



Notes on Sport

WAR HAS KNOCKED INTERNATIONAL SPORT

But Has Not Yet Struck Home In New Zealand

SOON after war was declared *The Listener* made bold to say that organised sport would be listed with other minor casualties.

The prediction, an obvious one requiring even in September no great perception, has come true of international fixtures, but not to any great extent of New Zealand.

Finland has cancelled preparations for the Olympic Games at Helsingfors, and Germany will no doubt have withdrawn invitations to Garmisch Partenkirchen for the Winter Olympics this southern summer, unless they care to hold them without telling the others and announce, in the American fashion, after the event, that the winners are the world's best.

Ryder Cup Golf (between British and U.S. pros.), a November fixture for Florida this year, was cancelled, and Nova Scotia disappointed tuna fishermen from England, France, Belgium, Cuba, and the U.S. in September.

Polish-German Chess Match

In a hurry as the guns went off, Australian tennis players polished off the Davis Cup, and a German team of five chess players beat their Polish rival finalists by half a point after 27 days of battle at Buenos Aires. Other nations competing for the Hamilton Russell chess cup totalled 26.

But only these among the major events escaped the effects of war in Europe.

In September, all British race meetings were banned along with the theatres, and latest reports indicate that revival in both is only half-hearted.

The millions following football have had to do without their big-time matches and content themselves with more or less scratch events.

Football Pools Dead

On the grounds that an essential war service would be unduly strained by the extra mail, the Postmaster-General put the black cap on to kill the proposed revival in England of the famous (or infamous) football pools, thus removing the life interest of ten million citizens and keeping out of civil work the 150,000 clerks and others engaged in organising the betting.

Greyhound racing in England has not been quite so hard knocked, and boxing is keeping alive enough to stage exhibitions for the troops, since anyone in khaki is supposed to be particularly interested in this sport, whether he played ping pong before he enlisted, or bowls.

Canada's entry into the war has worried promoters of America's big hockey racket. Ninety per cent. of the National Hockey League players are Canadians who may have followed the lead of Australians Bromwich, Quist, Crawford, and Hopman, to hurry home and watch over the loved ones.

In New Zealand

In New Zealand some sportsmen find themselves without fixtures and not yet fighting for Democracy.

The Rugby Union is still dithering about the South African tour, but the All Blacks in the forces could be counted on one hand.

Cricketers are still plodding over the village green and athletes have not yet become "things to hang things on," as someone irreverently described infantrymen.

Winter Sports Freeze-Out

Winter sports flourished in a good season for snow, and the national championships were completed before trouble developed seriously. But the Ski Council's plans for bringing overseas experts here to celebrate the Centennial with a famous-names meeting seem to have been hit below the belt and the Federated Mountain Clubs may not be worried further about helping to pay expenses. Ski instructors from overseas, who usually follow the sun, in reverse, to catch up on the Northern winter after their New Zealand season, discovered themselves between the devil and the deep when the resorts reported the season over.

Barry Caulfeild, seeing little prospect of business as usual at St. Moritz, left New Zealand for the United States; but others were less fortunate and stayed behind as aliens. Ordinary mountaineers had no worries about a purely local and individualistic sport, but at least one tourist resort was squeezing out its guides with economy measures enforced since September.

Boxers in the Forces

In England Brigadier General A. C. Critchley has been created Air Commodore in charge of sports and has the boxers Len Harvey, Tommy Farr, and Eddie Phillips, planning to make life so

tough for recruits in training that they will soon be bullet proof.

Sydney Wooderson is in an Auxiliary Fire Squad.

Henry Cotton has so far given seven exhibitions in aid of British Red Cross.

Wimbledon Club, palatial home of tennis, is a First Aid and Decontamination Centre.

The M.C.C. headquarters, Lord's, now echoes to the swish of women's military-cut skirts, as a WAAF's Sub-Station.

New Zealand sport has not yet had to take the war quite so seriously, and sportsmen do not seem so far to have discovered quite where they stand after the enlistment of the first 6,000.

BOXING NOTES

THE Hastings district has produced a good boxer in Jack Davis. His decisive victory over Mayne Morton at Petone once again proved him a clever boxer with a hefty punch.

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The open-air contest at Petone was the first to be staged in the Wellington province since the memorable Tommy Donovan — Pete Sarron battle, at the Speedway, Wellington, in 1930.

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Ron. Richards, the Australian boxer, has scored a short-cut victory over Jack MacNamee in Australia. The bout was soon over, but a large crowd received a share of thrills.

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The Irish boxer Maurice Costello, who has been training in a Wellington gym., has decided to seek fresh fields and pastures new. It was found that there were no boxers in this country capable of engaging him in a ring contest. It had been thought that Costello might figure in a Centennial event.

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At present resident of Wellington is Ted Oxley, who once held the light-weight crown.

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Down Waimate way sportsmen are fussing over their Cliff Hanham. His victory over Stan. Jenkin, of Dunedin, upped his stocks, and they are trying now to re-match him with Jenkin, with the cruiser-weight title at stake. Hanham weighs 11.11, and accordingly could not be considered as opponent for the 14-stone Costello.

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The Australian boxer, Fred Henneberry, is reported to have made little impression in his first contest, against George Abrams, in the States. He secured a draw, however, and that will no doubt help him to further bouts.



T. C. McGillivray, known to the New Zealand ring as Don Stirling, is now serving with the Royal Air Force in England. Some time before leaving the Dominion he was the welter-weight title holder.

At the Hutt Valley open-air tournament the ring was not entirely screened from non-paying guests who lined the highway and had a bird's-eye view of the bouts, "on the nod."

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Ted Carr, well-known New Plymouth business man and secretary of the Taranaki Boxing Association, has held the reins in Taranaki boxing for a lengthy period. It was the genial "Ted," who was responsible for arranging the first Donovan-Sarron contest, which took place in New Plymouth.

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Ex-lightweight champion Les. Murray, whose correct name is Eric Barclay, is now to be located in the Marlborough district. He has made good in the business world.