JOHNSON HAS WOULD-BE O'BRIEN, BERGER AND KAUFFMAN ALL DRAW COLOR LINE ...

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The National Police Gazette (1845-1906); Dec 8, 1906; 89, 1530; American Periodicals pg. 10

JOHNSON HAS WOULD-BE

---O'BRIEN, BERGER AND KAUFFMAN ALL DRAW COLOR LINE --

CHAMPIONS ON THE RUN

Jim Jeffries Treats With Derision a Lot of Near Fighters. All of Whom He Could Defeat in One Ring.

M'GOVERN'S INJURED HAND WILL NOT LET HIM FIGHT

Mike Ward's Death a Genuine Loss to the Ring---An Injustice to Harry Lewis---Small Talk in the Realm of Pugilism.

"The yellowest pack of pigeon-livered (Hospital, examined the "terrible one's" injured hand. mutts that ever disgraced the pages of puglistic history β in America." is the jurid language which a certain sporting writer used the other day to describe the bunch of fighters now claiming or clamoring for the title of heavyweight champion discarded by Jim-Jeffries, and all because none of them, have the temerity to match with Jack Johnson, the big colored fighter, whom Sam Fitzpatrick has taken under his wing. The other day Johoson made an offer to fight Al Kauffman twenty rounds and not take a cent of the receipts if he failed to score a knyckout, but Kauffman couldn't see it and possed it up. One might readily believe that If Kauffman is any good at all or really bas any championship pretensions, he could hardly afford to let this go by. In splite of all the boosting that Johnson has accumulated, much of it in these columns, there is no doubt a lot of sympathetic sentiment attached to it. We are prone to overrate the big negro out of sympathy for him in his loneliness

Joe Jeanette and Jun Jeffords are the only ones who have the grit to meet him, and doubtless there is some kin f of an insurance clause in the articles in order to make this pair sign. Whenever a match with Johnson is mentioned to O'Brien, Berger or Kauffman, the old excuse, the cotor line, is hastily pressed into service. There is one thing brought out with great force by this lear on the part of the heavies for Johnson. It proves beyond doubt, if indeed we needed any proof, that they are a very bud lot to say the least.

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Jim Jeffries was at the ringside at the Berger-Kauffman fight, and when it was over he turned on his heel and said: "Mebacs, to the alfalfa." I his meant, said Sandy, Griswold, that the form displayed by Kauffman and Berger was such that if he consented to enter the ring with either the whole affair would be a bigger force than vasible bout with Jack Manroe. It is certainly hard on leftries to be the champion of the world and then to show that not a single in m in this w, ole big worl i of ours is able to make him even evert himself in the ring. If ever, there was a toan in a class by himself it's the big ex-boilermaker from Los Angeles. They may talk all they care to about the wonderful provess of the mighty John L. Sullivan, the wonderful cleverness of James Corbett and the bitting power and reach of Peter Jackson, but not a single one of them in their very prime would have ever had a chance with the Jumes J. Jeffries that fought Jim CorDr. Dunlop put the injured member under the X-rays, and after the examination pronounced the hand to be In had shape.

Joe Humphreys, McGovern's manager, said : "I will rematch McGovern with Corbett as soon as his hand is well--not before. I will also bet any part of \$5,000 at ringside odds that Terry wins. The weight must be 133 pounds, ringside. I stand ready to post the money as soon as the match is made,"

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In the death of Mike Ward, who died from the effects of a fight with Harry Lewis, the boxing game lost one of its most exemplary exponents. Owing to the stringency of the boxing laws in New York. City-

Mike Ward's remains, announced that death was due to concussion of the brain, a blood clot having been found at the base. The Coroner asserted that the clot was caused by Ward striking his head on the ring floor, and not by the blow struck by Lewis. Governor Warner has notified all sheriffs to prevent any more bouts, which will effectually close the boxing game in the State of Michigan.

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Another recruit has been added to still further mess up the heavy weight tangle. Sandy Ferguson is the man and Johnny Mack, his manager, is seeking a match with Jack Johnson.

Mack announces that although the other heavyweights are afraid of Johnson and are ducking fights with him, he will bet \$1,000 on Ferguson, and is confident his man will win. Failing to get on a fight with Johnson, he will bet \$1,000 that Ferguson will stop either Berger or Kauffman in ten rounds.

Ferguson is twenty seven years old, six feet four and three-quarter inches tall, and weighs two hundred and thirty pounds. He has fought Marvin Hart and several other big fellows, invariably with credit to himself. Đ.

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Sport promoters in the State of lows are making earnest endeavors to break into the boxing game, and an effort will be made this winter to have the Legislature pass a law permitting the sport under certain restrictions. Under the present statute even the moving pictures of a prize fight held in Australia cannot be displayed in the State legally.

In Davenport and other river towns fights are held all the time in violation of the law, but by common consent of the people, and there is a movement among the sporting men of the State to have the present law repealed so that sparring matches can be pulled off under the sanction of the State.

Mac Connelly, a sporting promoter, has offered to pay a license of \$1,000 a month for the privilege of holding sparring matches in Des Moines. He says there is a demand among the people for this athletic entertainment to such an extent that a large license fee could be paid. It is considered certain that a law will be drafted and introduced in the Legislature permitting the munictual licensing of sparring matches.

The present stringent law was passed at a session of he Legislature during which sparring matches had bewe never new the clever young Canadian, but Eddie | come very popular. The legislators one night went to

same thing followed when Neary went away from bome and wandered down to Los Angeles, and was put away in two rounds by the third rate Chicago fighter.

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Tommy White, the old-time featherweight pugilist, who has left the ring for more lucrative enployment in Chicago is still a firm admirer of old John L. Sullivan, and thinks the boxing clubs throughout the country ought to take care of John. "I figure." said Tommy the other day, "that boxing in this coun try owes much of its prominence to John I., hence I think it would not be asking too much to set as'de one day each year and call it 'Sullivan Day." On that night each club should set aside a percentage of the receipts for John L., and this would create a very decent little fund. This should be placed in honest hands and dealt out to John as he needed it, not giving him a chance to blow it all at one time. It's my opinion that John deserves it, and that the old fellow would be better off when taken care of that way than if he were allowed to keep on travelling around picking up a living, as is the case to-day."

As far as I can learn though John is still able to pick up a very decent living of #250 a week whenever he feels inclined to sidestep the booze water long enough to work. Tommy White's intentions are good enough, but the object is hardly a commendable one.

SAM C. AUSTIN.



bett in San Francisco the last time Corbett entered the ring. On that night big Jeff was at his very best, and I honestly believe he could heat any four heavyweights we now have in the same ring at the same time.

He has deleate tall the men who ever had a claim on him two or three times. He has fought every man that came along and he is the one champion that retired because he did not care to humbug the public, hecause he realized that a match between himself and the other champions would be a farce. Jeffries not only retired, but he was never even smocked down in his life. That's certainly a record.

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Abe Attell's match with Jimmy Walsh in

Los Angeles will be an important event in more ways than one. The featherweight championship of the world will be involved, and besides this, it Walsh should happen to heat the champion he will meet Harry Baker, Jan. 18, in place of Attell, who has already signed articles to meet Baker on that date. He signed, however, with the understanding that if he should fight before that date and lose, the winner was to take his place on the 18th.

Attell was to kied to death when he learned that the match was a sure thing, as the little fellow has got the money tever strong and believes in making hav white the frost is on the bloom, or something like that f

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Harry Pollak, the indefatigable little hustler, who has shown a dezen or more pugilists, including Jim Jeffries, how to get the money, has again taken managerial charge of Young Corbett and intends to give that very foolish young person a chance to reestablish himself to public favor, and in the following "cartel," as invilate lamented predecessor Col, Harding used to say, has assued a sweeping defit to everybody with whom there is the slightest chance of getting on a match. The protocol -another of the Colonel's favorite expressions-reads as follows :

"Since I have declared Young Corbett's match with Terry McGovern off, owing to the fact that McGovern's hand will not allow him to train for some weeks. I have received a couple of offers for the Denverite to box in the West - There are several boxers in this neck of the woods, however, who just as soon as Corbett becomes tied in a match make it a point to bombard him with challenges.

"Corbett is free now and ready to meet any man in the world, according to the word going the rounds, and will be glid to meet any of them from Gauss down. doe Humpbreys was yety accounter a fight with Corbett, when he was bound to McGovern, and if he meant business he can get accommodated now.

"HARRY POLLAR"

Pollos casts a needless reflection upon McGovern in the closing paragraph of the letter. Herry was unquestionably incapacitated trees fighting and this fact was proved, when the fridepool of Gregory

MONTANA JOE.

The Police Gazette Champion Globe Trotter who has Undertaken to Push a Wheelbarrow from New York to El Paso, Texas.

McBride, of Buffalo, the well-known referee, says he was a very decent fellow in every way and a credit to any profession. He owned a big poolroom in Toronto. and according to his brother, Andy Ward, who also boxed in and around Buffalo some years ago, the dead boy was taunted into the last contest by his alleged. triends. His mother seemed to have a premonition that ber son would be injured and begged him not to take up the match, but the boy told her he could not stand the taunts of the men in question and as a result he went to his death. This is Andy's statement of the affair:

"Mike was one of the best boys that ever stepped into a ring, and he is now dead because the papers in his home town (Sarnia, Ont.) forced him to fight again, which he should not have done. He had quit the ring for good a year ago. His poolroom in Toronto was making him lots of money, and he had saved up a nice sum from his winnings in the past. Then came the challenge from Lewis' manager, and the papers of has home town declared that he was alread to accept it. Mother begged him not to come to this fight. When he started from home, she told him with tears in her eves that she was afraid that he would never come home anve. Mike never smoked, never took a drink and never soore. He was a clean boy and loved his father and mother better than anyone else in the world. The first money that he ever earned in the prize ring he spent for a good house for father and mother."

Ward had an excellent record in the ring and up to the time he met Joe Gans was considered as a likely can fidute for the lightweight honors once held by Frank Erne, In fact, he challenged Erne when the latter was champion.

The Coroner, after the post-morten examination on

one in a body, and it happened the match turned out a rank fake. In their disgust the legislators next morning passed the present law, which even prevents the showing of fight pictures.

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Charley Neary, of Milwaukee, who for a long time has figured as a championship possibility, goes back into the discards as a result of his beating in two rounds by George Memsic. According to Dick Kane, the fight showed the real calibre of the Milwaukeeman, and proves what has always been charged against him that he has been a club favorite and has been nursed along in his own, town by those interested in the local clubs. For a long time it was asserted that it was impossible for Neary to lose a decision in Milwankee, and the present recollection of the writer is that he met his first defeat when he went to Chicago or some other Western city other than his own. Neary is said to have netted \$15,000 from about two season's boxing matches in Milwaukee. After his defeat by so ordinary a lightweight as Menisic he is not likely to add many more thousands to his little pile while he remains in the boxing business. The nursing of boxers in their own city has gotten to be somewhat of a fine art in some places. In California Jimmy Britt was a fine example, and by the clever manipulation of the inside wires by the club owners and gamblers he was enabled to make a comfortable fortune and escape defeat through the care which his sponsors took that he should not meet any man capable of giving him a good lacing. He got by Joe Gans through committing the foul which there is good reason to believe was prevlously arranged, but the machinery slipped a cog when they put Jimmy into the ring with Nelson the last time, and the pet of the gambling fraternity of 'Frisco went the voyage in eighteen rounds, and his name has teen "punk" ever since. When Jimmy came East and met Terry McGovern in Madison Square Garden, his real calibre was made manifest, for the little Terror. although all in as a boxer, and far from being the Terry of his best days, gave Britt a being and the

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