

# THE MONTANA POWER COMPANY

JOHN D. RYAN, PRESIDENT - F. M. KERR, VICE PRES. & GENL. MGR.

GENERAL OFFICES - ELECTRIC BUILDING

BUTTE, MONTANA

GREAT FALLS DISTRICT  
FRANK SCOTTER, MANAGER  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

March 1st, 1929

Mr. J. A. Livingston, Sec.  
Montana State Athletic Ass'n.,  
Butte, Montana

Dear Mr. Livingston:-

With the filing of the Inspector's report on our boxing card of Feb. 27th, I wish to file an official report on the action of George Gilstrap, one of the participants in the main event.

Throughout the bout Gilstrap was cautioned by the referee, Mr. Al. Mettler, and also by one of the judges through the referee, against his clinches, hanging on, and unclean breaks. Presumably it was his indifference to these warnings which caused the judges and the referee to give the decision to his opponent, Walter Cleghorn. After the decision had been made and Referee Mettler held up Cleghorn's hand as the winner, everybody prepared to retire as usual. Gilstrap stepped out of the ring as though he was going to his dressing room, but instead of doing so, called Referee Mettler by a vile name and made a sling at him landing a blow on the jaw according to Mettler. Mettler in his surprise attempted to run off the stage, but Gilstrap followed him and attempted to deliver two or three more blows. Mettler then naturally became angry and would have defended himself had it not been for the interference of officers and some of the crowd. Gilstrap was arrested and taken to the Police Station for a short time, but was released under instructions to appear the next morning on a charge of assault.

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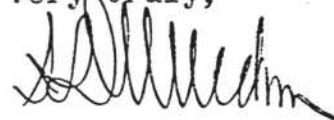
-2-

According to the papers Referee Mettler refused to bring charges against Gilstrap and the case was dropped, Mettler feeling that proper disciplinary action would be taken by the Commission against the fighter.

Mr. Dan Tracy asked me to report the transaction to you in the form of a formal complaint so that the matter could be properly brought before the Commission. Since Mr. Tracy was a witness to the proceeding he will be able to furnish any further details which may be deemed necessary for this disciplinary action.

I do not know if it is within my jurisdiction to make suggestions or recommendations, but I cannot refrain from expressing a hope that Gilstrap will be suspended for a considerable period of time on account of the unsportsman attitude which he displayed. I might add that the audience was very pronounced in its feeling against Gilstrap's tactics throughout the fight and much more so concerning his attack on Mettler after the fight.

Yours very truly,



H. Davidson:AJD.

# American Legion Athletic Association

Great Falls Post No. 3



Loy J. Molumby, Pres.  
Frank P. Gault, Sec'y-Treas.

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

March 2, 1929

J. A. Livingston  
Box 509  
Butte, Montana

My dear Livingston:

I am herewith inclosing to you report of our last boxing show and due to the inclement weather and the heavy snow fall which we have had, our attendance was not what we had expected.

I wish to call to your attention at this time the unsportsman-like conduct which George Gilstrap illustrated during his bout here with Walter Cleghorn, February 27, 1929. No doubt you have received the report of Mr. Harry Davidson regarding this matter. The facts in this case are as this, that after the main event was over with, between George Gilstrap and Walter Cleghorn and the two judges and referee had rendered their decision, George Gilstrap stepped out of the ring and called Al Mettler, our referee, a profane name and chasing Mr. Mettler and coming close to Mr. Mettler hit him. I was close to the ring and I went over and grabbed a hold of George Gilstrap and along with some others helped pull him away. Such behavior and conduct on the part of George Gilstrap, boxer, should not be overlooked and I feel that the Commission should enforce a penalty against him, suspending George Gilstrap's boxing for a period of time as they deem fit and the circumstances of this case.

Yours truly,

*Frank P. Gault*  
R

FPG:r  
Incl.

FRANK P. GAULT  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
407 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

March 9, 1929

J. A. Livingston  
Sec. M. S. A. C.  
Butte, Montana

My dear Livingston:

Your letter has been received and I will have Mr. Mettler write you a statement on the Gilstrap-Gleghorn fight. I wrote Mr. Gilstrap several days ago stating that his license had expired and that at the time he boxed it was my impression from him that his license was up to date. However if he will not send this in I will forward you our check to take care of this, as I feel it is entirely my fault. As far as I am concerned I do not want to have anything more to do with Gilstrap and I do not care to have his presence around me. With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

*Frank P. Gault*  
R.

FPG:r

# MONTANA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:

JOE L. MARKHAM, CHAIRMAN, BUTTE  
KIRBY HOON, HELENA  
DAN TRACY, GREAT FALLS



J. A. LIVINGSTON, SECRETARY  
Box 509, BUTTE, MONTANA

Great Falls, Mont., 3/12/29.

Mr. J. A. Livingston,  
Box 509,  
Butte, Mont.

Dear Al:

A few of the American Legion called on me at my office this morning and asked me if I had heard anything from you in regard to the complaint that they had sent to you some time ago in regard to the unfortunate affair that happened at their last boxing card in Great Falls and I informed them that I had not heard from you up to date but that I would surely hear from you before long. Now Al, I understand that Joe Markham is east at the present time but I wish you would act on this right away and give it to the public as the people here are crying for some decision from the Boxing Commission. This man, George Gilstrap, made a deliberate attempt to attack the referee, in fact he rushed acrossed the ring at him and struck him a hard blow in the face. At that moment a couple of plain clothes men jumped in and held him. If they had not been there I think it would have wound up in a bad mess so I think you had better announce at once to the public that the Montana State Athletic Association has suspended George Gilstrap for a period of six months and this will be a lesson to the other fighters.

Kirby Hoon informed me that you would be over to Helena to the LaHood--Rossberg fight so I made the trip over there contemplating to met you there so that we could have a meeting of the commission that night but as you did not appear on the scene Kirby and I decided not to hold the meeting.

If Joe should be back when this letter reaches you take action right away and if he is not back take action anyway.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Tracy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

DT/L

# MONTANA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

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JOE L. MARKHAM, CHAIRMAN, BUTTE  
KIRBY HOON, HELENA  
DAN TRACY, GREAT FALLS



J. A. LIVINGSTON, SECRETARY  
Box 509, BUTTE, MONTANA

Great Falls, Mont., 3/13/29.

Mr. J.A. Livingston,  
Box 509,  
Butte, Mont.

Dear Al:

Just received your letter of Mar. 7th and no doubt our letters passed on the way. My letter to you explains the Gilstrap matter thoroughly and trust that you will act accordingly.

I think that it would be well if we could have a meeting of the commission soon and if Joe is back you could advise him to call a meeting on Mar. 19th, the night you have your show in Butte. I could pick Kirby up at Helena that afternoon and arrive in Butte that evening and hold the meeting immediately after the show.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Tracy". The signature is written over a horizontal line and has a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

DT/L

# MONTANA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:

JOE L. MARKHAM, CHAIRMAN, BUTTE  
KIRBY HOON, HELENA  
DAN TRACY, GREAT FALLS



J. A. LIVINGSTON, SECRETARY  
Box 509, BUTTE, MONTANA

Great Falls, Mont., 3/16/29.

Mr. J. A. Livingston,  
Box 509,  
Butte, Mont.

Dear Al:

Your letter of Mar. 13th reached me this morning and I hasten to reply so that my letter will reach you Monday as you say that you can get in touch with Joe and hold the meeting and take some action on Gilstrap. I agree with you that he should be suspended indefinitely and be sure to tell Joe to announce this Monday. I will see Mettler to day and notify him to have his letter reach you by Monday so that the commission will be in the clear on the meeting.

Note what you say in regards to the show being moved ahead to Mar. 26th. I cannot say now whether I will be able to attend a meeting at that time or not but never-the-less if it is a very good card Kirby and I may run over to see it and also attend the meeting at the same time.

Trusting that you will attend to this matter Monday, I remain

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Tracy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line. A long, thin vertical stroke extends downwards from the end of the signature.

DT/L

# A. W. Mettler Sheet Metal Workers

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GREAT FALLS, MONTANA.

March 17, 1929.

Montana State Athletic Association;  
Butte, Montana.

Gentlemen: Re: George Gilstrap.

In regard to the Gilstrap - Cleghorn bout I will give you the version of said bout.

After giving the decision to Cleghorn I climbed out of the ring and somebody called to me and as I turned around Gilstrap hit me on the right side of the jaw with a left swing that staggered me and that injured my jaw.

Yours truly,

*A. W. Mettler*

To - George Gilstrap,  
Great Falls, Montana.

Please take notice that you are hereby indefinitely suspended from and after this date from participating in any boxing bout in the State of Montana and your boxer's license No. 335 is hereby revoked on account of your disgraceful conduct and assault committed by you at the ringside upon the person of Al Kettler, of Great Falls, Montana, referee of the boxing bout between yourself and Walter Cleghorn at the boxing show held at Great Falls, Montana, on the evening of February 27th, 1929, under the auspices of the American Legion Athletic Association.

Dated at Butte, Montana, this 18th day of March, 1929:

*Deal*

MONTANA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION,

By Joe L. Mark  
Chairman.

ATTEST:

J. H. Livingston  
Secretary.

*Helena Independent - March 20 - 1929*

## News and Comment

By AL GASKILL

### Gilstrap Gets the Gate.

"The Montana State Athletic commission, meeting here today, indefinitely suspended and revoked the license of George Gilstrap, Great Falls boxer, for disgraceful conduct and assault on Referee Al Mettler of Great Falls, at the American Legion boxing show there on the night of February 27."

In these terse words are recorded the fact that Montana has a boxing commission, a fact that few have realized that they have done a fine piece of work in going on record against the sort of tactics employed by Mr. Gilstrap to show his distaste at a referee's decision and that George Gilstrap is practically through as far as boxing fans are concerned.

Probably the reason that Montana fans are seldom brought face to face with decisions of the commission is due to the fact that there are so few boxing matches staged in the state and most of them have been handled smoothly and with little resultant friction. But the commission keeps close watch on the goings on of the boxing fraternity and it is generally understood that they are a pretty well qualified group of men.

Their action in the Gilstrap matter is to be commended and should act as a governor on temperamental young men engaged in the art of swapping punches for lunches.

*Simpson Block*

Great Falls, Montana.

May 22, 1929

Hon. Joe L. Markham,  
Chairman,  
Montana State Athletic Commission,  
Butte, Montana.

Dear Sir:

Application is hereby made for the re-instatement of George Gilstrap of Great Falls, Mont., who was indefinitely suspended as a boxer by your body in February following an altercation, outside the ring, with a local referee.

Gilstrap apologized to the referee the following morning, several days before he was officially suspended and since that time has been inactive.

In the last two months he has had opportunities to travel to other states and has lost approximately \$1,600 through his inability to enter the ring while the suspension was in effect, because the other states recognize your decisions as being effective even though no offense was committed in those states.

Gilstrap has had no opportunity to fight in Great Falls in recent months and expects none in the near future but is seriously handicapped when he cannot step into other states and engage in his work.

Trusting that you will bring this application before the next meeting of the State Athletic Commission and that favorable action will be taken, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*A.F. Cooper*

Manager.