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Shortcomings of the A. A. U. Board in Dealing With Carey's Claim for a Sprinting Record.

SOME SUGGESTIONS ABOUT TIMERS.

A Few Words About Local Football Players and Some Plans to Popularize the Game.

A LESSON IN BASEBALL EXPERIENCE.

marks About the Pugilists.

We are not to have such an extraordinary thing as a record of 91/2 seconds for 100 yards; at least not for the present. The mmittee of the Amateur Athletic Union have decreed this, and I suppose that when they "ope their mouth let no dog bark." That committee has been in session and pronounced upon many things, and, generally speaking, their findings appear creditable, but masmuch as they are human beings I don't think that they will lay absolute claim to infallibility. Doubtless, there wouldn't be much surprise when it was known that Mr. Carey's claim of running 100 yards in 936 seconds was rejected. All past experience was against it, and, as I remarked last week, the claim was entirely on the defensive. While we are bound to accept the ruling of the committee, I don't hesitate to say that there is much cause for complaint as to the method, or at least the reported method, of arriving at the decision in question. A very able and lucid report of the meeting tells us that the claim "not investigated at all," and that after a few very brief remarks the following resolution

as unanimously adopted; Resolved, That this Board refuses to investi-Resolved, That this Board refuses to investigate a claim so manifestly absurd.

The affidavits that had been prepared and aworn to in defense of the claim were entirely ignored. This very expeditious and evidently self-willed plan of getting through very important business in remarkably fast time was indulged in simply because the claim of Mr. Carey was an extraordinary one. I am not dealing with the right or wrong of the decision, but I am contending that the board in its very off hand way of settling a very important question displayed a remarkable lack of earnestness and a wonderful amount of prejudge. If there is any difference between an ordinary claim and one of an extraordinary ary claim and one of an extraordinary nature, by all means the latter needs the most careful investigation. Of course I am aware that some things are so absurd that they need no investigation, but any fair minded man who to a some things are so about that they need no investigation, but any fair minded man who has paid any attention to sprinting during the last ten or fifteen years will not contend that Mr. Carey's claim was so absurd as to make it ridiculous on the part of the board to investigate it. It is as a rule the extraordinary that marks the progress of not only amateur athletics but also of other affairs of life, and if we are to follow the example of the Amateur Athletic Union's learned representatives we will not stop to inquire into any extraordinary claim at all. If this rule had been strictly followed Salvator's 135% recorn would be contemptacusly thrown to the four winds because it was so extraordinarily better than the previous records. Accepted claims of pedestrians liked. White, W. Johnson, Hutchens and others would have been trampled under foot. But the very bigoted manner in which the affidavits of gentlemen—I take it for granted that they are gentlemen. ed manner in which the flidavits of gentlemen.

—I take it for granted that they are gentlemen, because I presume that the A. A. U. has nothing except gentlemen under its protecting wings—I say the manner in which the sworn statements of gentlemen were ignored leads us to the conclusion that those who signed these affidavits were either consummate fools or infamous liars. That is the plain English of it. Why, the very fact that three or four watches recorded almost the same time is sufficient matter in itself for investigation. A fact of that kind can only be discarded because of one of two things, viz.: that it was a conspiracy or that it was the result of ewery timer making mistake exactly alike. In either case I submit there was ample grounds for inquiry, if for no other reason than enlightening the public. But there is certainly one very important opinother reason than enlightening the public. But there is certainly one very important opnion expressed by the board, and which can only be read between the lines. That opinion is to the effect that the gentlemen who timed Mr. Carey were extremely questionable. Now in all fairness the statements of these gentlemen ought to have been examined and an opinion expressed as to whether they were the result of result of something else. a misunderstanding or whether they were the

Had Their Minds Made Up.

There is certainly every reason to believe that every member of the board in question had his mind made up on the claim of Mr. Carey before the board met. If I mistake not, one or two members of the board had publicly placed themselves on record regarding the claim long before the board meeting was held. This is prejudging a claim with a vengeance. If an importan board, such as that with which If an importan board, such as that with which we are dealing is to secharacterized by features of this kind, its prestner will not last long. The board member, before making up their minds on the matter, should certainly have met officially, and heard all arguments and statements. The fact of their not doing so leads to the conclusion that prejudice against dealing with anything extraordinary was the entire source of their official opinion. Mr. Owens' record was accepted without a murfaur as far as I know, and most certainly, laying aside the extraordinary feature of Carey's claim, there were stranger objections to Mr. Owen's claim than to that of the Manhattan runners. But it may have been fortunate for Mr. Owen that Mr. Carey's claim was made at all. I am quite aware that there was a very remarkable difference letween Sprinter Carey at Washington and Sprinter Carey at Princeton, but this difference I emphatically maintain ought not to have prevented a thorough and courteous investigation of the claim. These recent contentions regarding records would seem to suggest the advis bility of the A. A. U. adopting some plan that will tend to prevent great misunderstandings in future. It might be well for the union to have one or prevent great misunderstandings in future. It might be well for the union to have one or more representatives to time the races at amaings of any importance. Amateur athletics are necoming more and more numer-ons and better. The union could without much ons and better. The union could without much trouble and probably no no expense select qualified gentlemen in each city to time that class of events, the timing of which invariably causes so much unpleasant contention, indeed this suggestion night be carried further. The union's representatives could see that everything was laid out and measured according to rule before an event of any kind took place. If there were fees to pay let the clubs bolding the sports pay it, because the very fact of their contests being under the direct supervision of the A. A. U. would be a very great attraction in itself. The union is without doubt a splendid organization and its importance is growing yearly. It could not fill a worthier function than formulating some plan that will guarantee correct records without the customary unpleasantbeess.

The Union and Boxing. The Board of the Athletic Union discussed amateur boxing, and, as a result of their deliberations, they passed a resolution which reads as follows: "Resolved, That any amateur athlete who shall, on or after October 27, 1890. compete in a boxing contest of more than four rounds shall be suspended for such stated period as may be determined by the Board of Managers of the A. A. U." Matters got a little Managers of the A. A. U." Matters got a little mixed regarding this resolution. There was another to the effect that only amateurs connected with the A. A. U. would be prevented from boxing more than four rounds. It was reported that the latter resolution had been carried, but the statement turned out to be a mistake. But the new rule is a sad commentary on the men who have fought for more than two hours under Queenberry rules; that is, if the board thinks that four rounds are sufficient to prove who is the better man of any is, if the board thinks that four rounds are sufficient to prove who is the better man of any two who may be boxing. If the board so think I don't agree with them because there have been and will be again very many contests where four rounds will not give both contestants a fair opportunity to win. McCaffrey and Dempsey boxed ten rounds, I think and scarcely a bona fide blow was struck in the contest. However, there are some good leatures in the new role. I have all along contended that Queensberry rules are only boxing rules and that when they govern a fight to a finish they are brittal. If they are rigidly applied they, in the majority of instances, work well enough even in a four-round contest.

The Football Players.

There is no doubt whatever now about the football boom. The game is going ahead all over the country just like a house on fire. East

is safe to say that there will be a greater interest in the championship contests this year than there has ever been, because already inquiries are pouring in to newspaper offices from all quarters regarding football affairs. So far Pittsburg has done well because it must be borne in mind that the gentlemen who have organized the club only began theirs a short time ago. During the week I have received several letters from readers of The Disparch regarding plans to popularize the game here. It may not be out of place to remark that the game here is jumping very rapidly into nopularity; but the suggestions I refer to are worth considering, because something may be devised that will sustain the interest. One gentleman suggests that a league be formed in Western Pennsylvania or throughout the State, and that the ctubs composing the league play for a challenge cup, to be wen thrice in succession by any one clob before it becomes the property of that club. The suggestion is a good one, and if it were carried out I feel certain that interest in the game would not only be sustained, but that it would be materially increased. The suggestion is not new by any means, but that is no reason why it should not be acted upon if it promises well. Of course, it is good as far as it applies locally. But why could there not be a football league embracing eight or ten leading clubs, some or them being outside the State? If a league were formed we could then depend on sevedule games, and it seems certain that in time football players would become as familiar to the public as the star ball players once were. True, there is not time to organize any league this season, but it is none too soon or too late to discuss the mater. I know that the officials of the local football teams are favorably disposed toward the formation of a league, and i trust that before we commence another season we will have a league. The directors of the Allegheny Athletic Association have a very extensive programme to carry out between now and next spring, but

I had almost fergotten to reproduce a list of athletes who were reinstated i amateurism by the A. A. U. Board. This list has been requested by several correspondents. It certainly shows that there is little truth in once a professional no more an amateur. Here is the list: Thomas Walsteneraft, Somerville, Mass, (competed under assumed name); Henry is the list: Thomas Walsteneraft, Somerville, Mass, (competed under assumed name); Henry Berst, Buffalo, N. Y. (member of professional rowing club); George H. Benedict, Chicago, Ili. (professional purilist); Jackson McCiellan, New York City (old-time member American A. C.; got six-day-go-as-you-please fever in 1880 and competed just two hours); F. W. Allison, Neward, N. J. (competed for \$10 prize when a boy of 18 at the instigntion of a wicked father); J. L. Dugan, New York City (competed at Trainer Pook's recent unapproved benefit); F. W. McCollom, Philadelphia, Pa. (professional carsaran through ignostnee of laws). The application of F. A. Stoll, Lawrence, Mass. (professional poloplayer), was refused. The petition of O. E. Paynter, Brooklyn, N. Y. (competed at unapproved games July 4, 1890) for remitment of suspension, was refused. His time expires January 1, 1891. The following applications for reinstatement were referred to a new committee; J. Fitzpatrick, Buffalo, N. Y. (protested at Salford Harrier-M. A. C. games, October Il). John Naughton, Schefiectady, N. Y. (protested at Albany July 4); D. P. Sullivan, New York City (protested at Park A. C. games). Joe Watson, Brooklyn, N. Y. (protested at Acorn A. A. games); J. D. Harris, New York City (club swinger, protested at A. A. U. gymnastic championships). The application of J. R. Cottrell (bicyclist) was referred to Chairman Davol, of the L. A. W.

The Salford Harriers

While we are dealing with amateurs and that the A. A. U. Board are still insisting on having a clear understanding regarding the payment of the expenses of amateur athletes. The following preamble and resolution were

WHEREAS, At its annual meeting on the 10th of October, 1890, the Amateur Athletic Union of the October, 1880, the Amateur Ataletic Union of the United States appointed a committee of five to consider the question of the payment of expenses of the athletes within its jurisdiction; and Whereas, in its opinion it is of great importance to amateur athletes that the rule as to allowance of expenses should be uniform in all amateur organizations; be it Resolved, That the League of American Wheelmen and National Association of Amateur tarsmen be such invited to appoint a committee or representation to confer and co-operate with said committee and agree upon and frame such uniform rule if possibile; and be it further Resolved. That a copy of this preamble and resolution be sent by the secretary to each of the above asseed organizations at once.

above named organizations at once.

I refer to this matter somewhat fully because, while the most rigid lines are being drawn around amateurs, the Salford Harriers are acting very questionably. It is quite apparent that their trip to the country was for "rate receipts" almost entirel. Few of us will be inclined to believe that each member of that team is here on a long stuy merely for his "legitimate expenses." To all intents and purposes their mission here has been as professional as that of Shaw or Shrawshay's ricklass. sional as that of Shaw or Shrewsbury's cricket teams. The "gate" has been the great object all along and it does not affect the principle at issue if the "gate" has been a failure. Trips of this kind, that is these alleged amateur trips, have been common in recent years and that they are in nine cases out of ten a direct desecration of the term amateur there is no doubt. Many have tried to explain satisfactorily that the trips of the Australian cricketers were on purely amateur basis, but the explanations failed. The cricketers, like the Saiford Harriers and like many more aggregations, live on sional as that of Shaw or Shrewsbury's cricket riers and like many more aggregations, live on the returns; that is, on what is called "ex-pensea." If that is now living on a profession I don't know what is. Surely this is a question that demands the attention of the amateur

A Lesson of Experience. After all experience is a great schoolmaster if we would only allow ourselves at all times to penefit by its teachings. It has taught a lesson to ball players this week that ought to be very profitable in the future. I refer to the abanprofitable in the future. I refer to the abandoned baseball trip of Captain Comiskey. In the flush and excitement of the burrah at the beginning of the season Mr. Comiskey saw dollars in galore in Cuba and other places that could all be gathered in by a couple of baseball teams. A trip was planned and players were ready almost in battallons to go. As the season waned the vision of dollars reached no further than San Francisco. The season ended and the vision was only a very dim one. The dollars that fancy had painted so bright and so numerous were fast vanishing. Still Mr. Cormiskey clung to the hope of making money and struggled to get his teams together. Finally he a few days ago abandoned all notion of either going to Cuba, Frisco or anywhere else with baseball teams. Now all this teaches that baseball has been dragged down to a most miserable level in a very short time. Why, only about a year ago a Western trip in fall and winter time filled everybody with enthusiasm, but things have so wonderfully chauged that even players themselves recognize in such a trip of venture nothing but a miserable failure. Surely a circumstance of this kind ought to prompt baseball players to see that there is something sadly wrong with their business, and that they can do a great deal, indeed, toward repairing the injury that has been done. One would think that if nothing else would have an influence with them that self interest would induce them to act in a way that would soon terminate all the humbug and nonsense that have stripped their calling of its glory, prestige and profit. Depend upon it, all these suits here and, there for players' salaries point with unerring finger to the fact that the players, in very many instances, are assisting in the ruination of their own interests. If any man, or any class of men, have good reason to strive for the termination of what is called this baseball conflict, the ball players are the parties. It is to be hoped that experience will have some effect on doned baseball trip of Captain Comiskey. In nation of what is called this baseball conflict, the ball players are the parties. It is to be hoped that experience will have some effect on

Consolidation Prospects. There is still any amount of talk going the rounds regarding the consolidation of the P. L. and N. L. clubs. As far as appearances go matters seem to have been amicably settled in New York and Brooklyn, which is a very hopeful sign. I don't know whether or not the Pitts sign. I don't know whether or not the Pittsburg factions are nearing a settlement, but it
seems to me that all parties concerned are less
on the warpath than they were a week or so
age. I think many people have came to the
conclusion that baseball is not the alpha and
omega of this life, and certainly it will be better for all concerned if baseball interests
are discussed from a purely business
basis. The local P. L. stockholders have a business meeting on Monday evening, and while it
certainly is none of my business to make
any suggestions to them even were I qualified
to teach them their business, it may be within
my province to remind them of an opinion expressed in this city the other day by one of their
own party, viz. Mr. Robinson, of New York.
Mr. Robinson stated that in New York the
rival clubs had settled by each taking a half interest in the proposed new club. He then
strongly recommended the Pittsburg clubs to
do this. Mark, this is not my opinion or recommendation, but it is the advice of a Players'
League official who has considerable money at
stake in the Players' League. But whether
this advice is acted upon or not, it is to be
hoped that the magnates of each local club
will make up their minds to come to a conclusion that the public of Pittsburg wants—that is
one club, and that one a real first-rater. burg factions are nearing a settlement, but it

About the Pugilists. During the week nothing of note has transpired among the leading pugilists. F. P. Slavin has declared to the world that he inover the country just like a house on fire. East and West old teams are strongthening up and new ones are coming to the front, and as a result there are more football players to-day in the United States than we ever dreamt of. It

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pose regarding t except the intention of Slavin pose regarding texcept the intentio of Slavin to secure a goo: advertisement out of it. If Slavin is so anxious to fight somebody, as he tries to make the public belie e, why in the name of common sense does he not get ready to fight Jackson. There is no reason at all why Sullivan should meet eithe: Slavin or Jackson until they have settled the question as to who is the better man between them. It is very singular that Slavin has so persistently kept aloof from Jackson. Yesterday Jack Dempsey was quoted as saying that he has not yet signed the articles of agreement to fight Fitzsimmons. The latter has signed them, but Dempsey is hesitating because of one or two minor points. The "talent" at New Orleans are sure that Dempsey will be beaten when he fights Fitzsimmons, and the opinion is so general that it doubtless has some effect on Dempsey's mind. However, they will not fight this year, and I will not be surprised if they never fight at all. There is every probability of a battle between Dixon and McCarthy for the bantam weight championship. McCarthy means business, and he has signed articles. The delay is on Dixon's part, and he has good reason to be careful in making arrangements because he has a very clever and plucky fighter to meet. If Dixon can defeat McCarthy, he must have improved wonderfully since they fought. But if they fight their contest is sure to be one of the most important this year.

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each party who know these things ignore them and encourage their followers by saying these things are neutralized by disaffection in the other camp. That there is a prevalent factional feeling in both parties in Allegbeny county is an undeniable fact. Somebody will be sadly disappointed, snowed under, as it were. Somebody will come out second best-we assure our patrons that it will not be

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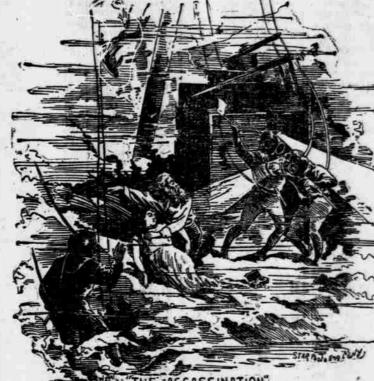
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