

DEMPSEY-SHARKEY GO VERIEST BURLESQUE SAYS "THE REFEREE"

Well-known Chicago Sports Paper Hands Out Some Hot Shot Regarding Recent Heavyweight Encounter at New York—Ballyhoo Now Started for Two Million Dollar Gate when Tunney Meets the "Manassa Mauler."

That there was something not so good about the recent heavyweight contest between Jack Dempsey, former world's champion, and the Lithuanian who parades under the nom de plume of Jack Sharkey, was felt by all who take an interest in the sport of boxing. The fight itself and its broadcasting over the radio, together with the "follow-up" in next day's daily papers, confirmed the suspicion that all was not well in Denmark, and that the great American public, who seemingly never tire of being bunceod, had been epped again.

Preceding the battle and since, The Referee, Bert Collyer's paper in Chicago, never developed any particular enthusiasm in favor of the scrap and its promoters, and in a dispatch from its representative in New York, it would seem that The Referee is again right.

Reading between the lines, it looks to us that the Dempsey-Sharkey fight was not on the square. We voiced this opinion on the night of the battle, and further information to hand indicates that we made a good guess. While the fight went to Dempsey on a knockout, the rumor that the last blow struck by the former champion was a foul should have deprived him of the honor of meeting Tunney in September. To us it looks as if the blow was a square one, or else the fight magnates are trying to let Sharkey down so that his prestige may not interfere with his powers as a money card in some future engagement.

The continued silence of Sharkey has also an unhealthy color. If he was fouled, he is keeping mighty silent about it; if he was not fouled, then he fought like a poor amateur and should never have been given the opportunity of meeting Dempsey. These, however, are only opinions and cannot be backed with convincing argument. Whatever happened, we think there was something fishy about the whole performance, and believe The Referee, which is always in close touch with these affairs, has spoken a lot of truth in the following article in its last issue. It says:

What The Referee Says

"Two big forces are now at work in ballyhooing the return match between Gene Tunney and Jack Dempsey—both aiming at the same result, to convince the public that it is going to be an honest-to-goodness fight, and as a result this country is facing the biggest publicity campaign in the history of boxing. The promoters have set a \$2,000,000 gate as their goal, whether the bout is held in Chicago, New York or Philadelphia. That means \$40 or \$50 must be charged for the best seats and there must be a good many seats. There is considerable doubt over the country as to whether Dempsey really has staged a comeback and as to whether there was something "screwy" in that Sharkey match. The seat-buyers must be convinced that the former champion is there. That means the wasting of a lot of printer's ink.

The betting fraternity is prepared to plunge on Tunney, but they don't want to offer 2 to 1 or better, which is the price asked today. Eight or nine to five is the limit and they would prefer shorter odds. But it is going to take an insidious campaign to bring the price down, so that the speculation will be worth while. The result is certain to be a host of rumors concerning the condition of the two men in which that of Tunney will be disparaged and Dempsey pictured as the exception who has come back fit to regain his lost crown. But they know he isn't there.

"Faking back of the scenes of the Dempsey-Sharkey bout, one can uncover a number of queer incidents that tend to cloud rather than clear up the disputes that have followed in its wake.

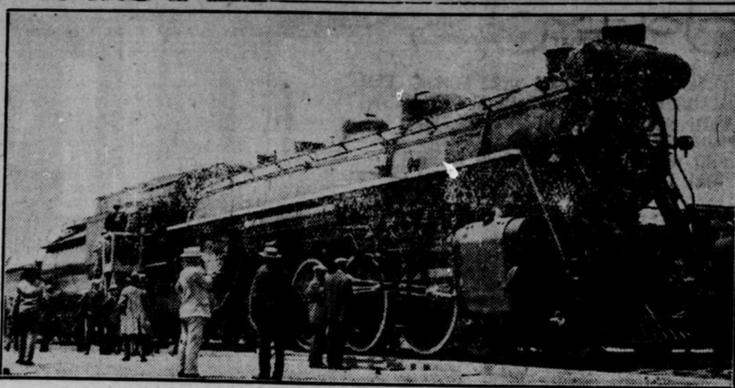
"It has been discovered that Johnny Buckley, Sharkey's manager, paid a secret visit to Dempsey in Los Angeles before the latter came east. No reason for this meeting has been given, nor is it known what arrangements, if any, were made between the two.

"It has never been made clear why Leo P. Flynn, at the request of Tex Richard, was named Dempsey's manager for this fight, nor has Flynn satisfactorily explained his apparent indifference to the progress of the fight, seemingly being more interested in his conversation with companions than watching the battle.

"Peculiar meaning is being given by some to the addition of Bill Duffy to the seconds squad with the relegation of Gus Wilson to a minor role.

"There has been no satisfactory explanation for the tide of 'wise money' that showed up on Dempsey at the race tracks and other places in the afternoon and at the park in the evening. An attempt was made to explain it away with the statement that it sprang up after the report on the weighing showed Sharkey out-weighted Dempsey, which indicated he was not in as good physical condition as the former champion. But this factor could not account for the thousands and thousands of Dempsey money that rolled in so confidentially, forcing the odds down from a high of 2 to 1 to even money.

Sharkey Undertrained
"Sharkey's attitude was most



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peculiar. He did not do enough training to take off surplus weight, he violated the instructions of his seconds in trying to fight instead of out-box Dempsey, when he knew he didn't have a chance, he switched from his tactics of the first round when he had Dempsey in trouble and then in the seventh round did what few amateur boxers would have done—left his chin wide open for the knock-out punch.

"Dempsey's conduct was as indifferent and a fighter who knew he had a bout in the bag would not have taken it any easier. Less than two full weeks of actual work was put in at White Sulphur Springs and it had not been preceded by any real training. He bored in and took Sharkey's blows as if he knew there wasn't anything killing behind them and then finished the fight with a finesse that could not have been any better if it had been rehearsed.

"The wise boys cleaned up plenty—in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000—but it is said that Arnold Rothstein was taken for another cleaning, just as he was in Philadelphia, and his associates considerably more. His group is said to have commissioned Abe Attell to look Dempsey over and sound out Flynn, Rival betting coteries are understood to have been wised up to the Rothstein emissary, tipped off Flynn that he was a Sharkey spotter and the emissary went back with a lot of information that wrecked the bank roll of his employers.

Referring to the matter editorially, The Referee has the following caustic comment with which the bank roll of his employers,

"When some \$0,000 people will pay slightly over a million dollars to watch a "has-been" and a "to-be" rival dance around in the ring to a suspicious knockout as they did at New York last week and as some 125,000 sat through a soaking by rain, paying over \$1,805,000 for the privilege, to watch Dempsey lose his title to Tunney by just as peculiar a showing in Philadelphia last year, one is forced to the conclusion that the American public must have its fighting, regardless of whether they know what it is all about, it is doubtful whether a game that never fails to produce a scandal or at least scandal talk after every performance as does boxing could flourish in any other country to which it does in this. Once it is announced that a million-dollar gate is in prospect every American wants to be on the spot. Failing in this world's goods or the leisure to fulfill that desire, he eats up the opinions of various critics—some of whom become experts as police reporters, theatrical reviewers or graduating from other fields of endeavor—guess himself to the radio the night of the fight and wagers his hard-earned coin usually the wrong way. He places his coin early, the wise money usually waits until he has sent it in and then proceeds to clean up. That has been the history of most of the leading heavyweight bouts, since Johnson did a flop to Willard. Now comes the ballyhoo of a rejuvenated Dempsey ready to stampede over his conqueror with a sensational comeback, with probable adds ridiculously short and the general public pushing in his money like a drunk on sailor at a faro table. A \$2,000,000 gate is predicted. We don't doubt but that it will materialize. Volumes have been written about bucketshop methods, sellers of blue sky and real-estate exploitations as a warning to investors, but these men are mere players when compared with the modern array of boxing talent who not only make their customers buy their way in, furnish the kitty and contribute the trimmings but lead them to believe that the headache of the next morning is really only a belly-ache induced by hunger for more."

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ROUMANIA CENTRE OF EUROPEAN INTEREST

Trouble for the Balkans, for Europe and for the world is the impossible legacy which the late King Ferdinand of Roumania has unwittingly bequeathed by his death. Much depends upon the former Crown Prince Carol, who renounced his title and since has shown little interest in Roumania, where his son will reign through a regency until he is eighteen years old, after which, if he lives, he will rule in his own name. So far as the public can understand the character of Carol, he is not the kind of man who would like to be King of Roumania for personal reasons. He would prefer to remain M. Carol Caraiman, of Paris, which is his present title. Being a prince interfering sadly with his plans for enjoying himself, and being a king would impose still further limitations upon him and cramp his style until it became unrecognizable. But there are influences at work which would much prefer Carol as king to M. Bratiano as dictator, and we may be sure, are appealing to Carol to return and save his country from the tyranny which this ruthless man has imposed upon it. If Carol chose to return he could make a lot of trouble.

A Hereditary Dictator

Jon Bratiano's father was instrumental in placing the Hohenzollern dynasty upon the throne of Roumania, and Jon has been the ruling power in the country since Ferdinand and became king. He has been called the hereditary dictator, and seems to be the master of his country in a sense, that there is only one other master in Europe, namely, Mussolini. Like Mussolini also, his reign is not based upon the people's will, but founded upon the fact that he has been able to keep hold of the winning cards. The joker in the pack is the Roumanian law, which provides that no Premier may hold office without the consent of the King, no matter how emphatic the demand of the people through an election has been. It is the royal prerogative to reject any Premier, and appoint any other Premier, even if the latter has not enough followers in the House to provide him with a Cabinet. He can then dissolve Parliament, and by the system in vogue, according to Clarence K. Streit, in the New York Times, he can certainly win the majority that is necessary. Parenthetically, it would be interesting to learn about this system that makes it certain that the Premier, under whose auspices an election is held, will be elected.

Ferdinand Trusted Bratiano

The late King Ferdinand was a rather prosaic German, not under-

standing much of the people he was called upon to rule, and only too ready to rely upon the advice of such a clever man, and so undoubtedly a patriot, as M. Bratiano. It was Bratiano who really exercised the royal prerogative in the matter of naming premiers, and as Mr. Streit tells us, "by the judicious use of this power he built his Liberal party into a machine that controlled, not only the political life of the country, but its economic and financial foundations." This he was able to do because he suited the aristocracy and monied classes of the country, and because he was extremely adroit at promising the other classes what they wanted and later finding a good excuse for not performing them. He had some opposition from Queen Marie, an exceedingly clever woman, but on vital points he seems to have been able to outmanoeuvre her, largely because of the confidence reposed in him by Ferdinand.

Plotted Against Carol

He had reason to fear that if Carol came to the throne he would be less pliable and it is suggested that he quietly helped Carol place himself in some highly unbecoming positions. Certainly when Carol was sent to represent Roumania at the funeral of the late Dowager Queen Alexandria, Mme. Lupescu, with whom he was then carrying on a liaison, was given a visa to leave the Roumanian government keeps a strict check on visas, it can only be supposed that it was giving Carol a little extra rope. Later it was represented to Ferdinand that Carol was disgracing himself and the royal family, and Ferdinand wrote him an angry letter summoning him home. Carol, equally angry, answered by renouncing his succession so that he might have greater freedom of movement. Ferdinand thereupon called a Crown Council and said that the abdication would be accepted, despite the suggestion put forward earnestly that an attempt be made to dissuade the young man from this fateful step. Carol was deprived of his title and banished for ten years, his son Mihai made Crown Prince and a regency established.

The Regency

The Regency consists of Miron Cristea, Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church in Roumania, Chief Justice Buzdugan, and Prince Nicholas, second son of Ferdinand and now heir apparent. The first two are elderly men of little political authority, both of whom owe their position to M. Bratiano. The uncle of the little King is a youth. It is said that Marie is angry because she was not made one of the regents, and that she may have enough influence with Nicholas to force him to resign, hoping that in this case public opinion would insist that the mother be near to guide her infant son. So M. Bratiano has three prospective palace intrigues to cope with. In the

MANY SCENES OF MIAMI IN "THE CRACKER JACK"

Entire Johnny Hines Cast Spent Six Weeks Filming Production in Famed Winter Resort.

When "The Cracker Jack" with Johnny Hines in the stellar role comes to the Veterans' Star Theatre on Friday and Saturday, August 5 and 6, patrons will be able to obtain a good idea of what the famed winter resort, Miami, Florida, looks like.

Johnny and his complete cast, which included Henry West, J. Barney Sherry, Bradley Barker and Horace Haines, spent over a month and a half in this locale to secure the exterior sequences for this much-heralded production. Included in the scenes the theatre-goers will be able to view the famed Silver Slipper Cafe with its equally well-known Vincent Lopez orchestra supplying the music for the throngs of tourists who flocked there. The Carol Gables Country Club is also prominently shown as is the gorgeous Deering Estate and the Local Masonic Temple, the architecture of which is completely Egyptian. Each of these well-known places were used in "The Cracker Jack" as background for the rollicking action of the story, in which Hines, cast as Tommy Perkins, a live-wire college boy, brings fame and fortune to his uncle's pickle products.

The scenes enumerated are but part of a host of picturesque Miami settings that permeate "The Cracker Jack." Miami was chosen as a location because of its close approximation to a South American country in which part of the action of this Johnny Hines feature takes place. That it was well chosen is well in evidence in the production, since these Miami scenes have all the earmarks of old world scenery.

Aside from the excellence of scenic backgrounds "The Cracker Jack" is reported to have the bigness, the interest, and the characterization of an unusually successful production, with the dynamic

country he has to face the disillusion of the newly acquired populations of Bessarabia and Transylvania, which have not found the promised liberties in Roumania which they expected when they were unwilling citizens of Russia and Hungary. In a word M. Bratiano stands for all that is reactionary and stifling, and the immediate question is whether Carol will make himself a standard-bearer of those Roumanians who love liberty and abhor tyranny.

star in a role that fits him to a nicety.

Marriage Madness

"How did the Smith wedding go off?"
"Fine, until the parson asked the bride, if she'd obey her husband."
"What happened then?"
"She replied, 'Do you think I'm crazy?' and the groom, who was in a sort of daze, said, 'I do.'"

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