

MUTT AND JEFF—Some Substitute; It Will Cost More Than the Real Article

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BY "BUD FISHER"



## MANY STILL IN DOUBT REGARDING WILLARD-DEMPESEY CHAMPION BOUT

Place Not Decided Upon For the Big Fight—Is Jess Willard Handling His Own Fight, or Is Tex Rickard the Promoter?

[By Frank G. Menke.]

Editorial commentaries concerning the Jess Willard-Jack Dempsey affair create these questions:

1. Who is financing the fight?  
2. What is the real motive that influenced Jess Willard's sudden determination to defend his title?  
3. Will the fight ever be pulled off?  
4. The last point answers the first quite by stating that "why, Tex Rickard is the promoter." But is he? Or is Jess Willard the man behind?

Harken to this, which comes from one of the smartest men identified with pugilism, and one who claims to have positive information upon which he bases his statement:

"Jess Willard has engineered the whole thing, with Tex Rickard acting merely as his agent. Rickard has not guaranteed Willard \$100,000 out of his own pocket. The only money that Willard will get if the fight is staged is a bulky share of the profits. But Dempsey is guaranteed his \$27,500, and Rickard will get a salary and a percentage of profits in the Texas oil venture, the booming of which is the real purpose of creating publicity for the fight."

"More than a year ago Rickard left the United States, declaring he was through with the fight business. He had no intention of coming back to attempt to put on another contest. But some months ago Willard came into communication with him, and as a result of this Rickard came to the United States, had several conferences with Willard, and all of a sudden Jess announced that he would fight and would get \$100,000 for his services."

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The whole affair, according to this informant, is just a plan to boost the sale of the oil lands which Willard owns in Texas, and in which Rickard has a small share, acquired since his return to the States. Everyone who has followed the various Willard-Rickard interviews no doubt has noticed that every time those boys talk they end up with a discourse on the golden opportunities of the oil business in Texas. And every time one or another moves out of town it is with the statement, "I am bound for the oil fields."

This constant speculation about the oil fields has excited the interest of hundreds of thousands of other folks who are getting all agog over the oil lands where one can buy a few acres for a few dollars and make a few million before breakfast the next morning.

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Woodstock Girls Have Little Trouble in Trimming Guelph Team.

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## FRED ALLEN'S RINK WINS VICTORY CUP FROM GALT CURLERS

Rink Skipped by J. A. Head Defeated by London Thistles.

[By Frank G. Menke.]

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## GUELPH AGGIES HELD ANNUAL INDOOR MEET FRIDAY AFTERNOON

W. R. Gunn Again Wins Grand Championship Honors With 19 Points.

[By Frank G. Menke.]

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## TORONTO CURLERS WIN FROM PETERBORO RINKS

London reports to Bradstreet's that conditions generally are not unfavorable although there is some dullness apparent. The unseasonable weather has rather unsettled winter business, and spring trade has not started with any great degree of activity as yet. Prospects for spring, however, are thought to be encouraging in most lines. Collections have been slow in February.

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## CLUB OWNERS ARE IN FAVOR OF EXTENDING PLAYING SCHEDULE

Movement Started by American and National League Club Owners.

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