

BIG JACK HAS GREAT HEAD

Johnson's Mental Vagaries Puzzle the Wise Guys.

ONE JUMBLE OF CONTRADICTIONS

Talk Emanating from the Champion Shows Marvelous Capacity for Telling Different Stories and Confusing Things.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON.

SEAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—"Jack Johnson is a queer fighter," remarked a sport who keeps close tabs on the development of the pugilistic belt. "He says he won't tackle Sam McVea or Flynn until he gets \$10,000, but he declares he is willing to trade punches with Jim Corbett just for the fun of the thing."

Well, what's the difference? What Jack Johnson says matters little. It is what he does that counts. And the man who can predict, with any degree of certainty, the nature of Jack's activities during the next few months must be gifted with second-sight in an extraordinary degree.

Here are a couple of guesses. If Johnson boxes either McVea or Flynn, the remuneration will be considerably less than \$10,000. If Johnson and Corbett meet face to face, there will be no blood shed.

Jack's Wild Talk. Johnson's speeches and actions for many months past have been a jumble of contradictions. He has muddled things to such an extent that at times it seems as though he is laughing in his sleeves at all creation. He went to England and denounced America. He came back here and flouted England.

While across the pond he entered into a contract to box McVea in Australia. He changed his mind and gave out that he had retired. He was so persistent in talking that he was through with the vanities of the ring that experts the world round began arguing as to who was best entitled to grab his laurels.

When appealed to for an opinion, Johnson said that he did not care a rap who claimed the championship or who fought for it. He was out of it and took no further interest in it.

When Jack came back, he said, with never a suspicion of a smirk or a smile, that he couldn't for the life of him imagine how that retirement rumor got around. He had not retired. No, indeed. He was still in the game with both feet and both hands and all he wanted was a price. Let some one flout a check for \$10,000 in his face and he would sign articles quickly enough to make the check good.

Glad to see him back. It is no fallacy to state that there was general satisfaction in sporting circles when Johnson made known he was still in the game. It may be that the public resented the idea of Johnson breaking away from the ring unlicked, or it may be that the myriads who are interested in boxing felt that, with the master heavyweight withdrawn from the game, the bottom would fall out of the top-notch division.

Anyhow Johnson's announcement that he was ready to take up the cudgils again renewed interest in the heavyweights and there was much speculation as to where the first challenger would come from. McIntosh, the Australian promoter, repeated his offer of a match with McVea and Johnson accepted.

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Then Jack Curley, as active and brainy an arranger of arena spectacles as ever traversed publicity avenues, thought up a grand assault at arms between Jack Gutch Johnson and Jim Mackenschmidt Flynn and the champion swallowed the lure, hook, line and sinker.

Most Have Calculated. Did he stop to figure, think you, that little Flynn might prove a less formidable proposition than Gorilla McVea, or was it that he knew he could reach Nevada without crossing the equator or becoming seasick? Anyhow the Flynn match appealed to Jack.

"I will get McIntosh to postpone the McVea fight. There are more people in Paris in the fall" was what the champion vouchsafed by way of explanation. Incidentally not a word had been heard of the McVea affair since. Perhaps McIntosh has grown weary of chasing chimeras.

The Flynn articles were signed, but there was no word to Jack's game of cross purposes. He urged, nay, insisted, that Flynn cancel his bout with Al Palmer. It looked as though he was afraid of Palmer, that he might spoil the Nevada outlook. But after bulldozing Flynn into cutting loose from Palmer, the champion announced he was negotiating for a match with Palmer on his own account.

In between a couple of these contradictions, of inconsistencies, Johnson learned he was barred from New York. Naturally he was greatly worked up over this. Quick as a flash, he framed a plan for getting over. New York had barred him and he would erase from the list of the possible opponents the name of any heavyweight who boxed in New York. Jim Flynn and others please take heed.

New York Safe. It was a fearful threat, but it was merely another of Jack's passing whims. Before thirty-six hours had passed, he declared that he had changed his mind. Instead of avoiding New York and denouncing that his opponents avoid New York, he would take the big city by storm and defy boxing Commissioner O'Neil. The Frasley law, he argued, was framed for blacks and white alike and he would stand upon his right as an American citizen. He would box or know the reason why.

And that's the way it goes. Jack is so shifty in his conversation as he is in his fingers. But scarcely as good a general.

DIETZ CLUB WILL PUSH BASE BALL THIS YEAR. Base ball will be the all-important sport at the Dietz club this year and the members are planning to turn out two of the fastest amateur aggregations in the city.

A hustling committee, to be appointed by E. D. Evans, the newly elected president of the club, will issue a call for local amateur diamond cracks on February 1 in order to get a line on prospective players for the season. The club ball grounds at Fremont and Boyd streets will be located on 13th and a new grandstand and clubhouse erected.

St. Louis Where the Home Roaster Discourages Players

BY MONTY.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—That base ball players are human and have human instincts can be accepted as an axiom. They have all their likes and dislikes, just as have all other mortals, but the ways in which they exhibit them are sometimes most singular.

It has been said that when a ball player acquires an aversion for anything or for any place, nothing can erase it. That may be true, and again it may not. But the fact remains that there is one city in the big league circuits which players seem to try to steer clear of—if already there, they strain to get away and, once gone, never return if they can help it.

That town is St. Louis. The reason is not that St. Louis is not a good base ball city. It is a good one. In fact it is too good, and that is where the answer lies.

After comparing the crowds, both in size and kind, that turn out at the different big league parks, through several years, no conclusion can be drawn that the Mound City has the most rabid bunch of base ball fanatics in the country. They are a boon to the manager, but a bane to the player.

They study base ball and, as a rule, know base ball much better than the brother fan in, say, for instance, Chicago, or Philadelphia, with all their champion teams.

These "bugs" go into spasms of enthusiasm and delight over a player's work when it is good, but they employ equally extreme methods in evincing their displeasure when his efforts are unproductive of results. They have an efficient "booster band," but the "knock-er club" can play rings around the other gang. And they do so, have been doing so for the past decade. The unpopularity of a player is so magnified by the fans that the manager has to get rid of him whether he wants to or not.

Result—every club excepting one—Washington Americans—in both National and American leagues has at least one former St. Louisan on its roster, and in practically every case, the St. Louis turn-down is making good with a vengeance, some as players, some as managers and some as club presidents. Every position on the diamond is represented by them.

These in the National league are: New York, Manager McGraw and Outfielder Jack Murray; Boston, Outfielder, Mike Donlin and Pitcher Cy Young; Brooklyn, Outfielder Hub Northen; Pittsburgh, Outfielder Vincent Campbell, Third Baseman Bobby Byrne and Pitcher Lefty Lel-feld; Chicago, Outfielder Artie Hoffman and Pitcher Ed Ruelbach; Cincinnati, Pitcher Earl Fromme; Philadelphia, Pitcher Earl Moore.

These in the American league are: Athletics, Pitcher Cy Morgan; Detroit, Second Baseman Delahanty; Cleveland, Catcher Sid Smith and Outfielder Arthur Griggs; Boston, President McAleer; Chicago, President Comiskey; New York, Outfielder Harry Watter and Third Baseman Roy Hartzel.

Out of that array could be selected a pick-up team able to beat either of the aggregations that will represent St. Louis in the two big leagues this year.

Impatience of the fans has taken the scalp of many a big league manager. They are not willing to wait and give him a chance to develop the talent on hand. That is the root of the trouble with



Five big league managers who learned base ball in the school of the Chicago Cubs. Above on the left is Frank Chance, who not only mastered the fine points of the game with the Cubs, but is now their manager. On the right is Clark Griffith, who this year will lead the Washington Americans, having vacated the managership of the Cincinnati Reds. Below, left to right, are Harry Wolverton, chieftain of the New York Yankees; Jimmy Callahan, skipper of the Chicago Americans, and the greatest of all "comebacks," and Johnny Kling, pilot of the Boston Nationals and former

world's greatest catcher. No other team has turned out as many major league managers.

St. Louis. If the fans there would let the manager have a chance to try out the men and not force him to snap judgment, the town might have another pennant some time before the twentieth century ends. It is their very overzealousness to have a winner that proves a boomerang and keeps a pennant away.

While St. Louis is an extreme example of this type of feverish, hasty base ball populace, there are many other towns in many other leagues whose base ball inhabitants are afflicted with the same disease. Until it is cured, they will be working against the very championship that they think they are working for. And they are the doctors. But there is no use giving advice to base ball fans; they don't listen to it.

While St. Louis holds the lead in getting rid of promising base ball material before it has had a chance to develop to the utmost, the Chicago Cubs hold the record for bringing players to the height

of their possibilities, so that when their playing days are over, they are capable of taking the managerial reins of other big league clubs.

The coming season will witness six men leading major teams who had almost all their schooling with the Chicago National league machine. They are Jimmy Callahan of the White Sox, Clark Griffith of the Washington Senators, Bill Dahlen of Brooklyn, Harry Wolverton of the New York Yankees, Johnny Kling of the Boston Nationals and Frank Chance himself, who is still on the job with the Cubs.

All of these excepting Chance and Dahlen are filling the executive position of their present teams for the first time. Callahan last year was merely an outfielder for the White Sox. Griffith goes to Washington for the Cincinnati Reds, whom he managed last year. Wolverton is returning to the big leagues as a manager after having been in the minors several seasons. Kling did the backstop for Boston in 1911, but will experience his first managing this year.

Remember the Kiddies. President Hedges will throw the gates of the Brown park in St. Louis open to all the kids in the town two days every week.

VETERAN WHO WILL JOIN THE NEW OUTLAW LEAGUE. Bill Bradley, former star third baseman of the Cleveland Americans, who is negotiating for a Cleveland franchise in the new outlaw organization, the United States League. Bill Gooden has a bunch of his own money to land the deal with, and that there is a lot more behind him. Bradley is a great favorite in Cleveland, and his securing of a franchise would cause the instant league good patronage in Cleveland at least.

Wonderful Catcher. "Of the many selections made of the twenty greatest base ball players, not one," says Rully Hamilton, the old Boston center fielder, "has named Martin Berget, the deceased Boston National league catcher. There was a man who, except Buck Ewing, was the greatest backstop in the game ever seen. He was a wonderful thrower and could hit the ball and run bases."

Creighton Looking Forward to Lively Season on Diamond

Creighton university is making plans on a more extensive scale than ever for a base ball team for this season. The biggest inducement being offered to bring out the best material is the possibility of gaining a letter. The agitation is now afoot and it is expected that the athletic faculty will comply. A good trip is also being arranged for the team, which will cover several towns in Iowa. This will very probably include a return game with Taber, Morningside, Highland Park, Des Moines and others.

Bohemian Athletes Planning Tourney

Secretary O. J. Jelen, secretary of the western division of the Ted Jod Sokol, has called a meeting of local Bohemian athletes for February 12, at which time arrangements will be completed for the Nebraska state school instructive tournament, which will be held at the local Bohemian turner hall from February 19 to March 4.

Joe Mik, president of the division; Frank Riha, instructor of the local Bohemian gymnasts, and many other local turners have expressed satisfaction at the idea of having such a tournament, which will be the first of its kind ever held in Nebraska.

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OLD BALL WAR RECALLED

No Objection to Return of Rebellious Players to the Game.

ONLY ONE "ANTI" REMAINING. Success of Mack and Comiskey is remarkable and is wholly due to their experience and knowledge of game.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—When the Brotherhood of Ball Players failed to wreck the National league by the memorable revolt in 1900, the men who spent more than \$1,000,000 to preserve the game declared that under no circumstances would they permit the ring leaders of the Players' league movement to become prominent in the government of the sport. There was no objection to the return of the rebellious players to the national agreement fold, however, and among the first to sign organized base ball contracts after the "war" were John M. Ward, James McAleer, Buck Ewing, Mike Kelly, Jim Keefe, Connie Mack, Edward Hanlon, Charles Comiskey and Arthur Irwin. But the old managers took excellent care to keep these former stars of the diamond under their thumbs.

With the passing of the club owners A. H. Roden, W. H. Conant and J. B. Hillings of Boston, John B. Day of New York, C. H. Byrne and F. A. Abell of Brooklyn, A. G. Spalding and James A. Hart of Chicago, A. J. Beach and John I. Rogers of Cleveland, W. A. Nimick of Pittsburgh and Chris Von Der Ahe of St. Louis, who fought the Brotherhood successfully, the big clubs were controlled by men who had no grievances and who saw no reason why the Brotherhood leaders could not become financially interested.

The formation of the American league by Dan Johnson afforded an opening for Comiskey, who took hold of the Chicago franchise in that prosperous circuit and proceeded to build up a fortune with the White Sox. Comiskey's power increased until soon he became the most powerful magnate in the American league. Mack also received a chance to become famous as the manager of the Athletics, in which he is a heavy stockholder. McAleer, at first manager of the St. Louis Browns and later the handler of the Washingtons, is now part owner and president of the Boston Americans. Arthur Irwin, after many ups and downs, is high in the councils of the New York Americans, while last, but not least, John M. Ward, the originator of the Brotherhood plot, is the president and holder of a one-third interest in the Boston National league club.

Of the other Brotherhood leaders Kelly and Ewing are dead, Keefe is a property owner in Cambridge, Mass., and Hanlon is living in retirement in Baltimore, though still anxious to buy a major league franchise.

Oddly enough the only anti-Brotherhood magnate in the game is John T. Brush, owner of the Giants, who for many years was bitterly opposed to Ward and the others. But in recent years Brush and Ward have become close friends and the latter was Brush's candidate for the National league presidency two years ago. There is no doubt that Ward could have purchased the New York club at the close of the season of 1904, when the Giants, under his leadership, won the Triple crown. But Ward was determined to retire from base ball.

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SCOT ATHLETES TO GET BUSY

Will Hold Meeting Monday Evening at Jacobs' Memorial Hall.

TO REVIVE SCOTTISH GAMES. Clan Gordon Athletic Association Has Numerous Plans for the Coming Summer and Fall.

The Clan Gordon Athletic association will hold a meeting tomorrow evening at Jacobs' Memorial hall to make arrangements for its sport activities for the present year. This association now has a total membership of sixty Omaha Scots and bids fair to play an important part among other local athletic organizations this spring and summer.

It is the intention of the association to arouse more interest among local sport lovers in the games of golf, cricket, quoits, curling, cappel, bowls and soccer foot ball, and every effort will be made to put on some creditable exhibition of these sports.

Association members will use the Miller park course, nine holes for golf this season and will also play cricket on the grounds at the park. Dean Peacock of Trinity cathedral and George Peacock are the most ardent cricket enthusiasts in Omaha and both are live promoters of the game. Peacock is one of the best wicket keepers in the west and has had considerable experience at the sport.

Quoits will be played at the Clan Gordon rink at Thirty-second and Fowler avenue and it is expected that a series of games will be pulled off there this summer which will be open to all local cracks at the horseshoe game. R. C. Watson holds the present Scotch championship of Omaha, having defeated John Muir in the open contest last summer by winning thirteen out of twenty-five games.

The game of curling will be taken up at Carter lake as soon as the ice is in better condition. Carpet bowls, an indoor game, similar to curling, will also be played this winter, probably at the club house at Miller park. Soccer foot ball will start again next fall.

Following are the officers of the association for 1912: President John Muir; vice president, William J. Hilsop; secretary, George Peacock; treasurer, John McTaggart.

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GOLFERS GETTING THE FEVER

Already They Are Telling What Records They Will Make This Year.

SPRAGUE AND REHM GO SOUTH. Fill Chasers Are Counting the Days Until They Will Again Be Engaged in Favorite Pastime.

In about six weeks now Omaha golfers will take up their favorite outdoor sport in earnest and the greens at the different links about the city will once more be the mecca for tired business men on Saturday afternoons.

The links at the Field and Country club, Happy Hollow and Miller park will all be busy places during the spring and summer months. Although Omaha was not fortunate enough to secure the western golf tourney this year, there will be the state tourney at the Country club and probably an interclub tourney to arouse competition. The usual individual features of each club, such as club tournaments and individual matches, will also be pulled off from time to time.

A new addition to the ranks of the links this year will be the Seymour Lake Country club. The new eighteen-hole course at this club is now completed and play will start there about the middle of March. H. K. Burket is president of the club for the present year. The Rod and Gun club may also have a course.

E. H. Sprague and J. B. Rahm of the Country club have quietly planned to get the jump on other local golfers and will journey down to Jacksonville, Fla., on February 4 where they intend to make the game of the green their principal diversion for a period of four weeks. They will play at the Jacksonville Country club over an eighteen-hole course.

Among the early birds who are counting the days until the robin begins to chirp at Happy Hollow are W. E. Shaf-fer, the club champion; George Ross, runner-up in the club tournament last year; A. A. McClure, A. T. Austin, E. A. Nordstrom and Frank Brown. Better turf is promised at the Happy Hollow links this year and the hazards and bunkers will also be improved upon before the beginning of the season.

M. H. La Douceur will try for an early record at the Field club this spring and is gradually acquiring a brand new set of clubs for the season's play. His present record for the course is 74.

Percy Chambers, one of the Miller park enthusiasts, is a genuine English golfer, having played the game for three years at the Scarborough club links in England. He has negotiated the Miller park course, nine holes, in 37 on several occasions.

Dr. H. C. Sumner, Jack Hughes and Bill Chambers have signified that after March 1st they will be "at home" on the Field club links on Saturday afternoons.

Sam Reynolds, the youthful Field club champion, has avowed that business will keep him away from the green this year, but the lure of the little gutta percha sphere will probably draw him back at the time the state tournament draws near.

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