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"Reg'lar Fellers"

In the Prize Ring.

LUCKY DEMPSEY.

The frenzied bidding for the Dempsey-Carpentier match indicates that Jack Dempsey, who a year or two ago was travelling around the country via the box car and break beam route, soon will be the world's richest pugilist if his luck holds good and he does not meet with untimely defeat.

The price of heavyweight championship fights has increased so fast of late that there is no telling what they will cost the promoters before Dempsey finally is beaten. The latest offer of \$250,000 for the Dempsey-Carpentier affair is almost double the record which was set last July 4, when Tex Rickard put up a purse of \$127,500 for the Willard-Dempsey match. Before Dempsey and Carpentier are actually signed for battle the purse may have increased to \$300,000.

Dempsey certainly is the most fortunate fighter the ring has seen. Previous to the Jeffries-Johnson battle in 1910 purses of \$30,000 and \$80,000 were considered to have reached the limit. In fact they were regarded too high for the sport. Then along came Tex Rickard with his \$101,000 bid for the Jeffries-Johnson match. The purse for that battle really was \$121,000, for Rickard gave each fighter a bonus of \$10,000 for signing articles. This was kept a secret by the promoter, each fighter thinking he was putting something over on his opponent.

The next big purse was the \$75,000 put up by Rickard for the Willard-Moran bout in the Garden. So far Rickard is the only promoter daring enough to put up as yet and it is not known whether he will be a factor in the situation. Rickard's three big ventures in the ring sport were all successful financially, but the profits from the Willard-Dempsey bout were hardly large enough to pay him for his time and trouble at stake.

Most Successful Promoter.

If Rickard makes up his mind that he wants the match he probably will get what he went after. He always has been able to outbid his rivals, finding it easy to frighten away all opposition from rival promoters. If the match is held in America Rickard undoubtedly will be the promoter.

It will not be surprising if the Dempsey-Carpentier bout draws \$1,000,000. While the Dempsey-Willard bout was something of a disappointment to the promoter, the receipts reached over \$500,000 although the fight was held in Toledo. If the original plan to hold the bout in New York had been successful there is not a doubt that it would have drawn \$1,000,000. The present match is far more attractive because of its international character and the fact that both men are great favorites with their countrymen.

Dempsey is particularly fortunate in being in line for rich purses right at the outset of his career. Jeffries was all in before he got the chance to fight for 50 per cent. of the \$121,000 purse. Before that Jeff thought he was doing wonderfully well when he drew down as much as \$20,000 as his share of a championship battle.

Johnson's One Chance.

Johnson was at the top of his form when he got the chance to cut in on the then record purse, but he never had another chance to draw down big money. After beating Jeffries he set his figures for a bout at \$30,000, but he only received that amount on one occasion and that was when he lost his title to Willard at Havana, putting an end to his earning capacity.

Willard had few chances to fight for big purses while he held the title; for one thing there were few opponents for him to meet and he lost popularity fast. Willard's affair with Moran drew well because boxing followers were curious to see in action the man who had flattened Jack Johnson. After the bout it was the general opinion that what they saw was not worth the prices charged, and there was no further demand for Willard to defend his title until it finally became apparent that he had gone back, and was likely to be beaten.

But here is Dempsey, a mere youngster, in the full power of his

health and strength and apparently good for at least five years provided he takes proper care of himself. There is no means of estimating how much Dempsey will be able to earn in the next few years if he retains his good form.

If Dempsey beats Carpentier the champion probably will be able to earn at least \$50,000 a bout by meeting some of the leading American contenders, such as Fred Fulton and Bill Brennan. With purses up so high Dempsey will be able to make more money by fighting than out of the show business, and if he is wise he will stick to the ring and not allow himself to grow rusty for lack of action. Dempsey is a man who needs plenty of fighting to keep him fit and if he deserts the ring for the stage he will make a fatal mistake.

MORAN WON.

Newark, N.J., Dec. 26.—Frank Moran, the Pittsburgh heavyweight knocked out Sgt. Jack Burke, of Chicago, in the first round of an eight-round match here to-night. Moran weighed 195½ pounds and Burke 198.

Burke tried to rush his opponent as the contest opened and was sent to the floor for a count of eight after receiving three hard rights to the head. He arose groggy. Moran scored another right to the head and followed it with a right swing which landed behind Burke's ear. Burke went down and, although conscious, was unable to get up before the count of ten.

Micky Donley, of Newark, 136 pounds, outfought Joe Benjamin, of San Francisco, 124 pounds, in every round of an eight-round bout. The westerner was unable to evade Donley's left jab in the first six rounds.

MARKED INTEREST IN BOUT.

New York, Dec. 27.—Boxing followers are displaying marked interest in the coming bout between Al Reich, former amateur boxer, and Tow Cowler, of England, which will be one of the stellar eight-round attractions at the show of The Arena in the First Regiment Armoury, Jersey City, Monday night. Reich, who is attempting to re-establish himself in the ranks of the country's heavyweights, is expected to encounter stiff opposition from Cowler, who is taller and has a longer reach than the former amateur boxer.

Three other bouts of eight rounds each will be conducted. Augie Ratner, of the Bronx, will exchange blows with Harry Greb, of Pittsburgh; Johnny Kilbane, featherweight champion, and Andy (Young) Chaney, A.F. featherweight champion, will be opponents in another limit bout, while the fourth eight-round contest will bring together Gene Tunney, of the west side, and Bob Pearce, of Chicago.

MUCH HEAVYWEIGHT TALENT.

New York, Dec. 29.—One result of so much talk of tremendous purses for the Dempsey-Carpentier match will be a swarm of new talent. The white-hope craze brought out young heavyweights in swarms although at that time no one thought that there ever would be a match that promised to attract a million-dollar gate. Already a number of promising novices have appeared, and by the end of the winter one of them may have forged into the contender class.

A majority of the white hopes were lumbering giants, because the idea prevailed that only a giant would have a chance to defeat Jack Johnson. The new crop is composed of much lighter men. Dempsey having shown that speed is more valuable than bulk.

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Liberal-Labor Meeting at Kilbride.

Candidates Splendidly Received -- A Real Old Time Meeting.

A real old-time meeting of supporters was held in Kilbride last evening by the Liberal-Labor Party. The number present was above a hundred, and Mr. MacDonald, son of the late Andrew MacDonald, occupied the chair. The sentiment of the sturdy Kilbride men was unmistakable, and the campaign slogan, "Hang 'Er Down" was the one adopted.

Mr. J. R. Bennett was the opening speaker, and the reception given him proved that Kilbride welcomed him as their representative. Mr. Bennett spoke at some length, fully exposing the false propaganda of Squires and Brownrigg, and the tactics of the Government press. He was followed by Mr. Linegar, who in a clear-cut, reasonable address fully explained the reason of the uniting of the Liberal and Labor forces. He showed that the policy of the present Government was directly opposed to the interests of St. John's, as it applied to the farmer, the laborer and the mechanic, and that to continue them in power, and that to continue them in power, meant ruin to the district of St. John's West. Mr. J. T. Martin was the next speaker, and the hearty applause given proved that the voters of Kilbride were ready to stand by himself and Mr. Linegar to the very last man on polling day. Mr. Martin's speech was free of personalities, and to the point. He dealt with local conditions, and the price that Kilbride would pay if they failed to return the Liberal-Labor candidates, which would mean the destruction of Coaker domination and a death blow to the "big six." Sir Michael Cashin being called, received an ovation that Kilbride might feel proud of. Sir Michael's speech, which was punctuated by outbursts of applause and loud cheering, was well worth hearing. On the previous night the Tory candidates Brownrigg and Squires, with their defeated colleague, Dr. Campbell, held a meeting, and it had been brought to Sir Michael's notice that a great deal of personalities had been used. Sir Michael just wished to inform those present that so far as Dr. Campbell was concerned, the late Government had to dismiss him from his duties in connection with the Fever Hospital, because he generally performed his visits over the telephone. He laid stress on the fact that if the Government candidates persisted in talking personalities they would get a "lashing" that would be brought on by themselves. Sir Michael, in continuing, dealt with the Government's policy, and fully convinced all present, that if St. John's West and the country wanted to continue in prosperity, and not have to

pay \$20 a barrel for flour, and an old price at all for local butter, the Coaker-Squires crew would have to be driven from the decks of the ship of state. Mr. W. J. Higgins being called, was cheered to the echo, and before he finished his speech he was as popular with the voters of Kilbride as he is in St. John's East. Mr. Higgins in his speech killed for ever the chances of Tory Squires and Brownrigg getting any support from the voters of Kilbride. Mr. James MacDonnell, M.H.A. St. George's, was the last speaker, and if the voters had not already been convinced that Coaker or rule was detrimental to the interests of St. John's West generally, and Kilbride in particular, they certainly had no doubt on their minds when Mr. MacDonnell finished. The erroneous statements and misrepresentations of Squires, Brownrigg, and Campbell made the previous night to the few who were present were refuted and disproved. And so well pleased were the people of Kilbride that the women and children followed the candidates and other speakers from the hall almost to Waterford Bridge after the meeting closed, and Brownrigg, Campbell and Squires are promised a very cool reception if they visit the settlement again.

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By Gene Byrnes

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