

FIRPO-WILLS FIGHT WOULDN'T DRAW MILLION DOLLARS AT GATE, FARRELL SAYS; PROMOTERS WOULD BE LOSERS

By HENRY L. FARRELL
(United Press Sports Editor)
NEW YORK, March 3.—From the first time it was mentioned up to the current writing, the sports department of the United Press did not believe, and it does not now believe, that the syndicate which is said to be headed by Lew Raymond, New York matchmaker, will be able to promote a match between Harry Wills and Luis Firpo.

News handed out by Raymond dealing with the various stages of the match making, from the first rumors up to the announcement that the fighters had been signed, and would meet July 19, was handled with skepticism, without disguising the intention to let its client papers and their readers know that it assumed no responsibility for the news and that it was printing just what Raymond said.

Threatens to Sue.
William McCarney, who acts as the business agent for Firpo in New York, threatened to sue the sports editor of the United Press for sending out "scurrilous reports" about the match and for writing a story in which McCarney was quoted as saying that "Firpo was fat."

McCarney, who brought Tut Jackson out of the sticks and exhibited him as a world beater, repudiated the statement he made to the writer.

Reporters in the sporting game are more or less, accustomed to having statements repudiated. John McGraw made a famous repudiation once and Harry Greb made one just recently when he denied having made statements that reflected very seriously upon the honesty of the New York boxing commission.

Before the statement was printed, which McCarney later denied, the United Press had received a cable from its Buenos Aires office that Firpo had "filled out" to 240 pounds. It was no astounding news to the American fight fans, who knew of the tremendous appetite of Firpo and who were familiar with his rather indolent temperament. Everyone knew he would get fat when he stopped his training.

Raymond Will Not Stage It
There were reasons to have been skeptical from the start and there are reasons to believe now that Raymond's syndicate never will stage the fight.

Taking the actual figures for a basis, an idea can be obtained as to how long it would take to build a concrete arena to seat 125,000 spectators and how much it would cost. Tex Rickard, who ought to know, estimates that the cost would be \$700,000, but if he might be considered to have a biased judgment, ask any contractor you know, how much it would cost and how long it would take to build it.

It would cost, at the very least, \$500,000, and with a purse of \$500,000 guaranteed to the principals, the promoters would be one million dollars "on the nut" before they started to stage the fight.

Any business man or group of business men who would be willing to gamble with a million dollars could not figure, with sound judgment, upon the return of less than 10 per cent. No man or group of men in the United States has such a love of Harry Wills that they would toss off a million dollars just for the purpose of giving him a fair deal.

The Firpo-Wills fight would be a good card, but it would not draw a million dollars. Rickard says it would not draw more than \$600,000, and for that reason he refused to put up a purse of more than \$400,000 to be split by the two fighters.

It was said in Shelby last year that the sport writer from New York was hired by Tex Rickard to spoil the fight, and the same insinuation being made now by those interested in this venture.

They are smart enough, however, to no stronger than insinuations. With the facts being reviewed, if matter was "scurrilous" as charged by McCarney, it is a duty to the public to be "scurrilous."

Approximately 18,000,000,000 postage stamps will be required by the people of the country during the coming year. Postal service experts calculate there has been an increase of 7 per cent annually for the last 30 years.

England has purchased nearly 30,000 tons of Cuban sugar at 5.63 cents f. o. b. Cuba. The price to America is over 8.5 cents. United States Steel sold steel bars to European concerns at \$1.90 a hundred pounds. The Pittsburgh price to Americans is \$2.40. There's something about these two business propositions that the average American does not understand or enjoy.

TAXES PAID IN TEXAS LARGE IN THE AGGREGATE

But the Average Per Capita in State Amounts to About \$30 Only.

DALLAS, Mar. 3.—In an address delivered in Dallas last Sunday John G. Willacy, state tax commissioner of Texas, said:

"For the fiscal year ending 1923, income and other taxes paid the federal government out of Texas industry amounted to \$34,634,081. "During this same year our total state ad valorem tax assessment on a valuation of \$3,423,103,371 amounted to \$25,673,275, of which amount, including poll, occupation and inheritance taxes, there was paid \$24,809,617.

"To this must be added cost of assessing and collecting, approximately \$700,000.

"In gross receipts, including insurance, taxes, there was paid \$5,518,110.

"Departmental revenues, including franchise taxes, amounted to \$1,711,035.

"Upon a conservatively estimated average of 70 cents levied by counties there was assessed in the local counties \$23,961,000.

"District and county common school tax amounted to \$3,024,441.

"Independent school district taxes amounted to \$11,123,434.

"The total enumerated is \$106,481,718.

"The figures given do not include taxes levied to pay interest and provide a sinking fund against road, drainage and other district bond issues, each of them calling for an additional annual tax of not less than \$6,000,000.

"Now if they include the new automobile and gasoline taxes of approximately \$10,000,000, which will bring our total annual tax burden to \$122,481,718.

"Add to this sum the total of city taxes paid and we have a tax burden perilously close to \$150,000,000 annually. This must be paid out of our earnings before and as we provide for food, shelter and clothing. When, with an intelligent understanding, we contemplate these figures in the aggregate, is it any wonder that we look with suspicion upon a philosophy that teaches the way to prosperity by way of more and greater taxes?"

FOURTEEN INDIVIDUALS BOOKED SUNDAY A. M. AT POLICE STATION

Dissolute characters, who are more in evidence Saturday night than any night of the week, were rounded up between midnight Saturday and 5 o'clock Sunday morning in as large numbers as two weeks ago Sunday. Fourteen persons were booked under the classifications of drunks, vags and held for investigation.

Two of those arrested were a mother and daughter. The mother gave her age as 37 years and the daughter as 19 years old. Assistant Chief Leonard Davenport arrested the pair on South Rusk street at midnight. They were charged with vagrancy and after an examination were released without paying a fine on condition that they leave town. This they agreed to do.

Of the nine women charged with vagrancy, six pleaded guilty and paid fines of \$11.70 each. One put up a personal appearance bond. Two men charged with intoxication, pleaded guilty and paid fines of \$11.70. Two of the four men held for investigation, were released on condition they leave the city, while the other two were still lingering in jail this morning.

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WHERE THE RAINBOW TOUCHES THE GROUND

THE family cat died. The farmer who owned the cat, in digging the grave discovered a substance which proved to be marl. This farmer had been hauling limestone a long distance for his alfalfa fields. In conference with his county agent, he discovered that marl would take the place of lime in correcting the acidity of his soil. This experience led him to the use of marl that existed on his own farm and saved him much time and considerable expense in hauling.

Similar opportunities have existed and still exist. Many farmers in the middle west will recall what a pest sweet clover used to be. Now this pest is being used profitably as hay and pasture for livestock and as a crop to be plowed under for increasing the fertility of the soil.

Kansas is called the "Sunflower State" and those who have lived there will well remember how they have fought this weed. Today sunflowers are being grown as a crop, as feed for chickens and it is also being utilized with or without corn as a suitable crop for the silo.

It is surprising to discover how many things which were frowned upon in days gone by are now serving a useful purpose. These changes have been brought about by observation and study. Brains count on the farm as elsewhere. The man who thinks while he is performing physical work is not only opening up the way for larger profits but he is removing the word drudgery from his vocabulary and is transforming what used to be a drudgery into a profitable pleasure.

—The Banker-Farmer.

It would be cause for satisfaction if the recent decision by the law court of the state of Maine, which establishes the offense of operating an automobile while under the influence of liquor as a felony, could be accepted throughout the length and breadth of the United States.

FIFTH AVENUE SHIRT STYLES SHOW CHANGES

By "THE STROLLER"
(Written for United Press)

NEW YORK, March 3.—Now, talking about shirts and things, in a Fifth Avenue shop there was prominently displayed a shirt with a quarter stiff bosom. That is, the shirt had a stiff bosom from the neckband down to about the third button. Thus, the stiffness showed above the vest very leicingly and with no discomfort about the ribs.

That's all very nice, but who wants to wear a stiff bosomed shirt with a sack suit, anyway? It's bad enough to have to don the armor plate with evening dress. The shirt caused no panic on the avenue, so it probably will be permitted to exist for awhile, then die easily and gracefully.

Solid Colors Popular
The shirt of solid color, with soft or stiff collar of the same material is enjoying a very pleasant regime at present. All of the staple plain colors are being employed—several shades of blue, light brown, grays and lavender. Many shirts have a silk stripe of the same color which enhances the attractiveness of the shirt.

Of course, not all men look well in a colored collar. But on dark-complexioned men, the blue adapts itself very readily. Men with pasty complexions will find that the colored shirt and collar serve to detract attention from their pale faces. The ruddy faced chap had best stick to the customary white collar, however. But it cannot be denied that this fashion of shirt and collar to match is securing a grip on male attention. More and more of them are being

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worn and they provide surcease from the monotony of the white collar every day. On some shirts the collar is attached, but as a general rule the collar is detachable, which naturally is elemental in the case of the starched collar. However, it pays to buy good shirts, not only for the simple reason that their life is longer but because of the fact that they don't fade so quickly. Nine times out of ten, purchase of a cheap shirt with self collar will result in collar and shirt diverging into totally dissimilar hues after one or two sessions in the laundry.

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