

positive that New Zealand's most popular boxer is considerably below his usual form. When Tim Tracy last met Gault at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, the latter was not in the best of health, and his worn appearance in the ring bore evidence of this. That particular contest, though a good one, resulted in a fairly easy victory for Tracy, who gave a first-rate account of himself. Few who witnessed the contest in question thought Alf. Gault would turn the tables on Tracy in Wanganui, but the fact must not be lost sight of that the Auckland representative is at the height of his form at present, and was confident of victory in last week's match, whereas the Wellingtonian was probably feeling the effects of his recent mill with Hannan. However, the Auckland lad had the best of the contest, outside of administering a knock-out to Tracy, and his forthcoming match with Arthur Kelly, of Sydney, which eventuates on the 11th inst., should provide a very even contest. Tracy's next contest of importance will be his return match with "Billy" Hannan in Auckland on November 9, when, should he again have to take the count from the clever West Maitland boxer, his ring career will be to all intents and purposes a thing of the past.

Another of the world's best fighters, in the person of Jim Flynn, the Pueblo fireman, is at present on his way to Australia under contract to Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh. Flynn has proved beyond all doubt that he is the greatest of the white boxers, and his battles with the coloured men when he arrives in the Commonwealth should be of a lively character. A match with Jack Johnson is being arranged, and Flynn fully expects to leave on his return trip to America with the world's championship in his possession. It is said of Flynn that he is a much more effective puncher than Bill Lang, Kaufmann, Morris, "Bombadier" Wells and other aspiring heavyweights, and there seems every prospect of him handing out sufficient punishment to McVea, Langford and Co. to secure a victory over those coloured pugilists, but whether he will vanquish Champion Johnson is another story.

Ted Green, whose match with Wenand, at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, some time ago created an uproar among the audience, who made no secret of the fact that they looked upon the contest as a fake, got himself into serious trouble as the result of his return match with Jimmy Hill at the Sydney Gaiety last week. The contest proved the greatest disappointment imaginable, and satisfied that both men were not doing their best, Referee Barron at the end of the twentieth round declared it "no fight," and disqualified both men for life.

Billy Wenand, the ex-New Zealand featherweight, has signed an agreement to meet Tom Jones in a return match at the Boulder Stadium, West Australia, on the 18th inst. The fight will be to a finish, thirty rounds being stipulated.

An eye-witness of the recent Wolgast-Moran fight in Frisco arrived here (says the New York "Sun") with the statement that the bitterest enmity was displayed by the men in the ring. They abused each other soundly, calling each other names and threatening to do dire things. They wrestled, butted, back-heeled and choked each other without the slightest interference from the referee, but as the sporting element plunged on Wolgast there was no fault-finding when the light-weight champion won. In the opinion of the observer it was the roughest and foulest glove contest ever decided in California or anywhere else.

Sam McVea has introduced a novelty, as far as Sydney is concerned, into the boxer's training impedimenta (says the "Referee"). It is a large leather bag four or five feet in length, filled tightly with sand, and weighing in the neighbourhood of 250lb. The thing swings nine or ten feet from its moorings, and is wrestled with and roughed as far as it can be by the boxer training, who thus prepares himself for the bustling, pushing, and shoving that occurs in the ring.

Al Kaufmann, the young Californian heavyweight, will also be amongst the visiting boxers to Australia, and with Lester, Flynn and Lang will endeavour to uphold the boxing prestige of the White Race against the coloured quartette.

FOOTBALL.

AUCKLAND RUGBY CUP FINAL.

CITY DEFEAT MARIST BROS.

A CLOSE CONTEST.

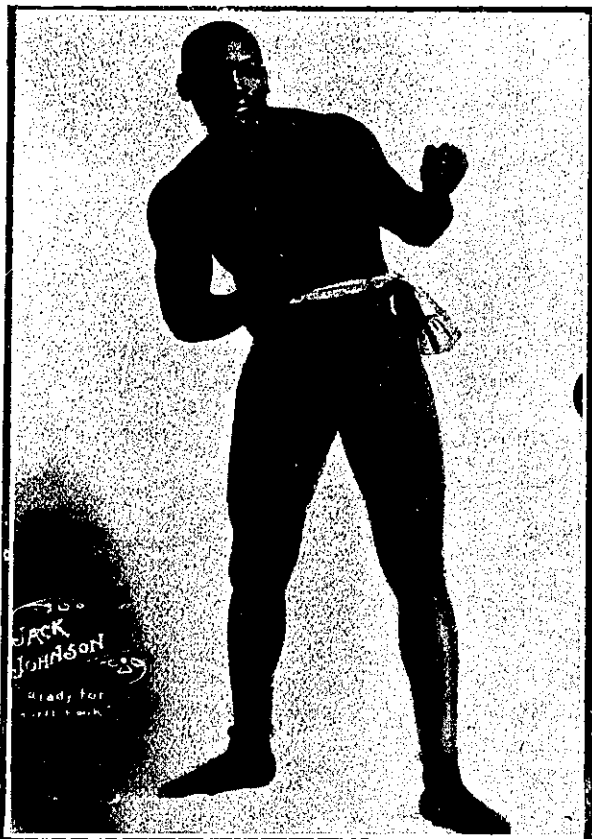
Favoured with ideal weather for the cup final, between City and Marist Bros., the Auckland Rugby Union had the pleasure of witnessing a record attendance at Alexandra Park on Saturday, when the curtain was rung down on the 1911 football season. Notwithstanding the fact that the City players were fully expected to emerge from the contest victorious—while a drawn game would still have left them with the championship in their possession—the greatest enthusiasm was displayed in the match from start to finish, and when the Cityites left the field triumphantly with the scores six

points to three in their favour, everybody on the ground was convinced that there was a very slight difference in the relative merits of the two teams. Marist Bros. played with commendable dash, and for the greater part of the game they had City hard pressed, but their efforts were not of the finished order, which characterised those of the City men. The Marist Bros. forwards exerted themselves to a praiseworthy degree, but their backs failed to give them the support which they reasonably expected. The wearers of the light and dark blue put no end of vim into their attacking movements, and it was due solely to the faulty tactics of their rear division that they suffered defeat. Honours in the forwards were undoubtedly due to the Marist Bros., for they exhibited far more dash than the Cityites, and but for the lack of assistance from their rearguard, victory would probably have been theirs.

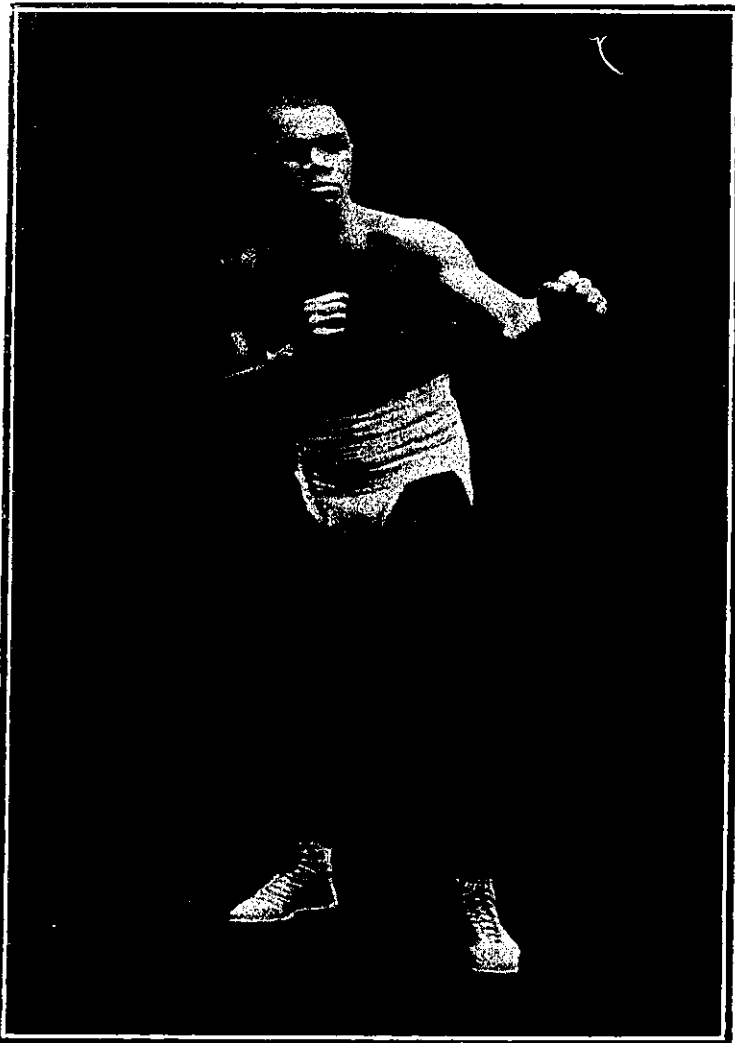
The game was too keenly contested at times, roughness being allowed to creep in, and in this respect the winning side were frequently offen-

ders, though the Marist Bros. had the misfortune to lose the services of McDevitt, one of their best forwards, who was ordered off for striking a player in the third quarter. Strange to say, Mr C. W. Oram, who had control of the game, never found occasion to make an example of any of the offenders up to the time he ordered McDevitt off, while the foul tactics employed by several of the forwards were so glaring that the on-lookers could not fail to notice them, and frequently shouted their disapproval. Whatever chance Marist Bros. had of winning the match—and no one can deny that they had excellent prospects—was extinguished when in the third quarter they were left with fourteen men to finish the game, and when McDevitt was observed returning to the pavilion, supporters of the Marist Bros. team, realising that their case was a hopeless one, threw themselves back in their seats with an air of disgust. Without in any way wishing to uphold rough play, exception must be taken at ordering a man off under the circumstances of Saturday's

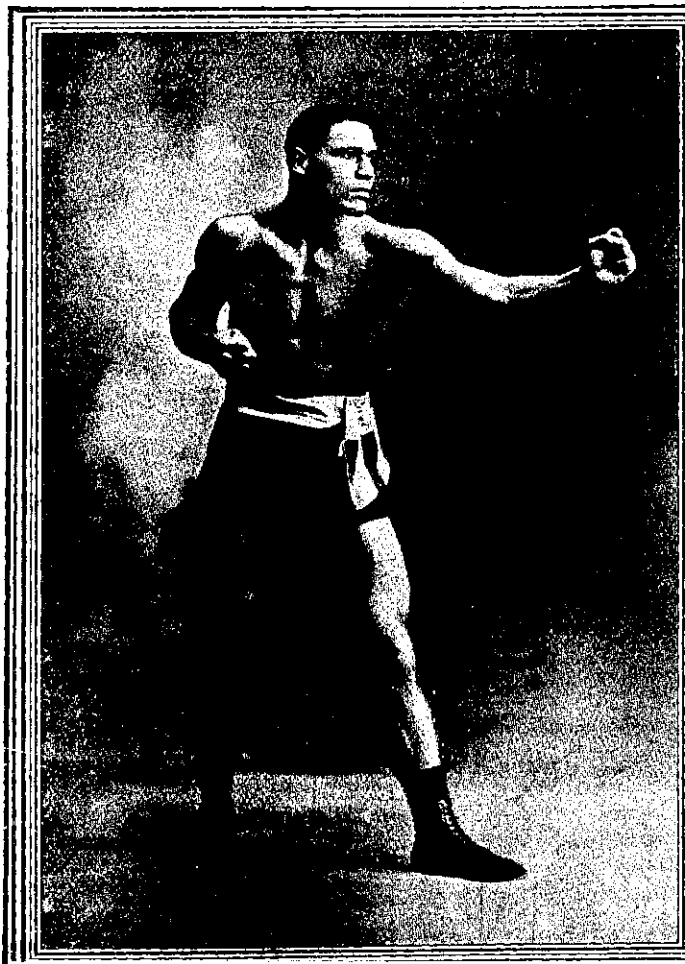
THE INVASION OF AUSTRALIA BY THE FOUR GREAT COLOURED PUGILISTS: JOHNSON, LANGFORD, JEANNETTE AND McVEA.



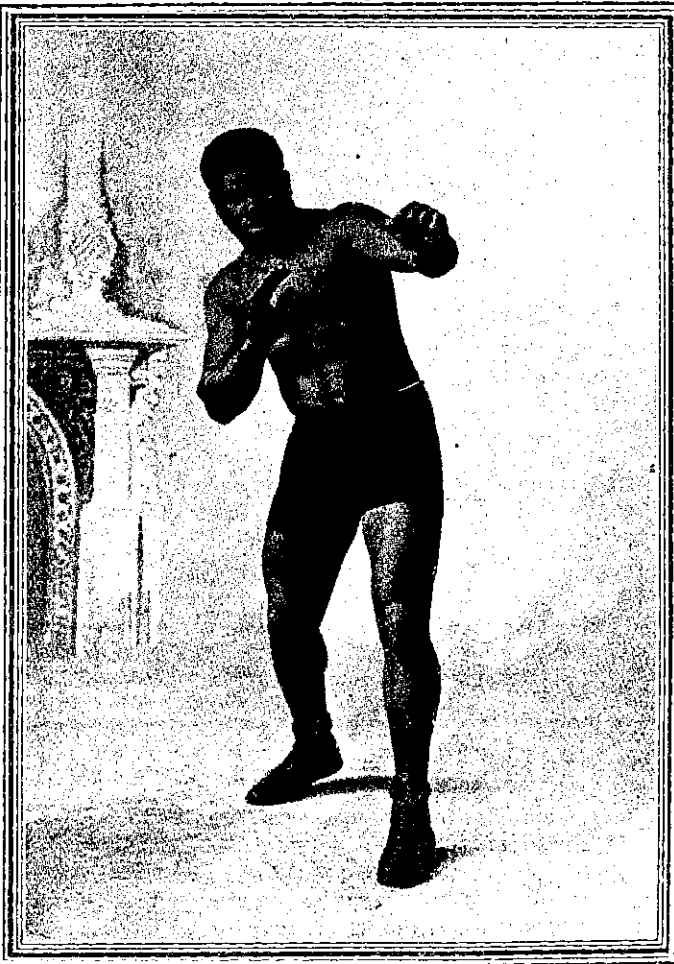
JACK JOHNSON, Heavyweight Champion of the World.



SAM LANGFORD, the "Boston Tar Baby."



JOE JEANNETTE, who is regarded as one of the best heavyweights of the present day.



SAM McVEA, the "Parisian Idol," who defeated Jack Lester on points after a twenty rounds' battle on Saturday last.