

## FROM THE MORGUE

### Classic Articles From Police Gazettes Gone By

December 14, 1889

#### Louis Cyr Challenges the World

The unprecedented feats of Samson, Cyclops and Eugene Sandow, the now renowned champions at dumbbell and weight lifting, who have been creating such a sensation in England, has brought out the following challenge from Louis Cyr, the Canadian Samson, which may result in an important match. The following is the Canadian Giant's challenge:

MONTREAL, Nov. 21, 1889.

Having heard of the alleged great feats of Samson, Cyclops and Sandow at the Aquarium, London, England, I hereby challenge either of them to compete with me at lifting dumbbells, heavy weights and feats of strength for \$500 or \$1,000 a side and the championship of the world, the contest to take place in Canada or the United States, and the POLICE GAZETTE to be final stakeholder and appoint judges and referee. I will allow either of the gentlemen named \$350 for expenses if a match is arranged for \$1,000 a side.

LOUIS CYR

December 20, 1890

#### "POLICE GAZETTE" SAMSON. Louis Cyr's Feats of Strength Astonish a Large Audience. HE CAN ALMOST LIFT A HOUSE.

One of the most interesting and surprising exhibitions of strength that has ever been witnessed in this or any other country took place at this office on Dec. 5, when Louis Cyr, the "Police Gazette" champion strong man, who is a modern Samson, gave a reception to a select company of sporting men and representatives of the New York newspapers. Due announcement had been made of the exhibition, and a programme of feats of strength had been decided upon. Many who read of what the strongest man on earth had assumed to accomplish had their doubts about any man being able to lift over 3,000 pounds with his back, nearly 500 with one finger, shoulder a barrel of lime weighing 251 pounds with one hand, and pick up a 200-pound human being with one hand and hold him up straight from the shoulder; but those who accepted the invitation, and saw the weights scaled and witnessed the wonderful and unprecedented sight, left not only satisfied but greatly surprised.

At the time Richard K. Fox had a dumbbell cast weighing 1,030 pounds, and offered the bell and a gold medal to any strong man who could lift it, and J.W. Kennedy defeated all competitors and carried off the "Police Gazette" medal and the dumbbell, Kennedy's feat was looked upon as wonderful.

But lifting a thousand-pound dumbbell with two hands is not as difficult as lifting a 232-pound bell from the floor with one hand to the shoulder and then pushing it up to arm's length. Cyr honestly and fairly accomplished this before a selected committee. Cyr's performance of putting up this bell was remarkable, but when it is known that he has put up a 265-pound bell, and has an established record for accomplishing this feat, it is not so phenomenal.

It may be stated in this connection that Cyr stands ready to accomplish greater feats for money, for he has a deposit of \$200 posted in this office to engage in a weight-lifting match against any man in the world for \$1,000 a side and the championship of the world.

Cyr's feats at this office on Dec. 5 were as follows:

His first feat was putting up a dumbbell which was weighed and registered 102 pounds. He lifted the bell with one hand with comparative ease and held it out straight from the shoulder in a horizontal position.

He then lifted a dumbbell which, when weighed, registered 232 pounds. He lifted this mass of iron with one hand to the shoulder, and then slowly pushed it up and held it in that position.

Then he lifted the 232-pound and the 102-pound dumbbell with a man who weighed 150 pounds with one finger. The aggregate weight lifted was 484 pounds, which beat his own record by 40 pounds.

He then balanced Madame Minnie Cyr, who weighs 118 pounds, while she hung on a ladder on his chin.

His most wonderful exhibition of strength was lifting a platform, bound with iron, on which were eighteen men and a 232-pound dumbbell, with his back and hands. Cyr was eager to lift 4,000 weight, but the platform was not large enough. The actual weight Cyr lifted was 3,337 pounds. He has lifted 3,530 pounds of pig iron in the same manner. He then shouldered a barrel of lime which weighed 251 pounds with one hand from the floor.

Cyr demonstrated to the satisfaction of all present that he is the strongest man in the world thus far heard from. Cyr is going to travel all through the West with a combination.

April 21, 1894

#### WHO IS THE STRONGEST MAN?

Richard K. Fox offers to Match  
Louis Cyr Against Eugene Sandow.  
\$500 POSTED WITH THE N.Y. HERALD

It is an open question who is the strongest man in the world, and there does not appear to be any opportunity of settling it without a competition. Eugene Sandow claims he is the champion strong man of the world. Cyclops, who has made a tour of the United States, giving feats of strength, also claims that title. James Walter Kennedy, who lifted the "Police Gazette" championship dumbbell, weighing 1,205 pounds, also claims the championship. Cyclops now being in Europe, and Kennedy, by an accident, being unable to compete, the only two rivals able to dispute the question of supremacy are Louis Cyr, the American champion strong man, and Eugene Sandow. Now, to have the question decided in regard to who is the champion, Richard K. Fox has posted \$500 with the New York Herald, and agreed to match Louis Cyr against Sandow for \$1,000 a side and the championship.

The following is the challenge, which proves its earnestness by a certified check on the Park Bank, New York, accompanying the offer:

NEW YORK, April 7, 1894.

Editor of the New York Herald:

DEAR SIR—In order to settle the mooted question in regard to who is the champion strong man, which title Eugene Sandow claims, I will match Louis Cyr, the American champion, to contend in the arena against Eugene Sandow for \$1,000 a side and the championship of the world at the following feats:

FIRST—To put up the heaviest dumbbell with the left hand and also the right hand.

SECOND—To lift the heaviest weight from the ground with one hand and with two hands.

THIRD—To lift the most weight from the ground with one finger.

FOURTH—Putting up the heaviest dumbbell above the head.

FIFTH—Holding out from the shoulder with right angle from the body the heaviest dumbbell or weight.

SIXTH—Shouldering with one or both hands the heaviest weight, that is, lifting it from the floor and placing it on the shoulder.

SEVENTH—Lifting the most weight with the back.

EIGHTH—Lifting the biggest barbell while in a kneeling position.

NINTH—Lifting the two heaviest dumbbells, one in each hand, at the same time.

This competition to be decided by the man lifting the most number of pounds at the end of the

contest.

The above feats are fair tests and the only ones that should settle who is actually the champion strong man of the world. Cyr has authorized me to arrange this match and to prove I am in earnest I herewith deposit my certified check for \$500 with the editor of the New York Herald. If Eugene Sandow is eager to settle who is the strongest man and prove he is the champion, he will cover the deposit and also name a day to meet at the New York Herald office to arrange a match, when Cyr and Wm. E. Harding, the sporting editor of the POLICE GAZETTE, will be promptly on hand to sign articles, subject to the above conditions. If Sandow can defeat Cyr then he will be welcome to the stakes and the championship. Should Sandow fail to respond then Cyr will be the champion and stand ready to defend his title.

RICHARD K. FOX

April 28, 1894

#### STRONG MEN TO COMPETE Mr. Richard K. Fox Offers a \$2,500 Championship Belt TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES. This Belt to be Won in an International Tournament. SANDOW NOT LIKELY TO COMPETE.

There is an opportunity for the strong men to decide who is the champion. Mr. Richard K. Fox, the editor and proprietor of the POLICE GAZETTE, now offers to give a belt valued at \$2,500 for competition in a general tournament. This is his generous offer, which he made through the medium of the New York Herald:

NEW YORK, April 14, 1894.

Owing to the great interest now evinced in the question as to who is the champion strong man of the world, which title is claimed by Louis Cyr, the American champion, whom I have already agreed to back against Eugene Sandow for from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a side and the championship of the world, which offer is still open, I make the following additional proposition, as there are others besides Cyr and Sandow claiming the championship, viz.: Milo, Cyclops, Samson, Kennedy, Jefferson, Johnson, etc.

As there is no recognized trophy or emblem to represent the all round heavyweight lifting championship of the world, I have decided, besides backing Cyr against Sandow, to offer a "Police Gazette" Championship belt, representing the Championship of the World, to be made of gold and silver and valued at \$2,500. This trophy to be competed for by Cyr, Sandow, Kennedy and any strong man who may desire to compete in the following feats:

[List and method for determining winner essentially the same as in article above.—ed.]

The trophy will shortly be on exhibition at the POLICE GAZETTE office.

I think this offer will conclusively settle the question as to whether Cyr, Sandow, Cyclops, Johnson, etc., is the champion strong man of the world.

RICHARD K. FOX

Proprietor POLICE GAZETTE, New York.

In regard to Mr. Fox's offer to match Louis Cyr against Eugene Sandow, the latter has refused to consider any such proposition. Mr. Fox wished both of them to do several feats of strength in order to determine who was entitled to claim the strong man championship, but Sandow preferred to rest his claim to the title on his muscle-moving exhibition, which is a performance that is entirely his own. Mr. Fox's \$500 certified check, which he had deposited with the New York Herald to bind the match, will therefore be returned to him. It is, indeed, a pity that the champion strong man and the champion muscle-dancer cannot come together.