

Live Sporting News

PROTECT BOTH
BOXERS AND THE
FIGHT PATRONS

New York, Nov. 29.—The American Boxing Association, like all reform movements deserving of serious consideration, is worthy of a trial, as it is based chiefly upon an uplift idea. Its prime reason for existence is to provide better boxing and to do away with all petty verbal warfare which continually mars the sport. In its entirety the idea of the new organization probably is not just what the boxing crowd would care for, but it has the good points which are needed in boxing legislation.

The scheme of the association, which is a middle western organization of recent origin, is to register all of the boxers in this country, to place the men in their respective classes according to weight, to protect the interest of the boxers from every standpoint and in the same way protect patrons of the sport by forcing the boxers to be open and above board about every match, to inflict penalties upon boxers who do not live up to the rules of boxing and who do not give the best in them in each contest and to create control of the promotion of boxing.

Probably the most worthy point of the organization to the patron is its

desire to eliminate the "taking" fighter and to force participants to exhibit in their respective classes instead of allowing haphazard weighing hoodwink the public as is the case now. This reform has been needed in boxing since the inception of the sport, and it is a reform which would go a long way in perpetuating the sport, which is fading for the sole reason that boxers by their "shady" methods create an atmosphere of doubt in the minds of the patrons and kill the desire to see a bout.

Boxers Know Boxers
Unquestionably the promoters and boxers are the ones to judge of the merits of boxers. They are on the inside and usually know whether or not a match is on the square. They know the men who enter the ring prompted by "dress rehearsals" and they know the ambitious, honest boxers who are striving for recognition and wealth and at the same time giving patrons a run for their money.

The weight question is getting more important every day. Especially is this so among the lightweights, where several welterweights are masquerading as lightweights and inflicting themselves upon the public in matches half won before the first round because of the weight advantage. Among these are "Willie" Ritchie, "Jack" Britton, "Ted" Lewis, "Jimmy" Duffy and a host of others who never climb into a ring weighing less than 140 pounds. Each of these men boasts of being able to make 135 pounds six or seven hours before a bout, but few of them attempt to work off this weight and weaken themselves in doing so. For the final three years of "Paddy"

McFarland's career he refused to weigh at all. He made all his matches at catchweights and had it announced that the weight was at 135 pounds a few hours before a bout.

Twice McFarland fought near Chicago against "Eddie" Murphy, of Boston, and each time a man close to McFarland says that "Paddy" weighed more than 145 pounds in the ring. This sort of thing is an injustice to those who pay for boxing and also injures the sport as it throws a dishonest light upon boxers right at the outset.

Welter Would Meet Welter.
The association of the Middle West would eliminate all weight differences as the boxers would be forced to weigh in public and would be forced to give their true weight. Also they would be classed according to the association's classification and bouts between welter and lightweights would be impossible then. Rather, mixed bouts would not be advertised and open instead of "put over" as they are now.

In this day of no-decision bouts there is bound to be some "stalling" in the ring. Boxers who pile up a lot of points in the early going and seem to have a safe lead are bound to save themselves because of the lack of decision. But the "fakers" are still in the game and any rules which would prevent parts of the United States the sport has been legislated against because of a couple of avaricious fighters whose morals were not worthy of consideration. This is especially so of Chicago, where "Joe" Gans and "Terry" McGovern "put over" their "fake" in which Gans calmly "laid down" this one "fake" stopped boxing in Chicago and it has not revived since.

Alas, a controlling body over the sport would work to advantage, as it would prevent "hippodroming." There is a champion now who is meeting inferior boxers and outstaying his time claimants and getting away with it. If the controlling body was to regulate the bouts this would be impossible.

Rules Are Presentable.
All in all the good ideas of the association outweigh the evil ones, so it seems a wise move. The laws of the association would not conflict with the State laws now in vogue in different parts of the country. Only the control and betterment of the boxer is hoped for by the association, at that, which makes the association desirable.

Walter Lightner, who for years was prominent in the Amateur Athletic Union, and formerly was president of that organization, is one of the prime movers in the new boxing body. He is a member of the Wisconsin State Boxing Commission, and has sensible ideas about the sport.

While in New York recently Mr. Lightner called upon Fred Wenck, chairman of the New York State Commission, and tried to come to some agreement whereby the two States would recognize suspensions accorded boxers for infractions of the boxing rules. Mr. Wenck could not assure such an agreement, as he said the ruling of the entire commission was necessary, but he was in hearty accord.

Just at present "Johnny" Kilbane, the featherweight champion, is banished from Wisconsin's rings for a year. Kilbane refused to appear for a scheduled bout and was promptly set down. If the different States would recognize these suspensions it would help to create an honest atmosphere about the sport. There is no doubt that the commissions judge wisely and carefully in these cases and do not discipline a fighter unless that fighter has

violated all the laws of sportsmanship. **Studies Help Sport.**
Mr. Lightner also has developed a code of laws for Wisconsin which are fast eliminating everything but a sporting chance in the exhibitions. He is a student of boxing from its every angle and is benefiting the sport from his studies. Such men can do more to restore boxing to its place among American entertainments than all the participants put together.

The Harlem Athletic Club in its lightweight display made a step toward success. The card found six of the best boxers in the division exhibiting, and gave the spectators a line on their respective chances against "Freddie" Welsh. While nothing decisive could be ascertained the display was highly entertaining and a movement in the right direction, as it furnished a sort of elimination of the contenders.

Elimination bouts have been tried before, mainly in California, with a referee's decision tacked on the end of every mill and the success of these affairs was found in the increased enthusiasm of the patrons as a worthy contender emerged from the preliminaries and got into the wind-up with the champion. The affairs tended to create interest as well as find new timber and they were beneficial to the sport.

The lack of decisions in New York, of course, prevents the elimination bouts from reaching an ultimate end, but they do provide interesting bouts, and if the promoters would stage out the popular winners of each contest and place them out in front and in line for a championship mill, it would help the sport. A new champion always is welcome and an old hero gets a new lease on life.

The clamor for a twenty-round decision bout, with Welsh in one corner of the ring and "Charley" White or "Johnny" Dundee in the other corner, got going again. It does not seem possible that Welsh can dodge the issue much longer. The patrons can expect to hear of a championship lightweight affair within a short time now.

OLD COUNTRY FOOTBALL

London Combination.
Brentford, 4; Queens Park, 0.
West Ham, 3; Crystal Palace, 1.
Millwall, 4; Watford, 0.
Croydon, 3; Clapton, 3.
Woolwich Arsenal, 2; Fulham, 1.
Chelsea, 8; Tottenham, 1.

Midland Section.
Barnsley, 2; Huddersfield, 1.
Bradford, 2; Sheffield Wed., 2.
Hull, 3; Notts County, 0.
Leeds, 4; Derby, 1.
Leicester, 2; Bristol City, 1.
Notts Forest, 3; Grimsby, 0.
Sheffield U., 4; Lincoln, 1.

Lancashire League.
Bury, 0; Everton, 0.
Liverpool, 3; Bolton, 2.
Manchester U., 2; Oldham, 0.
Preston, 2; Stoke, 3.
Rochdale, 1; Burnley, 0.
Blackpool, 0; Southport, 0.
Stockport, 1; Manchester City, 1.

Scottish League.
Morton, 2; Rangers, 0.
Celtic, 6; Queens, 2.
Partick, 2; Dundee, 0.
Hearts, 1; Aberdeen, 2.
Third Lanark, 1; Motherwell, 3.
Hamilton, 3; Hibernian, 2.
Airdrie, 4; Clyde, 1.
St. Mirren, 3; Kilmarnock, 1.
Falkirk, 1; Ayr, 0.
Dumbarton, 1; Bath Rovers, 0.

**LIEUT.-COL. McLEOD
OF SYDNEY KILLED**
Offered His Battery for Overseas Service When War Broke Out.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 5.—A telegram from the militia department to relatives in Sydney states that Lieut. Col. Harvey G. McLeod of the 4th Battery, 2nd Artillery Brigade, was accidentally killed at the front. At the beginning of the war Col. McLeod offered his battery (the 17th of Sydney) as a unit for overseas service. His offer was accepted and the battery left for Valcartier the latter part of August, 1914. Col. McLeod was about 35 years of age. His brother-in-law, Captain Jas. Bruce of the Army Medical Service is at present at Halifax.

CHANGES IN
TWENTY-SIXTH
BATTALION

New Brunswick people will be interested in these promotions.

Late orders at the front announced some changes to the 26th of Infantry here:

Major W. H. Belyea is now second in command of the battalion, and Major A. E. G. MacKenzie takes over command of "A" Company, Captain Alex. McMillan being promoted to second in command, while Major J. A. MacKenzie is transferred from "A" Company to command "C," with Lieut. Fairweather acting as second in command. Captain A. O. Dawson is now second in "D" Company and Lieut. Arthur Leger takes over charge of the bombers, or grenadiers as they are now called.

Captain Griffith, who left here as adjutant of the 26th, is now in command of "D" Company Royal Canadian Regiment.

An officer of "B" Company has been doing some figuring and he finds that their number, 26, is twice 13. They left St. John on 13th June, the first fight was 13th October. "B" Company received 13 men as reinforcements from the 39th three times 13, and their pioneer battalion is the 49th, and 4 and 9 make 13.

OBITUARY.

Miss Christina Brodie

The death took place about last midnight of Christina, the daughter of Isabel and the late W. B. G. Brodie, at her home, 164 Duke street. The deceased leaves her mother, four brothers and a large circle of friends to mourn. The brothers are: William and F. Neil of this city, John R. of Lynn, Mass., and Harry W. of Vancouver, B. C.

Mrs. Eliza J. Armstrong, widow of J. H. Armstrong, of 211 Lancaster street, died at her home at three o'clock on Saturday. The deceased was 83 years of age, was one of the oldest and best beloved residents of West St. John, and will be missed by a very wide circle of friends. She leaves three sons to mourn, Walter, of Ottawa; William, of New York, and J. B. Armstrong, foreman of the C. P. R. Elevator at West St. John. The funeral will take place this afternoon at three o'clock from her late home. The services will commence at 2:45 o'clock.

New York, Dec. 6.—Johnny Reed, of St. Paul, claimant of the barstomach weight championship, scored a technical knockout over Young O'Leary, of New York, in Brooklyn last night. O'Leary was unable to continue after the third round. Reed weighed 114½ pounds; O'Leary 116.

None Too Soon to Face
the Xmas Gift Question

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Special Price \$12.50

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Special Price \$14.00

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