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GREATEST AFTER DINNER SPEAKER

CHAUNCEY DEPEW WAS BUSINESSMAN AND POLITICIAN AS WELL AS TELLER OF STORIES

"I am known as an after-dinner speaker," said Chauncey Depew, who died last week at the age of 93. "I hope I also am known as a man who works," he said on his 80th birthday. "My dinners have never interfered with my business—they have been my recreation. Most men get their relaxation in cards. That makes them keep late hours, and they sit in a room with a bad air and drink too many cocktails. They die young.

"When I was very young I decided to make dinners my recreation. Speaking was easy to me. My digestion might have bothered me if I had not been careful. I experimented to find just what I could eat best. I soon determined to play with everything, but to eat nothing except the roast and game courses. The trouble with the average man is that he cannot retain his appetite. But a public banquet, if eaten with thought and care, is no more of a strain than a dinner at home."

Mr. Depew was born in 1834. His ancestors on the paternal side were French Huguenots who came to America in the 17th century, and on the maternal side he was descended from Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The house where he was born had been the Depew homestead for more than 200 years.

FATHER WAS MERCHANT

The father, in addition to being a merchant and farmer, also was a pioneer in river transportation between Peekskill and New York City. The mother, a woman of highly developed literary tastes, was chiefly responsible for the thoroughness of her son's education. He obtained his preliminary training in Peekskill Academy and in 1852 entered Yale, from which he was graduated four years later as a barrister.

Returning to the farm at the age of

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22, he clashed with his father over politics and subsequently abandoned the latter's Democratic faith to take local stumps in favor of Fremont and his Free Soil campaign. After the election he began practicing law, and earned his first fee—\$1.75 for an opinion that required several days to prepare—just about the time Lincoln was first mentioned for the presidency. He immediately entered the campaign on behalf of the latter and gained considerable fame as a political orator.

Eight years later he had been nominated and confirmed for the post of American Minister to Japan. Previous to this he had been Secretary of New York State and had held several other public offices, although he declined more political appointments perhaps than any other young man in the country.

Just as Depew was preparing to leave for Japan, Commodore Vanderbilt acquired the New York and Harlem railroad—128 miles of "junk," as he afterwards described it. He called upon Depew and offered him the position of general counsel at a salary of \$7,500 a year, but the young lawyer promptly informed the financier that he was to receive a much higher salary as minister to Japan.

"It's up to you," Vanderbilt replied. "Railroads are the career for a young man. There is nothing in politics. Don't make a fool of yourself."

Depew took the job, and on January 1, 1921, had rounded out 55 years with the Vanderbilt interests. His connection with railroading covered practically the whole period of railway construction, expansion and development in the United States. Beginning in 1866 as attorney for the New York and Harlem, he became vice-president of all the Vanderbilt roads merged into the New York

Central in 1882 and president of the New York Central in 1885. In 1899 he resigned to become chairman of the board of directors, a position he continued to fill through the eventful period of reconstruction following the World War.

Mr. Depew was frequently criticized for taking an active part in politics while he retained his powerful railroad connections, but those who knew his work intimately were quick to point out that he never neglected the details of either his business or his public career.

Mr. Depew married twice. His first wife was Elize Hegeman, whom he married in 1871, and by whom he had one son, Chauncey M. Depew, Jr. She died in 1893. His second wife was May Palmer, whom he married in 1901. His recipe for longevity was: "Work, temperance and fun."

SPORT CHAT

The Junior Football League, starting its season on April 21, will be once again the first on the outdoor sporting field this year. The senior baseball and football leagues might well take a lesson out of their book and get started a little earlier than has been their custom. The evenings are lengthening out now and lots of fine weather is going to waste. Yet neither baseball or football associations have even started to organize yet. The full outdoor sporting season might well start here in April and thus make a full six months of it.

Gene Tunney and Tex Rickard both have issued statements flatly denying rumors from New York that Tom Heeney has been given the call for the next championship fight. They said they had not even seen Charley Harvey Heeney's manager. Neither Rickard nor Tunney would elaborate on the statement that Heeney had not been given the call.

Men's and ladies' curling clubs at Prince George elected officers last week at their annual dinner and dance in the Prince George Hotel. The presentation of cups to the winning rinks of the past winter also took place. The men elected M. S. Morrell as president, succeeding W. L. Hornsby, resigned and made J. C. Pidgeon, vice-president and C. C. Wright, secretary. The ladies selected Mrs. C. C. Jones as their president with Mrs. S. J. Watson vice-president and Mrs. B. G. Parker as secretary.

Ralph Smith, who sailed for the south last night and during his absence will visit Vancouver, Seattle, Kelso, Portland and other cities, will look them over with a view to arranging another match here for Jimmy McDonald of Vancouver who took the local hope, Dido Gurvich, into camp last week. As a result of the two successful McDonald-Gurvich bouts, the boxing game in Prince Rupert looks to be due for a season of prosperity. The interest of the public has been aroused more generally than possibly ever before and Jimmy McDonald has won a lot of friends who are anxious to see him in action again. Possibly, there may be another match with Dido Gurvich when he returns in the summer from his training out south.

Now Dido Gurvich has suffered his first defeat, and a very honorable one at that, it will be for him to make his plans accordingly if he has any idea of going ahead with the boxing game. In his second bout with Jimmy McDonald of Vancouver, Dido showed at least that he has plenty of staying power and that it is going to take a good deal stronger and different kind of

a fighter, clever and able as the southern boy may be, to put him out. Capacity to stand the gaff in face of difficulties is something very valuable for a boxer to have and Dido has that. The local boy, however, does not yet know quite enough about the science of boxing. He is still somewhat of a slugger inclined to go blind when attacked. If anything, it was in 'ring generalship where McDonald put it over him.

Experience is something that every boxer must have and that is what Dido now finds himself mainly lacking. To get that it looks, like we have suggested before, that he must do some travelling. He does not need to feel disheartened at all. If he wants to be, there is still the chance for him to be more than a small town boxer. And any criticism that Dido may now get in urging him to use all his faculties is for his own good. There is nobody more than the Daily News would like to see him make a name for himself in the ring—if that is his ambition. In any such effort, the home town boy may rest assured that he shall get plenty of local support.

FRANK ALDRIDGE IS WINNER IN LEGION BILLIARD TOURNAY

Frank Aldridge won the final of the Canadian Legion billiard handicap tournament at the end of the week by defeating Sir Bird 200 to 160. This will probably be the last of a number of such tournaments which have been held during the winter by the Canadian Legion.

Around The World With Sport Fans

Specialization in sport is not cultivated so much in Britain as it is in America. The English sportsman prefers to have a "whack" at everything in the sporting line, though the dissemination of his activities means that he may never be a champion at one thing. What does it matter, anyway?

Ty Cobb recently cleaned up nearly a quarter of a million dollars on the stock market but he will continue to play baseball, he says. If he goes on making money easy like that his baseball days won't last long.

King Alfonso of Spain has earned the reputation of being a sportsman says an Eastern sport writer. He plays a better than average game of polo, races a stable of horses, is a fair performer at tennis, and shoots golf in the eighties. But he will not stand so well in Canada unless he explains the rule whereby Canadian boats, especially the Bluenose, "champion fishing schooner, are barred from the transatlantic race for his cup. It would seem the sporting thing to do to allow the Bluenose or other Canadian entrant to compete. And Canadian yachting enthusiasts will feel that way about it until His Majesty tells why the United States only, instead of all America, is permitted to send its racing craft into the race from Sandy Hook to Santander against Spanish ships. Certainly there will be no traffic congestion on the Atlantic.

In the old country, they are playing international badminton matches. Quite recently England beat Ireland 9 to 0.

An old timer remarks that the reason he does not like taking part in public sport events is that the best players

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