

## WAS POPULAR IN BOSTON.

Sketch of the Late J. E. Morse Who Was Well Known in Lake Co. as Wool Buyer.

Many people in Lake county were acquainted with James E. Morse, who for the past two years purchased through Bailey & Masingill of Lakeview, for Harding & Coverley, of Boston, a majority of the wool in Lake county. He died last fall while on a business trip to Albuquerque, N. M., and was reported in The Examiner. His untimely end was greatly deplored by his many friends here. A short sketch of his life from a Boston paper, will probably be appreciated by his friends in Lake county. The deceased was born in the West End, where he attended the public schools, graduating from the English high school in the class of '86. During his schoolboy days his mind turned to athletics. His first efforts, and for that matter his early development as a sprinter, jumper and vaulter, was while he was a member of the Boston Y. M. C. U.

Following the organization of the B. A. A. came the great boom in amateur athletics, and in looking around for representatives for the track team, those in authority at the B. A. A. selected Mr. Morse as their representative high and broad jumper. He was considered by reason of his pleasing personality an exemplary character, as well qualified to wear the unicorn, the emblem of the association, and in all his efforts on track and field he brought it honor and distinction.

In looking over his long record, probably the crowning event of his career was in the joint games of the B. A. A. and 1st regt A. A. held in the Irvingtonst armory in the early '90s, when he tied Fearing and Green of Harvard at 5 feet 11 1/2 inches in the running high jump. This at that time was a record for indoor performances, and the occasion was made all the more noteworthy by three local men topping the bar at that remarkable height. Fearing and Green both noted Harvard athletes, were natural jumpers, but Morse's performance was the result of practice.

He was as modest as he was graceful and received applause enough during his athletic career to turn the average young man's head. He was a finished gymnast, having obtained his knowledge of this branch of sport while a member of the Y. M. C. U., and his performances on the flying rings at the amateur circus given by the B. A. A. in the old Arena building, in company with Dr. Harold Williams, was always considered a feature of the entertainment.

About 13 years ago he married Miss Myrtle Willis of Columbus, O. daughter of R. B. Willis, ex-speaker of the house of representatives of that state, and four daughters, the eldest 12 years and the youngest 18 months, were the result of the union. Shortly afterwards, his interest as an active participant in athletics waned, owing to a pressure of business and home ties, but he kept up an active interest in promoting amateur athletics, and was the prime mover in the organization of the Newton athletic club, of which he was the first president. He held office in that club and represented it on the board of governors at the N. E. A. U. and also represented the local organization in the councils of the national A. A. U. held at New York, where his opinions and suggestions were always listened to with respect.

Prior to the organization of the Newton A. C. he bought him a beautiful home at Waban, where he spent much of his time in the promotion of athletics. While there he became

a member of the swell Clavin Guards of Newton, in which he held a warrant as sergeant. After moving to Waban he resigned his membership in the B. A. A., but rejoined last October, being elected a member while away on his last trip.

Mr. Morse was a man of magnificent physique, being a trifle over six feet in height and of exceptional proportions. At the time of his death he was 35 years old.

During his early years as an athlete he gave great promise of developing into a phenomenon. When 15 years old he became a member of the B. Y. M. C. U., and for five years engaged in active gymnastics. At one time he held the club high-jumping championship with Dan Long, and also held the record for the three standing jumps, which he still holds. Although a sprinter, being capable of covering 100 yards in less than 11 seconds, he excelled as a jumper, and from the time of his advent into the amateur ranks until he quit active competition it is estimated that he won nearly 100 prizes.

In June, 1889, he won first place in the hop, step and jump and pole vault at the amateur athletic association games, and on Feb. 22, '89, took the high jump at the Roxbury Latin school meeting. In April of the same year he captured first prize in the high jump at Waltham, and in June the running broad jump at Neponset. On July 4, at Lake Walden, he won the running high and broad jumps. Labor day of the same year a big meeting was held at Franklin park, and he found little difficulty in taking prizes in the running hop, step and jump, and standing broad jump. Two months later he entered the Woburn games and won the high jump and secured second place in the pole vault.

On Feb. 15, 1890, he cleared 5 feet 8 1/2 inches in the running high jump. At the Yale games held in New Haven in March of the same year he was scratch man in the high jump, and won first prize with a leap of 5 feet 8 1/2 inches. Some time later, at the games of the Harvard A. A., he beat Fearing, the crack Harvard jumper, with the jump of 5 feet 10 1/2 inches. On the same day he cleared 5 feet 11 inches, but knocked the bar off with his head and the performance was not allowed. However, his leap of 5 feet 10 1/2 inches established a world's record for that event, as the competitors wore rubber-soled shoes only.

His next appearance was May 17, when he tied Shearman in the games of the Berkley A. C., with a running high jump of 5 feet 8 1/2 inches. He competed in the eastern championship meeting held on June 28, and made the then phenomenal jump of 5 feet 11 1/2 inches. On account of certain conditions upon which the jump was made the record was not allowed. At the Tr'mount A. C. games July 4, he won the high jump, and again on July 17, at the games of the same club he won the 120-yard low hurdles. The next performance of note was at the Staten Island A. C. games, where he won the running high jump of 5 feet 10 inches. He competed in the Canadian championship meeting, but was beaten by Pritchard and Weigand. At the Salford harrier games on Oct. 18, 1890, he won second in the high jump, and on Nov 19, in the B. A. A. games he tied with Brown and Porter in the same event.

When the B. A. A. games were the principal features of the indoor athletic season in this vicinity, Morse was for several years a prominent competitor and patronized the open meetings during the summer. His record was an enviable one.

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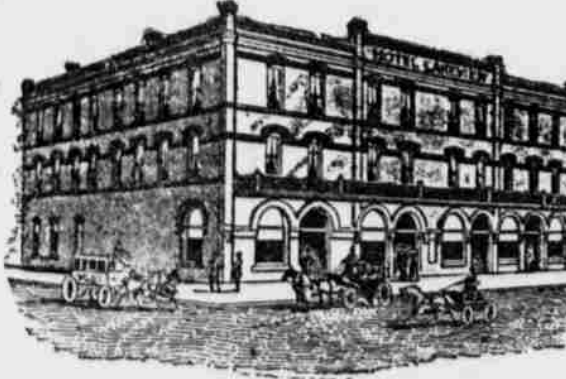
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