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RITCHIE WANTS TO MEET M'FARLAND

New Lightweight Champion is Willing to Tackle Stockyard's Boy Next—Nolan Talks.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 14.—"I met Willie Ritchie for the first time in Los Angeles last July," says Billy Nolan, manager of the new lightweight champion. "We set together and viewed the Wolgast-Rivers battle with critical eyes. During the time between rounds Ritchie gave me his idea on fighting. Shortly afterwards we closed a business agreement with the distinct understanding that Ritchie's first opponent should be Wolgast. We refused offers from every city in the country where boxing thrived. California promoters were hot on our trail with many worthy opponents. I was severely criticized for evading these matches.

"However, the championship was our one best bet and we waited. Curiously, Ritchie has had about fifty fights in California, yet Thanksgiving Day gave me my first chance to see him under fire.

"I have seen many notables in the ring. Wolgast, every one will agree, is a great fighter. But the limited number

of rounds was all that saved him from Ritchie last May. Ritchie knocked the fighting Frenchman, Mandot, down twice. Compare that with what Wolgast did with Mandot three weeks ago. A year ago a wire came from Los Angeles, asking Ritchie to meet Welsh, one of the best lightweights England ever turned out, on twenty-four-hour notice. Only Ritchie's lack of training let that bout go twenty rounds. Last October Ritchie met and defeated Jack Britton. All boxing followers know how he can fight. Ritchie traveled and boxed with McFarland and jumped in off the reel and fought and beat Young Erna when McFarland had to call off his bout with Erna. He has boxed with McFarland in private bouts more than twenty times. Now he pays the stock yards boy many compliments, but says, 'Match me as soon as you can with Packer McFarland.'

The Toronto Motorcycle Club have Permanent Quarters.

The house committee of the T. M. C. have now completed arrangements for the club's permanent quarters, and all members may now enjoy a quiet read or smoke at any time. There will be plenty of magazines and also stationery for those who wish to write.

The new address is McBean's Hall, corner College and Brunswick. The membership fee is \$4 per year, but each member is benefited as follows:

The club pays your fees to the C. M. A., which otherwise would cost \$7.75. It includes your annual subscription to the official journal, which is worth \$1 per year.

Also, all members in good standing will be admitted to the club's race saving of at least \$1 to each member.

OPERATION HELPED TO BEAT WOLGAST

Britt Says Ritchie Will Champion Just as Long as He Can Make Proper Weight.

Joe Gans and George Lavigne were the two greatest lightweights that ever lived is the opinion of Jimmie Britt, former lightweight star, now in vaudeville.

"I believe that Gans in his best day could beat any of the present fighters," said Britt, "simply because he knew how. He had everything that a great fighter ought to have, and when he was dying with consumption he went in and made wonderful fights. He knew how, for he studied the game. Lavigne was a two-handed fighter and always dangerous, and his gamesness was as thorough as I ever saw. Gans and Lavigne were, to my mind, the two greatest, and the former perhaps the most wonderful that ever stepped into a ring as a lightweight.

"Ritchie whipping Wolgast was no surprise to me, although I thought Wolgast would be too strong for him. Before Wolgast was operated upon for appendicitis he was beating men bigger than himself. After the operation men smaller than he were holding him even and in some cases getting the best of him. Now Ritchie is a champion and no accident, but Wolgast has been weakened by his operation or he has come to the end of his string.

"I do not think Ritchie will be a lightweight very long, because he is a big boy and will grow very fast. Ritchie should be champion as long as he can make the weight, because he is a tough boy to beat."

Britt made his last fight in England two and half years ago when he fought Johnny Summers to a draw.

He is thirty-one years old and looks much younger, for he does not bear a mark of his long fighting career. As an actor Britt would have been a success whether he had ever been a fighter or not. He does not depend upon the advertising that his career gives him, but he does a monologue of real merit, and he is in demand in the theatrical world. Britt said last night that he was very ambitious to do something of real worth on the stage, and that he would soon try real acting in a vaudeville playlet, and if his performance last night is to be taken as a criterion, he should prove a success.

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NO DECISION BOUT'S HURT BOXING GAME IN NEW YORK

Gentleman Jim Would Like to See New Commission Appointed—McCarty's Victory May Bring Heavyweight Title Back to White Race.

By James J. Corbett, Former Heavyweight Champion of the World.

(Written for The Sunday World.)
Those critics who found so much fault with the recent Gibbons-McGoorty affair may realize now that the decisionless bout is not what it has been cracked up to be, and that the old-fashioned method of naming a winner at the end of a contest has its good points. Not that I am one of those who could see no more in the bout in question. A scientific boxing match always appeals to me, and it must to anyone who understands the finer points of boxing, and I think McCarty and Gibbons gave an interesting exhibition from a scientific point of view.

But admitting for sake of argument that the adverse criticisms of Gibbons and McCarty's work were well-founded, what is the answer? You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink, and ten thousand sports may flock to see two clever and evenly matched boxers perform, but they can't force the boys to take unnecessary risks during the milling when the boxing commission's rule prohibits referees' decisions permits them to stall thru the ten rounds and get just as much credit in the record books. It is the fault of the system and the men are not to blame for a very human desire to "get the money" as easily as possible.

The greatest enemies to professional boxing are those who, in the guise of friends and patrons of the sport, insist upon changes and alterations in the time-honored rules that make such action on the parts of the boxers possible. With competent referees to decide contests on their merits there would be far less stalling and considerably more actual fighting.

Needs Commissioners With Sense.
What boxing needs in New York more than anything else is a board of commissioners with sense enough to realize that the foolish ruling which prevents referees from giving decisions is a menace rather than a benefit to the sport. If boxers understand that decisions will be rendered at the end of bouts, it is a cinch there will be less stalling than under the present system. That old gag about decisions promoting gambling has been worked to death. It is up to the regulators to keep the sport clean in that respect. The board licenses the referees and it is a simple matter to revoke a license should an official be found guilty of crooked work.

I sincerely hope that Governor-elect Sulzer, when he takes office Jan. 1, will see fit to fill the vacancy on the boxing commission or appoint an entirely new outfit that will seek to promote the best interest of professional boxing and, as stated above, the crying need at present is an entirely different system than the "newspaper" method of picking winners. With decisions authorized it would keep those birds who are only after the coin without risk of losing prestige away from here to a great extent, and it would be a guarantee to the public that there would be a better grade of boxing in the contests of the future.

Luther McCarty's impressive victory over Jim Flynn has cleared the heavyweight situation and is the most pleasing bit of news the sports have had to digest for many a moon. The downfall of Flynn marks the passing of the veteran and establishment of the supremacy of the younger element in heavyweight pugilism.

Surprised at the Result.
I was surprised at the result of the battle, as I thought Flynn's experience would more than offset the youthful and physical advantages of his opponent. To be sure, the Public man to maintain his reputation as "white horse" destroyer. But it was the other way about, with Luther outclassing Jim and winning all the way in a gallop.

It may be unseemly to rejoice over the downfall of such a good game fighter as Jim Flynn has proved himself to be, but McCarty's victory means much for the good of the sport. It removes from the paths of the would-be champions one of the greatest stumbling blocks and puts the field in possession of the younger element.

In a measure, McCarty's success means a victory for the entire white race. It gives us hope that the coveted title of supremacy with the gloves will before long have been restored to us. The significance of Luther's decisive defeat of Flynn rests on the fact that when it is compared to the miserable performance of Jack Johnson against the same man last fourth of July, McCarty's success is a clean cut and never in doubt; the champion retained his title thru a technicality after furnishing the spectators with plenty of evidence of his deterioration.

Will be a Great Battle.
McCarty and Palmer meet to decide

Career of Ritchie, New Lightweight Champion

Not yet quite 24 years old. Born in San Francisco in same district which produced Belasco and Wardfield.
First San Francisco boy to win lightweight championship.
Of German parentage.
ago, when he substituted for a boxer named Willie Richardson, the original entrant's name being changed to Ritchie and then Ritchie.
Lost to Fred Welsh on points.
Matty Baldwin, Frankie Burns and Charley Kelly, all on decisions.
Had Mandot helpless in last round of their bout.
Twenty-round bouts were with Baldwin, Welsh and Mandot.
Immediately scores on stage, getting \$1,500 for first week at Empress Theatre, San Francisco.
First fight in thirty-two bouts.
Will not allow his father to see him box.
In east had eight contests in eight weeks and won all.

the white championship on New Year's Day. It might be a great fight, Palmer is an entirely different type of fighter from McCarty or anyone else in the game. He has his own peculiarly effective methods, and what is lacking in skill is more than made up in aggressiveness, strength and stamina. Wide open and easy to hit, his remarkable powers of recuperation make him one of the hardest to beat. Luther will find Palmer the most difficult proposition he has ever tackled, and if successful in stopping O'Rourke's whirlwind, will be well deserving of recognition as the best of the white heavies.

With Billy Nolan dictating the policy of our lightweight champion, there is not much prospect of Wolgast's conquest being seen in the ring for some months to come. Ritchie has been made many nice offers during the last few weeks, but his manager has held out little encouragement to promoters. The Garden Athletic Club wired Nolan for terms to box Packer McFarland ten rounds in this city, but upon learning that a \$10,000 guarantee was the least that would be considered by the champion, the management dropped the negotiations then and there.

Ritchie After the Coin.
No one can justly censure Ritchie for getting all the money out of the championship that he can gather for the next few months. He has earned the right to reap the financial rewards that go with a title, and like those who preceded him, has adopted the stage as the quickest and easiest way of getting the coin for the time being. The most pleasing news that has leaked from the Ritchie camp is that the new champion will not draw the weight lines so tightly as Nelson and Wolgast, and that when Willie has tired of elevating the stage such as McFarland and Britton may get the chance to compete for the title which was denied them during the reigns of the Battler and A.D.

Wolgast, by the way, is the original hard-luck kid in the matter of accident. He is said to be box Mandot on New Year's Day, for which he was to be paid the magnificent sum of \$10,000. But he has been injured by an injury to his left hand received during the Ritchie bout. That Thanksgiving Day battle was rather costly for A.D. He not only lost the lightweight title, but fractured a couple of small bones to boot.

Broken bones and the operation for appendicitis have knocked Wolgast out of thousands of dollars, and it looks as if the hoodoo is still working on him. Shortly after winning the championship A.D. broke his arm while boxing Jack Redmond at Milwaukee. When the member had healed he reappeared in the ring at the Public man. Ad then got along swimmingly until old appendicitis got in its work on the eve of a match with Freddie Welsh, which meant something like \$15,000 cold cash to Adolph, win or lose. That operation hastened his finish as titleholder. And possibly the saddest part of it all is the fact that his illness gave Ritchie his first opportunity to display his talent, Willie having subdued the Welsh match for the stricken champion.

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