

ST. JOHN STAR, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1904.

Sporting.

The Ring.

PROMINENT FIGHTERS WHO TURNED TO BUSINESS.

There is a popular belief among those who follow the fortunes and misfortunes of a pugilist that he seldom succeeds in any business, unless he turns saloon-keeper or physical culture instructor. A notable instance to the contrary is the case of Frankie Erbe, the former lightweight champion of the world. Erbe is now a fruiterer, and what is more is making a success of the venture. He intends to pursue the business for the remainder of his days, or at least until he has acquired enough money to retire in comfort. Erbe is intelligent, and a thorough business man, who understands the value of a dollar and who knows how to earn money and keep it. He took up pugilism for what was in it and has saved the bulk of his profits in the roped arena.

Ever since Erbe can remember his father has been a dealer in fruit. It was the ambition of the elder Erbe that his son should learn the business, but Frank was too fond of athletics, especially the prize ring. Frank believed that he could make more money exchanging blows with rivals, and his calculations were not amiss. But like every other pugilist he has had his day and is now back to the calling which his father years ago had planned for him. Erbe sent the shares of his earnings in the ring to his parents with the suggestion that the money be used to purchase a large farm at Lewiston, Canada, on which fruit could be raised. This was done and it is said that the farm is one of the best for fruit raising in that part of Canada.

Erbe thought it would be better to get his experience in some large city first, and chose New York. So he took a place as salesman for a well known fruit dealer on Broadway. Erbe has held the place for nearly six months and intends to stay there until next spring, when he will return to Lewiston and join his father. Then he will open a large place in Buffalo and sell the products of his father's farm there and ship fruit to all parts of the United States and Europe. Erbe is very enthusiastic about his new calling and is confident that it will repay him in the end just as much, if not more, than battling for championships in the ring.

There is no reason why a fighter should not succeed outside the ring as well as in it, said Erbe to the reporter. "All that is necessary is to take advantage of opportunities and develop them when they arrive. I think that I can do well at anything I make up my mind to do. The old idea that the only thing a fighter is good for after he has outlived his usefulness in the roped arena is to branch out as a saloon keeper, boxing instructor or get a job as a hatter in a dive or something on that order is all wrong. At least, that is my way of looking at it. There are hundreds of other vocations a fighter can go into without inconvenience and still make enough money to keep him going and in style.

Erbe is a negro heavyweight, who came within an ace of being the champion several years ago, did not stick to fighting exclusively. Godfrey, whose habits were of the best, had the knack of making money and engaged in different lines of business. But he was best known as a window-cash and blind expert and when he died it was found that he had left a snug fortune which he made at both this business and fighting.

A few years ago in New York, Joe Chynowski was employed in a large department store as a salesman of sporting goods. Chynowski displayed such excellent abilities as a business man that when he left the department store he received a position on the road with a well known western tobacco firm selling cigars. Should defeat ever crowd Jim Jeffries' path the champion will not be compelled to detain a saloon or give boxing instructions. Jeffries has been keen eye to business and about two years ago when a proposition was made to him by a friend of his brother to go into an oil boom scheme, Chynowski readily consented.

Jeffries owns several acres of land near Los Angeles, his home, and one day he discovered oil on it. He purchased machinery to develop the property and it is said that he has received an offer of \$100,000 for the property from Standard Oil Co.

Terry McGovern is a successful turn-of-mind and theatrical promoter. McGovern owns a number of good racehorses and has a part interest in a number of well-known theatrical companies. Harry Harris, of Chicago, one of the best and cleverest bantams in the country, who defeated Fedor Palmer in England, is now the treasurer of a theatre and soon expects to go on the road as manager of a company. Billy Elmer, of California, who resigned conspicuously in the ring in 1896 and 1897, became an actor after he quit boxing, and is now part owner of a well-known theatrical physical culture academy. Jack O'Brien of Philadelphia, who is versatile as far as business ability is concerned, has a real estate office in Philadelphia and devotes a lot of his spare time to his calling when he is not fighting. Joe Goddard, the "Barrier champion," became a politician in Philadelphia after he gave up the ring. But Goddard's political activity resulted in his death after being shot in a political row at Gloucester, N. J., not long ago.

Ben Jordan, who is a master plasterer, intends to open a shop of this kind when he gives up fighting. Jordan, when not actively engaged in training for a battle, labors hard at his trade and always has on hand a number of contracts to keep him busy. Not long ago Spike Sullivan sold his trade and always has on hand a number of contracts to keep him busy. Not long ago Spike Sullivan sold his trade and always has on hand a number of contracts to keep him busy.

George Dixon started life as a photographer. Although he was very young when he left the business he has not entirely forgotten the art of taking pictures. In his spare moments Dixon practices with the camera and at some future day expects to return to the business on a large scale with a shop of his own. Jack Cooper, who used to know them down without much trouble years ago, is now the owner of a prosperous school of boxing and is said to earn \$5,000 a year. Bob Fitzsimmons, who used to be a blacksmith before he developed into a famous prize fighter, occasionally piles his old trade. Fitzsimmons turns out some fine shoes still, but does it for his own amusement. If ever he should strike a spell of adversity Fitz would still be able to make an excellent living at his trade.

Young Mitchell, the retired middleweight, is the proprietor of a paying saloon in San Francisco. Australian Billy Murphy, who in his prime could hold his own with any of the featherweights, is by trade a tailor and for years ran a little shop in a Long Island town. Mystery Smith now runs a profitable roadhouse at Portland, Ore. Charles Kummer, the former amateur middleweight champion, is now on the police force, as is Frank Peabody, a good lad in his day. Peabody is a detective sergeant. Casper Leon, formerly a clearmaker, is said to be back at his old trade somewhere in New York. Bobby Debbie is not at the head of his own athletic club in Swansea, Eng., but fights occasionally. The Frank Erbe, the Harlem Coroner, is the proprietor of a troupe of pekaninies, who appear at the English music halls under his management.

George Godfrey "Old Chocolate," the

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No time for our usual little chat, but here's some good news, just the same. Read on:

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