

forward to gain much ground out of if the opposing forwards mark their men properly. A forward has no business to touch, or at any rate it should not be, be allowed to catch the ball when thrown out of touch and run away with it. If this does happen, it is simply a sign of carelessness on the part of his opponents. A powerful forward often makes several yards for his side by struggling on until he is finally thrown down or the ball is held, but the best way of gaining ground out of touch is by breaking away with the ball at your feet. When the half throws the ball out to his forwards, the man who catches it must try and put it down at once in front of the man next to him, who must then break away into a dribble, followed by the others. It is better to put the ball in front of another forward, as it is generally a good deal easier for him to break away than for the man who has caught the ball, as the latter is already probably half cowered by his vis-a-vis, and is thus hampered. I have seen this done most successfully—the only danger being at the very commencement, when the forward who is breaking away is rather apt to kick the ball too hard, and thus feed the opposing three-quarters, who will then have time either to get in a kick or start a passing run.

Another good way of making ground easily out of touch, and one that is very disheartening to the other side, is for the forward who catches the ball to throw it back again to the half, who must run behind the line-out immediately he has thrown the ball out of touch, or else to one of his three-quarters, who can then kick it over the forwards into touch again a long way down. I have often seen the ball carried right down the field like this. To carry this out properly there must be a perfect understanding existing between the forwards and the halves; and the forwards have to be very careful that the ball is passed straight to the half and not thrown wildly away anywhere, while the half has to make sure of his kick clearing his forwards and also finding touch. It is useless kicking it anywhere up the field, it must go into touch, while if the half kicks it right into the backs of his forwards he very often lets his side down badly. Both these methods I have mentioned should only be adopted as far as possible in mid-field, as when playing on the defensive or in one's own twenty-five it is foolish to risk anything, while again, when one is in the attack it is the behinds who must do the scoring by passing movements, and the ball must be kept out of touch as much as possible.

I always consider it advisable when playing on the defensive to give the preference to a five yards' scrummage rather than risk a throw out of touch, especially if one has the better scrummage, and also when on the attack a five or fifteen yards' scrummage may be advisable.

Every kick-off must be well backed up by the forwards, and when the kick-off is with your opponents the same three forwards should always drop back—one in the centre and one on each touch line. It is, above all, most important that the touch line should be marked, so as to prevent the ball from bouncing and rolling into touch.

Forwards should, besides this, always be able to use their hands, and be capable of receiving and giving a good pass.

BOXING.

World's Boxing Championship.

LODGING THE PUNCE AND STAKES. £1000 HANDS OVER.

The world's champion boxer, Tommy Burns, returned to Sydney on 9th inst., after a month's spell at "The Greel," Snowy River. Burns is an athlete who, when idle, puts weight on very quickly, but he indulged in sufficient exercise to prevent the accumulation of more than perhaps one or two pounds of tissue over and above what he carried in the contest with Hill Lang.

A very large company of prominent sporting people and city men generally assembled at Beach's Cafe, George street, yesterday afternoon, to witness the lodging in the afternoon, to witness the lodging with the coming contest between Burns and the big coloured man, Jack Johnson. Mr E. W. O'Sullivan, M.L.A., president, and spoke lightly of the pluck and enterprise of Mr McIntosh, and those associated with him in risking such a large amount of money. In his opinion, the match would prove one of the

greatest contests ever witnessed, and would bring visitors from all parts of the world. (Applause.)

Mr McIntosh, in handing over open bank cheques for £7100 (£400 had already been advanced to Johnson to cover expenses) to the stakeholder, Mr W. F. Corbett (representing the "Referee"), said the money given was the biggest amount ever offered boxers in any part of the world. (Applause.) A special clause in the compact was one regarding the selection of that very important official, the referee. If the two principals could not agree upon any particular individual, then the responsibility of appointment rested with him, and afterwards Mr Corbett, but should it go past Burns and Johnston, he (Mr McIntosh) would certainly ask Mr Corbett to accept the duty. (Applause.)

Mr Corbett, in acknowledging the receipt of the cheques, expressed his opinion that the contest would prove a great one indeed, and, though he had heard many people speak confidently regarding Burns' prospects, it bothered him a good deal to see what "line" they had to go on. Personally, he could not name either as having the better chance, and feel satisfied, for they were exponents of different styles.

Tommy Burns, being called upon, said he recognised that Johnson was a very clever boxer, and one who had physical advantages over him, but still he had confidence in his own powers.

Burns concluded by handing Mr Corbett two open cheques for £1000 each—one to "call" Johnson's offer, as stated by cable to bet £1000 he would knock Burns out inside 20 rounds; and the other as forfeit for Mr McIntosh should he (Burns) fail to carry out his part of the compact.

The champion left by the Melbourne express later, to fulfil some engagements in Tasmania, and to second his trainer, Pat O'Keefe, in two boxing contests arranged to take place in Melbourne within a week of each other—the first on the 26th inst. He will return to Sydney immediately after the "Cup" and knuckle down to hard and fast training at once.

Ketchell Beaten.

KNOCKED OUT BY "THE THUNDER-BOLT."

Fites to hand by the R.M.S. Manuka contain the following account of a battle between the boxers Ketchell—who, it was said, at one time, would meet Burns—and Billy Papke:—Los Angeles, September 7.—Stanley Ketchell, of Michigan, former middle-weight champion of the world, was knocked out in the 12th round at Jeffers Vernon Arena this afternoon by Billy Papke, of Illinois, who is now middle-weight champion of the world. Both men entered the ring in apparently perfect condition, and neither had ever been knocked out. Ketchell had won a decision over Papke in a 10-round bout. The bout turned out to be one of the bloodiest in ring history. Ketchell was plainly the favourite of the crowd, which had been betting on him at two to one. When Papke entered he walked up to Ketchell's corner and greeted him with a hand-shake and cordial smile; but when James J. Jeffries, the referee, called time and Ketchell walked to the centre extending his hand for the shake, Papke ignored his hand, and went at the Michigan man with the impetuosity which has won him the title of "The Thunderbolt." The fight was practically over a minute and 40 seconds after the gong sounded. From that time on it was merely a question as to how long Ketchell would last. Papke fought with such fury that the undefeated champion was simply lifted off his feet four times within the next minute. Papke sent Ketchell to the mat for a count, and from his first knock-down Ketchell never really recovered form. He was dazed and bleeding from 20 blows in the face, yet he stayed with remarkable determination, and for at least three rounds held his own with the victorious challenger.

When Ketchell stepped to the corner for the second round it was seen that his right eye was closed. At the next intermission his seconds lanced the eye, but Ketchell did not regain the sight of that eye, and before the finish the other eye was all but closed. During the last three rounds he staggered round the ring dizzily, like a drunken man, practically blinded. In the third Ketchell showed his best form, when he forced Papke through the ropes, in the last

round Ketchell seemed down and out, and the gong saved him just as he was knocked through the ropes. Another minute finished him, with Papke almost as strong as when he entered the ring. Ketchell was carried to the dressing-room, both eyes swollen into a great black puff, and completely closed. His lips were cut and swollen to several times their normal size.

Griffin Beats Costa.

Jim Griffin, the ex-New Zealander, defeated Joe Costa at the Gaiety Club on 8th inst., before a good house, in a short, sharp, and decisive battle. The weights were given, Griffin, 11st 4lb; Costa, 11st 4lb, and although the latter a few weeks before got a verdict over his opponent on points, Griffin on this occasion was the more fancied of the two.

The men lost no time in getting to work when the gong sounded. After sparring for a few seconds, the contestants at once commenced to mix matters, and made things exciting. It was evident from the start that the contest could not last long, as both boxed vigorously. Griffin played more for the body, and sent in some swinging rights into Costa's ribs. He used his left also with telling effect. Costa also made good use of his left, and several times jabbed Griffin in the mouth, but the blows did not land with much force.

In the second round Costa sent in his left, and landed lightly, while Griffin swung a victorious right, which, however, missed the mark, as Costa was clever enough to step back. A lively rally took place, and the ex-New Zealander inflicted some punishment about his adversary's ribs, and once or twice landed effectively in the upper regions. Although the round was in his opponent's favour, Costa used his left well, and Griffin received it a couple of times on the jaw.

The third was a good, even round, while the fourth was full of excitement. Costa was compelled to act on the defensive, and as Griffin was forcing the fighting, Costa found it advisable to sidestep, and at one stage Griffin was chasing him round the ring. In mixing it, both slipped and fell down together, but they soon assumed the perpendicular, and went at it hard. Griffin continued to make for the body with left and right, while Costa still relied on his straight left, with which he jabbed his adversary several times. Near the end of the round Griffin swung his right and hooked Costa, who had neglected his defence, fair on the chin, and he went down. The gong saved him, but he was a beaten man. The pair had scarcely got together for the fifth round when Griffin again hooked Costa with the right, and the latter had to be carried to his corner at the end of the count.

There is great danger of the North Sea being entirely denuded of fish at some future time. The catch of flat fish has been falling off steadily year after year. In the case of plaice it has been specially marked.

A report of the Board of Agriculture on the plaice fisheries of the North Sea, just issued gives figures which show that, while the total quantity of fish caught by steam trawlers in the last four years has decreased by 17 per cent., the flat fish—turbot, brill, soles, plaice, dabs, and lemon soles—show a decrease of nearly 42 per cent.

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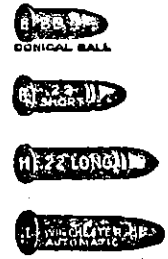
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