

Johnson stated that he had backed himself to win inside 15 rounds.

#### COMMENTS ON THE FIGHT.

That Johnson was not in any way concerned regarding the outcome of his meeting with Flynn was evidenced by his conduct on the day preceding the encounter. To dismiss the impression that he lacked condition, or that he was likely to be found with bellows to mend comparatively early in the fight, the negro took a 12-mile jaunt into the country, an unprecedented action for any boxer to take within 24 hours of a championship contest.

On the morning of the fight Johnson was up with the lark, and went for a short stroll. On his return he ate a hearty breakfast.

Johnson's condition at the end of the contest caused the onlookers no little amazement. Apart from a slight cut on his mouth, he showed no signs that he had been fighting at all. His breathing was regular, and his temper unruffled. On being questioned, he remarked: "It's no use talking about it; I just galloped!"

The fight was a really greater fiasco than the Jeffries-Johnson affair at Reno two years ago. The negro refused to take the contest seriously. The only time that Johnson appeared in earnest was when Flynn insisted upon butting during the last two rounds. The champion towered above the white man in the clinches, and good-naturedly joked with the crowd over Flynn's head.

Jack Curley, the promoter, has stated that he lost £3000 over the venture. That did not include the £2000 guarantee lodged by business men of Las Vegas. The gate receipts were approximately £7000.

When the fight was over Johnson was uninjured, and wore a broad smile. He hastened to collect the bets he had won, and then drove away in an automobile. But before he left he was forced to address the crowd. Flynn rushed away to his camp. His face was cut and bruised, but the injuries were nothing to speak of.

The fight was devoid of interest to the spectators. There was not a cheer throughout the nine rounds, and the crowd accepted the interference of the police with feelings of relief. Flynn would have been disqualified—he was bent upon fouling his opponent. He was as helpless as a child, and apparently made no effort to disguise the fact that he intended to do with his head that which he could not accomplish with the gloves.

#### FLYNN WANTS ANOTHER FIGHT.

Jim Flynn, when seen several days after the fight, was still suffering from the effects, and was sad and downcast. Nevertheless, he stated he is willing to fight the world's champion again, and intends making an effort to get another chance.

"When the police stopped the fight," he explained, "I was beginning to wear Johnson down, and I was confident that I would win inside 18 rounds. He was beginning to tire badly, and was the happiest man in the arena when the police stepped in." In explaining his goat-like tactics against Johnson, the fireman said that Johnson held him throughout, and the only way to force him to let go was to butt.

#### JOHNSON'S AUSTRALIAN CONTRACT.

##### RETIRING FOR EVER.

Mr Hugh McIntosh, the Australian promoter, received a cable a few days after the Johnson-Flynn fight from his representative in the United States, announcing that Jack Johnson had signed a contract to make the trip to Australia and meet Sam Langford and Sam M'Vea. Joe Jeanette, who is booked for Australia, was mentioned in the cable as an opponent for Johnson.

Following upon this announcement regarding an Australian contract comes the following surprising declaration from Jack Johnson, who, on his way back to Chicago from Las Vegas, stated: "I never want to see another pair of gloves. If Palzer wants to fight me he will have to do it not later than the end of November. On the following day I shall retire for ever. That's final." Johnson also said that he had cleared £7200 over his match with Flynn, besides the £1200 won by his wife.

#### WORLD'S LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP.

##### WOLGAST'S CLOSE CALL.

##### WINS ON A FOUL.

On the same day as Johnson vanquished Jim Flynn at Las Vegas, a fierce battle was fought at Los Angeles for the lightweight championship of the world, the principals being Ad. Wolgast (present champion) and Joe Rivers, a Mexican boxer, for whom great things are prophesied. Being the first occasion on which Wolgast has been called upon to defend his title since he underwent an operation for appendicitis some time ago, intense interest was displayed in the fight, at which close on 12,000 ringsiders were present. Wolgast tipped the beam at 130lb, while Rivers weighed in 2lb lighter. Wolgast received as his share of the gate £3000, with a half interest in the picture rights, while Rivers secured £1600. The betting was 10 to 1 on the champion. Both men entered the ring in splendid condition,

with a hard right to the same spot. Rivers was there every time, staggering the champion, and wallowing him over the kidneys. Wolgast drove the Mexican on to the ropes with a shower of uppercuts, and received a powerful right on the jaw in return. It was Rivers's round by a shade.

Rounds 4 and 5 were even, despite Wolgast forcing the fighting. In round 6 Wolgast received a hard right cross to jaw, which sent him to the floor. On the champion rising, the Mexican lad punished him severely about the jaw and body. Rivers, with the exception of a bleeding nose, was uninjured. He was out-boxing Wolgast all the way.

Round 7.—The champion tore in like a tiger, uppercutting repeatedly. He drove Rivers on to the ropes, but the Mexican came back tigerishly, and heavy blows were exchanged. The champion was puffing badly at the finish. The round was a shade in favour of Wolgast.

Rounds 8 and 9 were slightly in favour of Wolgast, while the 10th was very even. Early in the 11th both men went down on the slippery floor. When they rose both roughed it at the ropes, fighting hard. Wol-

Up to the thirteenth round both men fought like demons. It seems that the referee gave his verdict on a knock-out. Rivers displays an aluminium protector, which is dented. That, he argues, proves he was struck a foul blow. Mr Jones, Wolgast's manager, states that Ad. stumbled over Rivers's feet when the Mexican fell. He wrenched his knee, and fainted. No one saw a foul blow struck.

The referee, Mr Welch, says that Wolgast was clearly the winner. He had handed two smashing blows in the pit of the stomach. They were not low. Rivers fell and Wolgast went with him. "The pictures," remarked Welch, will show that a foul blow was not struck.

The gate receipts were £8293. Rivers is quite agreeable to arrange another match, but Wolgast's manager, so far, is silent.

Referee Welch says that Rivers was on the floor the full ten seconds, and that he was counted out before the bell rang. The timekeeper, on the other hand, says that he rang the gong ending the thirteenth round before the referee signalled that Wolgast was the winner, and that Rivers had been down about nine seconds when the bell rang.

Rivers persists that Wolgast struck him a foul blow, and even then he was on his feet before the ten seconds were up. "Welch never reached ten," said Rivers, and added, "Wolgast had 'quit,' and he was 'foxing' when he was on the floor."

Wolgast has a different story. "Rivers," he said, "knew he was whipped. He struck me with his knees when he fell. The pain was awful. I thought my legs were five feet apart when I got on my feet."

#### WAIKATO BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

##### A SUCCESSFUL NIGHT.

The praiseworthy efforts of the officials of the Waikato Boxing Association in making preparations for several weeks prior to the championship carnival augured well for the success of that gathering, and it was therefore not surprising that the Town Hall was packed on Wednesday night of last week, when the fourth amateur championships were decided. In fact, the house was a record one for boxing in the Waikato, £83 being taken at the doors. Mr Milford McArthur, the popular president of the Association, did much to add to the enjoyment of patrons, while Mr W. Waters, the able secretary, is to be congratulated upon the excellence of the arrangements.

Proceedings opened with a bout between the novice lightweights, A. Whittle (9.4), of Huntly, and F. Deeley (9.0), of Paeroa. The encounter was lacking in science, but this was compensated for by the willingness with which they mixed it, several lively exchanges being witnessed. Whereas Deeley was intent upon scoring a knockout, his opponent was content to rely on points for the decision, which he received after having but a shade the best of matters.

##### CHAMPIONSHIP BOUTS.

There were only two aspirants in the bantamweight class, which went to McMillan (8.1), of Auckland, on points, at the end of the three rounds.

Payne (9.0), of Auckland, and Wright (8.11), of Auckland, were the first pair to measure skill in the featherweight class, the former giving up in the first round. Wright met Hansen, of Hamilton, in the final, outpointing the Waikato man after an uninteresting bout.

##### LIGHTWEIGHTS.

Bliss (9.12), of Hamilton, who was a competitor at the Auckland championships the previous week, met Porteous (8.12), also a Hamilton boxer. Bliss continued to score more consistently than his opponent, and earned the decision.

R. Harvey (10.0), of Ngaruawahia, holder of the Waikato lightweight championship, had T. Smith (9.6), of Tamahere, as an opponent, whom he easily defeated in the first round, the latter showing no inclination to continue the bout on going lightly to the boards.

Cooke (9.7), of Auckland, and Mackay (10.0), of Hamilton, were responsible for a scientific exhibition, in which an extra round was ordered, Cooke gaining the decision.

The semi-final was fought between Cooke and Harvey, but the latter was unable to stand the vigorous rushes

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L. CALDWELL, amateur heavyweight champion of Wanganui during 1911 and 1912. Caldwell represented Wanganui at the New Zealand championships at Wellington this week.

in the case of Joe Rivers experts declaring that a better-conditioned fighter never entered the ring. In addition to the title of world's lightweight champion, the contest carried with it the gold and diamond championship belt. Among those who witnessed the contest was Jim Jeffries, ex-heavyweight champion.

When Wolgast strolled into the ring a number of bets were made, the odds having shortened by that time to 2 to 1 on the champion. Ad's left eye was partially in mourning, and after strolling coolly about the ring, he won the toss for corners. A few minutes later the ring was cleared for action.

The first round saw Wolgast using uppercuts with good effect, while Rivers drove left and rights home to face and stomach, and had a shade the best of things.

Round 2.—The men traded uppercuts, but a right swing from Rivers burst a sore on Wolgast's neck, and the blood flowed copiously from the wound. Three times Rivers landed hard lefts on the jaw, and when Wolgast rushed he was sent staggering back by a terrific right in the pit of the stomach. A hard right uppercut hurt the champion, and the Mexican danced away as Wolgast came at him.

Round 3.—Rivers landed a stiff left on the stomach, and followed up

gast laughed as he tore in and punched with both hands. The round was Wolgast's on aggressiveness.

Round 12.—Wolgast became very busy, and in a fierce rally fought Rivers all over the ring. Wolgast seemed stronger, and Rivers's blows were weakening.

Round 13, and last.—Rivers went down after some hard fighting from a solid left in the stomach, and Wolgast fell over him. The bell came before a decision could be given, and both men were carried to their corners writhing in pain. They each claimed a foul, and a scene of great confusion ensued.

Wolgast, staggering to his feet to protest that he had been fouled, nearly fell backward through the ropes. The referee then gave his decision in favour of Wolgast. The verdict was regarded as very dubious. The experts consider that no one could see the foul with the two men on the floor in a heap. Rivers was not seriously hurt, but Wolgast received heavy punishment.

Referee Welch has since been roasted on all sides. The public considered that Rivers was robbed. Just before the finish it was evident that his head punches and kidney blows were telling. Bedlam broke loose after the fight, the crowd swarming into the ring.