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TORONTO TAKES IN THE FIGHT

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KNOCK-OUT GIVEN OUT AT 4

How the Big Throng of 2500 Acted At the Pavilion.

Fighting Was Reported Started Shortly After 3 o'clock—It Looked Like Corbett Early in the Game, But Soon the Fitzsimmons Throng Asserted Themselves and Wound Up All Their Own Way.

To say that the excitement was intense in the city over the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight is putting it very mild. At the noon hour the down-town streets were literally thronged, the newspaper offices being besieged like election day. Not only had the free shows great crowds, but the special wires at the Pavilion, at the Princess, the Toronto Opera House, the Auditorium and Bijou attracted full houses.

Perhaps the representative crowd of sporting men were thronged into the Pavilion. All the turf men in the city and all the big speculators were there. The doors were opened at exactly noon, but the place did not fill until 1 o'clock, the time announced for starting the first round. Then the big hall was literally jammed, the number being estimated at 2500. It was a most orderly crowd and at the outset one could not tell whether it was a Fitzsimmons or a Corbett house, but as the game progressed it was seen that the Cornishman was greatly in favor and when the knockout blow was announced pandemonium reigned supreme.

The delay at Carson City was two hours and the time from 1 to 3 o'clock here did not seem long in slipping away, as interesting preliminary news was called off from the identical wire that ran from the ring side. The special announcements were all cheered and there was a gallant hurrah for Mrs. Fitzsimmons when her entrance to the arena was announced.

An amusing incident occurred when one of the temperance mottoes lost its bearings above the stage and slipped gracefully down. The banner read, "Under the Auspices of the Women's Christian Temperance League," and there was much merriment until the banner was hoisted.

It was just 14 minutes past 3 o'clock when Announcer Roy Irving started to call off the fight. As the battle progressed nonpartisan hearers were confident that the rounds were being sent by a Corbett enthusiast, or else it was simply Corbett doing some nice sparring and landing blows that were pie for Fitzsimmons. The critics long ago declared that Fitzsimmons could not get near Corbett, but in the very first round he landed the initial blow. But Corbett seemed to have the advantage at the start, and also the second, while the third looked like a stand-off. Fitz forced the fighting in the fourth round. The fifth was Corbett's, and here he gets credit for drawing first blood from Lanky Bob's nose. It was in the sixth that Fitz stayed on his knees until the limit. In the seventh the Cornishman did good work, but the round ended with honors even. Corbett again did the best work in the eighth, while the ninth was almost even, with slight honors in favor of the Cornishman. The tenth was a vicious round and again Fitz had slightly the best of it.

Now the eleventh came and it was announced that Corbett was growing tired. The knowing ones shook their heads, saying that they knew that he never was in condition and that Fitz's good living would surely win him the battle. Again Corbett rallied in the twelfth and had the best of it. Although tired he showed up well in the unlucky thirteenth, but no sooner was this round declared over than the announcer raised himself on his toes and gave out at the top of his voice the significant words:

"FITZ WINS!"

This was exactly eight minutes past 4, Toronto time, and almost everyone threw up their hats. Some over enthusiastic Britishers started up "Rule Britannia" and the big crowd joined them for a verse. It was with difficulty the throng was quieted and they remained on their feet until the description of the last round was given out and then quietly dispersed.

GOOD-BYE, JIM CORBETT.

The Pitcher Off Goes to the Well, But It is Broken at Last.

James J. Corbett was born in San Francisco, Sept. 1, 1866. His height is 6 feet 1 inch, and his best fighting weight is in the neighborhood of 180 pounds. His pugilistic career began in 1885, when he won from Dave Eastman, Captain J. H. Daly, Mike Brennan, John Donaldson, Martin Costello, William Miller, Frank Smith, Draw with Duncan McDonald. He was defeated in a boxing contest for the amateur championship gold medal of the Ariel Club in San Francisco by Billy Welch in four rounds.

JAMES J. CORBETT.

A few months later he scored first knockout by putting Billy Welch to sleep in one round.

In 1887 he defeated Jack Burge in eight rounds, and his battles since, with results, have been as follows:

1888.

Defeated Frank Glover, three rounds, San Francisco.

1889.

May 30—Police interfered in a four-round bout, with Joe Choynski, Fairfax, Cal.

June 5—Won from Choynski, skin gloves, 27 rounds, Benecia, Cal.

July 15—Bested Choynski, four rounds, San Francisco, Cal.

July 29—Draw with Dave Campbell, Corbett was the best, but agreed not to knock out; ten rounds; Portland, Ore.

1890.

Feb. 18—Won from Jake Kilrain on points, six rounds, New Orleans.

March 20—Sparred Mike Donovan, New York City.

April 14—Won from Dominick McCaffrey, four short rounds, Brooklyn.

1891.

May 21—Draw with Peter Jackson, 61 rounds, San Francisco.

June 26—Sparred with John L. Sullivan, San Francisco.

Aug. 5—Sparred with Jim Hall, four rounds, Chicago.

1892.

Oct. 8—Won from Ed. Kinney, four rounds, Milwaukee, Wis.

Sept. 7—Won from Sullivan, 21 rounds, New Orleans, La.

1894.

Jan. 25—Knocked Charley Mitchell out, three rounds, Jacksonville, Fla.

Sept. 7—Fought six rounds with Peter Courtney for the kinetoscope, Orange, N.J.

1895.

Jan. 5—Knocked out McVey in a three-round exhibition bout, New York city.

1896.

June 24—Draw with Tom Sharkey in four rounds, Sharkey best, San Francisco, Cal.

1897.

March 17—Knocked out by Bob Fitzsimmons, Carson City, 14 rounds.

John Auchincloss, who lived on Farley-avenue, stole two kegs of white lead from his former employers, James Roberston & Company. He was sent to the Central for a year by the Police Magistrate.

Clifford Dill, a lad 16 years of age, got fresh on the U.C.C. Rink, and kicked the proprietor, when he tried to eject him. Magistrate Denison sent him to jail for 40 days.

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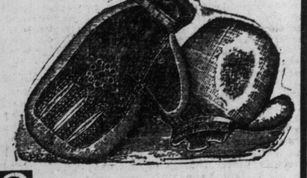

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FROM TEXAS TO CARSON CITY

The Events That Led Up to the Big Battle.

STUART'S COLOSSAL NERVE

Battered from State to State, and Finally Nevada Took Him.

The Fights Arranged for Texas and Arkansas—How Fitz Whipped Maher and O'Donnell and Secured the Championship—The Purse and Stakes They Fought For—About George Siler, the Referee.

Carson City, March 17.—The bustle and crowds of the past couple of days, which have transformed this sleepy little town into a hustling burg, appeared only a drop in the ocean in comparison with the excitement on the streets in the early morning of this battle of the century. The voice of the fakir rose above the din and clatter of hundreds of voices, all keyed on the one note—fight. The Frankfuter sausage man with his factory on wheels, sports of high and low degree, gamblers and flashily-attired females, made up crowds which startled the ordinary everyday Carsonite almost out of his senses. The flush and fever and fight excitement were everywhere. The staid business man left his counter to saunter about and be among the pugilists, to get a glimpse of Corbett, wait for Fitzsimmons, be introduced to John L. or to brush up against somebody or something connected with the fight.

All preliminary arrangements, with the exception of the rather unimportant position of master of ceremonies, were harmoniously completed by midnight. There was something of a wrangle about the gloves, which were taken out of Stuart's safe. Martin Julian, as usual, started the preliminaries by objecting to the rough manner in which the seams were sewed on Corbett's gloves.

Brady, not to be outdone, took exception to the workmanship of Fitzsimmons' gloves. After a little sparring both managers cooled down, and the gloves were accepted and returned to the safe in Stuart's office, where the gauntlets remained in charge of the Texan until thrown into the ring. The gloves were weighed, wrapped up, and making allowance for the paper, string and scales at the limit of maximum weight, five ounces.

The next important item was the toss for corners, and Julian got a set back when the coin was flipped and his call was not turned. Brady chose the southeast corner, where Jim had his broad back to the sun.

William Muldoon of New York was named as official timekeeper, while Lou Houseman of Chicago was selected to hold the watch for the Australian, and Jimmy Coville of Boston performed a like office for Corbett.

SILER HELPED THE GAME ALONG.

George Siler of Chicago, who has already gained no little share of fame by his interpretation of rule 12 of the Marquis of Queensberry rules, whereby the much-mooted questions as to hitting in clinches with one hand free, and hitting during the break-away, were decided in the affirmative, held the most responsible of the official positions. On Siler's integrity, coolness and sound judgment much depended, and his office as official referee was an onerous duty. The Chicago man is well known and respected by the fraternity at large, and has labored for two years in unceasing endeavor to bring together the two greatest fighters of this or any other century. Neither the expenditure of time and money, nor the countless setbacks he has received, have been sufficient to daunt Stuart, and his wonderful pertinacity and courage under strenuously adverse circumstances should command admiration.

The history of the negotiations which culminated in the entry of Corbett and Fitzsimmons to the ring at Carson, presents a number of features which have never been equalled in the annals of pugilism. Not only was special legislation enacted by two States to prevent the men from meeting, and that in opposition to the opinions of several of the best humanitarians in these States, but the Government of another country was required to co-operate with the States of Texas and Arkansas to stop the fight, should it take place on the border line. Then, too, the municipal authorities in the States selected for the battle were decidedly in favor of the mill, but were, of course, dominated by gubernatorial opposition. A brief resume of the events leading up to this morning will show that Stuart's pluck and enterprise were heavily called upon.

In April, 1895, the Texan obtained a controlling interest in the Florida Athletic Club. His first step was to shift the headquarters from Jacksonville to Dallas, Texas. Before taking this step Stuart obtained the very best legal advice to be had in the State, and counsel agreed that glove fighting was not illegal in the State of Texas.

FIRED FROM TEXAS.

Then Stuart signed Corbett and Fitzsimmons to fight for a big purse on Oct. 21. The ground for the arena was surveyed and matters progressed rapidly, some 5000 feet of lumber being on the spot when the trouble arose. Gov. Culberson called a special meeting of the Legislature and declared glove fighting in the State illegal. This put an end to any hopes of a fight on Texas soil, and the battle was postponed. Nothing daunted, Stuart struck out for a new claim, and when the Mayor and citizens of Hot Springs, Ark., offered inducements, he at once set to work to get the two men together. Corbett started to train at Hot Springs, while Fitz was getting himself into shape at Corpus Christi, Texas. Affairs began to work smoothly then, and for a time all concerned fancied themselves in clover. However, the hoodoo stuck deeply and again the chief executive put in his veto. Not satisfied with this, Gov. Clarke went two steps further and Fitz was arrested when he crossed the Arkansas border, and was brought to Little Rock on a charge of being about to participate in a prize fight, contrary to the penal code of the State. A day or so later Corbett was arrested and brought to the capital in charge of the Hot Springs sheriff. The men were released on giving bonds not to fight in the State. Then Corbett became disgusted and went out of training, and Stuart was many thousands on the wrong side of the ledger. The fates seemed arrayed against him to prevent Corbett and Fitzsimmons from meeting, and the manager switched off from the attempt and matched Maher against Fitz. But he still stuck with bulldog tenacity to the original match, and secured the signatures of the Australian and the Californian to provisional articles and started off in October to Nevada, where he prospected the ground.

FITZ WAS CHAMPION.

Previous to the meeting of Fitz and the Irishman, Maher met Steven O'Donnell, Corbett's ex-sparring partner, at the Empire Athletic Club, Maspeth, N. Y., and knocked him out in the first round. Corbett was a spectator, and when Maher was going to his corner, Jim jumped into the ring and resigned the heavyweight championship to Peter. The result of the battle on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande on February 21, of last year, is fresh in the minds of all followers of pugilism, as the Australian disposed of Maher in short order, and thereupon rightfully claimed the heavyweight championship of the world.

Stuart at length got the representatives of Corbett and Fitzsimmons together in New York, with the result that on the 17th of December the articles of agreement were signed for a battle to a finish, under Queensberry rules. The purse offered by Stuart was $15,000, and the men put up a side bet of $2500 a side and a forfeit of a like amount. Stuart posted a forfeit of $5000, and named the date of the meeting for March 17, 1897, between 7 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., and agreed to inform the principals of the battle ground by February 17. The articles further reserved all privileges to Stuart and were signed by the principals with Charles E. (Parson) Davies and Martin Julian as witnesses.

William Kenyon Wheelock, Stuart's confidential agent, disappeared from Dallas early in January of the present year, and came to Carson, where he masqueraded as William Kenyon. Wheelock procured the aid of Al Livingston, a prominent Nevada sport, and the pair lobbied the bill legalizing glove contests through the Legislature, which was then in session. The measure was introduced by Assemblyman Garrard on January 20, passed both houses and received Gov. Sadler's signature four days later.

HO, FOR CARSON CITY!

Within a fortnight after the bill became law, Corbett and Fitzsimmons were both on their way to Nevada. Corbett was first on the ground, and selected Shaw's Springs Hotel, three miles from Carson, for his training quarters. He was accompanied by Jack McVey, Billy Woods and Kid Egan. Billy Delaney joined the party a week later and Charley White came on from New York in time to put on the finishing touches. Corbett trained more conscientiously for this battle than he ever trained before.

Fitzsimmons settled down to hard work at Cook's ranch, a short distance west of the town, nearly a month ago, and he improved every minute of the time from that date. Ernest Roeber, the wrestler; Dan Hickey, and Jack Stelzner have kept him busy, and aside from a slight cold, which he could not break up for nearly two weeks, he had no setbacks in his work. Many judges believed he was down a trifle too fine for a hard fight, but his trainers insisted he was at his best.

The old race track grounds were leased by Stuart, and in the centre of the course he erected an arena on which 18,000 people could be seated with comfort. The structure cost him not less than $15,000, and is the most novel and substantial of its kind in existence.

THEIR MEASUREMENTS.

Both Corbett and Fitzsimmons were measured by their trainers. The figures in regard to Corbett are vouched for by Billy Delaney and Charley White, while Roeber and Hickey are responsible for the measurement of Fitzsimmons. The measurements of both men as they faced each other in the ring were:

Corbett.		Fitzsimmons.	
6 ft. 0¼ in.	Height	5 ft. 11¾ in.	
15 inches	Right biceps	12¾	inches
14½ inches	Left biceps	12¼	inches
17¼ inches	Neck	15½	inches
39 inches	Chest	42¼	inches
32½ inches	Waist	32½	inches
21½ inches	Thigh	20	inches
12½ inches	Calf	12	inches
6 2-3 inches	Right wrist	6 2-3	inches

CHAMPION LANKY BOB.

Record of the Cornishman Who Laid Jim Corbett Low.

Robert Fitzsimmons was born in Helston, Cornwall, England, June 4, 1862. He stands 5 feet 11¾ inches, and his best fighting weight is 160 pounds. He learned the trade of a blacksmith, but went to New Zealand and branched out as a prize fighter. The records of his early fights are very hazy, but from the best information obtainable they are as follows: His first appearance was made at Timaru, New Zealand, in Jem Mace's competition in 1880, where he defeated four men and won the amateur championship of New Zealand. Next year in the same competition he knocked out five men, among them being Herbert Slade, "The Maori."

ROBERT FITZSIMMONS.

On Dec. 17, 1889, Fitzsimmons defeated Dick Ellis of New Zealand, in three rounds. His other battles up to date follow:

1890.

Feb. 10—Lost to Jim Hall, four rounds, Sydney, Australia.

May 10—Arrived in San Francisco.

May 17—Fought Frank Allen and broke that fighter's wrist with a swinging blow in the first round, San Francisco.

May 29—Won from Billy McCarthy, nine rounds, San Francisco.

June 28—Won from A. O. Upman, scoring his first knockout; five rounds; New Orleans.

1891.

Jan. 14—Knocked out Jack Dempsey, 13 rounds, New Orleans.

April 28—Knocked out Abe Caugle, two rounds, Chicago.

May 1—Won from the "Black Pearl," four rounds, Minneapolis.

1892.

March 2—Knocked out Peter Maher, 12 rounds, New Orleans.

April 30—Knocked out James Farrell, two rounds, Newark, N.J.

May 7—Knocked out Joe Godfrey, one round, Philadelphia.

March 11—Knocked out Jerry Slattery, two rounds, New York.

Sept. 3—Knocked out Millard Zender, one round, Anniston, Ala.

1893.

March 8—Knocked out Jim Hall, two rounds, New Orleans.

March 25—Knocked out Phil Mayo, two rounds, Chicago.

May 30—Knocked out Warner, one round, Baltimore.

Sept. 5—Won from Jack Hickey, three rounds, Newark, N.J.

1894.

June 17—Draw with Joe Choynski, Police interfered in fifth round, Fitz best, Boston.

July 28—Knocked out Frank Keller, two rounds, Buffalo.

Sept. 26—Knocked out Dan Creedon, two rounds, New Orleans.

Nov. 19—Killed Con Riordan, in a boxing bout at Syracuse, N.Y.

1895.

April 16—Knocked out Al Allich, three rounds, New York.

April 19—Knocked out M. Connors, one round, New York.

1896.

Feb. 21—Knocked out Peter Maher, one round, 1 minute 35 seconds, Mexico, opposite Langtry, Tex.

Dec. 2—Knocked out Tom Sharkey, eight rounds. Referee Wyatt Earp gave fight to Sharkey on a foul, San Francisco.

1897.

March 17—Knocked out J. J. Corbett in the 14th round, Carson City.

NO MORE FIGHTS.

There has been a great deal of talk lately about the big Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight, but it's all settled now. Jim is knockout out. There has been another knock-out, which is more popular than the one in the fight. The A. D. Fisher Company of No. 8 and 30 Queen-street east have given the cycle dealers of Toronto such a knockout they will not get over this year, by placing in the market a line of bicycles which defy competition in price, quality, design, or finish. They are the most beautiful bicycles in Toronto. Call and see them. We can meet you at your price. Advt.

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CAVANAGH TO CORBETT.

[Copy of an interesting telegram sent to Corbett.]

March 5, 1897.

To James J. Corbett, Carson, Nevada:

My opinion is that for one of your cerebral organization and acknowledged unusual activity, that training very fine will be the regrettable action of your life. Most quick-motioned individuals of the motive mental temperament are handicapped through life (suffer from periodical mental depression), because of insufficient flesh. As you value your endurance, stomach and heart's action, apportion your weight to the size of your head.

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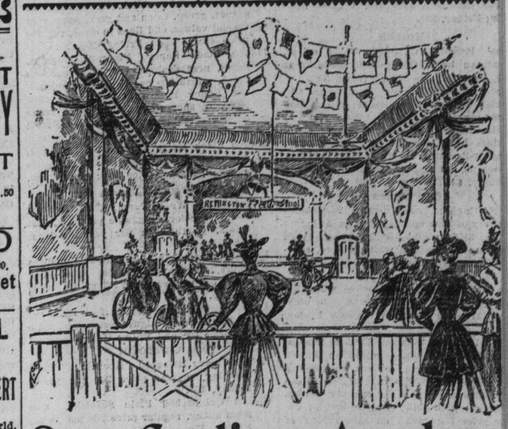

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