

GENERAL SPORTING

For several months past, ever since Thomas W. Lawson of Boston decided to build a cup defender, the public has been puzzled as to the exact status of the Boston yacht and whether the New York Yacht Club would or would not select a defender for the America's cup.

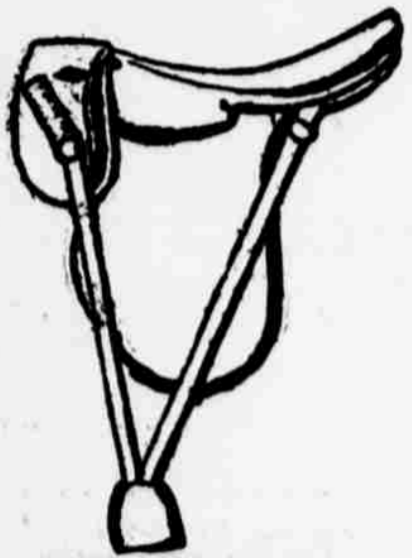
At first it was stated that the Independence would be barred from those trial races because Mr. Lawson was not a member of the New York Yacht Club, but later it was announced that she would be allowed to start if he agreed to certain conditions. After over a month's negotiations Mr. Lawson was unable to agree to these conditions, and the Independence is absolutely barred from all participation in the trial or cup races for the defense of the America's cup.

This will be sad news for Boston yachtsmen, and it is regarded by all fair-minded sportsmen that some other solution of the controversy was not found possible. As it now stands it means that Mr. Lawson has spent more than \$200,000 to build a boat for the defense of the America's cup, only to find out at the last moment that the "blue ribbon of the sea" is not an international yachting trophy at all, but simply an ordinary club cup, open only for members of the New York Yacht Club to race for. The Independence is still unfinished. As B. B. Crowninshield is practically the only one competent to finish the yacht, Mr. Lawson is in a trying position. The loss of Mr. Crowninshield's services through his absence on a honeymoon trip, combined with the refusal of the New York Yacht Club to allow the Independence in the trial races, may cause Mr. Lawson to abandon all idea of completing the building of his yacht.

COMPARISON OF SHAMROCKS.
There are columns of detailed description in the London sporting journals of the inconclusive tests of the two Shamrocks on the Solent, but the conclusions of experts may be accepted with reserve. Mr. Fife's boat is not in the same trim as she was in the American races, since her length on the load water line is nearly three feet greater and her weights have been considerably altered. A London dispatch from I. N. Ford. How much faster she is than she was in New York no expert can estimate, and since the trial course is not the same, all calculation respecting the superiority of Mr. Watson's boat to the Columbia are illusive. Sporting men are convinced the second Shamrock is a better boat in every point of sailing, but the general public takes a languid interest in the cup races. There is a good deal of comment in the sporting press on the probable selection of an athletic team for the contests in September with Harvard and Yale. Both Oxford and Cambridge are considered weak in hurdlings and sprinting, and trials will be required in August before the English University team can be made up.—N. F.

SADDLE AIDS RACE HORSES.
The advent of the American jockey into England appears to have been far-reaching in its effect. It has completely revolutionized the style of riding a race, substituting an "away-and-get-there" style for the old-time crawl and grand-stand finish, and has stirred the brains of inventors and set them thinking.

The first outcome has been a new method of saddle and stirrup arrangement, invented and patented in London, and its object is automatically to move the weight of the rider to suit the motion of the horse so that it can



A NOVEL SADDLE.

use its propelling powers with the greatest possible freedom, removing the weight from the back entirely, and placing it on the trapezius muscles, which gives freedom and full reach to the muscles of the hind quarters as regards underreach. The inventor says:

"When jumping, the motion of the horse throws the weight of the rider alternately on the front and back straps. When the animal's haunches are brought under to gather impetus for its spring, the weight is thrown forward upon the pad, which relieves the hind quarters, leaving them free to exert their leverage and powers of propulsion. As the horse springs, the body of the rider saws backward and his legs swing forward. This at once relieves the front straps, as the weight is moved upon the back straps, as the animal alights upon its fore legs without any undue jar upon them. The weight, now being at the back, has a

tendency to force the horse quickly to the recover when the weight is once more moved forward for the next bound."

TOM COUHIG'S SUCCESS.

Tom Couhig of Dunkirk, N. Y., is looked upon by many ring experts as the coming welter-weight champion. He has done some good work in the ring lately, considering that he is a



TOM COUHIG.

comparative novice at the game. He has defeated Eddie Connolly of St. Johns, N. B., and not long ago gave Matty Mathews, the present holder of the welter-weight championship title, a hard battle. Mathews is the toughest kind of a proposition and although he received the decision it was the opinion of many good judges that the worst Couhig should have got was a draw. Mathews himself remarked after the battle that the Dunkirk boy was the hardest piece of furniture he ever ran up against.

Couhig was formerly a wrestler and at one time could throw anybody of his weight in the section of New York state in which he lived. He made his debut in the prize ring in March, 1899. He is a gentlemanly young fellow and is popular wherever known.

WAS A SURPRISE.

The capturing of the Metropolitan handicap by Clarence H. Mackey's famous horse, Banastar, was a surprise to the talent. It was Banastar who two years ago won the Brooklyn handicap and who was left at the post in the Suburban of the same year. At that time he was owned by the late William H. Clark, and because of his failure to get away in that valuable stake race it will be remembered his jockey, Danny Maher, was punished by suspension. Banastar did not appear in a race again until last fall. The public at large did not fancy the chances of Mackey's horse. He was considered a possible back number, and then again the fact that he was an acknowledged bad actor at the post caused a feeling of timidity among those who for sentiment's sake might have backed him.

O'ROURKE AFTER SHARKEY.

Now that Tom Sharkey has put away big Fred Russell Tom O'Rourke is anxious that the ex-sailor tackle his colored wonder, Joe Walcott. This would be a battle worth going miles to see. Although Walcott is but little over five feet in height he has an enormous chest and a pair of arms that can deliver a jolt that will lay the best of them away for repairs. Sharkey, however, does not appear to want any of Walcott's game and draws the color line. The "black demon" is only too anxious to get on a match with some one (he doesn't care who) but they all fight shy of him and he is consequently leading a life that is far from strenuous.

GENERAL SPORTING.

Fred W. Ladd of Salem, N. Y., who claims the title of champion amateur rider of northern New York, challenges any short distance bicycle rider in the world to meet him in a race at any distance up to five miles.

Jack Moffat is again ready to get into the ring with anyone who can make the middle weight limit. Jack's arm, which was broken in a fight against George Gardner in New York some time ago, and reinjured in a bout with Al Neill in San Francisco, is now mended and as strong as ever.

When Terry meets Herrera, the California wonder, there will be some betting. Herrera, it seems, is not altogether a novice. He has been fighting for nearly seven years, but his fame has been confined to Kane county, California. In his career he has not met any one of prominence, but has defeated every man he has met, and on that account has achieved a local reputation second to none. Harris matched McGovern with Herrera just for the money in it, because he is in California for the coin. Herrera will find out how good he is when he tackles Terry, but one can hardly help feeling sorry for the Bakersfield boy with the good local reputation.

The fair Rosamond was an English blonde, with fair hair and blue or light gray eyes.

Baseball

FOINTER FOR JOHNSON.

President Johnson must preserve order in the American League games or get off the pedestal on which the reformers have placed him. The ex-National League stars are the chief offenders so far, and they should be handled without gloves. Clark Griffith, manager, captain, pitcher and, some say, one of the owners of the Chicago club, on May 2 made an attempt to assault Umpire Connolly for awarding the game to Detroit on account of the dilatory tactics of Griffith and his players. Taking their cue from Griffith, the spectators made a rush for the umpire and it required the players' united efforts to protect him from the mob. Here is the Herald-Record's account of the incident:

"Griffith, who was twice benched in the series, rushed forward with angry protests, his right arm raised threateningly. Some of the spectators near said Griffith struck Connolly, but the latter said after the game that he had not been hit. Isbell and other players rushed in, 'Issy' grabbing his manager, and the residue forming about the umpire. If 'Griff' had any hostile intentions, he changed quickly when he saw the temper of the crowd, and with the others turned toward the shouting throng, among whom a few irresponsible persons were yelling, 'Mob him! Lynch the umpire!' and warned them against violence. The policemen on the grounds were by this time on the scene and all danger of violence quickly subsided. 'After the game Comiskey and a majority of the fair-minded spectators, admitted that Connolly's decision was right and no protest will be made.'

Griffith has since been ordered from the grounds at Milwaukee. The public wants to know what pull this kicker has with President Johnson, who has hitherto been proof against influence when the rules have been violated and the game dragged into the mire. In the Chicago-Detroit series, Hoy and Elberfeld had two encounters and Buelow was benched. Criger, the ex-St. Louis catcher, who assaulted Latham in the umpire's dressing room at League Park in 1899, clashed with Umpire Cantillon at Washington, but probably remembering his experience with Latham, did not measure strength with the American League umpire. A contemporary is authority for the statement that President Johnson has notified Managers Comiskey and Stallings that he will hold them strictly accountable for the trouble in Chicago between the Chicago and Detroit clubs. Patrons look to Johnson to protect them from such scenes and he should let it be known whether he is going to live up to his record or abandon the fight against rowdism.—Sporting News.

DEAF MUTE WONDER.

The best known deaf and dumb player in the history of the national game is William E. Hoy or "Dummy" Hoy, as he is known to base ball enthusiasts. Hoy has been in the game for 15 years first starting out with the Oshkosh club, of the Northwestern League, in 1886. In 1888, '89, '92 and '93 he was with the Washington National League team. In '90 he played with Buffalo in the Players' League and in 1891 with the St. Louis American Association club. From 1894 to '97 Cincinnati had his services and the following two years he was on the Louisville payroll. This year he is with Chicago in the American League. Hoy is a good outfielder and a fairly good hitter. He is frequently asked the question if his deafness is much of a handicap to him in a game. On this point he says:

"While at school I played catcher and third base as well as outfielder, but in the professional game, I have



WILLIAM E. HOY.

always been in center field, because my deafness is less of a handicap there than it would be as an infielder. By experience I have learned by using my eyes and judgment to overcome the loss of hearing, which befell me as the result of brain fever five years old.

"There are three departments in base ball to be considered—batting, base running and fielding, not to mention 'base ball sense,' as it is called, or the instinct without which one cannot be a successful player. In batting there is really little handicap for a mute. I can see the ball as well as others and my team mates tell me whether a ball or strike is called by using the left fingers for balls and the right fingers for strikes.

"In base running the signals of the hit and run game and other stratagems are mostly silent, the same as for other players. By a further system of sign my team mates keep me posted on how many are out and what is go-

ing on around me. Similarly they do all they can to help me and make it pleasant for me both on and off the field. Because I cannot hear the coaching I have acquired the habit of running with my neck twisted to watch the progress of the ball.

"In judging fly balls I depend on sight alone, and must keep my eye constantly on the batsman to watch for a possible fly, since I cannot hear the crack of the bat. This alertness I think helps me in other departments of the game. So it may be seen the handicaps of a deaf ball player are minimized."

PITCHER MATHEWSON.

Mathewson, the Bucknell College twirler, who is working for New York, is at present the wonder of base ball. Also, he jumped the Philadelphia American League club, which brought Connie Mack sorrow, as he needs pitchers and is woefully weak in this department. He has won seven games in succession, and the fifth was the best of all, as he shut out the Chicagoans with only two hits. Mr. Freedman, the illustrious magnate, pays him



something like \$1,200 for his services, and owing to Mathewson's great ability and wonderful record it is believed Freedman will hand him out an extra thousand or so as is his usual custom. It is a matter of comment, too, that but for Mathewson New York would have had an unbroken succession of defeats for the seven games that he won. He is also responsible for the attendance, as his twirling is one of the best drawing attractions in the league, and has kept the Giants from playing to empty stands.

Not one of the great pitchers who have waxed and waned ever started out with such a record. Their greatness came later, but Mathewson jumped to the first flight right off the reel. His record so far is the best of any pitcher and it remains to see if he can keep it up.

BERGEN A WONDER.

Cincinnati believes she has a wonder in Billy Bergen. Says Manager McPhee: "When I was told on several occasions this spring that Billy Bergen was a better catcher than his brother, Martin, I admit that I did not believe that such was the case. But since I have seen him work, I am compelled to admit that he is his brother's superior. He may not be a Lajoie at the bat, yet I think he will make a better hitter with practice. He will not do much bench duty this season. He is too valuable a man for a team to be out of the game."

DIAMOND DUST.

Manager McGraw of the Baltimore team, is credited as being worth \$25,000.

Walter Brodie, the veteran outfielder, is believed to be out of the game for good.

Elmer Smith has been signed as an extra outfielder for the Pittsburg club. New York did not want him.

Otto Kruger is not finding the ball so hard as at the beginning. His third base play is almost perfection.

"Wahoo Sam" Crawford of the Cincinnati has been doing some tall stick work. He has been lining the ball out in about every game in a manner that is calculated to disconcert any pitcher, and if he does not bat up to the 350 mark this year Cincinnati rooters will lose their guess.

Lajoie and Jimmy Collins are not proving the strongest kind of leaders in the American league according to Tim Murnane. He says that the Philadelphia team is all at sea, while the Bostonians are playing without confidence. Men like Lajoie and Collins have always made good without the extra honors and don't seem to take to the leadership business very gracefully. This may come better after a few weeks, but in the meantime the public will be sizing up the work of the teams.

THEATRICAL OPICS.



A VARIED STAGE CAREER.

Irene Ackerman was born in New York city and is of Knickerbocker descent. Her father was a well known banker and gave his daughter an excellent education. A lingering illness and the death of her father shortly after her graduation from Rutgers College determined her to become an actress. Her first appearance was made at the Old Bowery Theater, New York, as a child. While here she attracted the attention of Fiske Harkins, then the managers of the Fifth Avenue Theater.

and became a member of the stock company at that house in 1879, where she remained until 1881, when Henry E. Abbey engaged her for the stock at the Park Theater. In 1882 she became the associate editor of The Union, but soon gave it up to go on the road again, playing mostly in Dickens' characters. The year 1883 was spent in Europe. During 1884-5 she played

QUITS HOME FOR STAGE.
Miss Evelyn Weidling is going to enter upon the career of a professional actress. She astonished a gathering of friends by announcing her determination at a reception in a Michigan ave-



MISS WEIDLING.
Miss Weidling, who recently returned home a few afternoons ago, says Chicago American.

At the reception given by Mrs. Richard Yates in Springfield recently



Hettie Preene with Shook & Collier's "Lights of London" Co. In 1886-7 she was the star in a repertory company on the road. She traveled through the European provinces in 1888-9. Besides the above Miss Ackerman has played Mercedes, in "Monte Cristo," Mathilde, in "The Strangers of Paris," Ogarita, in "The Sea of Ice," Artie O'Neill in "The Shaughraun," Lady Gay Spunker, in "London Assurance," and numerous other parts, besides having a long and successful season with Robson & Crane before these comedians parted.

In 1892 Miss Ackerman turned her attention to art, and was also a student for some time at the Chase School of Art, and since then has received diplomas from the art department of the Young Woman's Christian Association of New York, one for free hand illustration and the other for proficiency in pastel and crayon work. Her portraits of the late Benjamin Baker, superintendent of the Actors' Fund of America, and Georgia Cayvan were exhibited at the Actors' Fund Fair at Madison Square Garden. Her pen sketches are also well known and find ready market in the New York newspapers. Miss Ackerman is the author of several plays, among them "The Choir Girl," "Ricket," "A Corner in Hogs," and "The Gold Mine," the last named being the cause of litigation between Miss Howard, Geo. K. Jesseup and N. C. Goodwin on the other, and was won by the lady. Miss Ackerman will shortly make her appearance in vaudeville in one of her own sketches. Next season she will put her own repertory company on the road.

NEW PLAYS AND SKETCHES.
"Lasca, or in Sunset Land." Written and copyrighted by Marie Wellesley Sterling.

"Home Again," a comedy drama, in four acts, by Tom Fitch. Copyrighted by James H. La Pearl.

"The Butler and the Heiress," a vaudeville sketch. Written and copyrighted by Clarence Drown.

"They Want Me," a three act farce comedy by Elmer E. Bersey; rewritten by Tom Fitch. Copyrighted by James H. La Pearl.

"A Million a Minute, or Love One Another," a three act musical comedy, by William Richard Goodall. Copyrighted by Ruby L. L. Cook.

Marguerite Sylva, now starring in "The Princess Chic," under Kirke La Shelle's management, has completed the libretto of a comic opera in which she will appear next season. Julian Edwards will write the music.

Frederick Ranken, librettist and manager, has purchased the dramatic rights of Onata Watanna's novel, "The Japanese Nightingale." Mr. Ranken will make from the book a musical play, for which the music will be written by Isidor Witmark.

Miss Weidling told her hostess and a few other women as a secret that she was seriously contemplating going on the stage, but at that time her mind was not fully made up. Now she has made the definite announcement and says that her decision is irrevocable. She has received the consent of her relatives and is now considering offers from two managers, one of which she will accept in a few days. Miss Weidling is celebrated as one of the prettiest girls in Chicago. At Mrs. Yates' reception it was noticed that she had more than her share of cavaliers dancing attendance upon her. She made her debut at the Chicago Musical college about a month ago under the direction of Hart Conway. Her success in the leading role of "The Money Spinner" was immediate, and it was that which prompted her to become a professional actress.

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