

SPORTS

ISSUES CHALLENGE TO FRED APPLEBY

President McLeod Will Back Acoose For \$1,000 in Outdoor Race.

McLeod, president of the Grenfell Athletic association, issues the following challenge to Fred Appleby on behalf of Paul Acoose:

To F. Appleby Esq.
I do hereby challenge you to a race for the distance of 15 miles on an outdoor half-mile track in the city of Winnipeg against Paul Acoose, for the sum of one thousand dollars so as to allow you an opportunity of making good your boasted superiority on an outdoor track, and also to allow you an opportunity to display that wonderful ankle action that has taken you a life time to acquire.

Now we mean business, we will be pleased to meet you or your representative at the Leland hotel any time before you leave the city to draw up terms of agreement and post forfeit.

We want no clap trap and newspaper-accuses that Acoose is afraid to meet you. Now is your opportunity to arrange the business personally so that there may be no misunderstanding as to time or terms.

Notify me of your willingness and our representative will meet you at any time.

Inure on behalf of Paul Acoose,
J. McLEOD.

Winnipeg, May 25.

WILL ISSUE INJUNCTION.

F. Nelson Smith, promoter, stated last night that he would issue an injunction against Appleby running at Happyland to-night unless the proceeds go to charity. According to the terms of the contract, as shown the Free Press last night by Mr. Smith, Appleby agreed to run two races in western Canada, under the auspices of the parties providing his guarantee, and he was not to appear in other races without first returning to Montreal, N. J.

Mr. Smith also states that there was a such word as relay in his contract with Appleby and the copy he showed the Free Press man bore out this contention.

DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE.

To whom it may concern:
This is to certify that I examined Mr. Paul Acoose on May 25, 1909 and found him suffering from an inflamed foot, the result of an injury caused by some pointed instrument.

W. G. PEATMAN, M.D.

BETS DECLARED OFF.

The judges of the fifteen-mile race between Acoose and Appleby at the Happyland Monday evening have unanimously decided to declare all bets off. They have set forth their reasons for so doing in a letter which appears hereunder. This is an action which should commend itself to all fair and interested parties, as one conducive to the best interests of the running game, which really got a black eye Monday in the estimation of the citizens of Winnipeg who like a square deal for their money and decency in athletics. The placing of tacks on the track is such a disgraceful method to resort to in an endeavor to disable a competitor in a race that an effort should be made to bring the guilty party to earth.

The letter of the judges in declaring bets off reads as follows:

Winnipeg, Man., May 25, 1909.

F. Nelson Smith, Esq.,
Promoter, Appleby-Acoose Race,
Leland Hotel, Winnipeg, Man.

Sir,—In this matter you have appealed to us as judges of the Appleby-Acoose race, which was held on the 24th of May, 1909 at the Arena rink, Winnipeg. We beg to inform you, that our decision is, that all wagers thereon are declared off.

We believe that the discontinuance of the race was in our opinion not caused by any act of the contestants, nor were the contestants, the promoters of the race or any person or persons directly connected with the race, responsible for the disgraceful act of some malicious persons in placing tacks upon the track.

We think that Acoose, one of the contestants, was perfectly justified in withdrawing from the race. We do not think that Appleby, the other contestant, had anything to do with the disgraceful act of placing tacks upon the track nor do we believe he would be guilty of same. We will be very pleased if either you, ourselves or any other person could identify the person or persons who were guilty of this disgraceful act.

Yours truly,
C. J. O'CONNELL,
D. CAMERON,
R. H. GRAHAM,
J. W. HARRIS.

APPLEBY MISREPRESENTED.

A statement was made in a morning paper yesterday regarding the regrettable ending of the race between Appleby and Acoose Monday, which is very unfair to Mr. Appleby, placing him in a position by alleging that he had consented that if there were tacks on the track they may have been put there by the Indian himself as an excuse for his defeat. This is very strongly denied by the English champion, and he is at pains to know how his remarks in the speech he made after completing the race could have been so misunderstood. Appleby went direct from the track to one of the boxes in front of the course, and made a little curtain in the portion of the crowd

which had remained to see him cover the course. At that time he was unaware that Acoose had stepped on tacks, or that such had been found on the track. In opening his address he expressed the pleasure his visit to Winnipeg had afforded him, and his gratitude for the uniform kindness and courtesy he had received. He explained that he was sailing for England on June 2, and would take only pleasant recollections of his stay in the west with him. Referring to Acoose, Mr. Appleby remarked that in his opinion the Indian had been unwell. He had a boil on his face, which would indicate that he was not in fit condition to stand the grueling pace of a fifteen-mile race, but the public should not in any way underestimate him because of his failure on this occasion. He is a champion of champions if he develops as may be expected.

Such was the speech which Mr. Appleby delivered to the fans who remained to hear it, and its generous tone towards his opponent gives little ground for a charge of unsportsmanlike assertions. He met Mr. McLeod, manager of Acoose yesterday and satisfactorily explained his position in the matter.

WILL RUN EXHIBITION.

Appleby will run a five mile exhibition race at Happyland this evening, as previously announced in the Free Press, provided his feet are in fit condition. They are terribly blistered as a result of the race Monday, and must have caused him excruciating pain towards the finish of the course.

From here Mr. Appleby goes direct to Chicago, where he will run in the Marathon race on Saturday. He leaves for the Windy City on Thursday morning.

A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.

Some disinterested spectators are of the opinion that the tacks which were found on the track Monday may have worked out of the cork matting which had been fastened down with them. They believe the pounding of the feet of the runners might have had such an effect. This opinion, however, is not shared by the judges and the officials, who are almost unanimous in declaring that the tacks were placed there by some malicious person with the intention of crippling the Indian. It is an old game, but a disgraceful one, and one which was almost as likely to disable Appleby as his opponent. The Englishman was running with a pair of old shoes with holes in the soles, so that he was almost as liable to injury as was Acoose, but he was more fortunate in this respect.

RAN ON THE SQUARE.

Paul Acoose sitting in his bedroom yesterday at the Midland hotel and nursing a badly injured foot, maintained his usual policy of silence in regard to the unfortunate incidents of Monday night's race, but President McLeod of the Grenfell Athletic association, made a statement on his behalf. "Say to the public," he said, "that while we realize that suspicious might have been easily aroused, the race was absolutely straight. This is our first experience in the professional ranks and we had nothing to gain by allowing Appleby to win. No one connected with the handling of Acoose had bet on the race. On Saturday last we were informed that it had been suggested to Appleby that it would be a good thing to drop some tacks on the track as the Indian's moccasins would be sure to pick them up. We completely exonerate the former from any connection with the carrying out of this plan as it was from himself that we received the information.

"There were no tacks on the track before the race as Trainer J. A. Merrifield inspected it carefully, and we, therefore, feel certain that the act was intentional. It was probably done by someone who had a few dollars to lose and we hope to find the man.

"We are prepared to pay a substantial reward to anyone who will identify him. As the race was well under way and nothing had happened we had dismissed the idea of tacks from our minds until Acoose suddenly started and went lame. Asked what was the matter he said 'tacks' and sure enough there was a carpet tack nailed the moccasin firmly to his foot. When this had been removed he started out again but soon picked up another between his toes. When a third was found Acoose was pulled out of the race. George McCuish, a well known citizen, gave his name to Mr. McLeod and expressed his willingness to corroborate his statements if necessary.

"Once again, in regard to Appleby," said Mr. McLeod, "we completely exonerate him, but consider his speech when the race was stopped unfortunate and misleading. Acoose was not weakening."

erate him, but consider his speech when the race was stopped unfortunate and misleading. Acoose was not weakening."

Should the manager of the Midland hotel, states that he is willing to post \$1,000 with the Free Press to back the Indian for a 15-mile race under conditions agreeable to both runners.

APPLEBY'S DENIAL.

Fred Appleby wishes to deny through the Free Press the statement made in another paper that he apologized to Acoose for a speech made at the close of Monday's race at the Arena. "I had nothing to apologize for," he said last night. "The few words I spoke after the race were in favor of Acoose, and what I said was wrongly reported in that paper. I received no letter from Mr. McLeod whatever, nor did I offer any apology."

RED FIFE

A New Shape—
As Neat As It Looks

Tooke

"RED FIFE"
2 for 25c.

TOOKE BROS. LIMITED, MONTREAL
MAKERS OF
SHIRTS, COLLARS, TIES, VESTS
AND IMPORTERS OF MEN'S
FURNISHINGS.