

## BOXING.

### THE BURNS-LANG FIGHT.

TO BE DECIDED ON MONDAY.

On Monday night next (Easter Monday) Tommy Burns meets Bill Lang at the Sydney Stadium, in a contest for the heavyweight championship of Australasia, and as the Melbourne man is reported to have improved a great deal since he last met Burns a very close fight is anticipated. Should Lang succeed in knocking Burns out, his reputation will be firmly established, and as he possesses youth, strength and science, there is little doubt but he will make a great name for himself in the boxing world.

Bill Lang, whose right name is Langfranchi, made his first public appearance in the ring at Melbourne on January 2 1905, when he boxed four rounds with Liggins. Nearly all of his big fights have taken place in Melbourne, his recent contest with Bob Fitzsimmons at the Sydney Stadium and two of the three battles he had with Bill Squires, being the only occasions on which he has fought before the Sydney public. Since his first contest at the beginning of 1905 he has been fighting regularly, and has met the best men in the game in Australia. On March 4 1906, he fought Jack Johnson at Melbourne, the negro being declared the winner in the ninth round, the fight being stopped. Since then, with the exception of his contest with Tommy Burns in September 1908, when he was beaten in six rounds, he has won every battle, Bill Squires (3 times), Jim Griffin, Peter Felix, Ed. Williams, Arthur Cripps and Bob Fitzsimmons being numbered among those he has defeated.

According to latest accounts Lang has been making excellent progress in his training, and should enter the ring in the very best fettle. Burns, who had a great deal of superfluous flesh to get off before settling down to vigorous training, had the misfortune of suffering nine days ill-health at a time when he can ill afford to miss his preparation, but during the past week he resumed operations, putting in some solid work. There was some talk of postponing the contest owing to Burn's indisposition, but the Canadian would not hear of it and informed his supporters that he will step into the ring perfectly fit on Easter Monday.

Bill Lang has the reputation of landing blows with lightning speed on breaking from the clinches, this no doubt being the result of Johnson's tuition, the black scoring repeatedly in this manner during his battle with Tommy Burns. Whether Burns will find a method of evading Lang's hurricane rushes remains yet to be seen, and many are of opinion that the Melbourne boxer will score a knockout, the fact of Lang sending Burns down in their last encounter being the point upon which they base their calculations. However, it must not be forgotten that Burns has not yet met the man who was able to clean knock him out, his capacity for taking punishment being nothing short of remarkable, and should Lang score a knock-out his prospects of some day gaining the heavyweight championship of the world may be viewed in a favourable light.

### ANOTHER OPINION OF THE JEFFRIES-JOHNSON MILL.

Bob Fitzsimmons finishes his Auckland season at His Majesty's Theatre to-night, and may well feel pleased with the warmth of the receptions given him each night by Auckland theatregoers. Fitzsimmons has fought 370 battles in the ring, and at one time held the middleweight, lightweight and heavyweight championships of the world at the one time. When interviewed down South regarding the Jeffries-Johnson fight, he gave his opinion unhesitatingly that Jeffries would win. "When Jeffries said he'd fight that nigger he was fit (said Fitzsimmons). Jim had been training for twelve months before he made his announcement. He wanted to see if he could get into form before he would challenge the champion. I think Jeffries will beat Johnson, because Johnson has never been up against a man as big and strong as Jeffries; because Johnson had never met a man who would tear into him like Jeffries, and he is scared; and because Johnson could never hurt Jeffries. "But," said the veteran, "if the nigger wins he

won't be champion for 24 hours. He is hated in America, and there would be a race war. The niggers would become unbearable. You don't know them."

Fitzsimmons will be present at the ringside when the pair meet, having been engaged to write up the contest for the "Evening World."

### KETCHEL'S OPINION OF JACK JOHNSON.

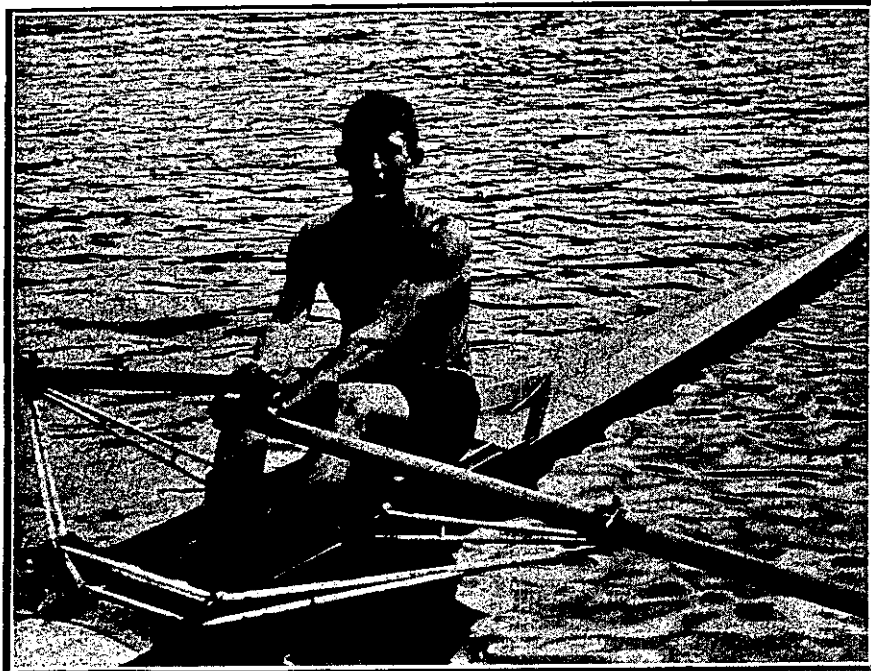
In a recent interview, Stanley Ketchel, the famous American middleweight boxer, has the following to say regarding Jack Johnson, the world's champion boxer:—

"Johnson may be flat footed. If he is I would like to be flat-footed. Don't worry about his speed. He is without doubt the fastest big man I ever saw. When he lunges out with his straight left it carries a force of a pistonrod. He can hit and get out of the way better than any fighter I ever saw. He is a marvel with his hands. He may be flat-footed but he certainly is shifty."

When Ketchel was in Grand Rapids last he showed a decided antipathy for old friends and former supporters, but his last visit has been noticeable for decided tendency to talk. He further said:

"Last year has been a splendid money-getter for me until I came across Jack Johnson. He stopped me. But I had the satisfaction of landing once on Johnson cleanly and that time the big champion keeled. One of these days they will give me more credit for my bout against Johnson than they do now."

Ketchel warmly denied stories of his western dissipation, claiming that



W. J. WESTRAY, of the Waitemata B.C., winner of the Single Scull (one mile) at the Ngaruawahia Regatta on St. Patrick's Day.

such statements came from western parties who are in a league against him.

"It is true I like to dance," said Ketchel, "but outside of that tales from the coast have been greatly exaggerated, I pick Johnson to win over Jeffries in less than 12 rounds."

During his stay in Auckland Bob Fitzsimmons spent a good deal of his time in Page's blacksmith shop, where he demonstrated to interested spectators that he could still produce shoes in record time.

J.A., Thames.—Though we are not in possession of an official record of Dick Burge's age, certain information which we have on hand points to him being much younger than your friend would suppose. At the time of his conviction Burge was at the height of his popularity as a boxer, and he was sentenced, in February, 1902, to ten years' penal servitude, and released on August 10, 1909, after serving 7½ years of the term. During his term at Portland his conduct was reported to have been exemplary, and he gained the highest number of marks obtainable which count for remission of sentence. In addition to general good behaviour he obtained a considerable remission of his sentence for an act of gallantry in protecting a warder from a murderous assault while at Portland. From the foregoing it would appear that Burge was well under 40 at the time of his sentence in 1902, as when a boxer reaches the age of 35 he generally becomes a backnumber.

## CRICKET.

The ninth round of the Auckland Cricket Association's championship matches was commenced on Saturday, the weather being all that could be desired. Scoring in the senior matches was on the small side, the bowlers having a day out. Olliff, the Parnell man, and G. Mills, of the Eden Club, obtained the best averages, while Hadden (North Shore), Fenwick (University), McCoy (Ponsonby), Mason and Gray (Grafton) were responsible for creditable performances. University made a poor stand against Parnell at the Domain, while the Parnellites batted fairly well in their first innings. North Shore played Eden at Devonport, both teams batting below form. Grafton made a moderate score in their first innings against Ponsonby, who responded very poorly.

### SENIOR GRADE.

University v. Parnell.—The students batted first, but only made 57 runs (Wallace 15, A. Gray 15), C. Olliff taking eight wickets for 16 runs and Fairburn two for 31. The Parnellites then opened their first innings, and by the call of time had 138 runs on the board for the loss of eight wickets (A. Anthony 34, E. V. Sale 39, C. Olliff 28 not out). For University Taylor took two wickets for 43 runs, Fenwick four for 34, Wallace one for 28 and Speight one for 24.

North Shore v. Eden.—North Shore went in first and knocked up a total of 130 runs (Spence 37, L. Prime 30, A. Hadden 30), G. Mills taking seven wickets for 38 runs and George two for 17. Eden then set to work on

Davy two for 4. University, first innings, 75 runs for seven wickets (Ellis 33 not out, Fawcett 13).

Ponsonby v. North Shore.—North Shore forfeited to Ponsonby by defaulting.

### THIRD GRADE.

Waitemata v. Eden.—Waitemata, first innings, 43 runs (Low 11, McPhail 10). For Eden Gordon took two wickets for 5 runs, Highway four for 14 and Hall three for 16. Eden, first innings, 75 runs (Freeman 38, Horspool 18). For Waitemata Clow took two wickets for 16 runs, Golden one for 7 and Satchell one for 19. Waitemata, second innings, 34 runs for two wickets (Langsford 22 not out, Clow 11).

Grafton v. North Shore.—Grafton, first innings, 114 runs (W. Horspool 41, C. Moore 16, L. Horspool 20 not out); second innings, 8 runs for no wickets. North Shore, first innings, 90 runs (Farquharson 10, Blackwell 32, Westbrook 29).

### FOURTH GRADE.

Eden v. Parnell.—Eden, first innings, 96 runs (R. Bennett 23, L. Bennett 25, A. Player 18). Parnell, first innings, 83 runs for five wickets (R. Pountney 19, J. Williams 29 not out).

North Shore v. Ponsonby.—North Shore, first innings, 139 runs (L. Kent 12, Clist 37 not out, C. Kent 36). Ponsonby, first innings, 138 runs for five wickets (Hobbs, 35 not out, Hart 24 not out, Elwin 14).

### THE GAME IN THE SOUTH.

At Wellington the senior grade cricket matches were continued in fine weather. There is some doubt whether another round will be played; if not, Central wins the championship, with East A runners-up. Central made 199 against South; second innings, one for 19. South, first innings, 100; second innings, 116. North made 85 in the first innings against East A; second innings, five wickets for 115. East A, first innings, 170; second, 43 for three wickets. Petone beat Hutt by 57 runs. Petone, second innings, six for 58; first innings, 105. Hutt, second innings, 55; first innings, 51. East B defeated Victoria College by an innings and 22 runs. East B, 130 for eight wickets.

The last of the first grade cricket matches were played at Christchurch on Saturday. St. Albans, 72 and 148 for five wickets, beat Linwood, 65 and 147. Sydenham, 374 for eight wickets, beat Riccarton, 167 and 107 for six wickets. East Christchurch, 176 and 65 for four wickets, beat West Christchurch, 100 and 130 for nine wickets. The result of the competition is as follows:—St. Albans, 14 points; Sydenham, 13; East Christchurch, 10; West Christchurch, 10; Riccarton, 8; Linwood, 2.

## AQUATICS

### PONSONBY CRUISING CLUB.

The Ponsonby Cruising Club held an ocean race for yachts on Saturday, the course being from St. Mary's Beach out round Tiri, thence round Gannet Rock, finishing in Matiatia, a distance of roughly 42 miles. Half-a-dozen boats started, and the Alva was the first yacht to finish, with Ronaki second and Glady third. The handicaps did not affect the result. The other starters were: Mistletoe, Foam and Echo, which finished much later. This win gives the Alva a clear lead for the club's aggregate trophy, as she has now two firsts and three thirds on the season's racing.

A motor launch race was also held by the club, the course being direct to Matiatia. Four launches started, these being Kotiro (scr.), Maroro (55sec), Maroro (4min 37sec), Tamahine (27min 28sec). The last-named boat broke down early in the race. The result was: Maroro, finishing time 4h 12m 24s, 1; Maroro, 4h 16m 39s, 2; Kotiro, 4h 12m 26s, 3.

Mr. D. Craig, as starter, and Mr. W. Wilson, as judge and timekeeper, carried out their respective duties in a capable manner.

### NORTH SHORE ROWING CLUB'S "AT HOME."

The North Shore Rowing Club held their "At Home" on Saturday afternoon, when a large number of guests were entertained, afternoon tea being dispensed by a ladies committee. During the afternoon a set of trial fours

their first innings and compiled 86 runs for the loss of six wickets (Cumings 26, T. Elliott 17 not out, C. Robinson 17 not out), Hadden taking three wickets for 26 runs, and Howden three for 45.

Grafton v. Ponsonby.—Grafton, batting first, knocked up 146 runs for the loss of nine wickets (E. Horspool 17, R. Neill 18, R. Mason 29, A. Gray 27, D. Hay 14, R. Sloman 11, F. Horspool 18), McCoy taking four wickets for 36 runs, McMath two for 17, Kavanagh two for 16, and Snedden one for 27. Ponsonby then commenced their first innings, and put together 57 runs for the loss of six wickets (L. G. Hemus 41), Mason taking three wickets for 26 runs and Gray three for 28.

### SECOND GRADE.

Parnell v. Eden B.—Parnell, first innings, 259 runs (L. Breese 62, W. Andree 122, H. Warren 34, R. Barnsdale 14). For Eden B J. B. Kyd took five wickets for 58 runs, Francis two for 43, Bridges one for 27, and Dickson one for 9. Eden B, first innings, 33 runs for the loss of two wickets (Murray 18).

Waitemata v. Eden A.—Waitemata, first innings, 88 runs (A. Riddell 24, Steel 48). For Eden A. Sommervell took one wicket for 15 runs, Freeman one for 19, Taylor one for 18, and Stephens seven for 32. Eden A, first innings, 70 runs for eight wickets (Braithwaite 20, Clarke 11).

Grafton v. University.—Grafton, first innings, 76 runs (C. Harvey 14, W. Harvey 11, Lepine 13). For University Fawcett took seven wickets for 28 runs, Marsack one for 29 and