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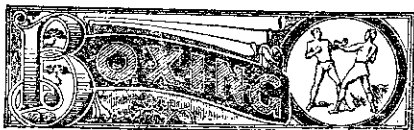
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**ROLPH AS A BOXER FOR BIG MONEY.**

By "The Count."

Much discussion has taken place about the unfortunate conclusion of the Rossi-Criqui contest. As far as the winner was concerned, there was nothing wrong. Criqui won all right. He won actually—that is, on the question of man-to-man antagonism—and he won technically.

Of all the absurd things written about the rumpus that took place after the fight was over, "automatically," as one writer, with perfect truth, described it, the most absurd was that which stated that the misunderstanding arose because of the confusion of languages.

In that respect, I had better say right away that Ross knows quite a lot of English words, and that Criqui knows a few. When the referee said "Box on," Criqui was the one who understood the command, and Ross was the one who acted as if he did not. It was not confusion of language that mattered, it was confusion of mind, and Ross's mind was confused because of the amount of punishment he had received.

PLUCK VERSUS CLEVERNESS.

Ross was in such a bad way that if Mr Corri had said "Box on" in Chinese the little Scotch boxer could not have understood any better than he did when he was spoken to in his own language.

The truth was that Ross was in such a bad way at the end of the fourteenth round that his seconds could not get him to recover in time for the fifteenth. Even though they stayed in the ring doing their best for their man, he was not in a fit condition to understand his own language a minute or so afterwards when the referee told the two to box on.

There is one thing that should not be lost sight of, however, and that is that Ross is one of the gamiest little fellows that ever lived. Had he been otherwise he would never have attempted to continue after the fourteenth round. As all of you will know by now, Criqui was too good for Ross after the latter had expended some of his virility in trying to secure a rapid knock-out.

That must go down to the little French soldier's credit. And there have been altogether too many critics who have forgotten the most important two things about the whole business: That Ross was splendidly plucky, and that Criqui was too clever for the holder of the Lonsdale belt for bantam-weights.

What are the lessons to be gleaned from this business? And how shall it be assured that nothing of the sort shall happen again? If the referee was at fault, it was because he seemed to have no set understanding as to how the seconds would be counted in the event of a knock-down.

In the boxing-laws there is nothing to provide that a man who is knocked down shall be told how long he has been down, but the chivalrous spirit of the game has prompted all of us who have taken part in it to give all reasonable assistance to the temporarily shattered man. While Ross was on the floor what chance had he of knowing how quickly he should rise?

WHY MR CORRI HESITATED

As far as I could see or hear—and I was very close to the ring—there was nothing whatever done to indicate to Ross that he had been down nine seconds or so; officially, it has been called seven seconds, but I have my own opinion. That sort of thing should be provided for, and when it is not there should be an inquiry why it is not.

It is all very foolish for people to talk, as I have heard them talk in circles which have been described as authoritative, that there was any reluctance to give the verdict against Ross because he was a holder of a Lonsdale Belt. That is so much piffle, and I would always refuse to believe for a single moment that Mr Corri's hesitancy was due to that.

Mr Corri hesitated simply because of his great wish to be fair to both parties, and as he hesitated he did nothing but be unfair to himself. Had he have disqualified Ross at the end of the fourteenth round, he would have done justice all the way—to himself as well as to the principals and the spectators. There must be something done to prevent this sort of thing happening again. A closer sympathy between timekeeper and referee might do quite a lot to prevent a similar contretemps.

What a sorry sort of business that was between Harry Reeve and Harold Rolph

at the ring, London! Those two fellows fought as hard as they could to knock each other out. There was nothing in the way of a punch with the right hand that they did not try, but not until the last few seconds of the twenty rounds did one of them—Reeve—show that he understood that the way for a right-hand punch is through a left lead or feint.

BOXERS WITH DIFFERENT STYLES.

Frequently they led with the left, and followed on so quickly with the right that when the head was moved it was not only taken out of the way of the left, but out of the way of the right as well. These two boxers are of different styles. Reeves likes to stand up straight and box in the staid style that is British, but Rolph places his head forward in his crouching position and then tries his hardest to get in a big blow.

Of course, Reeve is a far better-class boxer than Rolph, but the former is not nearly so good as he used to be. What I can never understand about Rolph is how he ever came to get the idea of boxing for big money. He is not of that class. He should be content with something smaller.

Rolph has very little idea of the intricacies of professional boxing as Eddie McGoorty showed us, and it is highly probable that, until he has learned to direct his punches better—half of those he tried went round Reeve and landed on the latter's back—he will never be able to beat anyone who is something like a champion.

IMPRESSIVE BUT NOT EFFECTIVE.

It is a curious thing that some professional boxers cannot get away from the idea that a swinging blow is harder and better than a straight one. That is not so, and I will tell you why.

The swinging blow "sounds" harder because in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, it is delivered with the inside of the glove, and flaps out a noise like a knock. There is scarcely ever a swinging blow struck but what the recipient thereof has had just the small fraction of a second in which to see the blow arriving.

PRISONERS AND PATIENTS' AID AND CITY MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Ladies, Auxiliary of the above Society was held in the Y.M.C.A. rooms on Tuesday, June 15, and was attended by Mrs Baird, president, Mesdames F. W. Wade, Callender, P. Cruickshank, G. Cruickshank, McQueen, Armour, Longuet, Hide, and Miss Hunter. Apologies were received from several ladies.

One of the objects of the meeting was to consider a suggestion by Mrs Baird—namely to allot so many streets to each member of the Auxiliary who would get collectors to help her, and by that means it was thought the whole of the town and suburbs would be successfully canvassed once a year. Another object was to hear proposals for trying to interest the country towns in the work of the Society. The secretary reported having written to several ladies and had received some replies which gave promise of good work being done.

Mr McLean was present and gave a most interesting address concerning the work in which he is engaged and all present felt deeply grateful that Southland had a man with such sincere feeling for the work in which he was engaged for the betterment of society, and in whose nature love and sympathy for the more unfortunate ones in our midst is so manifest. Amongst the institutions whose inmates come under Mr McLean's care are the Borstal Institute, Lorne Farm Home for little children and old people, the hospitals and Victoria Home, also the juveniles who came before the Juvenile Court, and that is a most important part of the work, for those boys and girls are the future citizens, and the course adopted by Mr McLean is an admirable one—example and suggestion which bring out the better side in their natures, and in the end—as has been proved—makes them worthy citizens. In connection with country work Mr McLean suggested that any country town deciding on starting a branch of the work, he would be very pleased to go and give an address on his work at the home of any lady who would arrange for a meeting of those interested, intimation to be sent to Mr McLean or the secretary Mrs Hide.

Another matter Mr McLean mentioned was the kind consideration and sincere sympathy with him in his work, as expressed by the heads of the different institutions visited by him.

Mrs Baird proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr McLean for his interesting and helpful address, which was endorsed by all present.

War Funds Association.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Southland War Funds Association was held in Victoria Hall last Thursday, the president (Mr H. W. Roysds) occupying the chair.

There was an attendance of about 30 members.

Annual Report.

The annual report stated:—

In presenting the fourth annual report and statement of accounts, your committee, whilst realising the amount of attention already given to the men who so nobly took a part in the world's great conflict, and to the dependents of those who have unfortunately fallen, would again impress upon members the necessity of continued interest in the affairs of the Association. Our work involves great responsibility, and must go on without any relaxation for many years to come. We should all recognise fully the necessity of keeping the Association together for the benefit of those for whom the funds are intended.

FUTURE POLICY.

The future policy of the Association in so far as disbursement of funds is concerned has given your committee much thought. This partly in consequence of the fact that some Patriotic Societies have adopted permanent schemes for the relief of disabled soldiers. The question was discussed at a meeting of the Advisory Board in Wellington in March, and the Board was of opinion that no scheme should be put into operation until something of a uniform character throughout the Dominion could be devised. With this object in view, and with the purpose also of making proposals of a definite nature to other organisations engaged in patriotic work, a further conference of the Advisory Board will be held in May.

In the meantime, your committee are carrying on as hitherto; that is to say, every application is dealt with on its merits. The note appended to the February report of the main committee reads as follows:—

"The committee have given considerable attention to a proposed scheme for a schedule of pensions to disabled or partially disabled soldiers, and to those suffering from any war disability; also, to the dependents of fallen or disabled soldiers, and have decided that in the administration of the funds in the best interests of those who are to be benefited, it is better to shelve any definite scheme of this nature for some years. Such a scheme, adopted, would relieve the committee of a good deal of work, as the administration would be of a more or less routine nature, but so long as there are members of the community willing to devote time and attention to patriotic duties pertaining to the welfare of soldiers (and dependents of soldiers) the present system of considering every case on its merits should be adhered to."

On October 23, 1919, the Minister of Internal Affairs wrote regarding the necessity of local control and administration of patriotic money, and urged provision being made for the almost certain contingency arising as a result of war service, whereby men suffering from shell-shock, nervous ailments, and severe physical injuries will require assistance for a long while to come.

In replying to this letter, it was pointed out to the Minister that patriotic societies had special opportunities of observing soldiers in the process of returning to civil life, and though a large proportion of men are resuming their former occupations or taking up fresh avenues of employment, without assistance from anyone, the fact must be realised that the remaining percentage includes men who are in a very bad way, physically or otherwise, who will require a helping hand for a long time to come. Moreover, many who have been and are being discharged as Class A men will, unfortunately break down when put to any severe physical or mental strain; this applies principally to those who have been gassed, and those who have suffered from shell-shock. These men are apparently quite well now, but time alone will tell what is going to occur.

PERMANENTLY AND PARTIALLY DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Schemes for the establishment of supplementary pensions to permanently or partially disabled soldiers have been submitted by the South Canterbury Patriotic Society, the Auckland War Relief Association, the Taranaki Provincial War Relief Association, the North Otago Soldiers' Aid Association, the Canterbury Patriotic Fund, and the Gisborne Patriotic Society. In all these schemes there is a good deal of similarity; this matter has received a large amount of attention from the Committee of the Southland War Funds Association, and proposals on various lines in the direction of supplementing Government pensions have been worked out. However, in view of the Advisory Board decision, and the fact that in future years greater need will exist for patriotic funds than at present, it has been deemed expedient to hold over the establishment of any scheme of supplementary pensions until a wider survey can be taken of the position of our returned men.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

The year just closed has been a particularly heavy one so far as claims for assistance are concerned. In all 5123 separate applications have been under the

notice of the committee, and the sum of £15,307 0s 10d has been paid out. It will thus be seen that the fund has been of material assistance, and has justified its existence. No claim has been disposed of without full enquiry, and the public of Southland who subscribe so liberally during the war period to afford a great deal of satisfaction to those that their contributions have been of great value to our returned men in the process of resuming civil life, and the relatives and dependents of those who have made the supreme sacrifice.

Since the commencement of the Association 5140 claims have been considered. Of this number 2447 have been dealt with once only, 543 on two occasions, 195 three times, 105 four times, 51 five times, 23 times, 9 seven times, 11 eight times, nine times, 1 thirteen times, and 1 fifteen times.

The following shows how applications were dealt with in 1919-20, the respective totals being given in parentheses—Declined 140 (195), by S.W.F.A. for other societies 216 (304), by other societies for S.W.F.A. 222 (401), referred to Government departments 60 (173), multi grants 1509 (2199).

Eight grants have been of sums less than £1, and fifty-two grants have been over £10. With the exception of claims for multi allowance there is a wide range of difference in the applications for assistance. Some of these cases might be quoted for the information of members of the Association were it not for the fact that every care must be taken to safeguard the confidential statements of applicants.

In addition to dealing with claims for financial assistance from the patriotic fund, the office facilities are always available to returned men, and the valuable knowledge that has been acquired over time to time has proved of great use in assisting men with regard to pension claims and other allowances. In connection it should be noted that the greatest help is afforded at all times from the local office of the Lands Department, Pensions Office, Repatriation Department, and the Returned Soldiers' Association.

MEETINGS.

Regular meetings of the Emergency Committee have been held twice weekly also monthly meetings of the Main Committee, whilst all questions of policy at the general business of the Association have been considered at the quarterly meetings of the Council. In addition to this, the secretary has made almost daily calls on members of the Emergency Committee for settlement of questions requiring immediate attention. Considerable aid has been given by country representatives in all matters referred to them.

ADVISORY BOARD.

Two meetings of the Advisory Board have been held at Wellington, at each of which the Association was represented by the secretary, who gave very full and lucid reports of the proceedings of conference. The next important question to come before the Advisory Board is in connection with the disposal of surplus funds held by kindred organisations whose functions have ceased to exist. It is proposed that these funds should be allocated to patriotic societies, and with this object in view it is desirable that the number of patriotic administering societies should be reduced to about ten. By direction of conference, the Gore Citizens' Defence Committee have been requested to become absorbed by the Association and a reply has been received from the committee that the question will be discussed at the annual meeting in November. The Advisory Board is a very valuable organisation or federation of patriotic societies, and the opportunities provided for mutual interchange of ideas especially on policy matters, is of great assistance. The Board hopes to see a uniform scheme of administration adopted before long, and though so far there does not appear much possibility of this being realised, still the fact remains that in the devising of policy considerable influence is exercised by what is being proposed to be done by other patriotic societies.

BRANCHES.

As the functions of branches as collecting societies have now ceased to exist, it has been deemed advisable to close the branches as such, and the various secretaries have been notified accordingly. The constitution of the Association allows for representation on the Council of Main Committee. Paragraph 12 under "General Provisions" reads as follows:—"Should any district within the area as per clause 2 hereof fail to form a branch or a branch in any such district cease to exist, the Council may appoint a member of the Council representing another district or some person or persons resident in the said district to represent or act as an Advisory Committee in respect of such district with or without seat or seats upon the Council and with such powers as the Council may from time to time determine."

GORE SOLDIERS' CLUB.

A communication was received from the Management Committee of the Gore Soldiers' Club soliciting financial assistance to make up the loss sustained by a fire. The emergency committee paid a special visit to Gore to enquire into this matter, and, in conjunction with Mr John