

Alive :: Alert
Up to the Minute

NEWS AND VIEWS ON SPORTS

Local :: Provincial
World in General

SPORT FACTS & FANCIES

Peace between organized baseball and the Federal league has been concluded after two seasons of real warfare, as sport wars go. Both the organized ball interests and those of the Federal league were apparently willing for the dove of peace to descend, and although each side tried to appear as though it was making a good fellow of itself by consenting to make peace with its opponent, the truth of the matter was that both sides were ready and anxious to discuss the proposition. It was an expensive luxury, this baseball war. While it created a lot of publicity for both sides, this publicity acted just the reverse to the usual publicity stunts, and instead of attracting the coons to the coffers of the moguls, the revelations made of the inner workings of baseball rather sickened the public of the whole thing and tended to emphasize what they had long suspected, and refused to believe that baseball, instead of being a game, was nothing less than a money-making proposition in which the public played the sucker part and provided the funds to enrich a few so-called sportsmen.

Minor Leagues Real Sufferers

While the war hurt the attendance at the parks of the major league clubs, the real sufferers were the minor leagues. Most minor leagues exist simply because of the sportsmanship and loyalty of the fans in the smaller cities and towns, who attend the games for the sake of seeing their town defeat the town team from a rival city. Sometimes there was some money made by the promoters, but this was overlooked and never emphasized. But with the war of the Federal league upon the majors came startling revelations of the money-making methods of the moguls and the decrease in attendance which followed was felt severely by the amateur promoters, who counted every nickel as it came in at the gate in order to pay the salaries of the players.

The International league, one of the three "big minors," was the hardest hit, and it now comes out that if peace had not been arranged that this league was ready to put up the shutters for next year. "The outlook for next year was utterly hopeless. All of the clubs, with the exception of Buffalo, lost money in 1915. The Bisons made a small amount, which was expended in souvenirs for the players. Indications for 1916 were that all of the clubs would be certain losers financially. Even with some small New England cities included in the circuit as a temporary arrangement the coming season would have been disastrous. Even under the new arrangement there will be a strict adherence to the policy of retrenchment adopted by baseball generally. The International league, as matters stand now, will be the chief beneficiary of the peace agreement.

Foolish Like a Fox

"Did you ever notice how Tommy Burns always picks some unknown dub to fight against some fairly well known fellow when he's doing the matchmaking?" said an old time fight fan to me the other day when we were discussing the forthcoming bout between Jess Willard and Fred Fulton. "Now, Tommy is a pretty wise old owl, and you don't find him standing many chances of losing money any time. You

didn't notice Tommy Burns picking Frank Moran, or any fairly well known boxer did you? Not Tommy. He would have to pay Frank Moran something. Who does he pick—why, Fred Fulton. Says he to Fulton: 'Now, I am going to give you a chance to become famous. I'll match you with Jess Willard, heavy-weight champion of the world. If you don't win you've made your reputation, and if you do, remember it was me that gave you the chance. Now, I'll give you \$500, which will more than cover your expenses. Really you ought to be paying me for giving you the chance.' And so Tommy gets a match on for the heavyweight championship and all it's costing him is what he pays the one man. Wasn't that exactly what he did right here in Calgary with poor old Pelkey and Luther McCarthy? It just happened that McCarthy dropped dead and Pelkey sort of won the championship, but even then Tommy made Pelkey feel that he had done him a favor, allowing him the opportunity of being in the ring when McCarthy died. Tommy is foolish like a fox."

Curling Now and Then

"I see they've got four curling clubs in the city now," continued the old-timer, for he was in a talkative mood, and there was no use trying to stop him. It's a great game this curling. But it isn't what it used to be. They set up a bunch of jewelry at the beginning of the season, advertise it in the papers and then for the next three months everybody is after the jewelry and forgets all about the curling. Now, in the old days we used to bring our jewelry down to the rink with us each time we went curling. We usually carried it in our hip pocket and when the pocket was too small we would carry it in the overcoat pocket. And that jewelry was worth curling for, too. By the time the game was over, there wouldn't be much of the jewelry left, but we had a good time and that's a lot more than these people that go to these high-tone curling clubs, now-a-days, have."

Wiser Cup Back in Calgary

The Banff Curling club finally had to relinquish its hold upon the Wiser Red Letter trophy last Saturday, when the men from the Granite rink successfully tied up their long distance match on the sixteenth end and won out in the seventeenth. The Banff curlers protested the game, claiming that when they had played sixteen ends and were not defeated that they had successfully defended the trophy, but the trustees unanimously ruled that the same rules that applied to ordinary competitions applied to this one, and that in the case of a tie score an extra should be played. The departure of the Wiser trophy from Banff will be considered rather unfortunate by a great many curlers from this city, who enjoyed the trip after the trophy and the hospitality shown to all visitors by the Banff curlers as much, or more, than they did the actual games. The Wiser trophy will doubtless be competed for by all of the local clubs this winter, and may change hands frequently; but not until Banff again wins the cup and takes it to the fastness of the mountain regions will the real enjoyment of competition for the silverware be restored.

IRELAND HAS LONG BEEN THE HOME OF FIGHTING MEN

Kings of Ireland Encouraged Scientific Combat—Most of Skilful Boxers Originated in Old Erin.

Many historic writers have claimed that boxing, or the manly art of self-defence, originated in ancient Greece some 2,000 years ago. That it was the son of Aegleus, King of Athens, who first conceived the idea of boxing bouts and formed the first real rules for the fistie sport. Somehow or other nearly all the highbrow historians overlook the ancient Gaelic books so carefully stored as treasures in Trinity College, Dublin. There are many of them which go to prove that boxing was a popular and very strenuous sport in the little green isle over 5,000 years ago. Long before Greece or Rome had thought of having contests between their mighty gladiators in their popular and famous battling arenas.

The "Book of Leinster" compiled from ancient manuscript alone, without going into the other volumes fully proves my claim—that Ireland was the first country in the world to originate and conduct civilized, skilful boxing, under rules and regulations. One of the most illustrious of the Irish monarchs was Cormac Ulfodak, who flourished about the middle of the third century. To his munificence and love of learning the country was indebted, it is said, for the foundation of three academies at Tara, in the first of which science was taught. Young, gallant, game men found much favor with the king, and he often had them exhibit their physical prowess before him in wrestling and boxing bouts, as an amusement.

Cormac himself must have been some fighter, indeed, for in defending his province from a rebellious attack he incurred the loss of an eye. According to the ancient custom of the country, no one could retain possession of the throne who was marked with any personal blemish, so poor Cormac was thereby disqualified and was obliged to retire from the sovereignty after a brilliant career. So probably champions with cauliflower ears and badly broken noses would not figure very highly in a swell society in those old days in Ireland.

Danes and Irish Fought Towards the close of the eighth century Ireland was invaded by the Danes, who continued to hold possession of the chief maritime towns for more than two hundred years. During this period an almost uninterrupted series of warfare existed between the natives and the invaders, and many a battling Dane, like our friend Pat Nelson, was knocked out for the count by the fist or battleaxe of a fighting son of Erin.

It was our brave battler Brien Boru, the King of Ireland in 1014, who collected his small forces and fought the Danes off Irish soil into the sea, with immense slaughter. This was the great battle of Clontarf, which proved the gallant Irish fighting spirit and bravery, even against a larger opposing army, still existed among the brave Celts.

The Irish Fighting Men For over four hundred years England has endeavored to subdue and conquer the game, fearless, Irish fighting spirit, but the sons of Erin are as full of fight as ever. To-day many of the bravest men in the British army are of Irish blood, and many of Johnny Bull's fistie champions are of the same race. Men like Bob Fitzsimmons, Charley Mitchell, Jim Corbett, Owen Moran, Jack Driscoll, Jack Burke, and others. And even such old departed champions like Jen Ward, Deaf Burke, and Ben Ryan. The fighting Irish produced also many fistie gladiators from Australia. Among them are Frank Patrick, Slavin, Dan Creedon, Billy Murphy, Billy McCarthy, Paddy Gorman, Mick Dunn, Tom Tracy, George Dawson, Les Darcy, Hughie Mehegan, Herb McCoy, Mike King, and a host of others.

Some Famous Irish Battlers Although brave Dan Donnelly has been dead almost a hundred years, his valiant deeds of glory in the ring are fresh in our memories. For it was the gallant Dan who defeated George Cooper for the championship of all England on the Curragh of Kildare, and after this decisive victory Donnelly invaded England and defeated the great Tom Oliver and all other Brits whom he could induce to meet him.

We often read about Bob Fitzsimmons' wonderful victories over big, heavy men when he was only a middleweight, but we should not overlook game Jack Randall, "The Prime Irish Lad," who went to England when only a lightweight and conquered such heavyweights as "West Country Dick" Belasco the Jew (not the actor-author of to-day), Jack Turner, Deaf Burke, and all other comers. Nor should we forget courageous Jack Langran, nor Ned O'Balduin, nor Joe Coburn, former heavy-weight champion of America; nor John Morrissey, who also held that title; nor Jim Dunn, another champion; nor gallant Jack Dempsey, nor Jack McAuliffe, the O'Neil Weir, the Belfast Spider; Tom Sharkey, Dave and Spike Sullivan, Jim Coffey, Peter Maher, George Gardner, and a whole bunch of others who first saw the light of day on the Emerald Isle.



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HOCKEY MAKES SEATTLE FANS THINK THAT FOOTBALL IS A VERY TAME GAME

Under huge captions, "With sticks and razor-bladed skates as weapons, hockey players have bloody game in Seattle," a Seattle exchange refers to the first hockey match in the Sound city as follows:

"If you have been fostering the impression that American football is a rough sport, see a game of Canadian hockey and cast the idea from you. There is about as much comparison between the two as the gait of a funeral car and a jitney going up Pike Street.

"Just up the street from the Arena a few blocks is the Seattle General Hospital. It certainly is going to be handy for the players.

"The game is new to Seattle, and last night's play brought the 2,500 spectators to their feet. The hardest part to understand is how they play it and live.

"Armed with sticks and razor-bladed skates, the players use their weapons in a thrillingly careless manner. Roughing in football is mild compared to roughing in hockey.

"If you accidentally take a swing at the puck and hit a man's head, why, it's all right. The man's head didn't have any business there. If, in trying for the puck, a man is sent flying into the side fence, no one worries. The man should have been out of the way.

"Sticks are favorite weapons for close-in work, and short, quick jabs that no one can see. For long distance attack, the puck is provided. The puck, a hard rubber disc, is driven like a bullet across the ice.

"Personally, we would just as soon slap a cannon ball in the face as get

GEORGE GOULDING REPLIES TO THE "PRO" CHARGES

New York, Dec. 25.—George Goulding of Toronto, the world's champion walker, has replied to the charge that he is a professional, preferred before the Registration Committee of the Metropolitan Association by W. H. Parry, an American fact became known today, when he wrote John J. McDowan of the Millrose Athletic Association that he would compete in the winter games here next month, "provided he was cleared by the Amateur Athletic Union of the Parry charges."

Goulding's reply to a copy of the charges he received from George Mathews, was forwarded from Toronto on Tuesday, and it is important evidence that has compelled the committee to refrain from taking any definite action in the case. A meeting of the Registration Committee is expected to be called next week, probably on Tuesday night, at which Goulding's side of the case will be placed before the full committee, which will empower Chairman Mathews to take whatever further steps may be deemed necessary.

GREETINGS

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Creme de Menthe, reg. \$2.25, for.....	\$1.50
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SCOTCH WHISKY	
V.O.H. quarts, regular \$1.25, for.....	\$1.00
V.O.H. Imperial quarts, reg. \$1.50, for.....	\$1.25
Smith & Walker, \$2.00, for.....	\$1.75
Watson No. 10, regular \$1.75, for.....	\$1.50
Begg's White Cap, \$1.75, for.....	\$1.50

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WHEN KID MCOY

It Was Nineteen Year
Natives Wagered
—The Days of Rea

It was a few years before unpleasantness between Britishers in South Africa, precise, it was during the Christmas holidays of 1896, when the bustling town of the Rand, was just then still going strong, fever was at its height, and the town was about as lively as a town as could be on the map. Although the Rand in years the city had a permanent population of at least half were English, Americans, with British erating. Thousands of adventurers from all goldfields had swarmed into the Rand for the holiday summer sun—for Christmas in mid-summer in the the equator—looked de motley, care-free as whites, blacks and yellow ultra-modern business city half-naked Kafirs the minority, and a scowled menacingly at ers, and, under their brened revenge.

In gilded barrooms of men of sporting blood of that Christmas Day of 1896, but one topic of conversation "big fight" was the almost subject of masculine dis several year the Rand had mad, and the enthusiasts reached fever heat when the famous American boxer, invaded South Africa, matched with Billy Douglas of considerable fistie combat to be staged on December 6, 1896. For years South Africa was a paradise of the boxers, were classed as third-rate land, America or Australia as heroes by the sports and money was showered. As early as 1898 the Rand hung up a stake of \$22,500 ever fought for, in a Wolf Bonhoff and Jack couldn't have commanded dollar stake anywhere world.

Randall Merton, an and other sports, then the boxing game, and the was soon augmented by boxers from Australia. Kid McCoy was the first boxer of any note to take South African good thing sult was his match with which was scheduled rounds, and was for \$50, a share of the gate receipt.

Kept Under W The Kid was never s friends where he was in Johannesburg he soon he of enthusiastic sports w to back him to the limit. His training camp was th and, although he kept well under cover so far a were concerned, he gav hibitions of sparring bet ticular friends, which co there was nothing to it b

Although McCoy was a wise ones, Dorothy was choice of the rank and neburg sports. There Australians in the Rand crowd of sports from th arrived in Johannesburg before the fight. They provided with the needf taking the risk of hav back to Sydney over a s water they decided to g in American the once-ov Visitors Arriv

The Kid's secret serv

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