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BY HOFER BROS.

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THE JIU JITSU FAKE.

To anyone who doubts the effectiveness of skillful advertising the popularity of the jiu jitsu fad ought to be convincing.

A year ago the peculiar system of Japanese wrestling was scarcely heard of in this country; today everybody is familiar with it and it is even proposed to adopt it into the curriculum at West Point and Annapolis.

Meanwhile numerous thrifty expos-

"The way to wealth, if you desire it, is as plain as the way to market."

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itors of the so-called art have been reaping a rich harvest of good Yankee dollars.

American wrestlers have only contempt for jiu jitsu. "It's all right, if you can get the holds," says John L. Sullivan, "but if the other fellow's any good he ain't goin' to let you get them holds on him."

The officials of West Point determined to investigate jiu jitsu and secured a pair of the best experts Japan could furnish. They explained their theories and illustrated them by tying each other into hard knots. Then a couple of West Point cadets stepped forth and challenged the Japs to wrestle with them. In almost less time than it takes to tell about it, both jiu jitsu experts were laid helpless on their backs.

But weight was in favor of the Americans? Not in this case. Both Japs were larger than the American lads who mastered them.

In a bout between an American wrestler and a Japanese jiu jitsu expert in Baltimore, in which the Jap got decidedly the worst of it, it was one of the conditions laid down by the latter that his opponent should wear kimono. If one has the right to prescribe the clothing of his opponent the manly art of self-defense or the art of offense would become an extremely simple matter. It might be insisted, for instance, that one's opponent, in addition to wearing a kimono, should have his hands tied behind him.

Jiu jitsu does not appear to be the manly art of self-defense, but rather a method of attack by springing upon an unguarded person and taking a peculiar hold upon his throat or by taking him unawares in some other vulnerable part of the person. The same thing might be accomplished by creeping stealthily behind a man and striking him down with a sandbag.

It is to be hoped that the academies at West Point and Annapolis will waste no more time upon this heathen

"science." What is needed there is wholesome physical and mental development, not the acquisition of tricks for unfair advantage.

The art of wrestling is no more necessary in the education of an army or naval officer than it is in the education of a lawyer or doctor. Wrestling has no more place in the military profession than it has in any other. It is not the business of the officer to wrestle.

It is desirable for all men, whatever their vocation may be, to be physically strong and vigorous and able to take care of themselves when attacked. But it is not desirable that young men should be taught an art of attack rather than of defense.

Perhaps lots of people dimly imagine that it is by jiu jitsu the Japs are defeating the Russians. This is but another of the numerous errors regarding this art.

EMPIRE SLOW BUT SURE.

The story of the discovery, exploration and settlement of the Oregon country, to which the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition at Portland is drawing the attention of the world, presents some of the most astounding aspects. Perhaps the fact that arouses the greatest degree of astonishment in the up-to-date, hustling citizen of today is that such a long period of time was required for taking possession of this vast territory after its discovery and exploration.

The coast line of Oregon and Washington was known to mariners generations before the interior was explored, and maps more or less accurate were made from time to time. Spanish, Dutch, British and Russian navigators vied with each other in exploring the coast, but practically no attempt was made to explore the interior of the country until President Jefferson, a hundred years ago, sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark from St. Louis up the Missouri river to its headwaters, across the mountains and

plains and down the Columbia river to its mouth.

But even Uncle Sam, with that rare Yankee shrewdness which he is supposed to possess, had penetrated this great unknown territory, bisecting it from side to side, it was more than 40 years before anything like a definite intention of settlement and occupation took form. Though from the journals of Lewis and Clark and the diaries of some of their men it was distinctly evident that "the Oregon country" was a land magnificently opulent in promise, a land crying for settlers and pitchers of milk vbkgkj jdiijijijfi developers even as babies cry for pitchers of milk, full-two-score years passed before a nation finally took possession of the region, "colonized" it and began to make it a part of the civilized world.

True, there was a dispute as to its ownership, Great Britain and the United States both claimed the Oregon country, and each appeared to have some color of title. Yet it required 40 years to settle this matter, and during all that time Oregon and Washington and Idaho—as now named and known—remained wildernesses, with but a straggling settlement here and there, and those settlements harrassed by hostile Indians and exposed to the natural perils of remote outposts.

The history of the actual development of Oregon and her sister states in the territory acquired by treaty with Great Britain in 1846 is the history of less than sixty acres of heroic effort and high achievement. America was discovered 413 years ago. Jamestown was colonized by the English 298 years ago. Plymouth Rock was touched by the tread of the Mayflower pilgrim 285 years ago. American independence was declared 129 years ago. Lewis and Clark crossed the continent to the Pacific Northwest 100 years ago. The United States finally acquired the Oregon country, by right of discovery and exploration and after 40 years of juggling, 59 years ago.

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But after getting our clutches firmly fixed upon this Oregon country, we have pushed forward the work of development with gratifying rapidity. With the extension of the railroad and the invention of the telegraph, distance has been annihilated—and it was distance which was the main factor in keeping this great region undeveloped for so many generations after the eastern part of America was settled. The Pacific coast was so remote from civilization that one felt, as Joaquin Miller has expressed it, that it was a land that even God had forgotten. Now it is but a few day's trip by rail from New York and a few seconds' time by wire from any point east or west.

Great as has been the development of the past 60 years, Oregon and her sister states of the Pacific West are as yet comparatively infants. There is room for many millions of people in addition to those now living in these states, and the Lewis and Clark exposition no doubt will be the means of drawing a large increase of desirable population.

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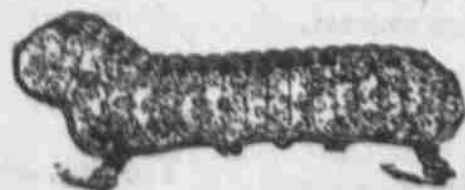
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