THE WORLD OF SPORT AND DRAMA

HARRY ELKES, CYCLING MARVEL.

The Saratoga Rider's Sudden Leap Into Prominence After a Series of Very Disappointing Performances.

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At one broad Harry Elkes, the cyclist, has landed fairly in the center of the middle distance racing arena. His remarkable work against Tom Linton at the recent 25 mile paced contest at the Willow Grove track, Philadelphia, at once placed him on a par with Jimmie Michael, Eddie Helmuth, Tom Linton and Edward Taylor.

On that same afternoon Michael and McDuffie had contested in a duel, in which the "Welsh Rarebit" had proved victorious. In the evening Elkes, following the same pacemakers who had piloted Michael to victory, defeated Tom Linton in a 25 mile race, in which all world's competition records, from 5 to 25 miles inclusive, were smashed. Then the Saratoga lad, instead of stopping and being content with his victory and great effort, continued on after the hour record and succeeded in covering 34 miles 1,221 yards in the 60 minutes.

This puts the recently made record of 32 miles 385 yards, held by Edward Taylor, the resistless young Frenchman, entirely in the shade.

Elkes' feat was even more wonderful from the many breaks that have already been made during the present year on the 25 mile and one hour records. After an in and out season, in which he has several times been beaten and on two occasions has left the track thoroughly exhausted, Elkes came to his speed that night with a rush, and petered at long intervals to keep up with his pacemakers was constantly seeing them go and defeating fierce pace. Up to that time his work had been very disappointing in the middle distance races, but henceforth he must certainly be reckoned with by those who aspire to national championship honors.

Elkes gained a bit of notoriety by very good work in the six day bicycle race at Madison Square Garden, New York, last winter. He then declared his intention to try his hand at the middle distance race this season and more than one expert thought he had better than an average chance to become a star.

His ride of 25 miles in 0m. 42s. is an average of 1m. 42s. to the mile. Going at practically the same rate, he would travel nearly 34 miles within an hour. There are comparatively few railroad trains that make anything approaching this rate of speed during an ordinary run. The engineer of a freight locomotive would have heart disease if he traveled at fast.

It is interesting to note that, when Elkes succeeded his 25 mile record trip in less than 42 minutes, it took Michael that same day to hit pace with McDuffie, following the same pacing artillery, for 25 1-5 to cover the same distance. The best former time was 43m. 25 4-5s.

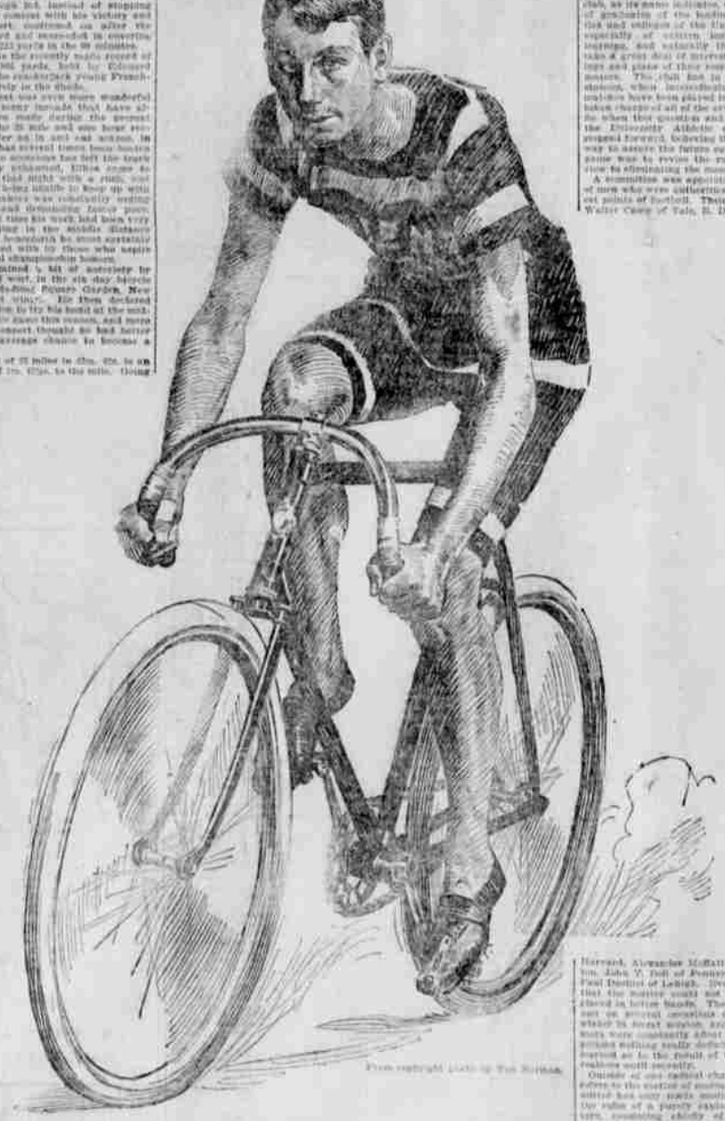
This constant cutting of records at almost every middle distance race held this season brings forward prominently the question as to when this procession of races is going to end. It is the same question to be contested for very long. It looks as though some rider will cover the 25 miles in 40 minutes flat.

It is interesting to note that on the day of Elkes' wonderful performance Johnson Taylor gave another proof of his quality as a racer when in condition to his desire to stay at middle distances. The young Frenchman made the marvelous time of 1m. 12 2-5s. for a mile, creating a world's record. Taylor was paced by three quint teams, and his rights were clearly responsible as 0 2-5 seconds, 21 1-5 seconds and 21 seconds.

Not a particle of wind was blowing at the time, and the conditions were absolutely perfect for the effort. The best previous record for the paced mile without time was 1m. 2s. held by J. Fred Duffy, the colorful little English sprint rider. It was made on the Crystal palace track, near London.

WALLACE T. RYTE.

There is a possibility that Mr. Gillette will make a play out of the Corbett-Dodge scrape and impersonate the detective.



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HARRY ELKES.

GOSSIP OF THE GRIDIRON.

An Exceptionally Bright Outlook For the Coming Football Season---Important Change In Scoring Rules.

[Copyright, 1898.]

When the football season of 1897 came to an end last December, an appeal was made by those most interested in the game that a committee be appointed to examine carefully the various rules relating to the game, especially in regard to the questions of close plays, injuries which a rule-book every had been killed in some quarters during the season.

Those who felt that something should be done to effect a speedy amendment to what was called the brutal and unnecessarily harsh features of the otherwise healthful game, in view of these objections the University Athletic club of New York stepped into the breach. This club, as its name indicates, is composed of graduates of the leading universities and colleges of the United States, especially of eastern institutions of prestige, and naturally the members take a great deal of interest in the games and pastime of their respective alma maters. The club has in several instances, when intercollegiate football matches have been played in New York, taken charge of all the arrangements, so when the question arose and took form the University Athletic club quickly proposed forward, believing that the only way to secure the future success of the game was to revise the rules, with a view to eliminating the mass play.

A committee was appointed made up of men who were authorities on the finer points of football. Their names are Walter Camp of Yale, E. D. Wrenn of Harvard, Alexander Moffatt of Princeton, John V. Sell of Pennsylvania and Paul Dashiel of Lehigh. Every one felt that the matter could not have been placed in better hands. The committee met on several occasions during last winter to great weight, and while rumors were constantly afloat as to their actions nothing really definite has been learned as to the result of their deliberations until recently.

Outside of one radical change, which refers to the method of scoring, the committee has only made modifications in the rules of a purely explanatory nature, considering chiefly of technical, doubtful and close questions. They stated in this connection that the rules committee was right in the main, but admitted that some misunderstanding and that in the rule-book there were some points which were open to the gravest of doubt as to the intent of the law. It was thought that by making minor changes, coupled with the chief action of the rules committee, the rule-book could better lead the players to the principles of sportsmanship.

The chief cause of mass plays was very plainly gone into by the committee, and after careful consideration, during which many arguments for and against the proposed modifications were brought forward, it was felt that, though, and what in the minds of many people was the main object of the revisions was not achieved, the committee felt that it would be best to leave the option of using or discarding mass plays to the captains of competing eleven.

A fact which doubtless had great weight with the committee in their action is that the most successful teams last season were those which made least use of the objectionable play, Yale, last year's intercollegiate champion, rarely if ever brought the "mass" into use.

The mass play has gradually evolved itself from the interference, so it would be a difficult matter to draw up a provision abolishing the former that would not necessarily interfere with the latter. When framing the rules, the committee had in mind such men as are turned out by Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, Yale and Pennsylvania. Not one of these institutions has suffered very much from mass plays in the way of serious accidents during seasons gone. There were hardly any accidents on the Yale field last fall. The chief argument against the play is that it exhausts the men, and this fact was illustrated in the games participated in by Princeton and Pennsylvania, which without it extensively. The committee came to the conclusion that the mass play, being unsatisfactory from a strictly athletic point of view, would bring about their own abolition; that they would fall in their own weight, as it were. In view of this fact, therefore, that mass plays are more and more regulating themselves, the committee thought it unnecessary to interfere the Football rules with any legislation expressing them.

The one radical change made by the committee was in the matter of scoring. Hereafter only the point will be allowed for a goal made from a touchdown consist of two, as before. The object of this change is to increase the value of a goal from the field by means of the place kick. This is a feature of the game that Atlantic has long very much worried. It is a very pretty play and especially useful to a team from behind, but against a weaker one. This was exemplified last season by Sanford from Hobson of the Carlisle Indian school and to the work of Kane of Cornell. The drop kick from the field starts in the play and is a very welcome change from the close formations and hard hacking now so frequent, and bring it to the front of view of the spectators.

Now that a goal after touchdown is worth only two, we may look for more goals from a touchdown, as they expect to see more goal play this fall.

There is now to be no time allowance in this game, though the general feeling was in favor of the new method of counting. It was stated that if a fellow was injured, though the matter of time would be taken into account, the time would be taken from the opposite side of the ground. The committee felt that the time allowance would be a great deal of time lost in the middle of the examination. The referee will also make without consultation with the umpire whether she will be able to play this season.

The most important item from the Paris news only by Lizzie de Forest, already to be a popular idea there.

Max O'Rell is said to have written a comedy in which Olga Nethersole will appear during the season.

Theatrical managers like to see persons the attraction they have hired when some find more appeal in their new play "Divorced or Married."

Stuart Robson has a new play, by Augustus Thomas, called "The Gray Mantle."

Charlie Frohman, manager, denies that the star has any notion of trying a vaudeville tour.

Pauline Davenport's friends now expect her recovery, but it is still uncertain whether she will be able to play this season.

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STORIES OF THE STAGE

First Do Good. Lawrence Barrett, "The Hero of Marengo" [illegible] Chicago and in Boston. He was in Boston when he was with the Boston Museum in Albany.

"I recall when we had a play called 'White' for a Christmas [illegible] Robson played the title part. We had [illegible] a week, a dollar a Fridays and at Albany the bigger. Although was in a country town [illegible] days before the opening the [illegible] had to explain to New York [illegible] word that he couldn't come. Other times hands said he knew [illegible] was a clever amateur, [illegible] Lawrence Barrett, who [illegible] to go from Boston to Albany [illegible] bought sent for him, and he [illegible] the Albany hotel. Barrett [illegible] and never seen a trouper [illegible] him. Mr. Albany said he [illegible] acting at the time, and [illegible] and crept his way with him. It [illegible] anything about varieties than [illegible] understood that they are [illegible] things to jobs with. When a [illegible] up through a trap, certain [illegible] the apparition was disguised. [illegible] stage hands put on either [illegible] pure Larry came to make his [illegible] journey through the trap. [illegible] would say Mark to among the [illegible] are a regular [illegible] Barrett. [illegible] bears all thought it was a good [illegible] but I went down and asked [illegible] Barrett. That brought them [illegible] season.

"In the orchestra we had a man [illegible] composer [illegible] from Gounod, and I have heard [illegible] he was a director from St. [illegible] Paul. But at any rate he was a [illegible] with the crowd. The only [illegible] with Mr. Barrett [illegible] to the [illegible] and when he had a drop [illegible] on board he used to [illegible] music of his own that would [illegible] and a Wagnerian [illegible] practical joker I used to [illegible] leader of the orchestra, [illegible] better to allow Gounod to be [illegible] was started that a [illegible] was introduced. The [illegible] Gounod turned on us a tremendous [illegible] work. The overture began and we [illegible] chord. The overture was to my [illegible] the first quarter of the present [illegible] a trouper was sitting in "The [illegible] Mazeppa the Cossa Chief." [illegible] was started that a [illegible] the apparatus had [illegible] two hands. At the last [illegible] the should scamper for [illegible] of the house and [illegible] on the opposite side of the [illegible] of 'Nearer, My God, to Thee' [illegible] that would have brought [illegible] eyes of an atheist."

In the order of Louis XIV [illegible] opera glass was first used at [illegible] Louis, the age among [illegible] body who was nobody." In [illegible] double opera glass came in. [illegible] did not find favor among [illegible] the first quarter of the present [illegible] a trouper was sitting in "The [illegible] Mazeppa the Cossa Chief." [illegible] was started that a [illegible] the apparatus had [illegible] two hands. At the last [illegible] should scamper for [illegible] of the house and [illegible] on the opposite side of the [illegible] of 'Nearer, My God, to Thee' [illegible] that would have brought [illegible] eyes of an atheist."

An Old Theatrical Company.

A traveling theatrical company which is believed to have had a career longer than any other is about to be disbanded in Manchester. It has been in existence 11 years. It gave its first performance Feb. 17, 1887. Edward Compton is its head. Under his direction 40 plays were produced.

EVELYN MILLARD.

Evelyn Millard is the new leading lady of the stock company which [illegible] Frohman, an American, has organized for the Duke of York's theatre, London. She is an accomplished actress and a consummate [illegible] that she has so far refrained from telling newspaper interviewers of her abiding love for the "dear American."

THE MIMIC WORLD.

Bessie O'Neill is to appear in an adaptation of "Rebecca."

Blanche Ring, Fox, it now seems, is to appear in a new and extensively advertised play by Mr. Silvio Hein. The music will be provided by Alfred Pearson's composition, and one of the novelties of the production will be the kitchen of a color theme.

The Lambardis have a new extravaganza, entitled "Pluck and Luck."

Henry E. Dixey is to have a new comedy in which he will play five different characters. It is to be called "The History of a Marriage" and will be in the nature of a burlesque.

The road companies are going back to the old plays. Among those booked for presentation are "The Rag Man," "Old Homestead," some of Bronson Howard's old successes and other well known favorites.

Included in the list of Major Pond's bureau stars this season are Fanny Davenport, Mme. Modjeska, Mrs. Minnie Tittemore Boom, E. Harris Crawford and naughty Mark Twain.

Dan Daly will star the season with a burlesque, "The Highwayman."

Professor Herman Schnee, a pupil of Liszt, has just completed a piece entitled "Gerlach's Dream" and has dedicated it to "Ella" Molloy and "Nellie" Mahoney. It will be heard Carter, H. F. Ian Maclaren, Mrs. Minnie Tittemore Boom, E. Harris Crawford and naughty Mark Twain.

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