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The Toronto World.

FOURTEEN PAGES—SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 26 1908—FOURTEEN PAGES

Parkview Mansions
Toronto's newest apartment house;
handsome suites, 3 to 7 rooms, \$40 to \$100
per month; perfection in every detail.
H. H. WILLIAMS & CO.,
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28TH YEAR

JOHNSON IS CHAMPION BEATS BURNS 14 ROUNDS FREQUENT KNOCKDOWNS

**Police Stop Contest to Save
Knockout—Johnson Puts
Burns Down for Eight in
First Round and is Always
Ahead.**

SYDNEY, N.S.W., Dec. 26.—Jack Johnson, the big negro from Galveston, Texas, is the world's champion heavyweight pugilist. He won the title today in the big arena at Rushcutters' Bay from Tommy Burns, the Canadian, who had held it since James J. Jeffries relinquished it, and after a chase of Burns that had led half way around the world.

The end came in the fourteenth round, when the police, seeing Burns tottering and unable to defend himself from the savage blows of his opponent, mercifully stopped the fight. Previously it had been arranged that if the police interfered a decision should be rendered on points, and Referee McIntosh without hesitation declared the big black man the winner, for all thru the fight he had shown himself Burns' master in every style of fighting.

Burns, in an interview after he had gone to his dressing-room, said: "I did the best I could and fought hard. Johnson was too big, and his reach was too great."

Johnson appeared fresh after the fight, while Burns' eyes were badly puffed and his mouth swollen to twice its normal size. The Canadian fought a game battle and showed indomitable pluck, but he was no match for the big Texas black.

Twice only in the annals of pugilism has a colored man been permitted to fight for the title emblematic of world's champion heavyweight pugilist. Peter Jackson tried it with John L. Sullivan, but Sullivan would not consent to a go. After James J. Jeffries took the scalp of Bob Fitzsimmons he took on Hank Griffin at Los Angeles, but the colored man was easy for him and never had a chance to win the honor. He was knocked out in four rounds. Jeffries then drew the color line, and several years later refused Johnson to try to get on a fight with him, unavailingly.

The crowd, of some 25,000, was then Tommy Burns, or Noah Briggs, as his name really is, took up the mantle of Jeffries. The fight was for a purse of \$25,000, of which Burns received \$30,000 and Johnson \$5000. The ring was a 24 foot one and was pitched in the centre of a big arena built es-

Fight Facts.

Battle Grounds—Sydney, N.S.W.
Winner—Johnson, Tex. First colored champion of the world.
Loser—Tommy Burns, Ontario. Police stop fight to save knockout.
Fight lasted 14 rounds; was limited to 20 rounds.
Burns' End—\$30,000.
Johnson's End—\$5000.
Referee—H. H. McIntosh, the man who made the match.
Attendance—Between 15,000 and 20,000.
News reached Toronto 10 p.m.

pecially for the purpose at Rushcutters Bay. The bout was to have been for 20 rounds.

The day dawned overcast and cool. Thousands of persons from all parts of the country were attracted to the scene and many reached there Christmas night and slept in the open. They came by street cars, automobiles, carriages and horseback, and at 10 o'clock this morning, one hour before the fight was scheduled to start, every seat was occupied. The prices of seats ranged from \$25 to \$125.

The crowd was estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000 persons, and it kept perfect order throughout the fight.

Men Enter the Ring.

At 10:42 o'clock Johnson entered the arena accompanied by his seconds, Sam Fitzpatrick, Mullins, Uiholo, Lang and Bryant. Wild cheers greeted him, and the big black man turned and bowed to all four sides of the ring. Just as Johnson took his seat Burns appeared, he was smiling, and the plaudits of the spectators were even more enthusiastic than those accorded Johnson.

Burns took up his position in the western corner of the ring, surrounded by his seconds, Keating, O'Keefe, O'Donnell, Burke and Russell. When the cheering had died down somewhat, Johnson crossed over and shook Burns by the hand. The Canadian glanced at the big man of the Texan and noticed that both were covered with bandages. Fearful that perhaps they might not be of the soft surgical kind, he scrutinized them closely, but, finding them to his satisfaction, he made no objection.

The announcement was made that if during the contest the police should interfere and stop it, the referee would immediately give a decision based on points scored.

When Burns stripped off the white gloves, Johnson shouted across the ring half-angrily: "You must take those off."

They met in the centre of the ring, and for a few minutes argued the question. Then they retired again to their corners, but Burns did not remove the bandages.

Repeats Over Bandages.

From Johnson's seconds came the announcement that their man refused to fight in the centre of the ring, and that there was a possibility of the fight not taking place. Burns was stubborn and Johnson insisted on his point. The referee, however, here took a hand in the

Continued on Page 4.

THOUSAND BAIRNS AT CHRISTMAS FEST

**Yuletide Spread in Massey
Hall Graced by Presence
of Premier and Mayor
Gift-Giving in
Evening.**

J. M. Wilkinson repeated his celebrated role of the Pied Piper of Hamelin yesterday in Massey Hall, and even went the Hamelin expert one better. Mr. Wilkinson drew all the available children into the grotto of Massey Hall, and he brought hundreds of their parents along in the evening also.

Besides this, he secured the attendance of that ubiquitous person, the child, of that ubiquitous person, the child, which might be the first and despair of all manner of public performers, he piped so seductively that Sir James and Lady Whitney and Mayor Oliver and Canon Welch all graced the occasion with their presence. Many other benevolent and philoprogenitive citizens came and went during the festive scene also, and Charles Dickens himself might have been glad of the opportunity to see so many Tiny Tins and I Poor Joes and their sisters.

But Pied Piper Wilkinson is by no means satisfied, and next year he foresees that he will play on a bigger pipe, and have a bigger cave, to wit, the armories, and will gather 10,000 bairns and their fathers and mothers and give them some of the music that the herald angels sang.

For it is the Christmas spirit that stings Mr. Wilkinson's nerves, and fills his big heart on these occasions. He has heard the sweet words: "Suffer the children to come unto Me," and listened to the yearnings of the Master of the Feast, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in." To these words he has set the music of his life.

Gather for the Feast.

Never was such a riotous river of children as began to drop down the street about 11 o'clock in the morning, growing to a trickling stream about 2:30, and pouring like a torrent by 2 o'clock. The children assembled in the basement of Massey Hall, where rows and rows of tables were set, and seats were such a general and urgent tagosity had to be exercised in devising temporary expedients to get everybody down at the tables. Everybody did finally about 2:45, and Mr. Wilkinson began his remarks.

"We're awfully glad, and I'm sure you'll say so, now," he said, "that Sir James and Lady Whitney and our popular mayor, Joseph Oliver—"

At this point the children had stood like the dam at Gatun, gave way, and the applause and shrill enthusiasm which flooded forth seemed unceasing.

"Piped up," he said, "the Pied Piper, 'perfect quiet,' and other manifestations."

Enough silence was obtained to give Sir James a chance.

"Boys and girls! How are you?" he greeted them. The assurance came with a yell.

"Fine!"

He was only going to say two or three words to them. He had had there a year ago and was struck by the amiable disposition in which they met each other.

"I am not going to preach to you, or lecture you, I am not going to tell you what you should do or not do. You will do what you like anyway. I did when I was a boy, don't say he good boys, because you won't be. But set your faces against telling falsehoods. Never do any injury to a boy smaller than yourself, nor allow anyone else to do so."

"I would suggest that you should never fight—you can help it (loud cheers)—but whatever you do, do it well."

"I will ask Mr. Wilkinson to keep up this function year after year in the Christian City of Toronto," continued the premier, and then remarking that they were all good boys and subjects, he called for three cheers for King Edward. The cheers were not differentiated, but the noise lasted much longer than the regulation three cheers.

Good Advice.

"I will now ask for a cheer for the best man in the room—Rev. Mr. Wilkinson," said Premier Whitney, and once more there was a prolonged shrillness.

Mr. Wilkinson then made his announcement about next year's race, called on Mayor Oliver, whose remarks were drowned in the rising uproar.

"Go ahead boys, and eat," was the only advice that prevailed above the din of 900 young throats.

Meanwhile Mr. Wilkinson had provided himself with a whistle to attract attention and overpowered disturbance, and he proceeded to give an imitation of a C.P.R. locomotive on the Avenue-road crossing at midnight. After an interval of signaling a slight lull enabled the cathedral tones of Canon Welch to penetrate the hubbub.

He told about the drunkenness he had seen on his way to the hall, and advised the lads to keep away from "the foul stuff that caused such a lot of harm."

"Keep your own door locked against such stuff as that," he concluded, before saying grace.

Most of the visitors, including Sir James and Lady Whitney, His Worship and Mrs. Oliver and other high officials, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, whose recent benevolence prevented his attending, sent a letter of regret and a donation.

The Menu.

James Pritchard catered with a liberal hand for the crowd, plenty of roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas, plum pudding, fruit, coffee and ice cream being furnished, but before the ice cream arrived the lads and ladies were crowded to depart. There were plenty of incidents due to the original manners of some of the guests. No Kosher meat was furnished this year.

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NOTHING IN IT



WEE ALECK MACKAY. Aw, wot's de use.

NOT ALL CHEER AT YULE TIDE

**Late Christmas Dinner Leads
To Fatal Quarrel—Four
Asphyxiated—Child
Choked to Death.**

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 25.—Mrs. Turner, a 45-year-old woman, was found dead at her home at 188 Hastings-street, having been asphyxiated by escaping gas, Morris Lakeman, a grocer, his wife Elizabeth, and their children, Annie, 15 years old, and William, 15 years old, were the victims.

Four Asphyxiated.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Four persons were found dead to-day in a residence at 188 Hastings-street, having been asphyxiated by escaping gas. Morris Lakeman, a grocer, his wife Elizabeth, and their children, Annie, 15 years old, and William, 15 years old, were the victims.

The overcoat of Lakeman was found on the floor, underneath a broken gas fixture, and the police believe that the fixture was broken by the man throwing the coat over it before retiring.

Santa Claus Fatally Burned.

DETROIT, Dec. 25.—Lee Wagner was fatally burned last night while playing Santa Claus at a family reunion. Clad in a gay Santa Claus costume, which was set off by a great bunch of cotton whiskers, Wagner was leading the merriment when suddenly the cotton whiskers caught fire.

Choked by Peanut.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Martha Fones, a two-year-old child, has died at her home, while her Christmas treat, a nut, stands in the room.

C.N.R. TO BUILD NORTH APPLIES TO PARLIAMENT

**Asks Authority to Construct Lines
From Nipigon Bay
to N. T. R.**

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—The Canadian Northern Ontario Railway Co. will apply to parliament for authority to construct lines of railway from Nipigon Bay to the National Transcontinental Railway, with two branches to the northern and southern ends of Lake Nipigon, from Vermilion Bay to the N.T.R. near its crossing of the Abitibi River from a point on the aforementioned line to the south end of Lake Temiskaming.

The company will apply for extension of time to construct the following lines: Washago to Kincaid, Arncliffe to Ganarouke, Pembroke and Cobourg, Pickering to Owen Sound, Niagara to Guelph, Port Dover to Owen Sound, Hawkesbury to Toronto, line in Leeds or Lanark, Parry Sound to North Bay, French River to Batchewana, and Toronto to Ottawa.

TRAVELS OVER CONTINENT DIES IN SIGHT OF HOME

**Robert Gillespie Seized With Heart
Failure at End of Journey
From Alberta.**

LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—To drop dead within a few blocks of the home of his daughter and son-in-law whom he had traveled 2000 miles to visit, and who intended his arrival to be in the nature of a surprise, was the fate that befell Robert Gillespie of Everts, Alta., at an early hour on Christmas morning.

Mr. Gillespie is the father-in-law of P. C. Clarence Kelly, by whom he was identified this morning. He arrived in the city on a late train and was proceeding to the home of Mr. Kelly, 41 Oxford-street, West London, when a severe attack of heart failure caused his death.

Only a few minutes before Mr. Gillespie had been in conversation with P. C. Fowler and appeared in the best of health. In passing near the same spot a short time later, Mr. Gillespie was found lying on the sidewalk, P. C. Fowler summoned Dr. Waugh, but life was extinct. The man could not have been dead many minutes when he was discovered by P. C. Fowler, as his body was still warm.

MONTREALER IN DESPAIR TRIES SUICIDE IN STORE

**Destitute Condition Emphasized by
Happiness of Others at Christ-
mas Time.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—With no money to buy a pistol or poison with which to end his life, Edgar Verner, a youth from Montreal, not to be balked by his pistol plans, borrowed a small calibre revolver in a hardware store in Seventh-avenue last night under the pretence of making a purchase, and, persuading the clerk to load the weapon for him so that he could understand its mechanism, fired a bullet into his left breast.

Staggering to the doorway he fell unconsciously to the sidewalk, and was rushed to Bellevue Hospital. After an examination the surgeons said that the young man's wound was not serious, and he would probably recover. He was held on a charge of attempted suicide.

Verner is 25 years of age, and is supposed to have been despondent because he was out of employment, his destitute condition being emphasized by the happiness of others at Christmas time.

Drowned at Chatham.

CHATHAM, Dec. 25.—Herbert Johnson, aged 4, son of Hector Johnson, farmer, near here, was drowned in the Thames River yesterday evening, and the body was not recovered.

The boy, with a brother, walked on the ice, was warned off, but Herbert later returned with his dog and broke thru the ice. The dog also was drowned.

Hon. Charles Devlin Ill.

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Hon. Charles R. Devlin looks suddenly ill while leaving church at Avimere, Quebec this morning and has had to cancel all his engagements in connection with Quebec by-election. He is suffering from collapse.

FULL OF CHEER WAS CITY'S MORN

**Soft Weather Spoiled Outdoor
Sports, But Everyone Had
the Festive Spirit—
Holiday Festivities**

Toronto wasn't favored with Kris Kringle weather for Christmas. It was not a day for out-door recreation, and even the most ardent skater and tobogganist had to admit that conditions made enjoyment of the sports impossible. Neither was it a day for the fullest delights of fireside domesticity, the atmosphere lacking that crisp freshness which makes the open grate most potent attractive. But for all that, Toronto enjoyed its Christmas in the good, old-fashioned family circle way, and the proper festive spirit was little subdued by dull skies, sloppy streets and general weather conditions belonging to a day in late March.

Good Cheer for All.

It was a time of good cheer for everyone. There were few families which did not enjoy holiday fare, certainly none suffered if the great band of the city's charitable workers could prevent it. The youngsters were well taken care of by the "poor bairns" dinner in Massey Hall, while in every charitable institution turkey or roast beef and plum pudding, with all the other time-honored trimmings, were served, and baskets of good things found their way to the homes of the needy.

Two Sudden Deaths.

Two sudden deaths occurred in the city Christmas Day.

Henry Ford, 70 years of age, died in his chair at his room, 104 Nassau-st., but the matter was reported to the chief coroner, and the body was removed to the morgue.

William Reynolds, 61 years of age, 214 East King-street, was found dead in bed at 5:30 yesterday morning. Death was pronounced due to heart failure, and the matter was reported to the coroner.

Bars Closed at Mid-Day.

Practically all of the city hotel bars closed up from two to four hours during mid-day. Some closed all afternoon, and a few remained open during the entire day, but closed up in the evening. The latter occurrences were in essentially "business office districts," where patronage is regular, and in transient trade is not much catered to. The custom of mid-day closing has been in vogue for a number of years, and was agreed to by the Hotel-keepers' Association as a consideration to the employees, that they might have an opportunity to enjoy a Christmas dinner with their families or friends.

Through the long day the streets were orderly, and there were few visible cases of undue celebration.

The usual Christmas treat was given the inmates of the Central Prison, they being granted a special dinner, which varied considerably from their regular diet.

In the afternoon nearly all the 400 men confined in the penitentiary took advantage of the entertainment provided for them by the Prisoners' Aid Association in the assembly room. The musical part of the program was presented by Mrs. Dilworth, a soprano soloist; Mrs. Knowlton, a contralto singer; and J. R. Milne.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

The big fur sale at Dintons' commences in the splendid show rooms at the Yonge and Temperance-street corners this morning and an immense stock of new high quality fur garments to be disposed of on the smallest margin of profit, in fact, in some cases at a loss. The remarkably low prices are a feature of this sale. It goes without saying that articles can be thoroughly repaid upon if purchased at Dintons'. The store will be open till 11 o'clock to-night.

Continued on Page 7.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC FORCES DOWN PRICES

**Labor Solidly Supports Beck
Power Policy and Forms
Nucleus of Public Opin-
ion—Independent
Attitude Grows.**

BRANTFORD, Dec. 24.—(Staff Special.)—Apart from every other consideration the fact remains that the hydro-electric power commission by its mere existence without having more than set out to begin to do what has been proposed has done more to procure a reduction in prices from the various private electric corporations, than any other agencies.

The Hamilton Times, for example, talks about the World "kiting municipal candidates who put the city's interests before that of the hydro-electric scheme into which Toronto seeks to inveigle."

The Hamilton Spectator credits the World with the endeavor "to create a power split in Conservative ranks in Hamilton" and, according to the Spectator, "having failed to work up a power issue."

The reduced terms already offered to Hamilton by the Cataract Power Company, of which the Spectator and the Times are the obedient organs, are sufficient answer as to who has the municipal interests of Hamilton, and other cities most at heart. But for the hydro-electric power scheme, which these organs are so anxious to knife and which the World has consistently supported, not one dollar of abatement in its exorbitant charges would ever have been offered to Hamilton or Brantford or any other city by the Cataract and other private power interests. This fact is so patent, so important, so irrefutable, that the opponents of the hydro-electric power plan and their newspaper organs never refer to the matter if they can avoid it. All they do is to declare that it would be entirely wrong and unjust to endeavor to obtain any further benefits or concessions for the municipalities.

Everyone knows that if the hydro-electric power scheme could be killed and buried the Cataract Power Co. and all other similar monopolies would as soon as possible return to the charge which the more suggestive organs endeavor to obtain any further benefits or concessions for the municipalities.

The World is satisfied that the electors of Hamilton are not to be hoodwinked into cutting the rate that has towed them into comparative poverty. The organs of monopoly would be glad to see the municipalities lying derelict again, but the people will be satisfied with nothing but the secure haven of municipal cheap power under the commission. In no other way can a reasonable competitive service now be obtained.

Well Understood.

The larger issue is well understood by the masses of the people and they know that the possession of \$100 worth of even \$500 worth of private power stock would lead to a reduction of income in the event of cheap Niagara power being installed as would offset the gain by reduced bills for light and power.

In Brantford the whole subject has been threshed out at every new election, at every proposal to change in rates or a renewal of franchises, and on every occasion when a new development in the hydro-electric power plan requires a revision of rates to the people. As a result the people understand the question much better than some of the writing captives do. The big fellows see only a possibility of loss in dividends. The people see the advantage and convenience and comfort of cheap power in their shops and cheap light in their homes; they see the enhanced values of their homes; they are aware of the increased attraction of their city for new industries; they know what this means in progress, in the growing importance of their community under such conditions and the altogether more favorable terms of existence which such conditions ensure. If it is good for the private occupant to control and sell power it must be equally good for the people to do so. They see no flaw in this argument, and they hear no opposition to it except from those whose interest leads them to deny that it is an argument at all.

Issue Clear.

In no city in Ontario, not even in Toronto, has more pains been taken than in Brantford to make the issues clear. Aid. Andrews, with extraordinary application and assiduity, has constituted himself a lay authority on the subject, and he has been ably seconded by all aid sundry. The Western Counties Electric Co., which is the local ally for the big Cataract power octopus, has been very busy.

Continued on Page 7.



JACK JOHNSON.
New Heavyweight Champion of the World.