cellar all the time, and also because they are given only two games a week. They have been clamoring for more ball, but the directors have found it impossible to accommodate them, for the reason that there are not enough teams in the league to permit of this.

Now Moering believes that he can cut in with his all-star nine and give the Oakland fans what they have been clamoring for. It is his plan to play in Oakland every day save Monday, just as the San Francisco team plays here. With such nines as San Jose, Sacramento and Fresno to go against Moering's team could give the Oakland fans fast, snappy ball and be in the running all the time, and this sure would cut a wide swath in the event that Oakland is no better off in the Coast league next season.

Moering has a number of prominent Oakland capitalists interested in the venture, and these men have gone so far as to take an option on a fine site for a ball ground. They have taken no action toward improving the field yet, and probably are waiting for some news from Ewing regarding a possible treaty of peace between the leagues, which may be drawn up at the meeting of the national commission next month.

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It looks as though poor old Pa Van Haltren has lost his job as the manager-captain of the Oakland nine, for Bernie McCay, late captain of the Shreveport nine of the Texas league is now on the job, under the name of field captain and third baseman.

The Oakland management claims that Van will still retain his title as director of the team, but the fans in general doubt this. McCay is a young hustler who broke into the game with Oakland some seven years ago, but later drifted down south where he has played successful ball ever since. He was recommended as the very man to put the fire of life into the team and as President Walter believes that the line-up was in need of a change, he quickly signed McCay up.

If Van loses out he likely will retire from the game for keeps and his passing will mark the end of the diamond career of one of the most notable men who ever played the national game. As everybody knows Van has had just 30 years of experience on the ball field in all sorts of company from the bushes to the National league.

Van is pretty well fixed and can afford to retire gracefully when it comes to a pinch. He owns a couple of blocks of fine property in Oakland and is an industrious old fellow. When the season closes, Van is on the job with his little hatchet, nailing up laths. He is one of the most expert lathers in Oakland and commands a salary of $6 or $7 a day, so there is no danger of the wolf breaking into his cabin.

* * *

Mike Fisher is getting ready to lead his All-American stars into the orient at the close of the present season. Mike experienced a lot of trouble in getting his aggregation together and will be forced to take Coast league players for the most part, but he feels confident that the trip will be a success, for it has been well advertised.

Only two of the major league artists will accompany the team, Ty Cobb of Detroit and Bill Burns of Washington. Paul Cobb, brother of the great slugger, will also make the journey in place of Sweeney, who backed out at the last minute. Paul played sensational ball with the Joplin, Mo., nine this season and has been signed up with the St. Louis Browns for next year. The remainder of the team will be composed of Brick Devereaux, Joe Nealon; Nick Williams, Ote Johnson, George Hildebrand, Claude Berry, Silvers Henley, Jack Bliss and possibly Zeider, though Charles Comiskey, who has drafted the latter player is raising strenuous objections to his going.

NEW RULES SHAKE FOOTBALL WORLD

Light Teams Spring Surprises on Old Elevens in Checkerboard Games.

By Sportsman.

This season promises to furnish many surprises in the gridiron game. The smaller teams are showing remarkable strength and holding their big and haughty rivals to scores that are humiliating. The fact that Marquette college held Illinois varsity team to a six to six score was one of the several surprises in the middle west. Minnesota, always remarkable for the power of its offense and the strength of its defense, was scored on twice by smaller Ames and only succeeded by prodigious efforts in slipping over an additional touchdown, winning the game eventually, 15 to 10.

At Michigan, Yost's great machine famous in football history, had the distressing experience of being played to a standstill and even more than a standstill by the Michigan Agricultural college gained more ground and kept Michigan constantly on the defense.

Princeton, whose team this year is advertised to be one of the strongest in the athletic history of the orange and black, failed to score upon Lafayette and was held to a 0 to 0 score.

These scores indicate most strikingly the effect of the new rules upon the playing ability of the many teams in the country. Big heavy teams that under the old rules would have crushed their smaller rivals by straight bucks and short runs, today find it difficult and oft-times a problem to negotiate the 10-yard advance under the new rules. The smaller schools with a fair line and several players clever in the execution of the forward pass and rapid in covering up onside kicks hold big teams even and often humiliate them by defeat.

The fact that these things are happening in the far east and the middle west signify most clearly that the same upsetting of football prophecies may occur in our northwest games. A light team, rapid in action and skilled in handling the forward pass and executing intricate trick plays, may slip in a victory over one of the Big Six when least expected.

Eastern Championship a Toss-Up.

The preliminary football season is nearly at an end, and next week's games will indicate about where the various big teams of the different sections will stand. The Eastern situation is full of possibilities, and as uncertain as in the history of the gridiron game. Yale is developing slowly, but with a wealth of good material, including such stars as Hobbs, Andrus, Cooney, Brides and Coy, and indications are that when the plays are all sifted out the Old Blue will have a team of wonderful strength.

Princeton in material looks especially strong this year, and in spite of the fact that Lafayette held them to a 0 to 0 score, will gain strength as the season advances. It looks very much from a distance, however, as though possibly the Harvard Crimson might wave triumphantly over her various rivals. Harvard has been a long time getting into her own, but thus far her early season games have indicated more strength than in several seasons past.

Her 10 to 0 score over Maine and the 10 to 0 score over Williams will naturally encourage the followers of the Crimson to believe that the championship banner will float over Cambridge this year.

Wisconsin Strong in Middle West.

The middle west situation has sifted itself in the last week or two and the eyes of the middle west football followers are centered upon Wisconsin and Chicago. A week or so ago Minnesota was considered a formidable team, but the fact that Minnesota could do nothing better than to score a 6 to 0 victory over Lawrence, while Wisconsin defeated the same team a week later by 39 points, does not make the Gophers look very strong. The fact that smaller Ames succeeded in crossing their goal line and came within an ace of beating them completely destroyed the hopes of the followers of Dr. Williams' aggregation.

Wisconsin looked very weak at the beginning of the year as it was thought that many of the star players had been barred from collegiate participation because of deficiencies in their studies. This was merely a "bear story" however, and the men that were supposed to be ineligible have passed their conditional examinations and are now in the regular line-up.

Wisconsin is stronger and better in material than any of the middle west schools. With such men as Rogers, Boyle, Stiehm, Osthof, Culver, Muckelstone and Wiise of the last year's team, and the many new men from freshman ranks, indications are that the Cardinal stands a splendid chance of waving triumphant this season. By the way, the brother of the Wisconsin Muckelstone is filling a back field position on the Washington team this year. The greatest game of the year will be played at Madison between Coach Stagg's proteges and Coach Barry's Badgers.

Coach Barry is not unknown in northwest football, as he was one of the star members of the Seattle Athletic club two seasons ago. His spectacular plays and all-round skillful handling of a halfback position, was a revelation to northwest followers of the game. Barry made a big reputation in the east as half-back on the Brown eleven and was selected for the all-American.

Coach Stagg has a light but snappy team. Page, Badenoch, Worthwine, Schommer and Steffens are all men of class and experience. The Wisconsin-Chicago game will be a contest worth going miles to see, and as the championship will rest between these two teams, as Minnesota has been eliminated, it will be a battle royal and an exhibition of new football unexcelled, as both teams are away ahead of the average in mastering forward passes and clever formations.

Very little has as yet happened to indicate what the northwest will do in football this year. Oregon is quietly working its bundle of material into shape, and while not saying much, is bending every effort to put out the strongest team in the northwest. They have the material and in Coach Forbes they have a man who can deliver the goods if any one can. Oregon was very much chagrined by the defeat handed to them last season by the O. A. C. Beavers, and while putting forth every effort to win every game on their schedule, it is an open secret that the slogan in Eugene is "beat Corvallis."

Two years ago, when they journeyed to Corvallis with a team that was, as they thought, the stronges. In the history of the school at that time, and it was merely a question in their minds how much the score would be, they were surprised and pained to find that at the end of the game the score was 0 to 0. Last season, with assurance of certain victory over the Beavers, they were distressed beyond measure when Wolfe of O. A. C., booted the ball at a difficult angle between the crossbars for the four points that won the game.

They are making every effort to place in the field a team that will win back the lost laurels from O. A. C. on November 21, on the Multnomah field in Portland.

Both O. A. C. and Eugene had better go a little slow and not look too hungrily at the championship plum until Washington has been disposed of. While Coach Forbes will doubtless have a creditable team, from this distance it looks very much as though Washington, when it strikes its gait, will have the greatest team in the history of the Seattle institution.

A week ago hard luck tales and groans of distress were sizzling over the wires from the Puget sound institution, but in the last few days the tone of the reports has entirely changed and you can almost see the campus rooters shaking each other by the hand at the announcement that Babcock, Bants and Jarvis are out in suits and playing in their old positions. These three men weigh respectively 210, 190 and 195 pounds. They add not only weight, but power, skill and experience to Coach Dobie's team.

It seems on paper as though it would be almost impossible to turn out anything but a championship team with the aggregation that he has to work with this year. With these men on the line and the other good material that Dobie has, and a man of the caliber of Coyle at quarter, the team will be powerful, speedy and should be conducted with superb generalship.

MORE MONEY FOR BRYAN'S CAMPAIGN

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Chicago, Oct. 17.—The Democratic national committee tonight announced the receipt of additional contributions, which increase the total of the campaign fund by $4,250. The largest donors were W. C. Conrad, a Montana mine owner, who gave $1,000, and the Maryland committee of one hundred of Silver Springs, Md., which contributed $500.

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NEW YORK WORLD POLL OF STATES

(United Press Leased Wire.)

New York, Oct. 17.—New York state Democratic and Bryan wins, Republican and he loses, is the deduction the New York World makes this morning from a general poll of the doubtful states taken by that newspaper and about 20 others throughout the country. Large gains for the Democratic nominee are claimed in all the so-called doubtful states except New York, a revised poll of which shows slight Republican losses above the Bronx over last Sunday's estimate.

Ohio, Indiana, Nebraska, West Virginia and Maryland are classed as doubtful, and together with New York, bring the total of doubtful electoral votes to 160. The poll gives Taft 205 and Bryan 178 sure votes.

Twenty-three states were chosen as the battleground for the campaign. Newspapers of each of these states cooperated with the World in making the canvass.

The World gives five causes leading to the belief that the contest for the presidency is in doubt. They are:

The injunction into the campaign in some of the western states of an insidious and disturbing religious factor which is working against the Republican candidate.

The tendency of the labor vote to break away from the control of all parties, as illustrated in the surprising spread of the Socialist cause both in the east and in the west.

The inability of both the Republican and Democratic parties to intelligently approximate the distribution of the vote to be cast by an army of unemployed estimated in round numbers at 1,400,000 voters.

The inability of both the Republican and Democratic managers to anticipate the distribution of the colored vote in states where it has always been classified as Republican.

The complete absence of an issue of general value or vote-getting potency on either side.

The World goes on to show that Mr. Taft must carry New York state, the chiefest of the doubtful states, to win by a majority of two votes. If he carries it, his election is assured.

Bryan to win must carry New York, Ohio and Maryland or Nebraska or West Virginia, which will give him 248 votes, or six more than is necessary to elect him. If he carries New York, Indiana, West Virginia and Nebraska or Maryland, and yet loses Ohio, he may still be elected by six votes.

Under any combination he must carry New York to win.

KILLS AND MEETS DEATH IN FLIGHT

Taft, Mont., Oct. 17.—After killing Nicholas Pernatz, an Austrian, by firing three bullets into his brain during a religious quarrel, John Hughes, another foreigner, tripped while in his flight from the officers and fell, fracturing his skull. Hughes is fatally injured, and is now dying.

Portland, Oct. 17, 1908.

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