

the boards into the spectators. This was not all. The battle continued furiously among the spectators, and an indescribable scene of confusion reigned until the officials and assistants extricated the combatants from the irate spectators, who had played a part in the melee. When order had been restored Audy addressed the house, protesting that he had come there to "faire la boxe Anglaise," and not to be mauled and kicked about savagely. Then he retired amid deafening cat-calls. Eventually the ring was repaired, and Audy was persuaded to resume the contest, and not having recovered from the shock and being unable to check the American's furious, and at times dubious methods, he was counted out in the seventh round.

Sam Langford will again meet Jimmy Barry on April 20. but so often have the pair been brought together in the roped arena that at present little interest is attached to the match. However, should Langford prove victorious in his battle with McVea on Easter Monday, this would have the effect of stimulating interest in his meeting with Barry, for it would thus give the latter a chance of becoming the world's leading pugilist next to Johnson.

In these days of wowserism, it was hardly to be expected that the letting of the new Town Hall in Auckland for boxing contests would be allowed to pass without some protest or other. The objection, however, did not assume the proportions of the characteristic wail one hears from those whose experience of boxing matters is purely imaginary, and it is safe to say that Aucklanders will in future assemble at the Town Hall to witness the tournaments promoted by the Northern Boxing Association during the coming season.

Jimmy Barry, the American heavy-weight, is proving an excellent try-out opponent for the coloured fighters, McVea and Langford, but the latter have both been unable to put the iron man to slumber in their respective contests with him, so that the matches in question have not left any gauge as to the relative merits of the two Sams, whose meeting on Boxing Day last failed to satisfy ringsiders as to the better boxer of the pair. On Easter Monday black will again meet black, and the close attention that both Sams have been giving to the attuning process should make the second meeting of the famous pugilists one of the fiercest on record. They will both enter the ring in perfect condition, and realising the unsatisfactory nature of a points' decision, it is expected that both men will work particularly hard for a knockout. Langford is a long way from satisfied with the Boxing Day battle, which did not enhance his reputation, and he intends to let the world know by the result of Easter Monday's fight that he is the greatest pugilist on earth next to Jack Johnson. McVea is equally confident of keeping that honour for himself, and his clever displays whilst in Australia are certain to make him a strong favourite on the day. The fight is expected to prove a more powerful drawing card than the previous fixture, and the Stadium box plan is filling rapidly.

Hughie Mehegan, who leaves Sydney early in April on a trip to America, has made his position as lightweight champion of Australia practically unassailable, judging by the number of aspiring lightweights who have recently tried in vain to relieve him of that much prized title. But Mehegan has succeeded in settling their pretensions to the lightweight championship in convincing fashion, and thus made his position more secure than ever. He has during his many engagements demonstrated that he is a pastmaster at the boxing game, and though opposed by many exceptionally clever ring opponents he has always managed to outpoint them in skill and ringcraft. His success in retaining the Australian lightweight championship against all-comers has been recognised by the presentation to him of a handsome silver belt given by Mr Hugh D. McIntosh. Mehegan's latest opponent was Frank Picato, the pair meeting for the fourth time at the Melbourne Athletic Pavilion on Monday night of last week. The contest was marked by exceptional science and brilliancy, both men boxing with rare skill and taking few chances. The defence displayed being of a high order. Mehegan, however, proved master of the situation, the points showing

in his favour at the end of the contest, and the champion received a well-earned decision amid prolonged cheering. Mehegan's final contest in Australia before taking his departure for the States will be on April 3, when he will undertake a tough contract in meeting Jimmy Clabby at a 16st. 8lb limit. The severity of the task he has in front of him in meeting the renowned Clabby is at once realised by followers of the ring, for Clabby's drawn matches with Dave Smith are quite fresh in the mind of the average boxing enthusiast. Mehegan's showing against his heavier opponent will be watched with great interest, and should the crack lightweight succeed in even making a draw of his match with the American middleweight it will be a fitting termination and a sterling tribute to the successful boxing campaign he has lately carried out in the Commonwealth.

The English paper "Boxing" has nothing but praise for a new middle-weight boxer who has been unearthed at Home in the person of Jack Harrison, an ex-Guardsman, who is alleged to be Tom Sayers' lineal successor. According to this paper "Harrison's methods undoubtedly bear a remarkable resemblance to old Tom Sayers. He possesses the gift of going right into his man regardless or indifferent to any punches he may receive in the process, and of handing over a series of heavy wallops which will speedily put his man out of action. He has all Tom's old hardness and capacity to bear pain or to withstand shocks, while in a recent encounter with Dai Thomas he impressed ringsiders with the force of his deliveries." Should Harrison prove anywhere near as formidable an opponent as the great Sayers his career should be a remarkable one. There never lived a braver man than Sayers, nor a human being so callous of punishment. It is said that some types of humanity do not feel pain as others do, but this must not be applied to Sayers, for it was his Spartan courage which braced him up to resist showing any signs of physical suffering. He was, indeed, a wonder of wonders. Possibly there have been others, but Sayers was in the limelight and so was an object lesson to all, especially in this day of nurtured up softness bordering even on the effeminate.

Boxing is becoming more and more the fashion on the Continent. It has boomed in Paris for some time now, and the Italians are beginning to follow their northern friends' lead. The sport is as yet but imperfectly understood in Italy, but a very successful boxing club has been started in Genoa.



REGINALD WALKER, The crack South African sprinter.

ATHLETICS

By running the 200yds in 19secs. at the St. Patrick's Day sports at the Auckland Domain, Arthur Postle lowered a world's record that had stood for over half a century. Prior to Postle's great effort over the 200yds' course, the world's record was 19½ secs, established by George Seward in England as far back as March 22, 1847.

Two athletic championships of N.S.W. were among the events decided on March 16 at St. Patrick's Day sports at the Sydney Showground. J. W. Frazer had an easy win in the 440 yards hurdle race in 62 1-5sec, with M. McCarthy second, while in the mile T. J. Wood won by 20 yards from F. Flowers in 4min 38 1-5sec.

The defeat of the world's champion sprinter, Jack Donaldson, by A. B. Postle at Auckland, certainly came as a surprise to his Victorian admirers (says the Melbourne correspondent of the "Referee.") It was thought that Postle was fairly certain to win over 75 yards; but the other distances should certainly have been to Donaldson's liking. The champion was, however, completely routed. He won nothing. Postle was running in great form when in Melbourne a month or so ago, and it was proved in the matches between the men at the Exhibition Oval that there was not more than half a yard between them in a hundred, but that at shorter distances Postle was Donaldson's master. It was the general idea that Donaldson was much superior to the ex-champion over the recognised Sheffield Handicap, distance of 130 yards, and the further they went the greater was Donaldson's certainty to win. "Mick" Terry some time ago declared that Donaldson, in his best form, would beat every world's record from 100 to 600 yards. Now it is up to the general Mick to get his charge well enough to make good that declaration. Terry did not accompany Donaldson to Auckland.

The arrival of Charles Edward Holway, the famous sprinter, last Sunday, when he was met by a strong contingent of Durban sportsmen, including several of the guarantors—although the mail steamer for once in a way was over three hours late, and some of those who waited had left the Point to fulfil other engagements up town—was an event that in a way marks an era in Natal sport (says a Durban paper of February 17). It was the first time a professional runner had been received here with what might be described as eclat. Hitherto some notable visitors had arrived, as it were, without any flourish of trumpets, and no intimation, official or otherwise, to herald their coming.

A request for financial assistance towards the expenses of G. N. Hill's trip to Stockholm as New Zealand's representative at the Olympia Games was considered at a meeting of the Otago Centre the other evening, when it was decided to reply that "owing to frequent calls and depleted finances it could not see its way to act in the matter."

Though the 1912 New Zealand amateur championships are now a matter of history the remarks made by G. N. Hill, the long-distance champion, on his return to Auckland, to the effect that the gathering was conducted on anything but satisfactory lines, has raised a storm of protest

from the South. Mr R. Mitchell, manager of the Otago team of athletes, contradicts the Aucklanders' statement in the following remarks (which are supported by Mr C. E. Bridge, manager of the Wellington team):—"In justice to the Southland Centre of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association, I take strong exception to Mr Hill's remarks anent the running of the New Zealand championship meeting held at Invercargill on February 21. It was one of the best (and infinitely superior to one or two) meetings that I have attended during the last six years. Far from keeping the competitors waiting in the cold for ten or fifteen minutes the officials, to my personal knowledge, started one or two races slightly before the advertised time, and generally did all in their power to inconvenience the competitors as little as possible. The last race was timed to start at 4.55, and it speaks volumes for the officials that they were able to conclude the meeting almost sharp on five o'clock. Quite a number have spoken to me of the businesslike manner in which the sports were run."

Continuing, Mr Bridge says: "In regard to Mr Hill's statement that Egglestone won the 100yds championship by beating the gun, this is contrary to fact. In the first heat I was standing beside the competitors at the start. No one beat the pistol, but Egglestone was easily a yard ahead of the field at ten yards. In the final he again showed his superiority over Opie in getting off the mark. I questioned the starter after the race and he said it was an absolutely fair start, and that Egglestone was too fast off the mark for the rest of them. The starter (Mr Bain) has been starting all the big races in Invercargill, including Sheffield's, for a number of years, and his capabilities for the position are beyond question. Just a word of praise to the secretary, Mr A. S. Cookson. To his courtesy and untiring efforts the success of the meeting was to a great extent due."

Commenting on the regrettable lack of enthusiasm on the part of New Zealanders with regard to having the Dominion Games at the Olympic Games at Stockholm, the "Otago Witness" says:—"Auckland, which promised to do so much for Hill, has hung fire in its subscription list, and the chances are that unless the Government is prepared to vote a sum towards New Zealand representation a special effort will have to be made at the eleventh hour to send our one representative to Stockholm. It is a disgraceful state of affairs, but it shows at least where the governing bodies of athletics stand with the public."

A. B. Postle, the famous Queensland sprinter will be a competitor at the Waihi Athletic and Cycling Club's Sports on Saturday (March 30). Postle has entered for two events as follows:—Sheffield Handicap, 130yds.—A. B. Postle owes 1yds, V. C. Branson on 3yds, G. Kinsey 4yds, W. R. Hogg 7yds, W. J. Campney 9yds, M. Harrison 9yds, W. Edwards 10yds, H. Crowe 11yds, L. Kingston 11yds, G. B. Mann 12yds, R. Hyde 14yds, A. Parkes 14yds, K. Gibbons 15yds, L. Robinson 15yds, J. Tobin 15yds, A. Bromwich 15yds, T. Parker 16yds, 440Yards.—A. B. Postle scratch, V. C. Branson 20yds, M. Harrison 25yds, G. Kinsey 25yds, W. Hogg 30yds, H. Crowe 35yds, L. Kingston 35yds, R. Hyde 40yds, T. J. Gavin 40yds, K. Gibbons 45yds, J. Tobin 45yds, C. Burt 50yds, T. Parker 50yds.

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