

he obviously didn't enter the lists under the best possible conditions, making only 300 lbs. under the circumstances. Tofalos of Greece, the national hero (winner), did 314, being permitted to lift on his own bar—also in a style to the chest that was *very much otherwise than "clean."* Steinbach had got a grip on himself, however, by the time Tofalos had been pushed home in this manner and altho' it could make no difference to his own position (2nd) he asked to be permitted to attempt to lift the 314 lbs. on Tofalo's bar. This was allowed, whereupon, lifting savagely, Josef pulled the weight in perfectly clean, then **JERKED IT OVER-HEAD SIX TIMES IN SUCCESSION!** This was the real Josef Steinbach now on show, making everyone realise how lucky had been Tofalos—*even with all the favour shown him—to get registered as the winner.* Just tell any of your Greek friends this true story and witness their amazement.

Round about these years Arthur Saxon was filling the Music Halls with his amazing brothers in a positively terrific Strong Act which was far more genuine and positively more amazing than anything that had gone before. Practically every night Arthur would bent press 336 lbs. (nearly everyone believes that he once did 371 lbs. but this is NOT correct). It was in 1908 when I first wrestled young Hermann Görner at the

Atlas Club in Leipzig that I got to know more about Artur Hennig (Saxon's real name) and I realised that he was NOT the strongest man in the world but that my own protégé Josef Steinbach (whom I had encouraged and boosted so much while he was an amateur) would quite easily defeat him in a professional match. I went to see Josef and told him all I knew and, when I was back in London, he wrote me that as he was now professional I simply must challenge Saxon on his behalf. There was a great deal of newspaper talk, and more than once Saxon published statements that he would accept our challenge, but I knew all the time that the match would never really take place for Saxon knew far too much about the game to imagine that he had a chance against Josef. To tempt him we put in four one-handed lifts, but it was all to no purpose, for Arthur evaded the issue by going to the U.S.A. Of course, few of the Public knew that Arthur and his two brothers had more than once practised together at the famous old Vienna Weight-lifting Club "Turk Wien D'Eisernen" which was founded by the enormously strong Wilhelm Turk and later had its headquarters at Swoboda's restaurant. It has been said that there was not enough money in the match to make it worthwhile for Arthur, but this was not correct, for we challenged him for £1000 which in those days was real money and even then represented 5,000 dollars. Here is our final challenge, read it, and you will agree that we did not fear Saxon's one-hand lifting in any way. This is what appeared in the English Physical Culture Journal "Health and Strength" on the 12th March 1910:

CHALLENGE TO ARTHUR SAXON

"I, Joseph Steinbach, of Vienna, hereby challenge Arthur Saxon (Hennig) to compete with me in lifting weights to decide the Professional Weight-lifting Championship of the World. The lifts to be as follows:

- One hand bent-press.
- One hand jerk.
- One hand snatch.
- One hand press (military position without bending the body).
- Two-handed press (two dumbbells).
- Two-handed press (barbell).
- Two-handed jerk (barbell).

p.p. JOSEF STEINBACH
(Tromp van Diggelen)"

After Hermann Görner, I would still nominate Josef Steinbach to be the strongest man I ever knew, he most certainly *looked* the part of a really great Strongman and he really was one of the greatest of all times. He was born in Horschau near Pilsen in 1879, and when he passed away nearly sixty years later I lost a true friend and the world lost a man whose name will never die as long as our manly sport of Weight-lifting is practised.

(Continued next month)