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We have been notifying our Country Clients since 26th March that our Home and American Agents anticipated a serious decline in Rabbitskins. We passed this on to you for what it was worth. At yesterday's local sale prices declined 75 per cent. We therefore would like to write us for revised price list. At the same time we would again advise you to accept ruling prices, as our Agents anticipate a further decline in the next London sales in June.

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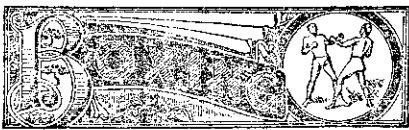
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## RING REPORTS.

## THE GREATEST FIGHT OF MODERN TIMES.

## BECKETT v. McGOORTY.

By "The Count."

Greatest of heavy-weight boxing contests seen for many years, the Beckett-McGoorty bout is still a much talked-of affair in boxing circles. Even those who said that McGoorty was too clever for Beckett to beat, have been compelled to go right round and give to Beckett the praise that is his due.

Surely it can be no longer possible to find people who will fail to realise that Beckett is at least an exceptionally well-built fellow for his weight. Have you noticed how compact he is? How, although weighing something like sixteen pounds more than McGoorty, he did not look nearly so much the bigger man? They seemed magnificently matched.

All that sort of thing means that Beckett is so built as to leave no weaknesses in his frame. He is a solid lump of muscularity, and his strength is governed, directed, by a well-balanced boxing head which keeps his body well under control.

## BECKETT'S DEFENCE.

Another thing which those who thought McGoorty was far too clever to be beaten by Beckett must admit now is the fact that our champion can box well. If the American could not find a way to put Beckett out, it follows that, in addition to possessing his fine forcing style in attack, Beckett has what so few of our heavy-weights have got—an excellent defence.

The pictures will show you that Beckett's guarding of that wonderfully good left hand of McGoorty's was exceptionally cunning. After the contest, McGoorty said that he knew that he had hit Beckett as hard as he could, and that the British champion instead of crumpling up, dashed in and returned the punches. That sort of compliment from an opponent seldom goes the way of any boxer, but McGoorty is a generous fellow, who is quite ready to admit a defeat that was unexpected by him, and by many more people, but never out of the mind of Beckett from the time that the match was made.

Beckett has proved himself to be a splendid fighter in many senses. First of all, he can hit hard, and when he is hit in return he has the pluck to shake off the effects of the punch. In other words that means that he gets vexed when he is hit, and in the momentary anger that is his he forgets that he is hurt, and thinks only of the fact that he must do something in the way of hunting his opponent.

He has the insistence of spirit to do that, too, for who could have shown more determination than he did after being hit by McGoorty? There was one feature of Beckett's boxing that did not please me, and that was the fact that when he had secured an advantage, and went in in the attempt to finish off his man, he forgot the right way to punch.

## THE STRAIGHT PUNCH.

Instead of hitting straight, he would swing his arms, and as a consequence, give McGoorty just a fraction of a second of time in which to miss the blow. There is one sort of blow which a man who is dazed can scarcely ever miss, and that is the straight punch with either hand. It was a straight right that caught McGoorty and finished him off.

It was a straight right that finished off Frank Goddard, and on each occasion that straight punch was sent along when Beckett's opponent was dazed. Yet there were occasions when the British champion had the American Weak, and still rushed at him with swinging blows. If, when McGoorty was in a bad way, like he was in the thirteenth round, for instance, Beckett should have punched straight, and he would not have been able to guard won much sooner than he did.

Splendid a general as the American is, he would not have been able to guard punches sent along the quickest, straightest route. It was the one fault that need he pointed out in the way that Beckett boxed. He was a real champion at all other times, for he not only watched very closely for chances to get in hits, but he seldom relaxed his defence.

Once or twice, after close work, he stood up with his hands held low, and got punished for his pains. He learned the lesson, however, and the second who called out to him "keep your hands up, Joe!" was a wise fellow. It was only by keep-

ing his hands up that Beckett could avoid that left hand, and keep his balance so that he could be ready to rush in to the attack. When Beckett avoided blows by ducking, he lost his equilibrium, when guarded by the intervention of his right arm, he was able to move forward and continue the work of attack.

Possibly, the most puzzled man in Olympia was McGoorty, for he had not understood how clever Beckett was, and when he found that it was so difficult to hit him, and that when he did hit him the blows had so little effect, McGoorty began to wonder what sort of fellow he had matched himself with.

Beckett has developed several new punches. One is a very good one indeed, but as it is with the right, it should be tried in a different way to that adopted by the user. The blow referred to is a right drive to the body, and is generally followed by a left-hook to the face.

Now, as a combination, those two blows are wrong, for a very good reason. It is always dangerous to lead at an opponent with the right. If the right lead is to the body, it means that the striker's head has got to go forward, and is, as a consequence, in greater danger. If the safe left punch was tried and used as a feint it is possible that the right would reach its mark, and not cause that sacrifice of defence that leading with the right entails.

## WHAT ABOUT CARPENTIER.

At the time I am writing this, I am told that Carpentier is sure to meet Beckett, and as a consequence, I will not repeat my firm opinion that he will not. There has been an offer from America for a match between Dempsey and Carpentier. Of the world's heavy-weight champion Carpentier and his manager know little. They know all about Beckett, and as a consequence of that knowledge are not anxious to meet the British champion. Much is being said about contracts, and all that sort of thing, and I seem to remember in the dim and distant past when a boxer did not live up to contract.

I may be wrong in casting such a slur upon the profession of boxing, but it may be that some of the readers of this paper can tell me if a contract for a boxing match has always been regarded as a most binding business between two parties. If the contract is between Mr C. B. Cochran and M. Descamps, one would like to know really where the binding nature of that contract is.

If M. Descamps and Carpentier agree to cancel all other previous agreements between them, how is Mr Cochran going to get Carpentier into the ring?

However, you will know more about this when you are reading your paper than I know while I am writing.

## FULTON'S DEFEAT.

No doubt, something will be done in the way of getting a match for Fred Fulton now that, by beating Arthur Townley, he has proved himself to be something of a boxer. What I could not understand about the boxing critics who saw this two-minute affair is the way in which they jump to the conclusion that Fulton is a wonder.

To me, Townley never looked as if he was possessed of the slightest hope of winning. To say that he made a gallant attempt to beat the American is piffle. Townley never showed signs of being sufficiently settled in mind to set about his man.

If Beckett meets Fulton, as I hope he will, we shall be able to judge whether Fulton is anything like the right sort of boxer.

Fulton has said that he looks upon Beckett as a good boy who might stay for three rounds with him. I think Fulton is about right in his estimation of the length that such a contest would last, but what I should like to know is how on earth Fulton thinks he would be able to stay three rounds with Joe Beckett.

There was absolutely nothing in the boxing that Fulton showed to us to prove that he is capable of doing anything bigger than he did when, in a match with the fourth-rate boxer, Tom Cowler, he recovered from a knock-down punch, and was able to go on and win. If a fellow as moderate as Tom Cowler can hit Fulton once and as hard as that, Beckett can hit him several times—as often, in fact, as it is necessary.

## FULTON'S DISADVANTAGES.

Fulton has not got the physical balance to be a truly great boxer. He shows in his walk that awkwardness of step that Billy Wells has. There is not sufficient control over his huge frame to ensure him being able to stand up after receiving anything like a big punch. As a boxer, Fulton is much of a monstrosity. He is taller than he should be. If height was an advantage at boxing, he would be a very dangerous fellow, but the kind of build for a boxer which I like is that which Beckett has.

## SOUTH OTAGO NOTES

The reunion dinner of the Clutha district R.S.A. was held in the Dalton Hall on Thursday night last. Mr E. Drummond (president), occupied the chair. Owing no doubt to the boisterous weather, the attendance was not large, only about fifty soldiers and visitors being present. Amongst those present were: Hon. D. Fleming, Mr H. Simson (mayor), Brigadier-General Stewart, Lieut-Col. R. Grigor, Lieut-Col. D. Colquhoun (district organiser). After full justice had been done to the excellent repast provided by host H. Kirby, the function took the form of a smoke concert. Several toasts were proposed and honoured and these were interspersed with musical items, the evening being on the whole a most enjoyable one.

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales paid a visit to Milton and Balclutha en route to Invercargill on Thursday morning. At both places he met with a warm reception and during his short stay of fifteen minutes at each place, shook hands with a large number of returned soldiers and others. The Prince made an inspection of a very large number of children, territorials and cadets.

The weather on Saturday was very rough, snow falling at frequent intervals. The football matches were all postponed owing to the state of the weather. At present Toko leads with three wins to their credit, Crescent coming next with two wins. The first round will be completed next Saturday.

The Clutha and Mataura A. and P. Society held their 13th Annual Winter Show on Friday 21st inst. The entries only totalled 200 odd and the door-takings some £10. The quality of the exhibits was good even if they did lack in number.

At a conference of Local Bodies' Delegates, it was decided to protest against the proposed increase on hospital levies and to forward same to the Prime Minister and Minister for Public Health. It was also decided to send delegates to Wellington to support the Separation Bill when it comes before the House next session.

The football matches on Saturday 15th resulted:—First grade, Toko 19, Owaka 6; Crescent 31, Owaka 3; Second grade, Milton 3, Crescent 3. On Thursday, Clutha II. defeated Owaka II, by 6 points to 3. In a match "old buffers" v. Present Players, both teams scored three points each.

Prior to the football match on Saturday, a hockey match was played between the ladies' and men's clubs. The men proved too strong for the ladies, and won comfortably. The ladies provided afternoon tea, and the game was much enjoyed by all.

At the meeting of the South Otago Sub-Union on Saturday, reference was made to the prevalence of betting on matches that was known to be going on. The Union wish it to be made known that anyone betting on football matches can be prohibited from going on any ground under the Union's jurisdiction, and intend to make an example of anyone found betting. This step is taken in the interests of clean sport, and it is hoped that all will assist the Union in their endeavour to put down the practice.

## ADVANCES FOR SOLDIERS.

## OBJECTION TO SUSPENSION.

## THE MINISTER APPROACHED.

## MATTER FOR PARLIAMENT.

A deputation from the Standing Sub-Committee of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association Executive waited upon the Minister for Lands regarding the closing down of advances under Section 2 of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. The aim of the deputation was to obtain some assurance that applications would be received upon the production of documentary evidence that genuine contracts for the purchase of properties had been entered into prior to the sudden notification of the suspension of advances.

The Minister was unable to give this assurance. He stated that he could not commit the Government, and that the matter would be considered by Parliament as soon as possible after the opening of the forthcoming session.

The Returned Soldiers' Association intends circulating local branches throughout the Dominion for particulars of cases where genuine contracts have been entered into prior to, or within, say, a week of the Minister's statement notifying a suspension or "slackening" of advances. These cases, when in hand, will be presented before the Minister at the earliest opportunity.

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