

THE BUTTE MINER.

BUTTE, MONTANA; TUESDAY MORNING, JUND 1, 1897

A MODERN SAMSON.

Louis Cyr, the Strong Man, Is in Butte—His Wonderful Physical Strength

Butte is at present entertaining probably the strongest man in the world. While the ladies have not gone into ecstasies over his form and physique, Louis Cyr has performed feats which Sandow has declined to attempt, and professional "strong men" reluctantly admit that they are no match for him.

Born in St. John, province of Quebec, in 1863, Louis Cyr is 33 years of age. In appearance he is one of the last men in the world who would be picked out as a champion strong man. He looks like a prosperous brewer, with florid face and rotund body. The enormous breadth of his shoulders is neutralized by his stature, and there are hundreds of men in this city who look larger. As he sits in his room at the Butte his round features lighted by an affable smile, one might easily expect him to open a satchel, extract a bottle and expatiate upon the superior merits of some particular brand of St. Louis or Milwaukee beer. His chin is adorned by a luxurious growth of auburn whiskers, and he looks far more like a German than a Frenchman. But place your hand upon his leg or arm and you will realize that you are in the presence of one of those freaks with which nature occasionally astounds a degenerate age. The limbs which seem at first sight to be monstrosities of adipose tissue are as hard as iron, and for the first time you comprehend that the bulk of flesh before you is built upon the plan of the Farnese Hercules, unwieldy to the sight, but almost omnipotent in physical power.

"I weigh about 350 pounds at present," said Mr. Cyr, "but when I am in training I tip the scales at 318. How do I train? Well, I don't depend on sweating processes but on good lean beefsteak, oatmeal and such nourishing foods as strengthen the muscles without producing fat. I never used tobacco or alcoholic liquors in my life."

"How did you become a professional strong man, Mr. Cyr?" asked the reporter.

"I hardly know," was the answer, "as a boy I was pretty husky, and when I was 18 years old, a wagon loaded with grain was overturned in the street of the city where I resided. Several men attempted to life it out of the rut in which it had become fixed and felled. I got my shoulder under the axle and raised the vehicle without any great effort, and after that my fame spread. I gave a few exhibitions and through all the lower provinces the people seemed to regard me as a second Sampson."

"I have understood that you were at one time on the police force in Montreal," said the Miner man. "Didn't you break up a tough gang there?"

"Oh, that was nothing," answered Mr. Cyr. "I never fancied police work and I did not want to go into it, but the authorities of Montreal offered me a double salary, or twice what the other men were getting, to come down and take a job. Montreal had some pretty tough districts then. Charles Lever, the great Irish novelist, refers to them in one of his books as the worst in the world. Of course I started in long after the period of which Lever wrote, but I doubt if they had changed much. Well, I started in, and managed to bring order out of chaos in the district which I had to patrol, but it almost cost me my life. Once I was attacked by four men and beaten over the head with a joint of gaspne, but I managed to bring the quartette to the station house before I succumbed and retired to the hospital. I knocked two of them senseless by taking one in each hand and beating their heads together, after which I had no trouble with the other two."

"After I left the police force I began to exhibit. Richard K. Fox of the Police Gazette took hold of me and for three years I was his champion. During that time I met and defeated most of the 'strong men,' but I could never get on a match with Sandow. He is a wonderful man, so far as the beauty of physique goes, but he has repeatedly admitted that in physical strength he is no match for me, and I may add, without boasting, that I have never met a man who was able to accomplish the feats which I have made my specialties."

"I will doubtless give some exhibitions in Butte, but as yet I have made no definite arrangements and so cannot announce the time or place at which I will show myself."

Mr. Cyr has established a record for back lifting of 4,300 pounds. This, he explained, was without harness, or other advantage. With his hands alone he has raised 1,897 pounds and has held extended at arm's length 131½ pounds.

Cyr's measurements approach the colossal. It takes 23 inches of tape to go around his neck, 21½ inches to circumscribe his biceps, and 19½ inches to girdle his forearm. His calf measures 22 inches. The perfectly developed man is supposed to measure the same about the neck, biceps and calf, and when Cyr's unusual size is considered it will be seen that he closely approximates the perfect man. Cyr stands five feet and eleven inches in height and weighs about 320 pounds when in condition. Every ounce of his flesh is as hard as adamant and as elastic as ivory. In his hands Corbent or Pflzeimmons would be broken like reeds and the gladiators of the Roman empire would be mere children.

the anaconda mountains

THE ANACONDA STANDARD, TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 1, 1897.

THE MODERN SAMPSON.

Louis Cyr, the Canadian Strong Man, Is in the City.

Louis Cyr, the "Modern Sampson," arrived in the city yesterday from Montreal, Canada. Mr. Cyr is a gentleman of worldwide celebrity, and is reputed to be the strongest man on either hemisphere. His wonderful strength, exhibited on thousands of occasions in as many different cities, has excited the admiration of vast audiences, has created for him a name and fame not measured by the renown of any strong man of the present age. The gentleman is an old-time acquaintance of Trustee Frederic of the Butte board of education, and was by him shown around the city yesterday. Mr. Cyr expects to remain in the city some time, and will doubtless give several exhibitions of his wonderful strength before taking his departure.

THE BUTTE MINER, FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 1897

P. L. Miller has been engaged by Louis Cyr to manage the strong man's tour of Montana. He is now arranging dates for Mr. Cyr's appearance in the larger towns of the state.

UQAM

120P-010/24-25.147

Fonds d'archives Louis-Cyr.

Service des archives et de gestion des documents.

Université du Québec à Montréal.

THE VEKY STRONG MAN.

Louis Cyr, the Wonder of the Age, Will Appear at the Gardens Sunday.

Louis Cyr, the strongest man in the world, and whose title there is none to dispute, will give an exhibition at Columbia gardens next Sunday afternoon and evening. Mr. Cyr has been in Butte for several days and was at first considerably affected by the altitude, but he has become thoroughly acclimated and is now in training for his exhibitions. His present weight is 332 pounds, but in condition he weighs only 315, and he expects to lose all of his superfluous flesh before he leaves Butte. Mr. Cyr is the only genuine strong man in America, and there is nothing of the fake order about what he does. He insists on having a large pair of scales on the stage at every performance so that the weight of the ponderous dumbbells and cannon balls he handles can be accurately shown. His record is 1,897 1/2 pounds lifted with both hands, without harness or help of the knees, and 4,300 pounds lifted on a platform with the back.

Columbia Gardens

BUTTE, MONTANA.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

**GREATEST ATTRACTION
OF THE SEASON**



LOUIS CYR

The Police Gazette Champion and strongest man in the world. Richard K. Fox offers \$1,000 for his equal. This Hercules will give exhibitions of his wonderful strength at

3 and 7 o'clock p. m.

THE BUTTE MINER, TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, 1897

THE BUILDING BOOM.

Inspector Has Already Granted 18 Permits This Month.

Colonel Jenks, the building inspector, whose office broke the record last month, has so far issued 18 building permits for June.

"There is no cessation of the demand," said the colonel. "The buildings for which I am now granting permits are, however, considerably more expensive than those for which permission to build was granted in May. Some of them will be expensive structures, and architecturally a credit to the city."

Columbia Gardens

Butte, Mont.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Greatest Attraction of the Season.



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Richard K. Fox offers \$1,000 for his equal.

This Hercules will give two exhibitions of his wonderful strength at 3 and 7 o'clock p. m.

DAILY INTER MOUNTAIN. BUTTE, MONTANA, SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1897

THE CANADIAN SAMPSON.

He Is Entitled to the Title of Champion Strong Man.

Louis Cyr, the champion strong man of the world, who will appear at Columbia Gardens tomorrow, has a right to the title. He has met and defeated all the alleged strong men of the world and his record for the heaviest lift is 1,100 pounds better than the best ever made by any other man. Cyr is only 33 years of age and is still in the field to defend the title against all comers.

DAILY INTER MOUNTAIN.

BUTTE, MONTANA, TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 8, 1897.

COLUMBIA GARDENS

Butte, Mont.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Greatest attraction of the season



LOUIS CYR


The Police Gazette Champion, and

STRONGEST MAN IN WORLD

Richard K. Fox offers \$1,000 for his equal. This Hercules will give two exhibitions of his wonderful strength at

3 and 7 O'clock P. M.

Butte time June 12th 1897



COLUMBIA GARDENS
BUTTE, MONT.
Sunday, June 13
Greatest Attraction of the Season

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Richard K. Fox offers \$1,000 for his equal.
This Hercules will give two exhibitions of his wonderful strength at 3 and 7 o'clock p. m.

BUTTE, MONTANA, SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1897.

A GREAT RECORD

Louis Cyr, the Strong Man,
Puts Up a Dumb-bell of
273 1/4 lbs Weight.

BEFORE A LONDON AUDIENCE

And the Big Canadian Breaks
Three More Records at
the Same Time.

HE IS IN THIS CITY NOW

And Will Give an Exhibition
at the Columbia Gardens
Next Sunday.

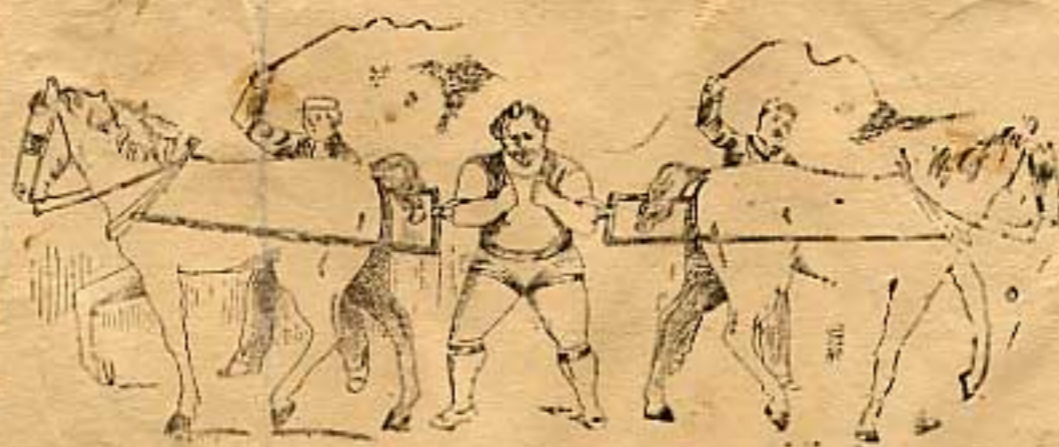
IS STRONGER THAN SANDOW

From "The Sporting Life," London,
England.

That the spirit of emulation is rampant among strong men goes without saying, and when little Romulus made his great one-handed lift of 189 lbs he set the other strong men practicing feats which would also form records. Eugene Sandow was the first to break the ice by putting up a dumb-bell weighing 269 lbs. Then Louis Cyr

getting the bell up was as follows: Grasping the 273 1/4 lbs of iron with his right hand alone, he raised it to his thigh and then got it to his shoulder. Then getting a good grip on the bell, he slowly pressed it in the air until the arm was perfectly straight and the athlete's body was erect. It was a splendid and clean performance, and the spectators and committee on the stage loudly applauded Cyr for his great record, which beats that made by himself in America (265 lbs) by 8 1/4 lbs. Cyr was not content with this performance, but he assayed another one, viz: that of elevating a bar-bell weighing 301 lbs., using two hands in the achievement of this new record. The bell was raised from the floor to the chest with one motion and then slowly pressed to arms' stretch above the head. It is far ahead of anything ever shown by any other athlete.

After Cyr had taken a little rest he tried two more records. With one sweep from the ground he raised to arms' stretch above his head a dumb-bell weighing 174 1/2 lbs. The right hand only was used. Then the same feat was successfully tried with the left hand, making two more world's records. The bells were weighed on the stage in full view of everyone, and a committee of 25 gentlemen watched the weights and scales. In conversation with the mighty Canadian after his great exertions he was asked if he thought he had reached the limit of his powers, and he replied: "By no means. I will not rest until I put up 280 lbs with one hand from the floor, and 325 lbs with my two



announced his intention of showing the most marvelous one-handed lift that had ever been seen, and to the attainment of that end he had the biggest bell loaded up until it drew the beam at 273 1/4 lbs., and on Thursday night the Canadian essayed the task of putting these figures on the record book.

After a representative committee had been invited on the stage at the Royal Aquarium the weighing process was gone through. Archie Sinclair was installed clerk on the scales, and the weighing operation was watched by the Brothers Spencer, W. Bush, of the Athletic Institute; F. Pfau, the strong amateur; Prof. Atilla, Remus and Romulus, Achille, Milo and "Privateer," representing the Sporting Life.

When the preliminaries had been gone through Cyr grasped the bell and lifted it on to his thigh, then with a mighty effort he raised the immense piece of iron to his left shoulder. It was quickly shifted to the right shoulder, and then the big bell was gradually raised in the air, and the athlete's body followed the weight. Before the body could be got perfectly straight the bell turned in Cyr's hand, and the big piece had to be dropped to the floor. The majority of those present were in favor of giving Cyr the record, but the Canadian stated that he wished the feat to go on record books without the possibility of cavil, and so waived his claim to the record. After a short rest Cyr tried the feat again, and almost got upright, but his strength had been severely taxed, and he had to let the bell drop just as he touched the record. For the third time he grasped the mass of iron and held it between heaven and earth until it seemed as though the arm must break off short at the elbow. Shaking his head, Cyr said: "It's no use. I have done too much work today; besides, I have not fully recovered from my

hands. I will beat my records yet, and when I leave England I will put figures on the record books that will take many years to wipe out. I have come to the conclusion that no one will make a match with me, so I might just as well wipe out all other people's records, and have an unbroken list all to myself."

recent accident. The next time I try this feat there will be no doubt about it. I will hold the bell up while the spectators can count ten."

When Cyr claimed that he had done too much work during the day he returned to his practice with the 273 1/4 lb bell, which he had put up four times, and when remonstrated with for his foolishness he replied: "That's all right. I have not shown you what I can do yet, wait until someone makes a match with me. It will not be 275 lbs that will stop me."

Many celebrities have got on the Canadian's back during the past week, and on Wednesday night he came within a few pounds of his record. The weight lifted on this occasion was 3,516 lbs.

CYR'S FOUR NEW RECORDS.

When Louis Cyr, the Police Gazette champion, failed to put up a 273 1/4 lb dumb-bell at the Royal Aquarium on Thursday night, many people thought that he would have to take a long rest after his terrible ordeal, but instead of doing this the gigantic Canadian practiced the feat until he had it perfect, and last night he put the enormous weight above his head at the first trial. The modus operandi of

SAMPSON IS NOT IN IT

Louis Cyr Does Things the Ancient Strong Man Never Did.

BIG CROWDS AT THE GARDENS

Enormous Weights Go Up as Easily as Ordinary Things Would With the Average Man—Wonderful Feats of Strength Before a Butte Gathering—Pulling Against Horses.

The attraction of Louis Cyr at the Columbia Gardens and the heat in the city drew immense crowds to the green spot in the foothills yesterday. The cars were taxed all the afternoon and evening and had the accommodations been twice as great they would have been availed of. Men, women and children crowded into the gardens from early in the afternoon until late at night. The heat in town probably had a great deal to do with the exodus from the city.

Cyr gave two exhibitions, one in the afternoon and one at night, and they were both witnessed by thousands. The champion strong man of the world proved his right to that title by his feats of prowess. He did everything he advertised to do and much more.

The first feat was the bar-bell act. The bar-bell weighs 315 pounds. Cyr lifted it with two hands from the platform to the shoulders in one motion without touching any part of the body, and then slowly pressed it at arms' length above the head. It was a wonderful feat, though Cyr's record at the same thing is 347 pounds.

Next came the 245 dumb bell act. Cyr handled what to an ordinary man would be an enormous weight as easily as most people would a 50-pound bell. He picked it up with one hand, raised it to the shoulder, and then with a steady push put it above his head with the arm at full length and the body erect. Cyr has already made a record of 13 pounds over and above his feat of yesterday. But yesterday he was not making records, but he was giving an exhibition of what to him was an ordinary matter.

A barrel of water weighing 300 pound was shouldered with one hand as easily as many people would shoulder a moderate sized timber. A clean one-hand sweep of a 180-pound dumb-bell was made. This beats Cyr's London record, as in that place he used 174 pounds. The feat consists in raising the dumbbell with one hand and in one sweep from the platform and putting it at arm's length.

Next Cyr selected a human dumb-bell in the form of a man from the spectators. The man weighed fully 150 pounds but he went up in the air just as easily as though the performer had had a good handle to hold to. The chain balancing of a plow showed that Cyr's strength is not confined to his arms, but is uniform.

The event was the lifting of over 3,500 pounds. This enormous weight was lifted from the platform without any harness on the body to assist the performer. In London he made a record of 3,635 pounds at this feat and in Chicago he lifted 4,300 pounds.

Pulling against horses was another feat. The animals were hitched to either arm and the whips applied. When the det was over it was an open question whether the horses were not as tired as the man they were pulling against. In this feat Cyr simply holds his arms with one strap passed over each at the elbow.

It was a great performance and Samson, even before he met Dallah, would have found a worthy competitor in this modern strong man.

FEATS OF A STRONG MAN

Louis Cyr, the Canadian Giant, Gives an Interesting Exhibition.

MANY PEOPLE WITNESS IT

The Columbia Gardens Thronged With Spectators—High Altitude Affects the Performer—Tests of Human Strength.

There was a big exodus yesterday from Butte to Columbia gardens and thousands of men, women and children visited the resort. The management of the place had made provision for the entertainment of the multitude which thronged the gardens and the capacity of the street car line was taxed to its utmost in furnishing transportation to the crowds. The principal attraction was the exhibition given by Louis Cyr, the modern Samson, and was witnessed by at least 3,000 people. When Cyr made his appearance at 3:30 o'clock on the improvised stage erected in front of the grand stand he was greeted with great applause. He was introduced by J. B. Frederic, who called for a delegation of six gentlemen to act in the capacity of judges. Those who responded were Chance L. Harris, W. W. Adams, Henry McMurphy, Judge E. Ducie, John Madden and P. J. Gilligan.

The feats of strength performed by Mr. Cyr, who is reputed to be the strongest man in the world, fully sustained the reputation which he has achieved. These feats, however, required unusual exertion in their execution on account of the fact that the strong man was not acclimated to this high altitude. Mr. Cyr was weighed in in his tights at 320 pounds and the first exhibition of his phenomenal strength was in raising over his head a bar dumbbell weighing 304 pounds. The other feats of strength performed consisted in putting up with one hand a 240-pound dumbbell, the shouldering with one hand of a 300-pound barrel of water, a clean one-hand sweep of an 180-pound dumbbell, the balancing in midair of a human dumbbell, a platform lift of 2,568 pounds and the holding of two large draft horses pulling in opposite directions. Mr. Cyr executed all these feats to the satisfaction of the big audience, but not with the ease for which he is noted. The exertion brought out great beads of sweat and at the conclusion of the exhibition the gentleman gave evidence of great weariness, which he attributed to the high altitude.

The exhibition was repeated at 7 o'clock last evening.

Performs a Number of Feats of Strength at the Gardens.

Louis Cyr, the strong man, gave an exhibition at Columbia Gardens yesterday and last evening to big crowds. The Canadian Samson was introduced by J. B. Frederic, who called for a delegation of six men to act in the capacity of judges. Chance Harris, Judge Ducie, Henry McMurphy, W. W. Adams, John Madden and P. J. Gilligan responded.

Mr. Cyr was weighed in at 320 pounds and his first exhibition was the raising of a 304 pound barbell over his head. He put up with one hand and without any apparent effort a 240-pound dumbbell and shouldered a 300-pound barrel of water. His lifting of 2,568 pounds on a platform and the feat of holding two large draft horses were enjoyed by the audience.

