

Jess Willard Not Bit Like Other Champions

Isn't Inclined to Appear in Frolic Bouts as Predecessors Did—Cannot Easily Forget Jibes of Fans When he Started His Career.

Now that the circus season is over and Jess Willard has nothing to preoccupy his time he might pay a little attention to ring affairs for a change. There is no demand for a championship match that calls for a \$50,000 purse, as none of the champion's prospective opponents looms large enough upon the horizon to make it worth a promoter's while in these troublesome times. But there seems to be no particular reason why Willard should not do a little exhibition boxing for a percentage of whatever he can draw at the gate.

All the other heavyweight champions were willing to take on the small fry without making any fuss about it, while there were no big matches in sight. In between his championship fights, John L. Sullivan made his famous tour of the country, meeting all comers. Jim Corbett made no bones about polishing off a second rater here and there, while Fitzsimmons and Jeffries frequently donned the gloves against all comers. Jack Johnson, although always careful to insist upon his price—\$30,000—when his prospective opponent was one of the prominent contenders was not so particular when it came to a short no-decision bout with some second rater.

Willard is backward. Willard is the first heavyweight champion to refuse to show himself in action unless paid a small fortune for the stunt. According to the majority of fight experts, Willard outclasses even the best of the contenders so far that a match would be no contest. If that is the case, it is all the more reason why he should be willing to box a few rounds here and there if only to let the sporting public know that he is still well-financed.

The general impression is that Willard has grown so fat and soft that it would take several weeks of hard training to make him fit for an exhibition bout, but that is not the case.

One reason why Willard keeps himself so exclusive is that he has a profound dislike for anything that resembles fighting. If he had anything of the pride of position and natural love of combat that old Bob Fitzsimmons and all the other champions had in more or less degree he would find plenty of excuse and opportunity for doing a little boxing even though there is no rival who appears to threaten to annex his title.

Confidence Helps Lot. Any athlete who is sure of himself and is the best man in his special line likes to show off a little, not to mention the easy money, to be picked up and if Willard really thought he could make his rivals look like a lot of jokes it is reasonable to think that he would proceed to do it.

Willard's diffidence leads one to suspect that he believes the laugh might be on him instead of his opponent if he got into the ring with some husky youngster. Jack Johnson was never so pelted as when boxing rings around some dub and meanwhile holding a conversation with the ringsters. Fitzsimmons thought it a great joke to plant his left shift and bring down some giant novice, but Willard has no box of tricks to display. He evidently has not forgotten how the fans used to ridicule his efforts right up to the time he met Johnson for the championship. He has no desire to offer himself as a target for more gibes.

Not So Sure of Himself. Although outwardly Willard looks to be physically fit, it must be remembered that he is getting well along in years, and there is no means of telling how he would stand the strain of a real battle, now that almost two years have gone by since he appeared in the ring. Moran was not capable of extending him to his great extent, but even then it was noticed that while Willard had acquired more finish to his boxing he had lost much of the vigor that he had displayed when he first appeared on the scene.

The champion is always considered to be invulnerable until some younger man comes along, and then ring followers wonder why they did not notice the signs of retrogression before. No doubt if Willard remains idle for years to come, all challenges directed his way will be laughed out of court. But if Willard ever does fight again, even in an exhibition bout, the chances are that he will not come up to expectations. Willard knows that so well that there is very little chance of seeing him in the ring unless he is guaranteed a sum out of all proportion to the worth of the match.

Sporting Comment

Ottawa Would Break In. Ottawa, Nov. 13.—The announcement of the formation of the new Union Baseball league, consisting of teams from the International league and American association, has aroused considerable interest here by reason of the fact that Ottawa will likely be included in the proposed new international.

It is a foregone conclusion that the cities eliminated by the organization of Toronto, Buffalo, Newark and Baltimore into a circuit with four of the American association teams will be followed by the launching of a class A league. Already New York reports are to the effect that Ottawa will be linked up with Montreal, Albany, Syracuse, Providence and other cities in the reconstructed international. Hopes, in fact, are held out that Ottawa will be resumed in Ottawa next summer.

That the capital is a great little baseball burg was shown in 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915, when the Ottawas won the pennant in the Canadian league. Until 1915, when war-time interference and a lop-sided pennant race interfered, the Ottawa club made big money. It was favored by Sunday baseball on the Hull side of the river, and games over there never failed to draw big crowds. Frank Shaughnessy managed the team in 1913, 1914 and 1915, and among the players he developed was Urban Shocker, now of the New York Americans. Baseball became immensely popular in Ottawa, and visiting teams always did well financially on their trips to the capital.

It is believed, however, that it would be better to include Hamilton and London in the proposed new international, and to leave out some of the American clubs. Hamilton and London are both splendid baseball towns, as they too demonstrated in their former days in the Canadian league. One Ottawa man, discussing the important shakeup last

night, said he believed the most successful league would be one consisting of Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and Springfield.

This would give it a distinctly international coloring and would minimize travelling expenses.

It is doubtful if the resumption of play in the capital would be advisable until after the war, but if the international magnates wish to introduce the capital in their new circuit they will probably find owners of the Ottawa Baseball Club ready to co-operate enthusiastically.

The owners of the Montreal baseball club, in the international league when asked to-day what would be the attitude of the Montreal club in view of the story published from New York yesterday about a re-districting of the minor leagues, in which Montreal appeared to have no place, said: "Montreal will look after its own interests."

Mr. Lichtenhein said he could not conceive of any such plan as was reported being under way, as it was absolutely opposed to the regulations of national baseball. It was not sensible, he added, to say that clubs under national constitutions could be summarily dropped. "Certainly," he said, "it can't be done without compensation, and Montreal will look after its own interests."

MANY SUBSTITUTES. By Courier Leased Wire.

Zurich, Nov. 12.—An official report by the German war food bureau says that more than 10,000 substitutes are now used in Germany. Seven thousands of these are substitutes for food. At the beginning of 1917, there were less than 2,000 substitutes, of which twelve hundred were food substitutes.

EXCHANGE RISING. By Courier Leased Wire.

Copenhagen, Nov. 12.—The strong rise in exchange rates continues. The dollar to-day was quoted at 315; sterling at 14.50; marks at 48 and Austrian crowns at 30. The movement is partly speculative, but to a certain represents the serious views of the situation held by business men here.

VALUABLE HAULS ON IRISH COAST

Fishermen Bring To Surface Salvage From Torpedoed Steamers

Base American Flotillas in British Waters, Nov. 12.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Irish fishermen along the coasts where the U-boats operate, have made some remarkable catches during the past year. The story of the fishermen who found a \$15,000 box of diamonds from the Lusitania in his nets one day, and whose honesty in returning them to their rightful owners was rewarded by a check for \$1,000, is well-known. There is another fisherman who came home from a fishing expedition with a fine new American automobile lashed to the deck of his little trawler. There are hundreds of fishermen who have made modest fortunes out of salvage of one kind or another. Wheat, flour and coal salvage are all profitable businesses in the coast towns nowadays.

The story of the man who came home from the sea with a brand new automobile is a household favorite in the Irish ports. Accompanied by his son he was mackerel fishing when he was aroused by the report of an explosion. On the horizon a cargo steamer from America was setting by the stern. It had been torpedoed. The fishermen headed for it and soon met the captain and crew in two open boats. "She's loaded with American automobiles, you might get one before she goes under," said the skipper jokingly as he and his shipmates passed on toward shore.

The torpedoed ship was still well above water when the fisherman came alongside. He at once sent his son on board to look around. The latter found the hold full of automobiles. "Run one out through this gangway," directed the father. With the aid of some tackle the machine was dropped into the fishing vessel. A few minutes later as the trawler steamed away the ship disappeared. The fisherman with an automobile is now the envy of his village.

Many torpedoed vessels manage to reach shore where they are usually pounded to pieces on the rocks. But before the cargo is lost forever people come from miles around to salvage it. Anything that will float is used and everyone helps himself. Men, women and children attack cargo and ship, removing brass fittings and anything else of value. Flour and canned meats, fruits and vegetables form the larger portion of the salvaged articles.

One village has had the good fortune to have a couple of foodships bring up on its very doorstep. Most of the ships of course go down at sea. But this does not deter the alert fishermen who have been known to transfer several hundred sacks of the best American flour from a vessel while it is sinking many miles from land. If the explosion tears a big enough hole in the victim much of the cargo will become loosened and wash ashore where it is quickly picked up by watchful eyes of the natives.

Salvage companies also are very active and are making huge profits. Some have transferred their whole staffs to this coast. Their agents can bid on a wheat cargo without seeing it and can tell just how far into a sack of flour the water will have penetrated in the given period.

WOUNDED AND MISSING. Montreal, Nov. 12.—Lieut. Williams-Taylor, only son of Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, with the Imperial Cavalry forces, operating in Mesopotamia, has been reported wounded and missing.

HENDRICKS FOR CARDS? By Courier Leased Wire.

Chicago, Nov. 12.—Jack Hendricks, manager of the Indianapolis club of the American Association, has been offered the position of managers of the St. Louis Nationals, to succeed Miller Huggins, who went to the New York Americans, according to a story printed here to-day. Hendricks is expected to give his final answer to-day after a conference with James G. Hill, owner of the Indianapolis club.

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SIDE TALKS

By Ruth H. Cameron. THE THINGS OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T DO.

"But I've often heard you say She Can't Have Anyone Chew Gum things like that yourself," protested Molly when the Cynic resented her attempts to jolly him about his habit of getting excited and talking in bunches.

"That's all right," said the Cynic. "If I want to say those things about myself I can, but it's a very different thing for anyone else to say them."

What a lot of things we do about ourselves that we wouldn't let anyone else say.

Wouldn't We be Mad if Anyone Else Said These Things. "Here I am monopolizing the whole conversation."

"I know I have the homeliest nose in existence," etc., etc. And then there are, with many of us, certain things that we can't bear to have other people do which, when we do them seem perfectly inoffensive.

For instance, I hate to hear anyone else sneeze. It makes me intensely nervous. I feel as if they could help it if they tried and that they are doing it on purpose to annoy me. Yet I love to sneeze myself (I can almost understand the snuff habit). I feel that my sneeze is a clean, hard, dry sneeze that no one could possibly take objection to, whereas my housemates, naturally indignant at being requested not to sneeze, assert that it is one of the worst they ever heard.

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THAT SON-IN-LAW OF PA'S

—By Wellington