

TO RESUME FIGHTING GAME

Indications Point to Old-Time Activity in Fistic Circles.

BAN LIKELY TO BE REMOVED IN CHICAGO

Terry McGovern Stops in Omaha While on His Way to Coast-Lokal Fight Followers Await Smith-Oleison Will with Great Interest.

Renewed activity all along the line in pugilistic circles has been apparent during the last week or so and it begins to look now as though the ban which was so evident a few weeks ago is to be lifted sooner than was at first expected. In New York pugilism will probably be tabooed for some time to come. Sam Harris, manager of Terry McGovern and one of the foremost fight promoters in the country, gave it as his opinion while in the city last week that it would be two or three years before the fighting game would be resumed to any noticeable extent in the Atlantic seaboard metropolis. "We'll have to elect a good many more democrats in New York than we have now," he said, "before fighting will be tolerated in the metropolis."

The gloom which pervaded fistic circles but a short time ago is being dissipated, however, and here and there can be distinguished a rift in the clouds which hangs so heavily over the sport about the time that the championship will between Jeffries and Rubin went by the board because of failure to find a place where the event could be held. In Chicago it is given out cold that fighting is to be resumed within a very short time. This promise was held out, it is stated, by the supporters of the administration before the last city election and it is said that Mayor Harrison received many a vote that would otherwise have been cast against him because of the understanding that he would countenance prize fighting during his term of office. If re-elected, Mayor Harrison is not opposed to legitimate sport. His opposition to the fighting game and the opposition of the councilmen who worked for the ordinance prohibiting fighting in Chicago had its origin because of the fakery and jobbery that was apparent in some of the mills pulled off shortly preceding the screwing down of the clamps. If the sport takes on life again it will probably be under new direction. The men who were connected with the game before its death in Chicago will probably continue to be shrouded. The new promoter-general is likely to be Tom Hanton, formerly president of Tattersall's Athletic club. Hanton is said to have come out of the fascos of recent occurrence in Chicago with clean hands and is known as a man who can be depended upon to tote fairly with the fighters and the public as well.

While there has been a dearth recently of challenges and counter-challenges among the top-notchers, the clever fighters in middle, light and featherweight circles are going right along making matches and doing some fighting. Even the silence that has characterized the heavyweights is beginning to be broken. This is not necessarily a sign that fighting is to be resumed. It is characteristic of the big pugists to do a deal more of talking than of fighting. In Memphis, Louisville, in various cities of Connecticut and Wisconsin, over in Toronto and out in Denver and "Frisco" fights have been pulled off without interference and there seems no probability of official objection, so that matches are being made for them. If the game is started in Chicago again the situation will be about as of yore, with the exception that New York will be out of consideration for the time being, at least. It is a certainty that this bill in pugilistic affairs will bring about one thing. There will be in the future greater care exercised by fighters and managers in their proceedings. The high hand with which all things pertaining to the game was carried on will give place to a more conservative policy. There will be less fakery and jobbery and fewer hippocrasies. The situation will demand the abolishment of all shady transactions. Managers will league together in their efforts to stamp out anything of the sort, for the first reappearance of trickery will be the signal for another attack on the sport.

Terry McGovern, champion bantam and featherweight pugilist of the world, was the feature in local sporting circles last week while enroute from his home at Brooklyn to San Francisco. Sam Harris, his manager, Danny Dougherty, his sparring partner, and Joe Humphreys, official announcer of several eastern athletic clubs, accompanied him. It was McGovern's first visit to Omaha. Everyone who saw him for the first time was surprised. He looked more like a college student than a famous pugilist. Terry is a wee bit of a fellow. He weighs but 124 pounds and is only a trifle over five feet in height. His appearance is certainly deceiving, for one would hardly believe that he had the power in his right arm of administering a solar plexus or a short-arm jab which would put the ordinary individual to sleep for good.

Not only in appearance is McGovern de-

ceiving. He doesn't in the least measure up to the common conception of a pugilist. There is nothing rough or uncouth about him. He is mild-mannered and bears himself in conversation and otherwise, like a perfect gentleman. You wouldn't think to look at him, that he could stand up in a ring and punch his adversary so hard and so often that few hardened pugilists are banking for a dose of his medicine.

But the surprise was not altogether one-sided. McGovern was quite as surprised at Omaha as Omaha was surprised at him. "I didn't expect to find such a city as this away out here," he said. "Back in Brooklyn, where I was anchored until a couple of years ago, we thought that Omaha was pretty nearly off the map. Instead, I find that it is thoroughly up to date and the hospitality of the people here is certainly fine. I never enjoyed a visit so much in my life as I have the few hours here. Talk about southern hospitality, I think the west has it beat all around."

On his way to meet Garrison in San Francisco April 30. That's where he made his first fight, is it?" he said, with apparent interest, when one of his entertainers pointed out the window of the Millard hotel to a building across Douglas street, where the "Omaha Kid" first showed possession of fighting blood. "Well, he has been a game fighter. He gave me a pretty stiff argument over in New York a year ago. I think I can whip him all right, but I don't anticipate a walk-away, by any means. Before I leave 'Frisco' I expect to fight Frank Erne again. I am about forced to get into the ranks of the lightweights in order to get anybody to fight me, and I want to begin at the top. When I fought Erne before, the articles called for his weight to be 128 pounds at the ringside. That was probably a lighter weight than he could make without affecting his fighting skill. I am willing to concede him a few pounds for our next meeting and I have no doubt but that it will be arranged. Returning from 'Frisco,' I will stop off in Omaha again and it will give me much pleasure to give an exhibition here."

"I have been asked time and again," said Sammy Harris, McGovern's manager, "why I don't match Terry against this fellow or that, invariably men who naturally have the advantage of him in weight and experience. Mentioning it is inevitable. He is a fighting machine. No one who is anywhere near his weight or size stands any show with him, even let alone lightweights. I am willing to concede most of this, but I tell you prize fighting is a risky venture. Terry might get into the ring with the very best of them and get wallowed. The man who gets in the wallow on the jaw or the solar plexus of his opponent is the man who is going to win the fight. When I admit that there is a possibility for a novice to beat a man like McGovern, it is easy to understand what I think of professional fighters. I don't care who the fighters are, if they are anywhere near an equality in skill, ring generalship and experience, when they enter the ring it is a toss-up with me who the winner will be. Of course, form counts a great deal, but I tell you there is always that chance wallow to take into consideration."

When the Jeffries-Rubin fight was on I laid a wager of 2 1/2 to 1, taking the short end, on Rubin. I believed that Jeffries would win, but I don't think any such odds are those as justifiable in pugilism. If I have the money I'll take the short end when such odds are offered every time."

Local devotees of the fighting game are much interested in the mill which will take place at Blum's hall, South Omaha, Tuesday night, between Match Smith of Omaha and Ole Oleison of Chicago, two featherweights about as clever as any who ever got together in these parts. The fight will be under the auspices of the Tri-City Athletic club, an organization composed largely of South Omaha sporting men. Little need be said about Match Smith. Omaha followers of fatality are pretty familiar with his career, which, though short, has been signally successful. It will be remembered that he put up a bang-up fight with Oscar Gardner over in Washington last winter and later fought Gardner to a draw out at Tilden, Neb. Jimmy Hardell, the old-time referee who witnessed both fights, said he never saw a fighter show such improvement as Smith did from one Gardner fight to the other. The little darkey has been training diligently and is in fine fettle for his battle. Oleison is rated one of the best featherweights in Chicago. He fought Oscar Gardner in that city October 13 last and was given the decision at the end of the six rounds scheduled. He whipped Jack McClelland of Pittsburgh. His last fight was with this same McClelland and the Pittsburgh man turned the tables on him, whipping him in sixteen rounds up at Toronto ten days ago. Ole's long suit is said to be a clever defense and a stock of short right-hand upper cuts that worries the best of them. If Smith succeeds in winning this fight it will be a great feather in his cap.

The fight is attracting a great deal of interest and the attendance promises to be record-breaking in size. Smith's residence in Omaha, his rapidly developing skill and cleverness of his opponent are a trio of magnets strong enough to attract any who has the least bit of sporting blood in his veins.

again. Tom O'Rourke has picked him up and will devote his energies toward introducing the "Kid" into a good paying pugilistic set again. The effort may be too much for even O'Rourke and he is regarded as one of the smoothest managers in the business. It is generally conceded, however, that he has tackled a hard proposition. McCoy is not only in disrepute with the better element of sportsmen because of the numerous charges of crookedness brought against him, and in several cases substantiated, but as well for the reason that he has ever been over-rated. Jack Burke, who gave a clever exhibition of boxing with his sparring partner, Will McCoy, at the Trocadero theater last week, had McCoy up in this way the other night. "What do I think of McCoy? Well, I don't think much, let me tell you. In the first place I believe he has been guilty of more crooked transactions in pugilism than any other fighter. There is no doubt in my mind that he is a crooked fellow, ever was much of a fighter. He is clever and a pretty worker, but he aspired too high. He never was entitled to a place with the top-notchers in heavyweight circles. In my opinion McCoy is a dead end, and if Tom O'Rourke can inject life into his pugilistic corpse he will certainly perform a miracle."

The signing of new articles between Jeffries and Rubin has stirred up talk of the relative chances of these two big pugists in a meeting together. There is no doubting their earnestness in seeking a fight. Jeffries is willing to take on Rubin in order to exercise his power as a box-office magnet, or, in other words, because he needs the money. Rubin is anxious to meet the heavyweight champion, willing to take a licking if necessary in order to have the chance of winning the honors which "Jeff" now carries about with him. There is little likelihood, however, of an early fight between these two. California and Connecticut offer the only points where a fight can take place and there is no certainty that the big pugists would be permitted to mix even there. With the engagements that Jeffries and Rubin already have they will be kept busy until the middle of the summer and that season of the year would hardly be selected as the time of holding a big fight out in California. Consequently, if "Jeff" and Gus come together it is unlikely that it will be before next fall.

Fights scheduled for the near future in which there is more than a passing interest are Tommy Ryan and Jack Root at Louisville, April 29, and Tom Sharkey and Fred Russell at Denver.

OMAHAS WIN BIG VICTORY

Their Success in Tennis Match with the Clarksons Entitles Them to the State Championship.

One of the most exciting bowling contests of the year came to a close Tuesday night when the series of nine games between the Clarksons and Omaha teams was finished. The contest was for a purse of \$150 and the state championship and the Omahas won out. The members of the victorious team were Flanagan, Read, Smead, Puray and Zarp. Their victory was not a scratch one. It came as a reward for clever, skillful bowling and was the more appreciated because the Clarksons have long been the recognized champions of the city. A month ago it was generally deemed in bowling circles quite presumptuous on the part of the Omahas to even consider tackling the Clarksons. The two teams had been measured during the progress of the winter tournament by reason of games played together and the Clarksons had the better of the argument. The two teams ended up the season with the Clarksons first and the Omahas second. Then came the arrangements for the championship series.

The first three games were played two weeks ago and the Omahas made a great showing. They defeated the Clarksons by 174 pins. In the subsequent contests the Clarksons won—the second by 4 pins and the third by 64 pins. The total number of pins, however, was agreed upon as the method of deciding the championship. The big lead the Omahas secured in the first series landed the prize for them.

C. Conrad holds the state championship at five back and it is not likely that his place will be usurped very soon. In a match contest Monday night he chalked up the remarkable score of 197. Previous to that time the high score at five back had been 88, made by Charles French. Conrad and Knapp compose the team which is battling against Basell and Emery for the state team championship at small ball games. Monday night was the third meeting and five back was the game. Conrad and Knapp won the series by 48 points. Conrad's splendid performance came in the third game of the evening. He bowled beautifully and succeeded in challenging up 197. The highest possible score is 150.

The contests between these two teams will continue until all of the small ball games are exhausted and then the team having won the larger number will be declared state champions. Seven up will be the game tomorrow night. The first series was at ninepins and was won by Basell and Emery by seven points. Then came four back and Knapp and Conrad were the victors. Up to this time Knapp and Conrad have won two of the three series played.

The state team championship at tenpins

was won by W. P. Clarkson and King Brennan in the contest Thursday night with Charles Zarp and Fred Flanagan. The championship was decided in two contests of three games each. In the first series Clarkson and Brennan won by 108 points, and repeated the performance in the second series with sixty-nine pins to the good. Clarkson made the star score of the entire series in the first game Thursday night, chalking up 256. W. C. Brunke and John Reed were prepared to challenge the winners of this match to a series of games, but their plans have been frustrated by the announcement that Mr. Brennan is to leave the city at once. He will take his departure next Friday for the Black Hills, where he will go on a cattle ranch in which he has an interest. The Clarkson team will lose a valuable member and the game of bowling an enthusiastic devotee when Mr. Brennan leaves the city.

Following are the high scores at Clark's alleys in the prize contests for the past week: Tenpins, R. A. Kolla, 267; cooked hat, C. Conrad, 70; ninepins, Charles Winter, 19; four back, C. H. Mullin, 82. Among the women contestants Mrs. A. Krug is high at tenpins with a score of 181, having beaten Miss Caroline Leeder's score of 167. Mrs. Krug is also high for the prize at four back with a score of 63.

One of the most enjoyable bowling parties of the week was given at Hayden's on Thursday evening. The small ball games were the most popular. Mrs. Horton and Mrs. Arter and Messrs. Spencer and Arter made the high scores at four back, while Messrs. Arter and Bauman and Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Spencer were the successful ones at tenpins.

Twelve members of the Bon Ton Card club formed a merry party of bowlers at Hayden's alleys on Monday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Ingram made the highest score at tenpins, while Mrs. Urquart and Mrs. Robertson were the fortunate ones in seven-up.

Messrs. Scannel, Fyfe, Clapp, Taber, Beckard, Hussie, Ladocin and Brown, with their ladies, were the participants in a bowling party at Hayden's Wednesday evening. The men were the victors and the high score for the men and Misses McGuire and Bamford played exceptionally well, scoring 149 at tenpins.

The high scores for the women at Hayden's for the week are: Miss Leeder, 158; Miss Bamford, 149; Mrs. Krug, 146, and Mrs. Basell, 145.

High scores at tenpins for the last week: Gate City alleys, Ed Hammond, 295, 296, 244; M. B. McDowell, 293, 291, 217; George Lavidge, 293; H. Schwartz, 297; C. S. Seaman, 233, 222, 220, 232; Kit Carson, 294, 224, 221; John Kelley, 290; H. Lehman, 293; M. C. Hoagland, 215; W. C. Nelson, 294; L. J. Evans, 241; M. Sheldon, 293, 294, 231; Hartley, 210, 291; E. M. Tracy, 217, 231; C. B. Stult, 290; John Yocum, 290, 291; J. E. Mahaffey, 298; C. B. Briedenbacher, 219; O. C. Petersen, 214.

Clark's alleys: Al Krug, 255; Juan Diego, 221; Peter Nielson, 232, 215, 233; W. W. Waterman, 294; F. Flanagan, 292, 221; Jack Frederickson, 295; Sandy McDonald, 210; W. F. Gilchrist, 217, 230; Grover Smith, 291, 219; Frank Conrad, 220, 293; Ed Doe, 293, 291, 231, 214, 296, 217, 257, 256; H. B. Brown, 219, 218, 219, 218; Fred Krug, 213; Billie Wigman, 297; King Denman, 296, 295, 297; G. E. Flanagan, 290; W. S. Sheldon, 296; Ernest Buffet, 221; R. A. Magney, 292; Joseph Gutmann, 297, 214.

WRESTLING MATCH ARRANGED

Frank Coleman Will Seek to Wrest the Middleweight Championship from "Farmer" Burns.

"Farmer" Burns of Chicago and Prof. Frank Coleman, the well known local athlete, will battle for the world's middleweight wrestling championship next Saturday night. The match will take place in the Trocadero theater. Announcement of the completion of arrangements for this go has excited a great deal of interest in local sporting circles.

For the last year, during his residence here, Coleman has defeated all comers with such skillful ease that many of his friends have come to believe that he is invincible. In "Farmer" Burns he will meet one of the stars of the profession, and if he should defeat him Coleman will be recognized as one of the greatest wrestlers of the country. The professor is confident that he can turn the trick and has any number of admirers who are willing to back their faith in his ability to do so with plenty of the local green.

Burns, telegraphed from Chicago on the night of the Coleman-Sealls match in this city, challenging the winner. Coleman accepted the challenge on condition that Burns would make 155 pounds, the middleweight limit, at which Coleman always fights. The "farmer" telegraphed to agree to that proposition and it seemed that the match was off. Finally Coleman agreed to meet him at catch weights. In doing so he gives Burns considerable of an advantage, because the "farmer's" wrestling weight is about 165 pounds, while Coleman is twelve pounds under that.

Coleman is working hard for the match. He is practicing diligently. All of his time that is not occupied in giving instruction in wrestling at his athletic school is put in on the mat with his wrestling partner, Peter Lech. Coleman is in fine shape, and is confident of success. "I believe I can win this match from Burns," he said. "In deed, I am so confident that my own proposition for the winner to take all of the gate receipts was agreed to by Burns. I know something about Burns' style of wrestling. Burns is 1,369, I met Burns. He agreed to throw me and my partner twice within an hour's time. He undertook more than he was able to accomplish. He got the first fall from me in twelve and one-half minutes. My partner, Jake Snyder of Dayton, went down in six and one-quarter minutes. Burns threw me the second time in three minutes and fifty-two seconds, but Snyder stayed out the hour and we won the money. I was a mere novice then. Now I consider myself a hundred per cent better on the mat and I don't believe Burns has improved at the same rate. If he hasn't, I am as sure of anything in the world that I can win this match."

"Of course, I realize that I am handicapping myself by taking on such a clever wrestler and giving him the advantage of the weight. Ten pounds in favor of Burns would make a big difference, but even at that I believe I can win. Coleman is a middleweight and 165-pound champion of the world. In case I beat him Saturday night I will be entitled to the middleweight championship. He will continue to be the champion in the 165-pound class,

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