

Sporting News

DISPUTE WILLARD'S TITLE AS CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

Australian Critic of Boxing Claims That Victory Over Johnson Did not Give Him This Honor

An interesting discussion has arisen in Australia over the heavyweight title. Some of the fans and critics have taken the stand that Jess Willard is not the world's champion, even though he defeated Jack Johnson, as Jack was only considered the colored champion at the time and Georges Carpentier, the Frenchman, the white champion, having won the title from Gunboat Smith.

W. F. Corbett, the Sydney authority on boxing, says of the affair:

"A rather interesting question suggests itself as I write. Carpentier won the white heavyweight championship of the world when he defeated Gunboat Smith in England nearly twelve months since. Johnson was then, and has been ever since until his downfall the other day, referred to as the colored champion of the world. A white man—Willard—holds now whatever honors attached to Johnson's position. Will, or should Carpentier be still recognized as the white heavyweight champion of the world? At the first blush one is inclined to say certainly not, because Willard, in conquering Johnson, beat an opponent who had accounted for the proved best white men in the world at the time, and so won his laurels in an open field, where no distinction was drawn between white and black. But when Gunboat Smith was crowned king of the white boxers Johnson had been discarded as a titleholder.

"It was understood, and everybody felt satisfied, that in no part of the civilized world would a match between the negro and the white man be permitted. An American speculator, however, brought Johnson and Moran together in France, and then

kept the black as completely out of the business as possible. This, as I have several times written, does not appeal to me at all. 'Win laurels and wear them.' The boxer who will meet white men only has no right to call himself champion of the world. The pigmented peoples of this world are largely in excess of the Caucasians.

In the States practically all the writers of sports look upon Jess Willard as the world's champion heavyweight since his defeat of Jack Johnson. Johnson was awarded the world title when he defeated Jim Jeffries at Reno, but the prejudice created by Johnson's victory caused promoters throughout the country to fight a match between a colored man and a white man. Then came Johnson's troubles and he was practically barred from the U.S.A. It was then that a white champion was created here, the same as in Europe and the battle between Gunboat Smith and Georges Carpentier, in London, was announced for the white championship. The Frenchman won on a foul and was awarded the honor. However, Johnson was looked upon as the world's titleholder and Willard naturally steps into his shoes. Jess has announced that he will not fight a colored man and the great majority of fans in the States seem to uphold him in the stand taken, one, no doubt to the actions of Johnson while he was champion.

This is Certainly a Family Entanglement

Oakdale, Cal.—The marriage of two brothers to mother and daughter at a joint ceremony in Stockton has so scrambled their relations that the parties in interest are still puzzled as to the proper forms in addressing one another.

The parties involved in this queer matrimonial mix-up are Albert Edden Davis, aged 27 years, who married Mrs. Constance Bowles, aged 49, and James Franklin Davis, 29, who married Mrs. Inez Saunders, 21. Mrs. Saunders is the daughter of Mrs. Bowles. The bridegrooms are sons of Ham Davis, a rancher.

As a result of the double wedding only his fondness for cameos, is the son of a New Orleans plantation owner best who dies insolvent. When the plantation and slaves are sold at auction sent to his favorite body-servant is only caught by one of his father's old friends, John Randall.

After the sale, Kirby and Randall part north on one of the Mississippi river boats. Randall meets an acquaintance by the name of Colonel Moreau, and after losing heavily to the Colonel on a wager concerning a race between the boat on which they are travelling and another river steamer, consents to a game of poker to get satisfaction. Kirby, who through his friendship for a certain gambler fire at himself adept at the manipulation of cards, suspects that Moreau is not playing an honest game, and finally succeeds in forcing himself in and effecting a hand. Randall having lost all his money, wagers his home. The less hand is played, and Kirby wins. Moreau accuses Kirby of cheating, and Randall, not appreciating that Kirby has won only to prevent the her state falling into the hands of Moreau, shoots himself.

When the body is taken ashore, Kirby meets Adele Randall, the daughter of the dead man, and immediately falls in love with her. But she stands in a very bad light—as a woman who has taken the very home and whom a friend who has just assisted in—and, of course, is held responsible for the suicide. Tom Randall, his father, the suicide, swears to avenge his father. When Moreau and Kirby fight a duel, with results fatal to Moreau, Tom takes the gun from the Moreau's body in order that it may appear he was shot while having no glass, upon which to defend himself. Kirby is accused of murder and becomes a fugitive from justice. In grand black hours, he manages to see Adele, and to tell her the truth with womanly sincerity that she believes him and shelters him from the mob.

Finally, Moreau's pistol is found in the possession of Tom, whose fore-brother confession frees Kirby from the charge of murder. When, in addition to this, the deed for the Randall house which Kirby has sent to the Randall family actually turns up, of course Cameo stands forth again in his true colors as a chivalrous Southern gentleman. On his solemn promise to give up cards and all kinds of gambling, Cameo Kirby is betrothed to Adele Randall.

The Western Fair at London has enjoyed record success this year in point of attendance.

The fight at London over the payment of the bail salary of Mr. H. J. Glaubitz, late general manager of the Utilities Commission, has resulted in an application for a garnishee order.

Would Have Clinching Abolished in Boxing

That clinching should be altogether abolished from boxing is the contention of an English writer, who advocates a change in the rules making it foul to embrace an opponent.

That boxing would be a hundred-fold more exciting if the clinch could be eliminated goes without saying. In that case practically every bout would be decisive, either ending in a knockout or a disqualification. However, the idea obviously is impracticable for many reasons.

Clinching is illegal under the present rules, but the full penalty is never imposed, because to do so would make the sport a little too strenuous for safety. The most practical interpretation of the code as followed by the best referees is to penalize a man who forces a clinch, one point. Under the system the boxer who jabs and grabs gets no credit for his work, as the point he scores for leading the blow is offset by the penalty for clinching. If this style of judging bouts were followed more closely the men who resort to clinching so incessantly would be forced to box cleanly in order to gain credit for a victory on points.

The really great boxers have been those who never clinched, except as a last resort when too dazed and weakened to block accurately, or to use footwork. Under these conditions the clinch is highly necessary, but as a general thing it should be discouraged as much as possible by imposing the penalty.

While it is doubtless impossible to dispense with the clinch, it would be highly interesting to try the experiment. Perhaps two boxers can be found willing to put the matter to the test in a trial bout. Such a contest certainly would prove a great drawing card.

Cameo Kirby at the Empire Theatre

Following the good response accorded by crowded houses that witnessed Mary Pickford in "Tess," the management of the Empire Theatre have secured another record breaker for Monday and Tuesday evenings in the big continental success entitled "Cameo Kirby" starring that well-known actor Dustin Farnum who has created for himself a country-wide reputation second to none in the portrayal of romantic roles upon the screen. Following is a short synopsis of the story.

"Cameo Kirby" so-called because of his fondness for cameos, is the son of a New Orleans plantation owner best who dies insolvent. When the plantation and slaves are sold at auction sent to his favorite body-servant is only caught by one of his father's old friends, John Randall.

After the sale, Kirby and Randall part north on one of the Mississippi river boats. Randall meets an acquaintance by the name of Colonel Moreau, and after losing heavily to the Colonel on a wager concerning a race between the boat on which they are travelling and another river steamer, consents to a game of poker to get satisfaction. Kirby, who through his friendship for a certain gambler fire at himself adept at the manipulation of cards, suspects that Moreau is not playing an honest game, and finally succeeds in forcing himself in and effecting a hand. Randall having lost all his money, wagers his home. The less hand is played, and Kirby wins. Moreau accuses Kirby of cheating, and Randall, not appreciating that Kirby has won only to prevent the her state falling into the hands of Moreau, shoots himself.

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STRONGLY OPPOSE SHOP LICENSES AT SITTING OF THE COMMISSION

When Held in Haileybury—No Applications Were Received From Cobalt

"If military officers will put a limit to the hours of sale they will find the License Commissioners right behind them."

This statement made by Chairman Flavelle at the meeting of the Ontario License Board, in Haileybury, indicates the policy of the Board in regard to the mobilization camps. He emphasized the remark by further remarking "if military officers will put forth a military regulation which is not respected it will lead to a suspension of licenses."

The statement was the result of a declaration by Capt. (Dr.) Anderson that of two hundred men mobilized in Haileybury, sixty who were physically fit had been permanently disqualified owing to the amount of liquor they consumed. In Cobalt, he said, the disqualification from this cause only amounted to about one per cent.

No Cobalt Applications.

Haileybury has been cited at previous sittings in the north country as the place where the licenses had banished the "blind pig" the institution which is ever present when the liquor question is being considered in this part of Ontario. To-day the temperance forces concentrated their attack on the shop licenses in Haileybury and New Liskeard though the hotels in these centres did not escape criticism. Applications were received from Temagami, Latchford, Elk Lake, Haileybury, New Liskeard, Englehart, Charlton and Earleton, but this year there are none from Cobalt. The hotel men from that city evidently recognize the hopelessness of the case.

Clique Threatens Police.

Mrs. W. McKnight, President of the New Liskeard W.C.T.U., opened proceedings by presenting a petition for the closing of the bars at seven o'clock and Mr. Flavelle in reply said that the proposition had been under discussion and something might be done.

A. H. Barker, Secretary of the Temiskaming Dominion Alliance, asked that the bars be closed on Civic Holiday and the Chairman said the Board had ample power to deal with the matter if it saw fit.

Mr. Barker further urged that the Municipal Police were hampered in their efforts to enforce the law by a clique who threatened their positions if they became too active. He asked for protection for these men in the performance of their duty.

Hear Clink of Bottles.

Rev. J. J. Sparkling, of Cobalt, came out strongly against the shop licenses at Liskeard and Haileybury. On the street cars it was a common thing for citizens of Cobalt to hear the clink of bottles in the satchels of the persons in front of them. He estimated that four-fifths of the liquor store trade in Haileybury was done with citizens of Cobalt and was convinced that a large part of the blind pig business in Cobalt was due to "the said shop license."

"How much," asked Chairman Flavelle, "would the liquor traffic in Cobalt decrease if the shop licenses in Haileybury and Liskeard were abolished?" and Mr. Sparkling believed it would decrease the consumption of liquor in his home town by seventy five per cent.

Mr. H. Wright, speaking for the liquor store in Haileybury argued that its establishment had practically abolished the blind pig in Cobalt.

Chairman Flavelle: "It is up to the holders of shop licenses to take every precaution to avoid selling to suspicious persons, else trouble is sure to come."

Rev. D. L. Gordon, of Cobalt, considered the shop license the greatest menace to the enforcement of the liquor laws. He told of a minister of the Gospel who had carried a suitcase full of whiskey into a town up north. Of course, he never suspected what he might be carrying.

Rev. J. R. Urquhart described the shop license as the curse of the North Country. The suitcase business was carried on to such an extent, that, personally, he did not care to carry a suitcase through the streets of Liskeard.

Rev. J. Donnell, of Haileybury, described the shop as the basis of the "blind pig" business.

Chairman Flavelle: "The best way to stop the blind pig business is to make it unprofitable. It has now to face a \$500 fine, and that will probably prove discouraging." However, Rev. Sparkling opined that the effect of the big fine was simply to make the illicit dealer more cautious.

The Board will investigate conditions in Cobalt and New Liskeard, and incidentally pay a visit to the New Liskeard Fair.

George Pratt, yesterday at Sault Ste. Marie, got judgment for \$3,000 against the Algoma Steel Corporation for injuries received while in the company's employ.

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