

# William Muldoon Is Due to Get the Ax as Head of Game in New York First of Year

### New Members of Commission Said to Be in Favor of Champion and Colored Challenger Swinging Gloves in Championship Bout in Gotham—Present Boxing Heads Are Guilty of Sidestepping Wills Issue, Says Walsh.

By DAVIS J. WALSH.  
NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Exhorters for the Dempsey-Wills bout are looking for immediate developments after January 1, when William Muldoon is due to pass away as nominal head of boxing in New York state. The iron duke, they say, is all over and done with. He is a republican. In his place, one Edward Curry, democrat, is about ready to function. Frank Dwyer, republican, will also lose his official head in favor of an up-state democrat, it is said. The new members, teamed up with William McCormack, chairman of the license committee will place the commission upon an all-democratic basis. They also will obviate and make null, Governor Smith's stock reply to all Dempsey-Wills inquiries, to wit: That the New York state athletic commission was composed of men who were not of his appointment.

The inference there was that the governor of New York could issue no instructions to men he had not appointed. Tammany Hall wants boxing preserved and whatever Tammany wants, during a democratic administration, it invariably gets. There is too much money involved to allow the sport to pass on into the limbo of forgotten pastimes. Perhaps, also, a Dempsey-Wills bout has been deemed an excellent medium toward restoring public confidence in the game. It would be the most popular move the commission could make, not because white men wish to see Dempsey lose. They merely stand for fair play to all and it is notorious that Harry Wills has been given the garlic.

If the present commission has been guilty of sidestepping, straight-arming, reversing the field and all the broken field tricks in dating the Wills issue. It has made a political weapon of a great sport. Only a return of the policy of sport for sport's sake will restore the game to proper level.

# The Sportlight

### Grantland Rice

First Start for 1924.  
ORNEILL has lost Pfann and Yale has lost Richeson for next fall. Other star quarters are on their way to private life. The lucky leader is Yost of Michigan. Just as he was losing one star quarter in Uteritz a Mr. Rockwell appears. Here is the dope on Rockwell from Ann Arbor headquarters: "Ferdinand A. Rockwell of Michigan has started on what bids fair to be a most brilliant football career at Michigan. He sprang into prominence in the Marine game, when Quarterback Uteritz was injured. What Senior Fippo could use in his Christmas sock would be a left hook, a left jab and a left-handed block. These three ideal gifts would come fairly close to putting him over the wall where a carload of bullion waits. Now is the time to pick your foot ball guesses for next fall, so no one will remember what you picked. And if you are right you can open the files and prove it." Football teams break training three

weeks too soon. If they continued hard practice they would then be in fair shape to meet the Christmas shopping rush without being rough-housed off the street or trampled under foot. Only 11,000 pedestrians were killed by motor cars this year, but any number of drivers believe they have developed their control to such an extent that only one pedestrian in three will have a chance to duck. "What is the duffer's leading fault?" asks an exchange. Compressed into a few words, it is almost total inability to hit the ball within 76 yards of where he wanted it to land. "These experts say that a duffer doesn't get any pleasure out of a missed stroke that happens to escape a trap," writes Mark. "How come? One of the biggest thrills I ever get is when a topped mashie that ought to catch seven traps rolls up against the pin and either drops in or stops three inches away. The longest drive I can hit is nothing like it."

### Knotty Problems of Basket Ball

Ques.—The referee and umpire make approximate simultaneous decisions on the same play and the decisions involve different penalties against the same player, which takes precedence? Ans.—The one drawing attention to the graver of the two penalties. (Rule Sec. 8.)  
Ques.—How long may a player "in bounds," who is not closely guarded, hold the ball without violating the rules? Ans.—Indefinitely; the length of time he may hold it depends on the activity of his opponent. (Rule 7, Sec. 4.)  
Ques.—What is a dribble and when does a dribble start? Ans.—When a player, having gained possession of the ball in any way, throws, rolls, bats or bounces the ball and touches it again before it is touched by another player, a dribble takes place. The dribble starts at the instant the ball leaves the player's hands, and ends at the instant the ball comes to rest in one or both hands or touches both hands simultaneously. (Rule 7, Sec. 9.)  
Ques.—Is it legal for a player to reach over or around his opponent from the rear, put his hand on the ball and then swing around to the side? Ans.—Yes; provided there is no personal contact, which, however, is almost impossible in such a play. (Rule 7, Section 10.)  
Ques.—Two opponents have possession of ball, third player runs in, personal contact results, but third player does not touch the ball; what is the decision? Ans.—Personal foul against third man. (Rule 15, Section 9.)

### Questionnaire Is Sent Tennis Men

New York, Dec. 24.—A constructive aftermath of the recent controversy between William T. Tilden and Harold H. Hackett of the United States Lawn Tennis association's Davis cup committee, over Tilden's tactics in the famous doubles match this year between America and Australia was seen today by tennis followers in a questionnaire distributed by the U. S. L. T. A. and designed to develop better doubles play in this country. The questionnaire, prepared by a committee of the association, which included Hackett, and distributed to from 75 to 100 leading players, embraces six questions on team play. At the office of the U. S. L. T. A. it was said that the questionnaire had no connection with the Hackett-Tilden dispute, although it bears upon the same topic. The questions propounded are: (1) Is doubles play among United States players as good, better or worse than any other country? (2) Do the Australians appear to know and play doubles better than we do? (3) If so, why is it? (4) Is it because of a more aggressive attack? (5) Is it because of a more aggressive defense? (6) Is it because of a more aggressive net play? Members of the committee which prepared the questionnaire include Robert Kinsey, of San Francisco.

### Iowa High Schools to Hold State Mat Tourney

Iowa City, Ia., Dec. 23.—The third Iowa state high school wrestling tournament will be held here under the auspices of the university on February 15 and 16, it is announced by the board in control of athletics. Invitations are being sent out to high schools all over the state. Matches will be held in the 95, 105, 115, 125, 135, 145, 158 and 175-pound classes, and in the heavyweight division, and medals will be awarded for the first three places in each class.

### Bush Boss of Indianapolis American Ball Team

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 24.—Owen Bush, manager of the Washington American league baseball team last season, today signed a contract as manager of the Indianapolis American Association team for one year. Bush will play shortstop. He succeeds Jack Hendricks. Bush is 34 years old and his home is here.

### To Encourage Amateur Sports

Dubuque, Ia., Dec. 23.—An athletic commission, which will oversee and encourage amateur sports here, was organized with 12 members. Earl G. Cook was chosen president. The commission may later promote professional contests, it was said. Its membership is made up mainly of men who have gained fame at athletics, including Ira Davenport, former University of Chicago and Olympic track star; Wilbur Dalzell, holder of the University of Indiana scholarship (three medals); and Clarence Peterson, former star and now coach of the University of Dubuque basket ball and track teams.

### Announce Officials for Game

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.—With the exception of a field judge, who will be announced later, the officials of the New Year's day football game at the Pasadena rose bowl between the University of Washington and the United States naval academy, have been chosen and were announced by Graduate Manager Darrow W. Weinstein. George M. Varnell, University of Chicago will referee; H. W. Crowell, Swarthmore, is the umpire, and Kenneth Bartlett, Oregon, head linesman.

### Crofton High Takes Two.

Crofton, Neb., Dec. 24.—Both the girl and boy teams of Crofton high took their games with the two teams of the Bloomfield high last week. The girls' score was, Crofton, 29; Bloomfield, 8. The boys' score was, Crofton, 23; Bloomfield, 12. Both games were fast and the Crofton players proved themselves the better cagers.

### Iowa Schedule Complete.

The University of Iowa has just scheduled the eighth grid contest with the Southeastern Teachers college of Durant, Ok., to be played at Iowa City, October 4. Negotiations were closed late this morning. The Oklahoma eleven is coached by P. D. Godfrey. It will be the opening game on the Iowa schedule. This closes the Iowa schedule.

# THEATERS OFFER HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR CHRISTMAS

## Martha Mansfield Here Soon on Screen



Martha Mansfield, who was burned to death during the making of "The Warrens of Virginia," in San Antonio, Tex., recently, has one of the leads in "The Silent Command," which opens at the Sun theater at Omaha next Sunday. Miss Mansfield was just coming to the best work of her career this season, when the accident which cost her life occurred. "The Silent Command" is a story of the secret service of the United States navy and depicts an imaginary defense of the Panama canal zone.

## Along the Rialto

It was just by chance that Newhoff and Phelps, singers and dancers at the Orpheum theater this week, were booked with Chauncey Gray's orchestra. This couple has traveled through the south on the same bill with the orchestra, although they had not appeared in the same act. In their spare time they had learned all of the new songs. When Newhoff and Phelps reached Chicago after completing an engagement there, they had about decided to retire from the stage and go to Los Angeles to live. They have been on the stage for 20 years. But a booking agent of the Orpheum circuit when he heard it said in jest that the dancers would appear with the orchestra in a charity performance. They liked the orchestra so well that they soon were booked together for the season. The orchestra is made up of six young men of high school age. Julia Gifford, who is playing a leading role in "Follies of the Day" at the Gayety theater this week, is the widow of "Lanky" Bob Fitzsimmons, who was champion heavyweight boxer. Thomas Jefferson, who is appearing in the role of Bill Jones in "Lightnin'" at the Brandels theater, is the last Jefferson of the famous family of actors by that name. He is the son of the late Joseph Jefferson, who made himself famous in the role of "Rip Van Winkle." Thomas Jefferson is married but has no sons. The name of Jefferson will be dropped in a family that have carried it on for generations of 200 years. Alexander is proving a big drawing card at the World this week. His ability to answer questions of any sort is mystifying and entertaining. The supporting bill includes the Peater Girl, Stanley Chapman, Pink Toes, Rhoda, and Broderick and Arthur Hayes in an organ solo appropriate to the Yuletide. This week known play is a brilliant screen comedy, "The Near Lady," in the photoplay feature. Alexander gives a special morning matinee for ladies only starting at 10:45 Thursday morning. Under it will be admitted to this special performance. "Six Hopkings" with its quaint characters and its wealth of fun is the current holiday attraction at the Empress. No happier selection could have been made for up to date entertainment. The program provides laughter in abundance and is further enlivened by a variety of songs and dance selections. Photoplay features include "The Critical Age" and "The Fighting Blood" stories, both of which add to the laughter of the program. Shorty DeWitt gets as much fun out of life as though he were a giant in height, according to his own declaration made in "Youthful Follies," the amount of vivacity he displays being remarkable even among members of burlesque. Julia Gifford is a sweet-voiced prima donna and Muriel An-

### REEL REMARKS

By the M. P. Editor.  
Constance Talmage has started filming "The Goldfish" in which Marjorie Rambeau was starred on the speaking stage. Marlon Harlan is laid up with tonsillitis and her place in Buster Keaton's "The Misfit" has been taken by Katherine McGuire. George Washington is pictured in the next Yale University Press film, "The Gateway of the West," part of the series being made as "Chronicles of America." The story depicts the expedition to Fort Le Bouef in 1733.

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## THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS SHOW

# RIALTO

—you drove our boy from our home because you never understood him. I'll find him and make him happy even if it means leaving you.

A frantic wife—a heartbroken mother pleading for the child of her heart.

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World's Greatest Harmonica Soloist

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KIDDING KATIE

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Foremost In Omaha Amusements

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Most talked about mystic the world has ever known.

# ALEXANDER

"The Man Who Knows." Ask Alexander anything. He knows everything.

Splendid Supporting Show

Photoplay  
**GLADYS WALTON**  
in "The Near Lady."

Vaudeville Today at 3:20—6:45—9:15

## EMPIRESS

Graves Bros. Players with a cast of 28 Present

The Show That Has Made Millions Laugh

# "SIS HOPKINS"

Exclusive Photoplays in Addition

"The Critical Age" and 7th exciting round

# "FIGHTING BLOOD"

Stage Performance Today at 3:20—6:45—9:15

## SUN

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# BABY PEGGY

in her first big production "The Darling of New York"

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# "THE LEAVENWORTH CASE"

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Prices—Eve., 50c to \$2.50  
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JOSEPH K. WATSON  
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