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## FACTS ABOUT FULTON.

By Castor.

Is Fred Fulton too tall to make an ideal heavy-weight boxer? Watching him closely in the short-lived bout with Arthur Townley at Olympia, one certainly gleaned the knowledge that he is an exceptionally useful boxer—one who understands the boxing alphabet from A to Z and backwards.

Some of the critics whose knowledge of the finer points of the sport is pretty meagre, only saw in him a lumbering giant, essentially depending upon brute strength to win fistie battles.

So much for their ignorance, which has become more of a feature than a rarity.

Let me state for their information that "Ferocious Fred" is a boxer little behind Billy Wells for actual science, but far far in advance of the ex-bombardier in skill and confidence.

Fulton is not an ungainly giant; rather is he fast on his feet and symmetrical in his build. Still, the world's best fighters have been men who stood between 6ft. and 6ft 2 1/2 in., and the couple of inches advantage over all others boasted by Fulton may make a big difference when opposed to a man of Joe Beckett's calibre.

## TALL CHAMPIONS.

Jess Willard was the tallest champion of the world, his height being 6ft. 7in. without his socks. His reach is 83 1/2 in.

However, although Willard is the tallest glove-fighter that has ever figured in prominent matches, he is not the tallest fighter in ring history, as that distinction belongs to Charles Freeman, an American, whom Ben Caunt, a Prize Ring Champion of England, brought to England in the year 1842. Freeman stood seven feet in altitude, but he was not a recognised fighter, although he subsequently took part in a couple of matches with William Perry, the "Tipton Slasher." They attracted considerable attention at the period, but Freeman had little but his strength to recommend him. Both the famous blacks, Peter Jackson and Jack Johnson, stood 6ft. 0 1/2 in. high; Jim Jeffries is 6ft. 1 1/2 in., as also is Frank Slavin; whilst John L. Sullivan was only 5ft. 10 1/2 in.

## FULTON'S FEATS.

Tommy Burns was one of the smallest heavy-weight world's champions, his height being but 5ft. 7in.; but the conqueror of Gunner James Moir possessed an extraordinary reach.

With the exception of his sensational defeat by Jack Dempsey, Fred Fulton, the former plasterer, has done all that has been asked of him in workmanlike fashion, and that master-craftsman Sam Langford, for the first time in his wonderful career, had to quit to Fulton at the end of seven rounds because, as the "Tar Baby" tersely expressed it: "He's too big for me." Fancy Langford, of all fighters, making such a confession! And the famous negro was little more than a welter-weight when he fought Jack Johnson fifteen furious rounds. He gave Massa Jack so much to think about that the latter, for the rest of his career, deliberately side-stepped the greatest twelve-stone fighter the world has possibly seen.

Fulton, who, by the way, bears a similar facial resemblance to Young Josephs, the former British welterweight champion, is a good-humoured giant, and, although he failed to win the world's heavyweight crown, he nevertheless may be considered one of the most formidable big men of the boxing ring.

## A TALK WITH THE BIG AMERICAN.

I had a long chat with him one morning recently and found him an interesting conversationalist.

"What made you take to the boxing business?" I enquired, straining my neck for the purpose of catching his eye.

"Well," he drawled, in his casual way, "you see, my trade proved very awkward for my height. We had to work under ceilings from a scaffold, and my head kept bumping the top so often, with unpleasant feelings for my brain-pan, that I decided to seek some other mode of earning a few dollars. So, after watching a few fights, I decided to butt into the sport, and I've certainly no regrets to offer, thank you, because I have found it a pleasant profession.

"Where was I born? Oh, at a place called Blue Rapids, which is Kansas, twenty-eight years ago. I was a big boy at school, and none of the lads ever troubled to take me on.

"My first taste for actual boxing for money, and the shouts of the crowd, happened in 1913. Since then I have met all of the best in my country, and until Dempsey knocked me out, I had never had a decisive reverse registered against me. I certainly had lost four matches, and I regret to say that, according to the referees, they were in alleged fouls.

## SOME OF FULTON'S FIGHTS.

"Some of the fellows whom I licked are well known to you in England. Arthur Pelkey, who was here several years ago, I put down in five rounds; whilst Terry Kellar, who, I understand, accounted for Frank Goddard, was beaten in four rounds. Then Porky Flynn, whom friends tell me furnished a clever exhibition with your Billy Wells, was also one of my victims. I beat him first over twenty rounds, and afterwards twice stopped him in four and then in two rounds.

"Tom Cowler, the Englishman whom, as you will know, prior to visiting the States was a Cumberland coalminer, went down and out in less than a round; but in our second meeting Tom nearly caught me heading. I was touring with a vaudeville company, and paying less attention to training than I ought to have done. We were stalling at St. Louis, and the fans there wanted to see me fight, so Cowler was wired for, and eventually arrived on the train. I had decided to make the bout as short as possible on account of my condition not being first-class, and told the management so; but they begged me to let the bout go a few rounds, and in goodness of heart I consented, Well, to cut a long story short, as heavyweights are expected to do when in action, Cowler caught me a real corker in the opening round, and down I went like a sack of wet maize. I certainly could hear church bells, but, somehow, I managed to rise before the 'nine-out' came round.

"My head was singing all sorts of jazz music, and had Cowler landed another real haymaker it would have been 'good-night' for Fred Fulton. However I stalked round, and believe me, I was blowing like an eighty-mile-an-hour gale. But I made up my mind to give Cowler no more chances, and in the end I managed to finish him in five rounds. But, my friend, it was a close call for Frederick, and taught me a tremendous lesson which I shall never forget. The moral is: 'Never enter the ring unless you are feeling fit to fight for the world's title, no matter how raw your opponent is supposed to be.'"

## LAND FOR SOLDIERS.

## SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

## OVER £19,000,000 SPENT.

Nearly 14,000 returned soldiers had been provided with land or homes by the Government under the repatriation scheme up to May 31st. The Minister of Lands (Mr Guthrie) told the House of Representatives yesterday that the number of soldiers placed on rural land had been 6948, the total area being 2,156,555 acres. Of these, 1385 men had been placed on purchased estates, 1158 had been placed on Crown or endowment land, and 4405 had been assisted to purchase private land. The number of soldiers assisted to purchase town dwellings had been 6926.

The Minister mentioned that the land now available for soldier settlement or under preparation had a total area of 601,141 acres, including 56 purchased estates comprising 200,000 acres. The distribution of this land was as follows: North Auckland, 61,326 acres; Auckland, 92,150; Hawke's Bay, 81,992; Taranaki, 39,834; Wellington, 5695; Nelson, 77,440; Marlborough, 5440; Westland, 3830; Canterbury, 31,724; Otago, 276,798; Southland, 14,913; total, 691,141 acres.

The expenditure was summarised by the Minister as follows:—

Purchase of 230 estates ...	£3,743,987
Advances for purchase of private land ...	£7,239,504
Advances for purchase of houses ...	£4,471,884
Advances for stock and improvements ...	£1,985,362
Cost of 56 estates now being subdivided ...	£1,625,631
Total ...	£19,066,368

The Minister mentioned that the average capital value of settlement sections had been £2281, and the average advance for purchase of a house £652.

The Canadian fishery equipment is worth £7,433,865. The fleet is comprised of 2055 vessels and 52,235 small boats, manned by 71,646 men in addition to 22,308 employed on shore, and 744 fishing without boats.

## HELP FOR SOLDIERS.

## FEAR OF CURTAILMENT.

## RETURNED MEN UP IN ARMS.

## THE HONOUR OF THE COUNTRY.

A largely attended meeting of members of the Wellington Returned Soldiers' Association was held in the clubhouse last evening to consider the position with respect to the slowing down of advances under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. Mr W. Perry presided, and the following members of Parliament were present:—Dr. A. K. Newman, Messrs R. A. Wright, W. H. Field, P. Fraser, G. Mitchell, and J. P. Luke.

Mr Perry said the association should protest against any possible curtailment of advantages under the D.S.S. Act, and the matter to be discussed was of the utmost importance. From recent utterances by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands, it appeared that there was a danger of the advantages of the Act being curtailed. The Government had given the impression that it had gone too far, and that its action had tended to inflate the values of land. Headquarters of the R.S.A. had taken up the matter, and had urged local associations to hold meetings and pass the following resolution:—"That this meeting of returned soldiers, having taken into consideration the statements of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands regarding the finance of the Dominion and the possible effect of the continuance of the present scheme of advances under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act in further increasing the price of land, still considers that the only equitable and honourable course open to Parliament is (a) to make the benefits of the D.S.S. Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to these benefits, and so to avoid penalising many soldiers who have but recently returned to New Zealand, or have lately been released from hospital, or have lately completed their period of training under the Repatriation Act; (b) to provide that any loss incurred in so doing shall be borne by the country as a whole."

## — A Present of 1 1/2 Per Cent. —

Mr Perry detailed the statements made by the Prime Minister to the R.S.A. with reference to the D.S.S. Act. The speaker stressed the point that the Government was not spending money on returned soldiers—it was only lending it to them, and the principal and interest would all be repaid. The returned soldiers were not responsible for the inflation of the values of house property and land, and were not prepared to take the responsibility of the Government's miscalculations. By cutting down the advances under the Act, a manifest disadvantage was being placed on men who went to the war early, and who had not yet applied for loans. The returned soldiers were entitled to obtain loans at 4 1/2 per cent., even if the Government had to raise the money at 6 per cent. The Government should make a present of 1 1/2 per cent. to the returned men in view of the promises that had been made when the Act was placed on the Statute Book. A loss of 1 1/2 per cent. was not too big a price to pay for the country's honour. (Hear, hear).

In seconding the resolution, Mr A. B. Siewwright said that the returned soldiers throughout the country had been much perturbed by the action of the Government in holding up temporary advances under the D.S.S. Act. Many returned soldiers had made commitments, and then they were faced with a "bolt from the blue" in the temporary stoppage of loans. Contracts had been entered into by returned men in all good faith, and in the belief that they would be able to obtain the money for the purpose of land settlement and the purchase of houses. The Government was ever ready to flout the aims of returned soldiers because it had a very short memory. There should be a most liberal interpretation of the provisions of the Act, and the attitude of the Prime Minister had not been fair. The Government had not been listening to the advice of those people who said that sufficient had been done for the returned soldiers, and that the Government had gone far enough. The attitude of the Prime Minister was nothing but a "try on," and the returned soldiers should see that it was resisted. New Zealand was one of the most prosperous countries in the world, and the Prime Minister should prove that he was an optimist, and tap the resources from which money for the returned soldiers could be obtained. The slogan of the Government during the war had been "the last man and the last shilling." Had that been forgotten by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands? When the crisis regarding money rose, the Prime Minister should

have risen to the occasion and obtained the necessary funds, trusting that his action would be approved by Parliament. The Government had been short-sighted in not passing an Act in 1915 to prevent the sale of land at values in excess of those ruling in 1914. While the returned soldiers had been fighting the speculative and they were the gentlemen who snapped their fingers at the law. Land settlement was the precursor of production, and increased production could only be achieved by getting as many returned soldiers as possible on the land. That was the only way in which the cost of living could be reduced. Yet, when that fact was most apparent, the Government took the line of curtailing advances to returned soldiers. If returned soldiers had been burdened by taking up land at prices which were too high, then it was for the Government to assist them by giving them rebates out of the country's exchequer. The Returned Soldiers' Association would have to see that in future returned soldiers received land at reasonable prices, and that those people who made enormous fortunes out of land during the war were forced to disgorge some of their money by means of taxation. The benefits of repatriation must be continued until the last returned man was trained and settled. (Hear, hear).

## — "Only a Fair Thing." —

Mr John I. Fox said that the returned soldiers were confident that Parliament and the people were with them in their desire for full reinstatement in civil life. Had the Government accepted the suggestions of the Returned Soldiers' Association in the early days with regard to repatriation, the returned men and the Government would have been themselves in a better position today. The Government by now knew how many men were yet awaiting the benefits of full repatriation, and sufficient money should be set aside for that purpose. If the money should not be obtained abroad, then means should be taken of raising it in the Dominion. The R.S.A. had suggested that land should be acquired compulsorily at pre-war values, and that the owners should be paid in debentures. Justice was done to the returned soldiers, who did not ask for charity, but the granting of their rights. It was only proper that people who had made money out of the war should contribute towards the cost of the conflict, but it seemed as if the returned soldiers, who had already done their share in the winning of the war, would now have to help in paying for it. The returned men were asking for only a fair thing, and they should see that their demands were granted.

Mr J. McKenzie stated that some people had found the war to be a very profitable proposition. In his opinion, the amount of the general profiteering that had gone on was sufficient to pay the war debt. The only thing the "patriots" were prepared to do was to put the returned soldiers on the land at the highest values possible. Money had been made out of the war, but not by the returned soldiers, and those who had made it, and who never had any intention of leaving the country to fight, were determined that the soldiers should get some of it. With regard to the D.S.S. Act, the returned men should put no faith in members of Parliament, and in the people of the country, but should depend entirely on themselves. In the strength with which they supported their demands, lay their only hope of obtaining their rights.

## — Too Black a Picture. —

In returning thanks, Dr. Newman remarked that before coming to the meeting the members of Parliament had no idea that they were going to act so badly to the returned soldiers. "You must remember this, that you have only heard our side of the story to-night," added Dr. Newman. "But I hope that before the session is over you will find that Parliament has not treated you badly, and that the people of New Zealand are not ungrateful. I move in all classes of society and have never heard anybody say that we were doing too much for the returned soldiers. Some of the speakers to-night have painted the picture altogether too black." (Hear, hear).

Mr Luke said he considered that attending to the interests of the returned soldiers should be the primary work of Parliament. He believed in "playing the game" to the returned men, who had themselves "played the game." (Hear, hear).

Press Association messages report that similar resolutions were carried by meetings at Timaru, Temuka, and Oamaru.

The Panama Canal was opened to commerce on August 15, 1914.