

# SPORT NEWS

## Fight Fans Not Yet Certain That Johnson Will Be There

(BY JAMES J. CORBETT.)  
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(Written especially for The Capital Journal.)

With the Johnson-Willard match only three weeks away—if the management intends to pull it off March 6—the fight fans would be taking a greater interest in the affair were the champion on the scene of battle, while the promoters confidently assert that Jack will be "Johnny on the spot" the night he is from Missouri and want to be shown.

Of course, it is difficult to believe that such a shrewd promoter as Jack Curby would be wasting his time and money on a proposition that was so far up in the air as this match seems to be at this writing. Therefore those who know Curby will have faith in his statement that Johnson will be in June on schedule time ready to defend his title against Willard. However, until such time arrives the fans will hardly take the battle seriously. It is unfortunate that conditions make it imperative for Johnson to sneak into Mexico, but as it is the belief that General Carranza will prevent his landing if he can, such methods are absolutely necessary.

But until Johnson does arrive, and the fact is made public, there will be little interest, and no betting, on the bout in this country.

Without trying to hedge in any way or to boost Jess Willard's chances in the coming battle—for on the hope they look mighty slim—the fact should not be forgotten that the ex-cowboy is not facing a world beater in Jack Johnson. However, the impression seems to prevail that Johnson is undermanned, though if anyone will take the time to figure out just what Johnson has accomplished during his entire career, he will find him arrive at a conclusion that so far the big snake has not beaten a real first class man—at least a good man in his prime.

Johnson and Willard are matched to go forty-five rounds. Evidently Johnson and he has never yet won a battle in his time, and Jess early in the second the Kansas' chances will be growing greater with every clang of the gong signifying a round is over. Forty-five rounds are considerable fighting in these days. If Willard can get through six or a dozen rounds, without being badly hurt, the fight may develop into an endurance contest. And in the matter of condition, figuring age, disposition, etc., Willard ought to have a big edge

his thirty-seventh year, and has gone a on his colored opponent. Johnson is in pretty good luck the last four or five, Willard is ten years younger and don't know what the word disposition means so far as practicing it in any of its many forms goes. Therefore if the battle does summer down into a question of which man can remain on his feet for two hours and a quarter, the odds will be in favor of the white.

Another thing, Willard can hit and hit hard, too. I think he can deliver a much harder punch than Johnson can. Of course, having a punch and knowing how to land it are two different things and that is where Johnson has the edge—in cleverness and experience. But if Willard fights on the defensive for a dozen or more rounds, Johnson's chances to get in effective wallops will be growing slimmer and slimmer as the fight goes on.

Many believe Johnson will fall before the first real good man who meets him. But few regard Willard as a "good man." If Jack were to battle Sam Langford I believe that the Boston tar lobby would be the favorite in the betting. And when we recall that Frank Moran stayed the limit of twenty rounds with the champion last summer, it will not be surprising if Willard, a much better man everywhere than the Pittsburgher, sticks the forty-five—if he doesn't do any more.

Taking the records of the two men and comparing them, what do we get? Nothing that would give Willard a look-in here, save his never-forgotten Langford, Jennette or McVey, popularly looked upon as the only first class men besides the champion, and there is no telling just how good he is. He has done nearly everything asked of him with the single exception of beating Gunboat Smith, and if they were to meet tomorrow the chances are that Jess wouldn't find it very much of a task to deliver the goods.

There are many fans who will back a champion any time he starts regardless. But those who follow the game closely know that the sure thing in the ring is not always the sure thing in the ring. Although I, like all experts who figure a fighter's chances on his known form, can't naturally give Willard a chance on the dope, on a common sense basis we must not figure him entirely out of the running. If Willard takes the defensive throughout and compels the negro to force the mill, his chances of emerging the winner will be considerably enhanced.

It will be an unfortunate thing if an

## BIG ED KONETCHY MAY DO SOME OF HIS PLAYING IN COURT THIS YEAR



KONETCHY

Pittsburg, Feb. 11.—Ed Konetchy, who jumped from the Pirates to the local Federal league team, may have to do some of his playing in the law courts the coming season. There is a likelihood that an injunction will be obtained restraining him from playing for the Peels. That injunction would keep him out of all the games played at home, and it might be extended to other states. Konetchy had a bad year last season. It was expected that he would shine with the Pirates because he had done well with the Cardinals, but his batting fell down, and his fielding was nothing extra. He says he did not get a square deal from the Pittsburg fans, that they expected him to perform miracles in every game and that as a result of the "riding" he got he was unable to play his best.

scrupulous promoters and managers are to be allowed to meddle in boxing of Al McCoy, so-called champion of the middle-weight division. McCoy is managed by Danny Morgan, a pal and business association of McKettrick's. Now if anyone can beat a rig-up such as this promise to be if it goes through I would like to know how it can be done. It looks like rough and raw work, and if Richard Klein is Bradt's advisor, as report has it, he is the one to blame for the attempt to cross the un-suspecting Cubans. Klein knows all about McKettrick's close connection with the three fighters nominated to "properly inaugurate boxing" in the Cuban metropolis.

I don't know Mr. Bradt, but if he is trying to go to Cuba to develop the sport in Cuba, then someone is putting something across on him. Young Ahearn and Willie Lewis, the veterans, would not meet and that Young Ahearn was supposed to have retired.

But that is not all. Local papers have announced that the winner of the law-

should Pauley McFarland and Mike Gibbons, by any chance, happen to be matched the bout would attract the greatest crowd that Madison Square Garden has attracted in many years. However, I doubt if the boys can be brought together. Not that I believe either afraid of a rap to his eye through a joint with the other, but because neither man will agree to give an iota from their already announced positions on the question of weight.

Gibbons has promised to make 145 pounds at 3 o'clock, while Pauley insists on 145 pounds. Mike can't make 145 and he fit, so the match is impossible under those conditions. If it is to be a fight McFarland will have to grant whatever concessions are made. And Pauley is not so badly in need of money or reputation that he will take the worst of it in a tilt with such a clever boxer and fighter as the St. Paul man has proved himself to be time and again.

Pauley is not afraid of Mike. I have talked with him several times on the subject and was impressed with the confidence he entertains in his ability to defeat his clever rival. Pauley has a good line on Mike and his style of fighting, and if a few pounds heavier himself would not hesitate to grant the concession asked for. But as it is

sibly can by practicing patience and stoicism. The boxing fans here and everywhere would think more of the champion if he would consent to take on some of his money challengers over a route to a decision.

There are several men entitled to matches with Welsh who are not being given a chance at all—not even a crack at a no-decision match. They are Johnny Dundee, who tried to get the job as Charley White's substitute the night the latter was taken ill, and Jack Britton who would be willing to concede almost everything in the way of gate receipts to step in the ring with the champion.

But Freddy is patient and a stoic, and can bide his time, even if the fans can't. He is in no hurry to meet Dundee or Britton. Maybe he figures, like a great many others, that the result of a bout with either would set him back some.

However, Welsh has agreed to box Willie Ritchie ten rounds at the Garden next month, and confidently counts on outpointing Willie over the slot course, a he did for twenty rounds in London. But Freddy may be down in the cold for the purpose of his lifetime. Personally I believe Ritchie will beat him beyond all question of the pair. Unless the champion shows wonderful improvement over his form in recent matches.

It was a terrible blow to the Irish when "Frankie Callahan" was revealed in his true colors.

## WHAT BECOMES OF OLD BALL PLAYERS?

### BILLY SUNDAY IS AN EVANGELIST



BILLY SUNDAY

Fans often wonder what becomes of old ball players. They drop out of sight, and few can tell where they are or what they are doing. But there is one former player about whom no one need be ignorant. He is Billy Sunday, who has been going up and down the country for years as an evangelist. Just now he is in Philadelphia, and he is attracting more attention as a preacher than he ever did as a ball player. He resorts to the language of the diamond in his biblical points, and for pitchers in their most elaborate wind-ups ever assume such postures as Preacher Sunday when he is exhorting.

### NEGRO CONFESSES MURDER CONGRATULATES STEWART

Elizabethton, Tenn., Feb. 13.—The authorities here disclosed today that a negro under arrest here has confessed that he killed Alonzo G. Gardner, of Baltimore, and his brother, Horace Gardner, of Springfield, Mass., near Welaka, Fla.

The man answers the description of an employee of Gardner, Alonzo Gardner was found dead and his brother has been missing for some time. The negro said he was acting as pilot on Gardner's yacht off the Florida coast during a hunting expedition, and that he killed the two men in revenge after they had forced him, at the point of a gun, to dance.

McFarland would come closer to the 145-pound mark at 2 o'clock than to 145, and he is too wise a bird to give a ton away to one of the best fighters in the ring at any weight.

That P. H. Raymond, state supreme court librarian, and a former Albany resident, who resides at Salem, was appointed postmaster of Albany by two presidents and twice in two years by General U. S. Grant, during his term as president, developed today in a letter from Mr. Raymond to C. H. Stewart, congratulating the latter on his re-appointment for appointment.

Mr. Raymond's first appointment was made by President Grant on December 31, 1873, and under the system employed by the government at that time, he was appointed again on December 18, the following year, 1874. Mr. Raymond was appointed a third time by President A. R. Hayes. This was on December 29, 1875.

Mr. Stewart says that when all of more hair on his head than he has now. —Albany Herald.

## Hairbreadth Harry—His Lucky Shot Saves the General

Drawn by C. W. Kahles



THIS SECRET TUNNEL LEADS DIRECTLY UNDER THE ENEMY'S CAMP. TO-NIGHT WE'LL BLOW THEM ALL UP.



I'M GOING OUT TO PIPE THE ENEMY'S POSITION. STAND BY THE GUNS IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.



GET HIM, BOYS! I'M A GONER!



THEY'VE SURPRISED THE GENERAL! I MUST PLUMP SOME BIG SHELLS INTO THEM!



AND THE NEXT MOMENT THE SHELL TORE A GREAT HOLE AT HIS FEET!!!



WELL, A HOLE IS A HOLE AND IS AT LEAST SOMETHING TO CRAWL INTO TO STAVE OFF THE ENEMY, ALTHOUGH WE DON'T SEE HOW IT WILL HELP MUCH.



BUT BY A REMARKABLE PIECE OF LUCK THAT HOLE OPENED RIGHT INTO RUDOLPH'S SECRET UNDERGROUND PASSAGE LEADING DIRECTLY UNDER OUR CAMP!



SO WE SEE THAT IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE SHELL WHICH OUR HERO FIRED THIS DEADLY TRAP WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED UNTIL TOO LATE, PROBABLY.

C. W. KAHLES