

Year Now Passing Notable in Pugilism, Says Corbett

By James J. Corbett (Former Heavyweight Champion of the World.)

New York, Dec. 26.—(Special to the Journal.)—Another year on the ropes, groggy and about ready to take the full count. And in many respects it has been a remarkable one in the history of pugilism, 1914 will exit, an epoch-making year in fistiana. Notable among the feats accomplished during the past twelve months were the dethronement of Willie Ritchie by Freddy Welsh as world's lightweight title-holder, and the overthrow of Johnny Conlon by Kid Williams as champion of the bantam division. But by far the most important happening during the year was the unexpected blow dealt the sport at the recent election in California in putting boxing under the ban after flourishing for more than a quarter of a century under legal protection.

Jack Johnson is still the king of the heaves, and if he elects to safeguard his title during 1915 as he did during the last year, will probably be the champion twelve months from now. Johnson fought only one ring battle during 1914 that with Frank Moran in Paris last June, and according to accounts received here had little trouble outpointing the Pittsburgh novice.

that the champion will consent to risk the title in battle with his colored rivals. The truth of the matter is that the white heavyweight division has not developed a first class fighting man since Jeffries.

Taking a line from his fight with Gunboat Smith in England last Summer Georges Carpentier appears the most promising of the younger white heavyweights, but it is doubtful if he will ever again be seen in the ring. The recent output of heavies has fallen away below the standard set by the gladiators of the past. Willard, with more experience, may develop into a first class fighting man, but in the few times he has appeared in the ring in this locality has shown nothing to indicate that he has the necessary class to fight his way to the top of the division.

Until Willard first proves his right to battle Johnson for the title the promoters of the proposed Johnson-Willard match will find that the public will take little interest in the affair. If Willard can't beat such men as Smith, Coffey et al he has no business in the ring with Jack Johnson, not to mention Langford, Jeannette and McVey.

The middleweight developments of the year just drawing to an end have been hardly more satisfactory than in the heavier division. George Chip, regarded by many ring followers as a possible successor to Stanley Ketchel after his two defeats of Frank Klaus, failed to make good his claims to championship class. Following his knock-out in less than a round by Al McCoy, the Brooklyn second rater, Chip was soundly beaten in a twenty round contest by Jimmy Clabby.

Eddie McGoorty has confined all his boxing to an Australian campaign, and while in that country met with several defeats that put him out of the running for the middleweight championship. Furthermore it is doubtful if McGoorty can make the weight demanded in a match for the title. Of all the men left to battle for Ketchel's crown Mike Gibbons and Jimmy Clabby appear to be better qualified than any of the others.

The welterweight division is in bad repute in this country. No one appears to know where it begins or where it ends. It is so long since there has been a recognized champion of the class that the public has forgotten his name. There are a number of so-called lightweights who probably belong in the welterweight division, among them Patrick McFarland and Jack Britton, but apparently they have no ambition to shine as welterweight stars. Campaigning in the lightweight class is far more profitable for these boys than taking chances in a heavier division.

Freddy Welsh, for years lightweight champion of Great Britain, outboxed Willie Ritchie in twenty five rounds last June, and was proclaimed champion of the world. Since that time Freddy has engaged in half a dozen or more limited round no-holds-bar contests, but in his latest battle, that with Young Joe Shugrue, made a miserable showing.

Willie Ritchie has boxed only once since losing the title to Welsh. He met Johnny Dundee in a four round bout in San Francisco two months ago, and while the referee called it a draw the critics insisted that Dundee was entitled to a shade decision. Reports from the West hint that Willie has taken on considerable flesh of late and that it is doubtful if he will ever again be able to fight at the lightweight limit.

JIMMY FOX, FEATHERWEIGHT, IS IN NEW YORK LOOKING FOR MORE GLORY



New York, Dec. 26.—Jimmy Fox, champion featherweight of the Pacific coast, has reached New York and announced his willingness to meet any fighter in his class. He usually weighs 125 pounds, but says he will make 115 for a chance to meet Kid Williams. Fox is twenty-one years old and has been fighting for several years. One of his earliest scraps was with Johnny Kilbane, who whipped him. Fox later fought Eddie Sampl several times and won a decision over him. He whipped Monty Attell, one time champion bantamweight of the world, six months ago in Battle, Meant. Fox is under the management of Henry Isrlinger, who also looks after Tommy McCarty's affairs.

and Dundee have also been coming along very fast, and bid fair to figure prominently in the race for the title during the coming year.

Johnny Kilbane still reigns the undisputed champion of the featherers. While there are a number of other fair boys in this division none appears to possess class enough to make it interesting for the champion. Kilbane, by the way, aspires to lightweight honors, and that he really intends making a campaign in that division was proven by his bout with Joe Mandot, with whom he recently boxed a ten-round draw. Kilbane will undoubtedly make quite a record for himself in the 123 pound division, but whether he has skill enough to offset the handicap of poundage he would be forced to battle under as a lightweight, time alone will tell. However, with Johnson in the heavyweight class, and Williams in the bantams, Kilbane appears to have his title of champion feather clinched by all immediate danger.

One of the most interesting of the many pugilistic happenings of the year was the defeat of Johnny Conlon by Kid Williams. Interesting in that it uncovered a youngster who looks the most formidable bantam since the days of "Ferrile Terry" McGovern. Conlon held the title for a number of years, but succumbed before the onslaught of his aggressive challenger. His fight with Williams, if it could be dignified by that title, lasted less than three rounds and his showing against his youthful adversary was most pitiful. It was another evidence of the old truism that "youth will be served."

Unless forced to resign the honors by increasing weight, Williams looks surely entrenched on the bantam throne for a long time to come.

What has become of the old-fashioned to tell what a devil of a fellow he was when young.

SAY RUPPERT'S LEG IS FINALLY PULLED

The Deal for Purchase of New York Highlanders Has Been Concluded

By Hal Sheridan. New York, Dec. 26.—Discussing the proposed purchase of the New York Highlanders by Colonel Jacob Ruppert, multi-millionaire, and Captain T. L. Huston, Bozeman Bulger, baseball expert for the New York World, recently said: "On the authority of a man who was a boyhood friend of Captain Huston, and who has been in constant communication with him, the final settlement of the deal over the purchase of the Yanks is now up to Ban Johnson, president of the American League. "When Captain Huston started for French Lick Springs, the price to be paid Frank Farrell had been agreed upon. Before the stock is actually transferred and the money paid, however, Captain Huston and Colonel Ruppert must be assured by Johnson that New York will get three or four good players on which to start building up the club. The names of these players were carefully selected by experienced baseball men who have been advising Captain Huston during the absence of Colonel Ruppert. If Ban Johnson assures the new owners that they will get the players, the whole thing will be wound up in a jiffy. The price is absolutely agreed on."

White to Meet Shugrue. New York, Dec. 26.—Charlie White and Young Shugrue, lightweights, will meet here Tuesday night in a scheduled 10-round bout at Madison Square Garden. The winner probably will be matched with Freddie Welsh, lightweight champion of the world. "I will put Shugrue away this time," said White today. "We have met twice before but I was lacking in confidence then. Shugrue will find that he is facing a different opponent this time. "I figure on winning decisively and then I will force Welsh into a fight for the championship."

Late Yesterday

Nationals Win Again. Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 26.—The touring National League team had another victory over the Americans to their credit today. Grover Alexander out-pitched Mitchell in the Christmas day contest here, winning by a score of four to three. The score: R. H. E. Nationals 4 0 2 Americans 3 7 2 Alexander and Clark; Mitchell and Henry.

Hot-air Ruppert. New York, Dec. 26.—A final conference between Frank Farrell, principal owner of the New York American League club, and Colonel Jacob Ruppert, multi-millionaire brewer, and Captain T. L. Huston, prospective purchasers, will be held here today. Huston intimated that he may withdraw from the deal. He said his business associates objected to his entering the baseball world.

Levinaky Got Decision. New York, Dec. 26.—Battling Levinaky holds a ten round newspaper decision today on Dan Flynn, of Boston, as a result of their bout here yesterday afternoon. Although Levinaky conceded Flynn 18 pounds in weight, he was the aggressor and landed the cleaner and harder blows throughout.

Got Easy Money. New York, Dec. 26.—Kid Williams, of Baltimore, bantamweight champion of the world, collected some easy money today as a result of his ten-round match here last night with Johnny Daly of New York. Daly was outclassed from start to finish and only his guile saved him from a knockout. Williams administered a severe beating to Daly in every one of the ten rounds.

Paris.—Senator Gomot urged that Rheims, Lille, Arras, Liege and Louvain representatives be sent to the San Francisco exposition, to see how a ruined city can be rebuilt in ten years.

Presno, Cal.—His wife having and him for divorce, Charles Saunders shot and fatally hurt her, less seriously injured his step daughter, Mrs. Mabel Elder and Henry Hummel; then wounded himself so badly he will die.

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CRUISER IN BATTLE

London, Dec. 26.—Verification of reports that the British cruiser Newcastle was engaged off Valparaiso was awaited here with much anxiety today. It was taken for granted, from Chilean accounts, that the Newcastle had encountered the German cruiser Dresden, but this was only guess work, as the unofficial message received here only mentioned the British vessel by name.

WHY NOT CUT THIS VEST POCKET MAP OF EASTERN WAR AREA OUT AND KEEP IT?



The eastern seat of war is here condensed in vest pocket size. Why not cut this out and keep it handy? Refer to it as you follow the war daily. The Russian names are so puzzling for the average American that it is necessary to have a map to know where the armies are fighting.

LOS ANGELES HAS MURDER MYSTERY

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 26.—The finding of the body of a young woman on the La Brea ranch, close to the fashionable Wilshire district of Los Angeles, confronted the police here with another murder mystery today. The woman apparently had been dead a month. The head had been beaten with a club or other instrument, and the skull crushed. There were two rings upon the hands—a thin wedding ring and a plain signet ring. Aside from the clothing, there was nothing else that might aid identification.

The body was that of a woman of 25 or 28 years. It was clad in a dark green suit, silk lisle stockings, new cloth top shoes and a small velvet hat by close by.

The body was found late yesterday by a party of rabbit hunters, who notified the police. No progress toward identification had been made early today.

The young man who doesn't have the girl's name engraved in the ring may be wise, but he'd be unpleasant to live with.

THE GOLF PLAYERS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC

Course Said to be One of the Best on Coast—Players Are Catching On

The most enthusiastic golf players of the Salem country club are now cutting down their scores and familiarizing themselves with the curves and lines of their course until they will be able to stage a golf tournament at the course early next year, probably on February 23. There are about 30 players out now, nearly all beginners, and their scores range about 60 for the course. When they started in their scores of ten totaled over 100 and the average was from 80 to 100. Instructor Billy, the professional, was so enthusiastic over the prospects of the course, and says that it will become one of the best on the coast.

The total length is 3100 yards for the nine-hole course. The first hole is 300 yards and the green lies on top of the hill. The drive is across a deep gully and with a good drive the player should get on the green with his second shot. Bogeys for this hole is four. The second hole is 165 yards with the green cut out in the woods and calling for a perfect straight shot to make this a hole in three. Bogeys for the third hole is five; the distance is 100 yards and requires a long straight drive. The distance on the fourth hole is 400 yards. This calls for an accurate approach and bogey is six. The fifth hole is a vista cut through the woods and calls for a straight drive with a few trees to carry at a distance of 120 yards from the tee. The distance is 250 and bogey is four. The sixth hole is 150 yards with bogey at three. It is a one-shot hole.

The lung hole is the seventh, with a distance of 700 yards. This hole will be played in the spring and shortened somewhat. Bogeys for this hole is seven. The eighth hole is 350 yards with five or six bogeys. This hole is over particularly rolling ground and a pull or a slice will land the ball in the rough ground. The ninth hole is 25, but needless to say neither have been closely approached by any of the local players at this early stage of the game though their style of play is being improved with every practice.

SHOT BY POLICE

Portland, Or., Dec. 26.—Struck in the neck as he sat in a street car by a bullet fired by city detective after an alleged robbery, Walter Ashby, a department store employee, is in a serious condition today.

Detective Mohoney and Swennes were escorting John Jones, a negro, whom they had arrested charged with throttling and robbing Willie Lyons, when the prisoner broke away and ran. Both detectives fired at his legs. One of the bullets grazed from the pavement, entered Ashby's neck, and, ricocheting upward, lodged in the back of his head.

After a brief chase Jones was overtaken and recaptured.

The Independent Oil and Refining company has resumed work on its properties near Vale. It has taken over the property of four other companies, a total of about 20,000 acres.

JAPS AGAINST WAR

Tokio, Dec. 26.—A parliamentary election throughout Japan was expected here today some time in March.

As had been expected, parliament was dissolved Friday as a result of its refusal to make a financial allowance asked for by the Okuma cabinet for an increase in the size of the army.

The administration hopes the next election will give it the majority it desires.

Sisters of Eve

What Is Mere Man to Seven Great Big SECRETS?

By Lawler

