

On the Square Jeff Seems To Be In an Awful Fix

By "Bud" Fisher



Outfighting and Infighting A British Review of Modern Boxing

That the technique of many pastimes, more especially those which can be made to produce gate-money, has been developed further in the United States than in this country is a demonstrable fact. It would be foolish of us to ignore the unanimous opinion of friendly pupils in the matter of sport, that Englishmen are no longer the best teachers, by precept or by practice, even of the games that their forefathers invented. There are, of course, ways and means of compensating ourselves for our lost hegemony. We can still boast that our champions are no longer supreme in this or that sport; though, to be sure, such boasting is apt to be countered by some vaunting of Mr. Dooley's characteristic retort: "Good losers? Indeed they are, for they lose every time!" Again, so far as amateur sport is concerned, we need not admit our inferiority at all; not because in rowing and golf, for example, we are still a little better than our erstwhile rivals (judging by results, that is to say), but because the English system aims at creating an athletic nation rather than producing a few specialists of outstanding ability. In the United States the moderate performer is laughed out of court. Baseball is the national summer game there just as cricket is here, but for every American practitioner of the glorified form of rounders we could muster at least a score of cricketers, good, bad, and indifferent. The American golfer (handicap about ten who was asked by an English friend if he played golf, and replied very seriously: "I should not like to say I could play the game") unconsciously revealed the unfathomable gulf between the American and the English conceptions of the sport should hold in the modern art of living, which is, after all, a much more inclusive business than the art of earning one's livelihood. In America you simply dare not say you play a game if you play it only moderately well; the horrid maxim of "Get on or get off" is tyrannical on the golf links as in a business office. But in England you are called a cricketer even if you are just choice for a village team - and, what is more, the keenness which survives failure after failure is rightly prized as a sportsmanlike quality.

It follows that we are justified in regarding defeats in the Olympic games and other international contests with a measure of equanimity - more especially if the foreigner's victories are to some extent due to the unofficial professionalism which is paid with a post-dated cheque, so to speak. But when our professional athletes are systematically beaten by the foreigner, these blows for a wounded amour propre are ineffectual and the only patriotic course is to find out the weak points in our methods, and how they may be remedied.

English and American Boxing The numerous defeats of English boxers in the last twenty years (ever since glove-fighting took the place of the old game played by the champions of the "P. R." with padded fists) provide a case in point. There is no reason whatever to suppose that they have been generally - rather, generally - inferior to their American rivals in physique, staying power, or that nervous stigmata which was called "bottom spirit" by early Victorian connoisseurs of pugilism. Jeffries, it is true, possessed in his prime a natural muscular development and a reserve of vitality which have never been equalled, before or since, in the annals of the ring. He might even be a more powerful wrestler than Gotch or Hackenschmidt if he had specialised in that direction; one may say that he was brought into being to prove that the winning of the Olympic championships of both boxing and wrestling by Hercules, was not really an impossible double event. But, leaving this mountainous man out of the account, we cannot say that physical superiority has enabled American boxers to beat our champions systematically. Nor can we say that the decisive factor has been the adoption of unfair tactics by the American experts, though several of the most successful have never scrupled to take the fullest advantage of a weak or otherwise incompetent referee. Of late years, indeed, our best heavy weights and middle-weights have not only been out-fought but also out-classed by their Transatlantic opponents, and also in several cases, by the young French boxers who have decided that the American style is better worth copying than that which is traditional in England.

It is absurd to go on ignoring the meaning of these object-lessons, and repeating such antiquated shibboleths as "the straight left rules the Ring," when it has been shown again and again that a left as straight and accurate and powerful as that of Wells cannot prevent a determined in-fighter from making a disastrous use of his scientific knowledge of boxing at close quarters. Yet the majority of English critics talk and write as if boxing, unlike every other game, reached its final pitch of perfection a generation ago, and nothing has been done since then to improve its technique. In point of fact the science of boxing has developed in the last twenty years or so to an extent almost as bowling and batting - and if our

The Men Who Will Fight For the World's Championship

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JOHN J. BARRY, THE ATHLETIC'S SHORTSTOP New York, Sept. 27. - When folks get talking about the Athletics' infield, they generally mention Collins, McInnis, and Mack, and then, as a kind of afterthought, they say: "Oh yes, and Jack Barry." "Call players will tell you a different story. Men on rival teams maintain that Barry is as important a part of the Philadelphia infield as any of his three co-workers and that he does not receive as much credit as he has coming to him for his playing. John J. Barry is a tireless toiler, and judgment is his middle name. He is one of the shrewdest shortstops in the league, and while the moving picture rights to him off the field would have no particular value, "Connie" Mack, rated as considerable authority, asserts that when Barry is out of his infield, it is all topsy-turvy. This was proved in late August this year, the Athletics being forced to go for about three weeks without Barry because of a strained leg. It was feared for a time that the Cleveland Club would overtake them because of the resultant shaky condition of the inner defences. Barry is equipped with one of those quiet running engines which makes little noise but which gets results. He is in no sense a display player. You seldom know he is around until you take a look at the box score. His appearance is not prepossessing, either in street or on the field, but he has one of those beards which discourages the barber. It is the sort that, while one side of his face is being shaved, the vegetation on the other portion grows a creditable amount of himself there ever since. Barry has followed continuously in the footsteps of his predecessor on the Athletics and is unusually fast both off and on the ball field. When "Monte" Cross, the famous Philadelphia shortstop, was in the Big League, nobody was ever known to beat him into a dining car or into a Pullman to pick the first berth. That is a habit among ball players. They all want their berths made up first although they may not go to bed for hours afterwards, and each desires to be the first one into the dining room. But so enviable a record did "Monte" Cross make in this respect, that it is still called pulling a "Monte Cross" when some one dives into a diner. Probably it will be called pulling a "Jack" Barry after the Athletics' shortstop passes on.

John J. is married and spends his winters running a garage in Woonsocket, Mass., and talking baseball to the home folks. They insist on him talking baseball, and he sells many a gallon of gasoline while he explains how the boys won the world's championship in 1910 and 1911. If Collins had only been named John instead of "Eddie," the Athletics would have an infield made up entirely of four "Jack"s - John Franklin Baker and John J. McInnis being the other two. Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Collins with an error worse than no practice at all, since he who gives the "turn" has to fight down to an inferior boxer. But their ignorance of the face and personal art of in-fighting is the chief cause of their present inferiority to the intelligent foreigner. English boxers are at a disadvantage, as compared with their American rivals, owing to (1) the difficulty of obtaining frequent contests once they have reached the championship class; and (2) the necessity of exhibition work, which is

YOURS TO ENJOY



repudiate the word "exact," yet he can hardly evade the charge of employing the full force of "moral suasion," which amounts to the same thing. The Travellers There's coming back by boat and train. By trolley and by auto car. To towns, where they belong. With grips and trunks and golden rods. And shells from ocean's shores. And birch-bark souvenirs and ferns. And babies by the score. They're coming back with faces tanned. To bitterly complain about The secrecy of winter. They're coming back to brush away The cobwebs from the doors And gather up the filings their hubs Have strewn upon the floors. - Laurana W. Sheldon in New York Times

OUTLOOK FOR BLACK WINTER IN GERMANY Berlin, Sept. 27. - From all parts of the empire come reports of large cities and local government bodies beginning to make provision against unemployment in the coming winter. In Berlin a strong committee dealing with the subject has already made arrangements for building works, drainage, &c., and also for the more perfect working of Labor Exchanges. Similar steps are being taken in Frankfurt, Breslau, Cologne, Munich, Leipzig and Dresden.

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AN ENGLISH OPINION (London Economist) There is nothing that our self-governing dominions prize so jealously as their autonomy and independence of Downing street control. In questions such as naval defence, Canada must decide for herself. Co-operation between Great Britain and the colonies is admittedly desirable. But co-operation is a very different thing from dictation. Mr. Borden's supporters in the Canadian press do not attempt to conceal Mr. Churchill's object, and devote themselves mainly to aspersions on the patriotism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his party. The Toronto Daily Star quotes Mr. Churchill's statement that the Canadian ships were "extras" and that it was Canada's wish that they should be "extras." "Why, then," they say, "this presence of Canada's proposed gift was an understanding that will have to be made good by someone?" It would serve no good purpose to multiply these quotations. Enough has been said to show that Mr. Churchill, in catering for the armor-plate press, the Navy League, and the scaremongers, has embarrassed our Foreign Office at Berlin and our Colonial Office at Ottawa. Speaking at the Imperial Conference in 1911, Mr. Asquith said "Canada has never given us a naval contribution, and we have never tried to exact one from her. Of course, we know our business better than that." If Mr. Asquith adheres to this statement, he must admit that Mr. Churchill does not know his business. For, although the latter might

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