

REVIEW OF PREVAILING ATHLETIC SPORTS

BOOKMAKERS IN GREAT TROUBLE

Have Just Finished Hardest Year In the History of Turf.

HIT FROM WITHIN AND OUT.

Worried Through, Operating On Credit Surrounded by Sleuths and Victims of "Welchers."

Bookmakers, so called, have just finished the hardest year in the history of the American turf. Many of them because of operations on the New York Jockey club's tracks have been arrested and indicted by the grand jury, while others have skipped out, leaving unserved warrants behind them. The passage of the New York anti-betting law came upon the bookmaking fraternity like a thunderclap. For a dozen years they had been permitted, under the provisions of the Pennsylvania law, to gamble openly with the public, which consisted of thousands of persons each day. Under these conditions the bookmakers sat in a circle in a huge betting ring, each with his crew, consisting of cashier, sheet writer and outside man, about him. Cash wagers were handled without limit, also recorded in such a manner that there was little ground for disputes. In a word, bookmaking had grown into a business, requiring labor, skill, money and brains.

But the Agnes-Hart law knocked this business into a cocked hat! Overnight the whole complexion of affairs changed. There was no longer any system of betting. In fact, people were made aware of the fact that to even whisper a bet of one dollar on some horse or other was liable to result in a jail sentence. In 48 hours after Gov. Hughes signed the bill the great crowds of former days were gone. From an average daily attendance, exclusive of Saturday, of 18,000 men and women, the figures fell out to 2,500 was a liberal estimate. What a blow to the turf! Did they stop betting entirely? Many have since declared that poolrooms and handbooks gobbled up their patronage, but whether that was true or not, the fact remains that persons who used to visit the track and bet \$1, \$2, \$3 or \$5 on a race disappeared suddenly and did not return.

WHO MADE THE CROWDS.

Who made the 2,500 who came to the races day in and day out with clock-like regularity? Perhaps 50 former bookmakers were there, each with four men, helpers. Then there were 200 deputy sheriffs, police, uniformed plain clothes, private sleuths and up-state gunshots artists all looking for violations of the law or perhaps something more agreeable. Trainers, owners, jockeys, stablemen, breeders and perhaps 500 more. Track officials, stockholders, lawyers, waiters, bartenders, Pinkertons, laborers and others amounted to a little more than 500 real betters, who had credit with the so-called bookmakers just so long as they paid their obligations.

It has not been recorded just how many welchers there were, but it would be glossing it over to say only a few. And, by the way, it must be remembered that the former bookmakers had to settle up each day cash on pain of banishment from the track, but there was no way they could collect bets from reluctant betters. But these were not the greatest hardships which the layers suffered. Under incessant police surveillance, they were always on the verge of being hit for sleuths or stool pigeons. They had to keep their eyes open for all kinds of traps set for them by the detectives hired by various clubs to trust to their usual acquaintance for fear that they might be trying to get evidence against them, and in the course of time they were simply living in a reign of terror.

HOW DID THEY KEEP TAB?

How did the bookmakers keep track of their business? In various ways. In the first place it is a very hard thing to be a bookmaker. Here's why. By means of an intricate system. As soon as a bookmaker was ready to do business on a race his outside man hustled up with a set of prices which were secured from some mysterious source. The bookmaker either memorized these figures or wrote them in his program in such diminutive figures that it was almost impossible to read them. Then there is the "memory man," Master Robert? some patron would whisper in the bookmaker's ear or ask the question in an undertone while standing close in front of him.

"How to win?" would be the cry perhaps. "Better then?" "All right, you're on!" the bookmaker would reply as the better hurried away. Then up would come a jiffy the red-faced man, always near at hand, and to him the bookmaker would say: "There's a guy just back of you who has been trying to pipe us off for the last five minutes. So be careful. Here's a bet to ten. Master Robert? No. 2 on the program, which was Master Robert for Harry Smith. Have you got 'em?"

"Yes, I've got 'em O. K." would be the reply. "I'll keep 'em in my head until they get clear of the rubberhouse fellow!"

Then the "memory man" would step away a few yards, keeping his eye on the red-faced man, who was clearly suspicious. In a few moments the "memory man" would run across a red-faced, thick-necked person, who would be apparently reading the "dope" in a newspaper. Standing within a few feet of the "memory man" would repeat quickly and under his breath:

"Twenty to ten, Master Robert for John Green, and 100 to 50, Master Robert for Harry Smith."

"Got 'em!" would be the speedy response as the red-faced man did not take his eyes from his newspaper. The red-faced person would take a pencil and scribble down the figures on a little pad less than an inch square which he carried in the palm of his left hand.

"Twenty-10, 2 J. G., and 100-50, 2 H. S." would be the puzzle was complete. What did these figures mean? Nobody but the red-faced man could tell. But he knew in a second when he got away from the track what it all meant: "20 to 1 on the program, which was Master Robert, and 100 to 50, John Green, Car-

rying such a little pad and pencil which was almost a universal custom, made it easy to destroy evidence when the "big pinch" happened to materialize. They were quickly thrown into the grass, where the crowd trampled them and forgot them. One man actually swallowed a foot pad and pencil at Brighton while the detectives were going through his pockets for "stuff."

Providing the owner and manipulator of this pad got away with his job all the afternoon without serious trouble, it was an easy matter for him to get busy when he arrived home after the race. He would take out all of the wagers on a regular sheet and when the accounts were made up the "pay and collect" book was made up. Then small brown envelopes were filled with money corresponding to winning bets and each envelope was marked with the initials of the bettor. These envelopes were handed over to the cashier, who was also furnished with a "pay and collect" list on a pad about two inches long and an inch wide. Then he was ready for business as soon as he reached the track.

CASHIER WAS KNOWN.

In handling over the brown envelopes a cashier had to be extremely careful. He was usually known to the sleuths, who were always trying their best to get him. But if he was waiting in the cashier usually fooled the Hawk-skawks easily. As an owner of an envelope approached the cashier would simply slip the brown paper thing under the program on a pad about two inches long and an inch wide. Then he was ready for business as soon as he reached the track.

"What do you like in this race?" "Well, I think Beeson will win!" he would say. "But if he waits in the program was crumpled up in a fist and the program handed back. In paying similar tactics were used, except there were no envelopes. A better would fold some bills tightly and tuck them into the palm of his hand he would either greet the cashier with a friendly handshake, leaving the money or simply drop it into the side pocket of the coat, and then he would wait until the cashier had received a \$2 or a \$10 note. In this way, it being simply a case of honor with the bettor. But don't forget there is a whole lot of honor among these race-track gamblers.

HAMLIN BREAKS RECORD.

Automobile Driver Has Exciting Experience on Road to Arizona.

After being lost for four hours of darkness out on an Arizona desert last week R. C. Hamlin of Los Angeles drove his Franklin "Greyhound" into Phoenix, Ariz., and as a sequel to his experience put the automobile at once upon a circular track and broke the world's record for stock motor cars by sending the machine 10 miles in 10 minutes and 41 seconds. The second mile was done in one minute flat.

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Refusing, however, to quietly accept the buffetings of fate, Hamlin on arriving at Phoenix determined to demonstrate what his motor car could do. He put it upon the track as it stood after its long run from Los Angeles, tore off 10 miles so fast as to establish a new world's record and the final mile was ready to do it all over again. Not an adjustment was made in preparation for the record-breaking performance.

Breaking records is a habit with Hamlin. With the same six-cylinder Franklin he last month broke the record for the round trip between San Diego and Los Angeles in 10 hours and 32 minutes in 11 hours and 17 minutes and winning the Chancellor Lyon cup.

He also holds the record for a stock car for the run between Los Angeles and San Diego, the time being four hours and 28 minutes.

FOR YOUR XMAS PRESENTS.

Why not give some calling cards? We print them Right. Price—Quality—Appearance. The Deseret News.

"Fakers of Olden Times." (By W. O. McGeehan.) (A few words for some of the doubting gentlemen who cannot be convinced that a man is not a faker unless he lands in the undertaker's hands. Some think that the beating of these pugs have Booth and all the others looking like selling platters on the stage.)

When they fought to the death on the sand in Rome And the populace reveled in strife, And the blood dashed red from the battered head When a man died his best and he fell like a man With a courage that would not shake Even then there were some who would lower the thumb And clamor, "It's only a fake."

When they waited and watched on the Athens cliffs For the news of the far off fight And the clamoring crowd voiced their feelings aloud When the runner appeared in their sight For he brought them the news of the Marathon strife And his life fluttered on as he spoke— "But a few of them cried as the messenger died, 'He has brought it, but surely it's fake.'"

When the pennant of Lawrence was nailed to the mast And he shouted, "Don't give up the ship." The commander's last word through the tumult was heard But he died with his sword in his hand— "Where the life of a man is at stake That there's some one to say in a cold-blooded way 'It was fine but it might be a fake.'"

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FIGHTERS UP AND PUGILISTS DOWN

Story of One Time Champions Who Died Penniless.

SULLIVAN'S DEATH UNIQUE.

George Law, Millionaire, Left Joe Coburn and Other Boon Companions Simply Nothing.

One of the proudest mortals on earth is a champion pugilist surrounded by a host of enthusiastic followers, while on the other hand one of the saddest beings is the broken down, penniless prize fighter, wrecked by dissipation, deserted by his friends, hanging to the ropes of life with no way to make an honest living. Many of these unfortunate fellows die in the alcoholic wards of charity hospitals and are buried among the unknown in Potter's field. Their glorious battles in the ring are forgotten by the new generation of fight fans, who are interested exclusively in the doings of the present-day pugilist.

Yankee Sullivan was a pugilist hero half a century ago. He fought some desperate battles in the east with such topnotchers as John Morrissey, Tom Hyer and Billy Bell. It was Bell who had Sullivan finished and the latter cried "enough." Just as Bell turned to go to his corner Yankee put up behind and landed a blow that put Bell down and out. That was one of Sullivan's characteristic tricks, and because of his sneaking style of fighting he was not held in high esteem by the best class of sporting men.

Shortly after the gold fever broke out in California, Yankee Sullivan made his way to the coast and rapidly fought his way to the front. He became the associate of thieves and thugs and soon got into bad repute. He was arrested in 1871 by the vigilance committee as a "dangerous character" and on the morning of May 31, 1876, he was found dead in his cell, having committed suicide. It was said that two years later a fine monument was placed over Sullivan's grave with this inscription:

SACRED To the Memory of the Late JAMES SULLIVAN, Who died by the Hands of the V. C. on the 31st day of May, 1876.

Remember not, O Lord, our offenses, nor those of our parents. Neither take Thou vengeance on our sins.

"Thou shall bring forth my soul out of tribulation, and in Thy mercy Thou shalt destroy mine enemies." It is strange, but nevertheless true that another famous pugilist lies in the same grave as Sullivan. The Nonpareil, idol of the fistie world 15 years ago, passed away at Portland, Or., after a famous career. Dempsey's grave is in the same cemetery. There is no shaft of marble or granite upon which is told who and what he was. He was buried in an out of the way spot near Portland, forgotten by all but a few. It was not long after his death that several unscrupulous persons collected a fund from sporting men in various cities with which to buy a monument in memory of the former middle-weight champion, but the money was spent in other ways.

Tom Hyer was perhaps the most popular fighter New York City ever produced. He was the "Broadway Dandy" of his day. Dressed in a Prince Albert coat, high silk hat, patent leather shoes and stylish trunks, he always cut a swag on the Grand Central. Hyer was frequently wounded and dined by New York sports, especially after his victories over Country McCuskey (George McChester) and Yankee Sullivan. He was killed on the road, and he had to depend on his few loyal friends for an existence and when he died they were compelled to pay for his burial.

COBURN AND MCCOOL.

Joe Coburn, another former heavy-weight champion of America, became the pet of the sporting element in New York City after his triumph over Mike McCool in Maryland in 1882. They battled with bare knuckles for 63 rounds, the fight lasting 1 hour and 10 minutes. Among Coburn's admirers at that time was George Law, the millionaire, who was a noted sportsman and was never so happy as when he had Coburn at his side as a sort of protector. Billy Tracey's saloon on Broadway was the headquarters of the millionaire and his pugilist friends. It was also the resort of Billy Porter, Jimmy Hope, Red John Terry, Big Frank McCoy, Shang Drury and other classy-bank burglars.

Tracy was a rough and tumble fighter himself. He was also handy with a gun and had killed a "con" man named Kid Miller on Broadway.

It was in Tracy's saloon, by the way, that Paddy Ryan had his famous fight with the recognized champion because he had beaten Jimmy Elliott for the title. It was a fierce, grueling fight between Ryan and Tracy, which lasted, and probably would have ended in a murder had not the belligerents been separated. Both were badly punished and eyewitnesses said that Ryan had a shade the better of it as Dwyer was not in good fettle and had been drinking too much to do good work. It was at these affairs that Joe Coburn was in his glory with law at his back. Several times the millionaire fitted up balloons for Coburn, but as the pugilist was not a good business man all these ventures failed. Law frequently bought diamonds for Coburn and the rest of the gang, spending something like \$30,000 in this way at Saratoga in one day. But at last Law, after a short illness, died, and Coburn, Tracey and the others were not mentioned in his will. It was said that Coburn found himself broken down old man without a dollar, and after hanging on a few years, getting a benefit now and then, he passed away and was buried by a few loyal friends.

Coburn's mind was consumed, which also caused the death of Jimmy Dwyer. The latter was penniless when the end came, although he had held a position as clerk in a police court. Tracy was dead for years and his body was found in a ditch in Troy without a dollar to show that he was once champion of America. Ryan had many saloons both in New York City and elsewhere, but none of them ever prospered. Tracy's brother, fought some hard battles with bare knuckles in his early days. Later he went into politics and became a powerful ward leader and an alderman in Brooklyn. He was consumed, which also caused the death of Jimmy Dwyer. The latter was penniless when the end came, although he had held a position as clerk in a police court. Tracy was dead for years and his body was found in a ditch in Troy without a dollar to show that he was once champion of America. Ryan had many saloons both in New York City and elsewhere, but none of them ever prospered. 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