

WAS A PROUD DAY

FOR CUBA FOLKS

GREETED WORLD-CHAMPION ON HIS RETURN FROM OLYMPIC GAMES.

An Impromptu Celebration for Young Man Who Put Cuba on Map by Winning Featherweight Wrestling Contest at Antwerp—Mr. Leggett Makes Welcoming Speech.

Cuba, Sept. 24.—It was not known until shortly before train time that Edwin Ackerly, the winner of the featherweight wrestling contest in the Olympic games at Antwerp, was to arrive home on Erie train seven, Monday. The news soon spread, however, and the town suddenly blossomed out with flags. Plans for a celebration were quickly improvised; the band assembled, the school children marched in a body to the station, preceded by a reception committee of representative citizens, and a crowd followed in cars or on foot.

Even the train seemed to have caught the athletic contagion and broke another record by arriving almost on time. As the young man alighted the band played, the excited voices of the schoolboys led the cheering, while all the porters beamed and even the colored cooks leaned out of the train to see what could be happening in Cuba.

While his boy admirers relieved their enthusiasm by ringing the church bells and blowing automobile horns, the champion was proudly escorted to the main square, where the Hon. J. C. Leggett made a few graceful remarks, expressing the pride of the friends and fellow-citizens of the young man in his remarkable achievement when, in spite of a sprained ankle he had won the wrestling trophy, being the only American victor in this sport.

The young athlete has received a decoration from no less a personage than King Albert, and though he wears his laurels lightly, is doubtless accustomed to applause; yet it was plain that he was much pleased with the home ovation of his townsfolk. Perhaps he felt like a doughboy who has received a crowd de guerre and been kissed by a French general in front of the whole army; but in spite of this, he bravely replied with a neat little speech, in which he thanked everybody for the pleasant surprise they had prepared for him, and said that he had been proud to represent Cuba at Antwerp. After this the impromptu celebration came to an end.

The Chamber of Commerce gave a reception and dancing party for Mr. Ackerly on Thursday evening at Keller hall.—Patriot.