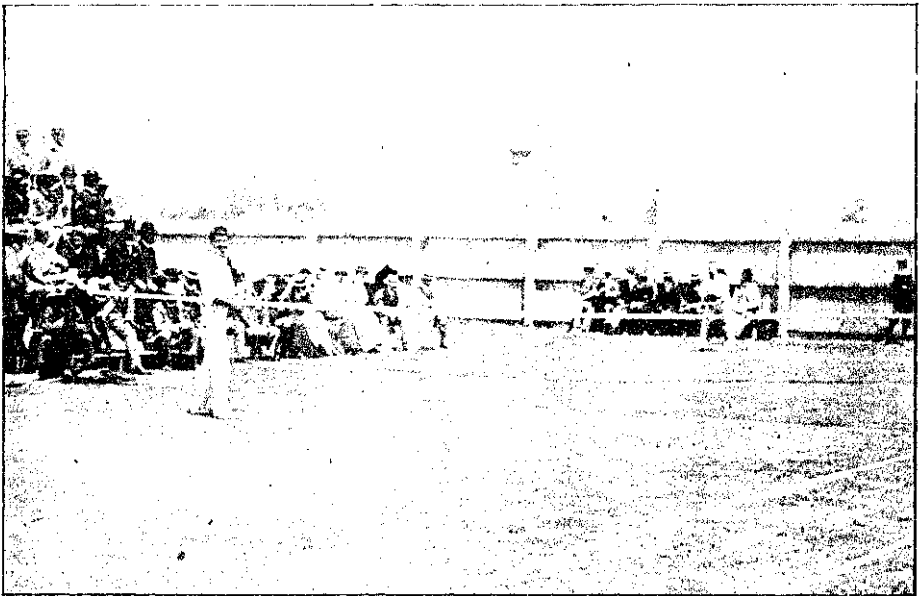


players are quite equal, if not superior, to the Australians, indeed, the visitors were kind enough to say that we outclass them in this respect. Without going quite so far, I am prepared to say that we have several men in New Zealand whose ground strokes are undoubtedly superior to those of Australians.

The "chop" stroke of the Australians, which has been so much talked about, is the old despised downward cut which so many of us used, but threw away because it went out of fashion, and the "up-lift," or "lifting drive," or fore-hand drive, with plenty of "up-rib" on it, was the correct

attempting to negotiate, some of Dunlop's well-placed chops on the back-hand, will, I am sure, not accuse me of using the language of exaggeration when I say there are much easier strokes to be met with. I speak feelingly on this subject.

The chief point of difference between the play of the Victorians and the New Zealanders in doubles is the position at the net. The visitors stand much closer to the net than our players, in fact, almost within reach of it, and when both men are in position it is almost impossible to pass them with a low return. The tennis authorities in Christchurch did not give our



East,

DUNLOP WATCHING DIDDAMS SERVE.

Christchurch.

thing to talk of, even when we could not do it. We may, however, be fairly sure that the "chop" will be used again now. It is by no means a difficult stroke to learn, and enables one to place a ball along his opponents' back-hand line with deadly accuracy. Moreover, it is a good stroke to come in on, as it grips the ground, checks a little, and then shoots forward, so that frequently the check is not allowed for, and consequently when the ball is returned, it often has an uppish tendency, which plays into the hands of a volleyer. Those who have had the pleasure of negotiating, or

men a possible chance against them. The first time I saw them play, being very partial to the lob, I was struck by the large expanse of back-country available for judicious selection by good tossers. The proximity of the visitors to the net is a temptation to anyone at all skilful at tossing, and I was convinced that good lobbing would soon dislodge them, and give our men an opportunity for getting in their superior cross-court work, driving and smashing. We have heard of a "rot" in cricket, but I do not think the term has invaded the technology of tennis. If it had,