

THE TURF.

also discussed, but they came to the conclusion that the C.P.R. was the best.

ATHLETICS.

The Canadian Samson in London.

Mr. J. X. Perrault, who has just returned from a trip to Europe, and who, while there, took a great interest in the doings of Canada's strong man, Louis Cyr, gives the following account of the latter's reception in London. Being asked about Cyr's doings he said:

"Why, he is doing wonders there and advertising Canada to the entire satisfaction of our Agent-General and the Canadian Pacific Railway. No emigration agent is more effective. On some very long lithographic posters, measuring nine feet by four, and representing our Canadian champion in tights, he has inscribed in flaming letters: 'Canada first! The unrivalled Louis Cyr.' Then on the left his record 'Hand lift over head, 265 lbs.—Horizontal lift, 104 lbs.—Enormous back lift, 4000 lbs.'" On the right hand side, 'Canada grows the best wheat, the finest cattle and the strongest men in the world.' And underneath the picture 'Free public lands and healthy climate—That is the country to go to.' Several thousand copies of this chromo, by one of the most highly reputed houses in London, will be distributed all over the principal cities of Great Britain and will no doubt attract considerable attention."

"How do the public look upon him?"
"They look upon him as the most marvellous combination of bone and sinew. He is subject to critical examination by eminent scientists and medical men, who pronounce him a remarkable piece of humanity. At the South London Palace, where he performs every evening, the announcer, Mr. Thirde, one of the prominent sportsmen of the great city, informs the audience that the great Canadian champion is undoubtedly the strongest man the world has ever seen in this or any other period of its history. Of course, our friend Cyr takes it all in as gospel truth and goes about his performance with the grace and ease which we all know, surrounded by a host of sportsmen who invariably invade the platform to test his weights."

"Will he really take the belt?"
"Undoubtedly he will, if a contest takes place. But the strong men of London are in no hurry to have a square match at heavy lifting with the prospect of being badly beaten by our champion. That is the difficulty, and it has been proposed that if they do not answer his challenge a grand entertainment should take place in January next, when Cyr will break all records and thus be entitled to the international belt for competition in London. That is the only way for Cyr's undoubted superiority to be recognized. In the meantime he is training himself up to the work at a salary of \$400 a week. The crush to see him the other evening was such that the entrance gates were broken and the crowd passed into the theatre unimpeded, the attendance numbering at least 3000 people."

THE SPORTING LIFE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1892.

LOUIS CYR RETURNS TO LONDON.

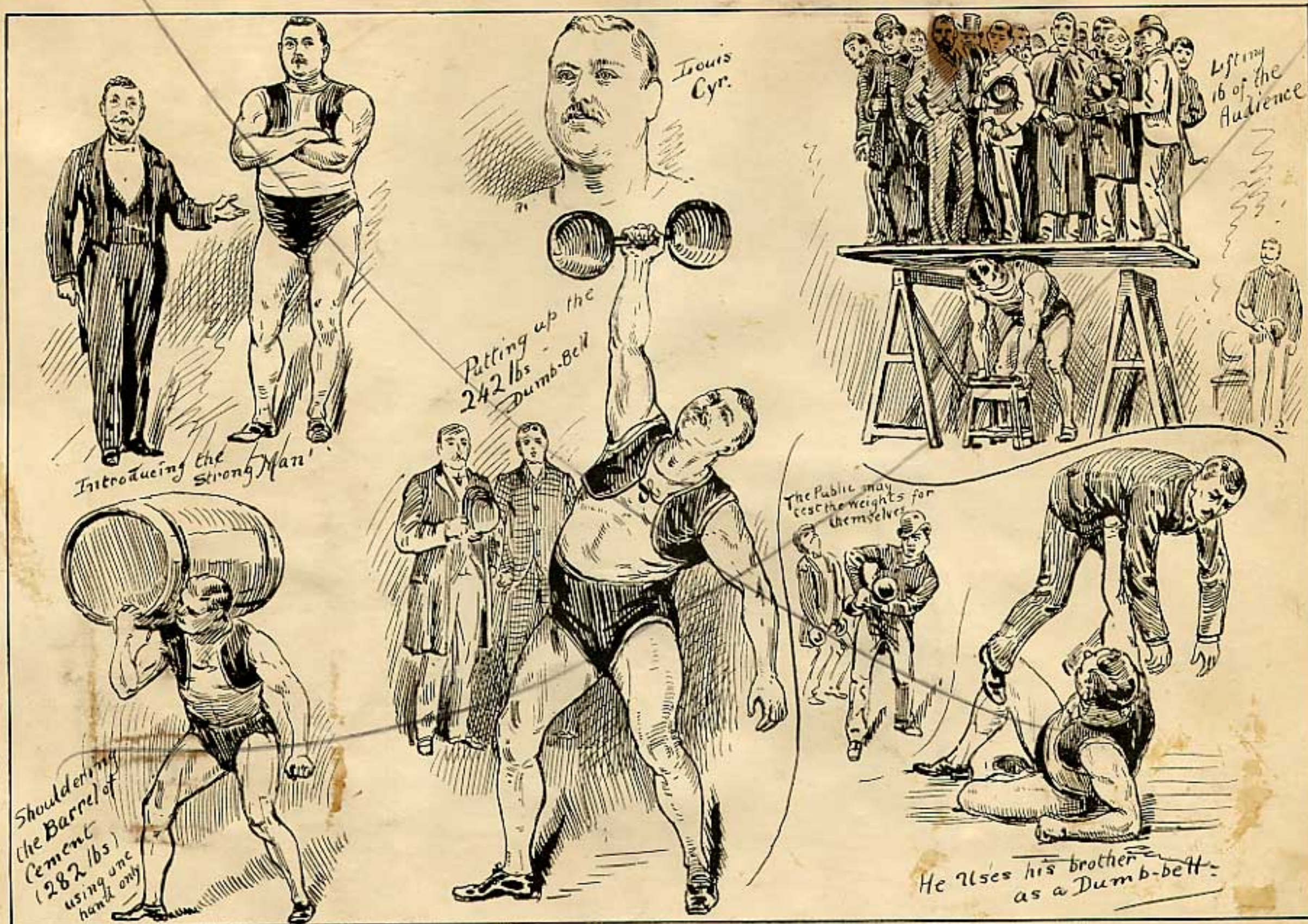
After an absence of a month in the provinces, Louis Cyr, the Canadian strong man, returned to London last night, and showed his prowess at the Royal Albert Hall, Cannon Town. The stalwart "Canuck" was in fine form, and introduced several new feats. Among them was the elevating a bar bell weighing 275 lbs. This immense mass he slowly pushed up twice, using both hands. After that he knelt down, and put up the 175 lb bell ten times in succession. The Canadian's immense back lift electrified every one, the most auspicious feat on the platform being the local fishmonger, who is known as Jimmy Day's bucket.

THE SPORTING LIFE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1891.

LOUIS CYR IN GRAND FORM.

Many ambitious young men went on the stage at the South London Palace last night, and tested Louis Cyr's weights, but very few of them could move the big fellows. Cyr was in fine form, and essayed a new feat—that of putting up the 175 lb with the left hand. He did this three times in succession, and twice while kneeling down. Those on the platform were—F. Patch, C. J. Gray, O. Goddard, W. Ewart, G. Simpson, B. Arlinton, J. Halls, W. Follows, W. Ware, G. Wills, F. Wilson, H. Allatt, J. Higgins, J. Roberts, J. Jarrett, and R. Oddy. Among those present were Greek Queens, the champion wrestler, who says that he will soon leave for the Continent. To night William Cassidy will attempt the feat of lifting the 242 lb bell twice off the floor. \$10 has been wagered that he will not lift the bell two feet off the floor. Frank Hinde officiated as M.C. in an efficient manner.





LOUIS CYR'S FEATS OF STRENGTH.

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L. POST) ONE PENNY.

LOUIS CYR'S CHALLENGE TO THE WORLD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "SPORTING LIFE."

Sir.—The letter appearing in to-day's issue of your paper from Mr. Lemaire contains certain remarks which, I think, should not be allowed to remain unchallenged. Firstly, he asserts that the only way to settle the question of who is the strongest man is to count by pounds, and not by points. A more unfair suggestion I never heard of, as the man who can raise the most dead weight is certain to win the contest, although he may be much the inferior man in nearly every other feat of strength. The vast difference in the nature of dumb-bell lifting and dead weight lifting, whether by the back or by harness, renders it impossible to count the points on the same basis. The difference is immense between lifting 10lb more than your opponent by either arm above the head, there is in lifting the same amount more by means of harness or the back. Secondly, Mr. Lemaire says that the man who can raise the greatest weight is absolutely the strongest man. Why does that follow if his opponent can beat him in other feats of pure strength, such as right and left and both arm lifting? By all means let dead weight lifting constitute a feat of any future contest, but each competitor must be permitted to lift it in whichever manner he likes, and then the feat can only rank on an equality with the other feats.

The committee of the Athletic Institute are quite prepared to give a diploma to any man who can succeed in eclipsing the records established by Sandow on January 23 last. The committee think it would prove highly satisfactory to obtain the opinion of all experts and others interested in the subject, so that conditions may be drawn up to govern future contests and record performances. With this object they cordially invite all interested to attend a preliminary meeting, to be held on Saturday evening next, at half-past seven, at the Institute, 3, Kinnerton street, Knightsbridge. Those who cannot attend will greatly oblige by forwarding their ideas to the hon. sec.—Yours, &c.

WILLIAM H. BUSH, M.R.C.V.S. (Hon. Sec. Athletic Institute), S. Paul's House, Wilton-place, Knightsbridge, Nov. 24.

CYR WILL LIFT TWO ELEPHANTS.

True to his original utterances Louis Cyr is determined to stand at the top of the strong men's tree. He has watched his would-be adversaries lift horses and other heavy weights, and now he is going to astonish the world by lifting two elephants and their keeper, using his back alone, without artificial aid. The animals will not be ready until Saturday, when Mrs. J. J. Poole will give a special matinee at the South London Palace, so that every one can witness the Canadian's gigantic feat. In conversation with the Sporting Life representative Louis Cyr said that he thought that he could lift 4,000lb when he got over his cold and became acclimatized.

CYR AT THE SOUTH LONDON.

Although the weather was unpropitious last night, there was a great crowd at the South London Palace to see Louis Cyr go through his wonderful feats of strength. During the evening Cyr juggled the 10lb bell, tossing it in the air many times, lowering himself to a kneeling position while throwing the bell into the air. The names of those who got on the platform are—H. Mole, A. Smith, W. Janus, D. Tanner, J. Sutcliffe, W. Tanner, J. Wood, A. Jacques, J. Green, C. Dinsdale, J. Bottomley, W. Taylor, R. Oddy, and G. Garrett. Their total weight was 3,302lb. This mass of humanity was lifted up four times.

The Evening News & Post.

EXTRA SPECIAL

ROYAL AQUARIUM.

New Records in Weight-lifting—Competition Among Athletes.

On Saturday night a large attendance of people interested in weight-lifting was secured by the announcement that Louis Cyr, the ponderous Canadian athlete, would attempt to create several new records in this branch of sport. The attempts made were in every instance successful, and Mr. Cyr must have gone home with quite a handful of records. To the uninitiated in the details of weight-lifting, however, the peculiar excellences of these achievements are not readily apparent, and the "records" present a curious similarity to the modern "championships" in boxing, which allow of any number of "champions," so long as the weight of each varies by a pound or two. For example, Mr. Cyr seized a dumb-bell weighing 156lb, and raised it from the ground above his head with one continuous motion; here was a record. He repeated the performance with the left hand; here was another record. Other weight-lifters, we know, have raised weights as great, or very much greater, above the head with one hand, but they (apparently) have not done the feat in quite the same way as Mr. Cyr did it. Or perhaps it is that none of them elected to raise a dumb-bell weighing just 156lb. Again, the athlete knelt down and lifted above his head, whilst in that position, a dumb-bell weighing 174lb, going on to lower it to his chest and raise it again to arm's length, sixteen times running. This was another record, the previous best being his own score of twelve such successive lifts. These feats, and several others accomplished by the Canadian, are doubtless both genuine and difficult, but their value as "records" cannot be estimated until rival strong men have tried precisely similar feats in precisely similar circumstances, and each of the strong men has a knack of choosing his own line, and keeping it a bit different from those of his rival. Thus, another athlete who took part in Saturday's display, Mr. Dan Sullivan, accomplished all his feats of weight-lifting with his teeth, or with the middle finger of his right hand, and he in his turn challenged all the world to rival his performance. He, too, is an accomplished performer, and would certainly be hard to beat in his own line, but he would possibly make a poor show if asked to do the particular feats affected by Sandow, or Samson, or the brothers McCann. A third performer, Milo, also gave a good display of weight-lifting, having his own characteristic feats and his own way of doing them. The general programme at the Aquarium, which on Saturday was somewhat interfered with by the rather tedious exhibition of the strong men, is of unusual excellence, and the

LONDON: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1892.

Boston Globe

Louis Cyr, the Canadian strong man, gave an exhibition of his strength at London the other day. He first lifted a 104-pound bell above his shoulder with his right hand. Then he put a 242-pound bell over his head with both hands. Finally, putting on a harness to which a frame was attached, he lifted a weight of 3000 pounds.

Lowell Star
Samson Afraid of Cyr.
Lowell people have long looked for a meeting between Louis Cyr and Samson, the strongest man in England. They met on Monday in London and made a match. Cyr lifted the heaviest dumbbell with one hand, lifting with the back, lifting the heaviest weight from the ground with harness, also without and holding out the heavy balls in each hand. Samson wanted chain breaking, bending iron bars over the forearm and trick lifting, which is not an actual test of strength. Samson dodged the real issue. Cyr will try to arrange a match with Sandow.
Joe Dextra Offers \$500.
"Well, what did I tell you," said Joe Dextra to a Star man, when the former roared in the Star that his friend, Louis Cyr, met Samson, the strongest man in England, last Monday and Samson refused to accept Cyr's challenge on a "dead lift." "Cyr," Joe continued, "is the strongest man in the world on a dead lift and I'll give any man that puts up Cyr's 25-pound dumb-bell as well as Cyr, \$500."



CYR PULLS THE TWO HORSES.

Two powerful horses, weighing in the neighbourhood of 1,000 lb each, endeavoured to pull Louis Cyr asunder at the South London last night, but the muscular Canadian proved to be the master of the situation, and, after a little slipping, he held the massive pair of quadrupeds as though they were riveted to the floor, and the assemblage almost went wild with delight. The back lift was also a fine performance, fourteen gentlemen getting on the board. They were—Schmidt, Mitchell, who weighs 141 lb; J. Brough, 126; J. Sampson, O. Paul, Aschiel Spelding, J. Galliford, J. Day, W. James, J. Jones, C. Howes, Tom Ryan, J. Dryman, A. Shaw, C. Villimer, A. Knafnee, and others. These, with the platform, totalled up 3,651 lb.

THE CANADIAN STRONG MAN.

EXTRAORDINARY FEATS.

Judging by the enormous crowd which filled every corner of the South London Palace on Saturday when Louis Cyr made his first appearance before an English public, the boom of strong man is not so dead as in the spring it appeared to be. The approach of the latest comer had been heralded by more than the usual flourish of trumpets, and excitement in athletic circles ran high when it was definitely announced that he would at his trial matinee make an endeavour to beat the records made by Sampson and Sandow. There was a fairly representative gathering of those interested in athletics present when the French Canadian made his appearance on the stage. He has been brought over to this country by Mr. R. K. Fox, the proprietor of the *New York Police Gazette*. Cyr is a man of enormous muscular development, with a closely-knit, thick-set frame, every line of which is indicative of great physical power. He has a fine round, open, and pleasant countenance, and is stated to be 23 years of age. He weighs 226 lb., and measures 53 1/2 in. round the chest. Mr. Frank Hinde, coming to the front of the stage, claimed for Louis Cyr a fair field, as a native of Canada and a British subject, for a display of feats of strength, which were boldly claimed at the outset as destined to break every previous record, whether of Sampson or of Sandow. The record of the Old World, as testified by the Earl of Lonsdale, Mr. Atkinson, and many eminent sportsmen, was Sandow's 70 lb. for a lift with the arm straight out from the shoulder, but Louis Cyr had made a record of the same kind of 103 lb., and on that occasion he would attempt to pass even this record by lifting at arm's length 104 lb. and 240 lb. up over the shoulder, and he invited representatives of the Press or eminent sportsmen present to come up and verify the weights. The excitement, which before the close of the display became tremendous, now commenced. Representatives of all the sporting organs climbed on to the platform, and at the unanimous call of the balcony, Sampson, of weight-lifting fame, mounted among the first. Mr. Fox, coming to the front of the stage, said he was willing to back Cyr to any amount to lift against any man in the world, and he would give 1,000 doles. down to any man who could rival the feats he was about to perform. An enormous dumb-bell was put on the scale and weighed, under the scrutiny of representatives of the *People* and the *Sporting Life* and a host of other competent witnesses, the dumb-bell bumping down with a 56 lb., a 25 lb., a 14 lb., a 4 lb., and a 2 lb. weight, all duly stamped with the official stamp, the total reaching just over 104 lb. The formidable dumb-bell was grasped by Cyr, who, as he stood, stripped, to the front, presented the appearance of a mountain of muscle, which would probably have put both "Hereward" and "Front de Bouf" to the blush. Slowly, fairly, and squarely, except for a very slight inclination, of certainly not more than ten degrees from the horizontal, went up the weight to the delight of everybody but Sampson, who seemed obviously uneasy. After the next performance, the lifting of another little toy which banged on the scale four 50 lbs., a 14 lb., and a 4 lb., or 212 lb. in all, put right up above the shoulder at the full stretch of the arms. Had been completed, Sampson asked to be allowed to address the audience amid extraordinary excitement. Mr. P. Law, the general manager, by a few adroit words, secured silence and a hearing for Sampson, who claimed to be a Frenchman, like Cyr, whose great strength he acknowledged, but he disputed his claim to have surpassed Sandow. The latter had lifted his 70 lbs. squarely at arm's length, but Cyr's arm, he said, was never horizontal, and in lifting the larger weight he had made use of the knee and the chest. Mr. Fox offered Sampson 100s. on the instant to rival either feat, but Sampson, so far from accepting the offer, said he was obliged to go, and he went, accompanied, as might be expected, by jeers and hisses and ironical cheers. The next feat of strength was still more surprising. A barrel of cement was put on the scale which was certified by the four referees to weigh 280 lb. Seizing the barrel with the right hand, without touching it with his left, the young giant turned it over, first on to his thigh, then on to his chest, and finally on to his shoulder, with as much apparent ease as a labourer would shoulder his hod of bricks, he walked a few steps along the stage, and was finally, but by no means hurriedly, relieved of the burden by half a dozen men. A man of the certified weight of 178 lb. was then seized by the middle, and lifted up over the athlete's head. The Canadian champion, with the man still balancing on his hand, then laid flat down on the stage, and again brought himself to the erect position. Now came the most astonishing feat of all. A stout timber framework, scaling 172 lb., was placed upon trestles, and upon this was heaped, first ten big granite blocks which weighed in the aggregate 650 lb., then a second load weighing 653 lb., and finally a third load, till the total weight reached within 72 lb. of a ton. Putting his broad back under the timber frame, Cyr lifted the whole thrice in rapid succession, and then springing from beneath exclaimed, "Put some more on." Three men successively mounted the pile, Peter Cyr, the giant's brother, 178 lb.; Harry Lupino, 123 lb.; and H. Fox, of the *Lupino Troupe*, 140 lb. and again, the big audience holding its breath meanwhile, the mountain of muscle once more stooped to the task. In the presence of the four referees, who stood at the closest quarters to see and verify the lift, up went the whole of the enormous load, clearing by fully an inch all the four corners of the frame, and a tremendous outburst of applause testified the astonishment of the great company at this incredible lift, which totalled 2,619 lb., or 379 lb. over the ton. It was long before the applause could be subdued sufficiently for a few words to be got from Louis Cyr with regard to his history. Commencing nine years ago, at the age of 19, the Canadian, who was born at Montreal, has made the tour of all the great cities of the United States and Canada, but has never before been on this side of the herring pond. He declared himself the champion of the *Police Gazette* of New York. To-day (Monday) he is to reappear and repeat, if not excel, the feats which he accomplished on Saturday.

Yet Another Strong Man!

The South London Palace was crowded yesterday afternoon with people interested in feats of strength. Sampson, the Aquarium strong man, was there to see what his testotal, non-smoking rival, Louis Cyr, the Canadian, can do. He appeared by no means pleased with his performances, and raised objections to some of the feats. Sampson is naturally jealous of his reputation, though he has not hitherto posed as a weight-lifter, and possibly thinks it is now in jeopardy. Cyr certainly showed wonderful power. One performance was exceptionally striking—to the eye at any rate. As he lay prostrate on the stage he lifted a fairly heavy man by the waist, and, holding him all the time at arm's length, himself got upon his feet. He also lifted a 104 lb. bar-bell at arm's length, raised a barrel of cement, supposed to weigh 280 lb. on his right shoulder, and with his back raised a load amounting in the aggregate to 2,619 lb. There was a good deal of wrangling while all this was done, and no doubt it will still be as difficult as ever to say who is really the strongest man.

A NEW STRONG MAN.

There was an overflowing crowd at the South London palace matinee yesterday to witness the feats of Louis Cyr, called the Canadian wonder. He is a good-natured-looking fellow, with a back that for breadth the broadest constable might envy, to say nothing of his huge, brawny limbs. More than one rival in the performer's special line put in an appearance, and expressed sceptical opinions concerning the new-comer's alleged powers of strength. Faith gave way to doubt, however, when Cyr raised a barrel of Portland cement, weighing between two and three hundred pounds. All doubt, nevertheless, vanished when this latter-day strong man raised a sea-folding weighed with wedges of stone amounting to 2,168 lb., plus three able-bodied young men. Louis Cyr won hearty and general commendation.

