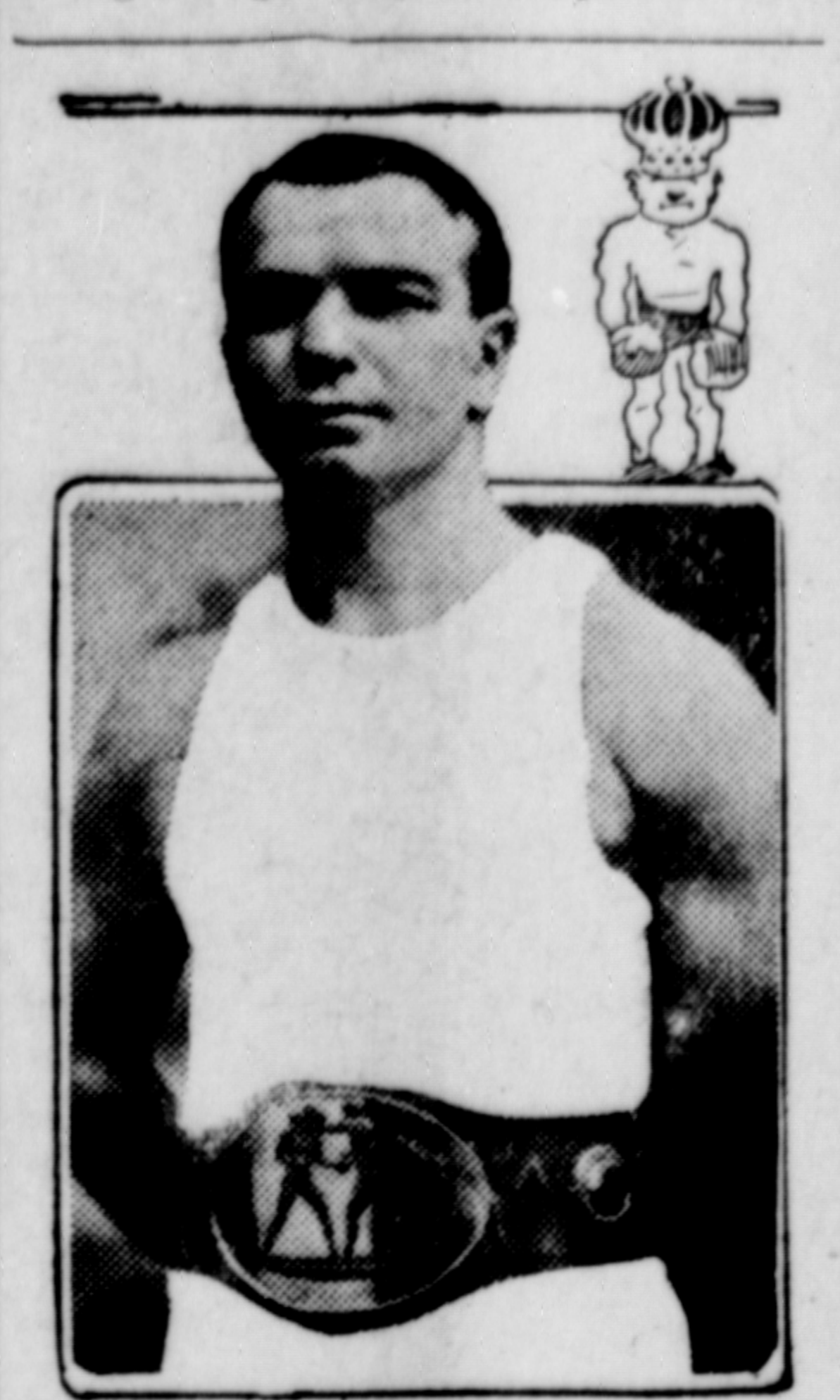


Funny isn't it, the excuses that some fighters offer for their defeats at the hands of a clever opponent. Take Billy Allen, the former lightweight title holder.

Not satisfied with losing the championship to Joe Bayley, the eastern pug worried the latter until the Victoria boy went into the ring and scored a clean knock out over the Ottawa boy. A three-round victory ought to be proof enough of the superiority of the home brew, but Allen is again getting into print. Now



BILLY ALLEN.

he claims he was not in shape when he entered the ring against Bayley the second time, and he is aching for another chance. Bayley's time is too valuable to waste on any but real claimants to the title. Allen was beaten twice, and that ought to be enough. His wails to the effect that he was not in shape is in itself an admission of defeat as he had lots of time to get into proper shape. Allen's refusal to train will probably mean his retirement from the ring, unless he can secure another bout with Bayley. The Ottawa boy has been one of the few wise ones, and has packed away quite a few iron men for the rainy season.

PUGS BELIEVE IN ODD CHARMS

**Many Pugilists Wear or Carry
Lucky Mascots in the Ring
and Until Beaten**

Pugilists are great believers in mascots, tailsmans and luck tokens. In his search for something that he hopes to keep by him as a permanent badge of success, a ring man will ignore rabbits' feet, four leafed clovers and all the old clap trap of superstition and try to locate something original.

Peter Jackson pinned his faith to an old pair of fighting shoes. He wore them in his contests until they were past affording protection to his feet. It is said they became valuable as "props" later when he played the lead in an Uncle Tom's Cabin company.

Charley Mitchell, the boxing champion of England, generally sported a dilapidated billycock hat when he took his corner. It was rimless, napless, cone-shaped affair such as circus clowns affect. Charlie tossed it into the discard after being bested by Jim Corbett at Jacksonville.

Battling Nelson believes that an old bath gown enveloped him in an atmosphere of good luck. He wore it "coming into the ring" until it became an eyesore. Possibly he put it aside after that fatal day on Richmond Field.

Jabez White, the English lightweight, had a little tot's shoe tucked under his belt when he fought Jimmy Britt in San Francisco. It was his baby's girl's brogue, but it failed him.

Big Charlie Miller used to be a motorman, and his ring badge is "24," the number of the car barn where he reported for duty while in the railroad service.

It might have been worse. Charlie might have picked up a headlight or a trolley pole as his insignia of good fortune and then Flynn would have been harder to handle.

Baltimore drew 53,000 less people this year than in 1941.

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