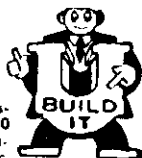


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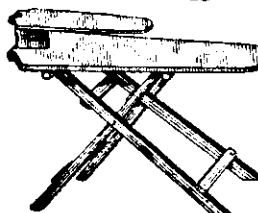


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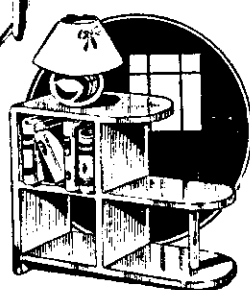


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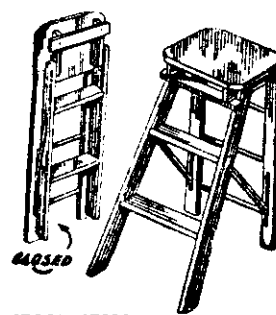
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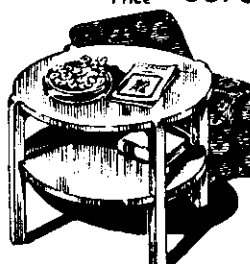
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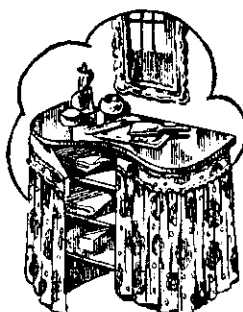
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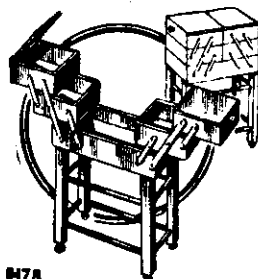
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## THE BIG FIGHT

# Marciano v. Cockell

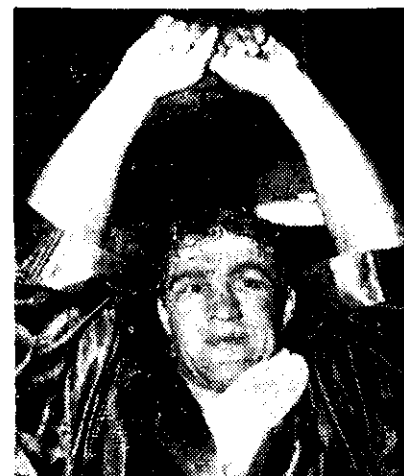
AT 5.0 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17 (New Zealand time) a 26-year-old British farmer will walk into the centre of the ring in the Kezar Stadium (seating capacity 63,000) in San Francisco, shake hands with a gentleman named Mr. Rocco Francis Marchegiana, and then try to take the title of world's champion heavyweight boxer from him. Mr. Marchegiana, known more pronouncedly as Rocky Marciano, will resist. The result of this difference of opinion will be of interest to all concerned, including New Zealand listeners, who will hear a round-by-round rebroadcast of the fight from 2YA, at a time not yet fixed, on the evening of the bout.

If the challenger, Don Cockell, wins he will be the first British world heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons beat Gentleman Jim Corbett in 1897. As it is, he is the first British contender since Tommy Farr went the distance with, but lost on points, to Joe Louis. What are Cockell's chances? For those who like their form straight, this might help: Probably Cockell has met only two top-ranking American fighters, first, La Starza, whom he beat on points in London, and who lasted 11 rounds with Marciano; and secondly, Harry Matthews, a very good light-heavyweight, whom Cockell beat three times. On the other hand, the American coloured boxer, Jimmy Slade, a former light-heavyweight contender, beat Cockell in four rounds when Cockell was being groomed by Jack Solomon for the world light-heavyweight championships. All of this suggests that there are others who may well have had a prior claim to a bout with Marciano, notably the Cuban fighter, Valdez. Nevertheless, American sports writers are perhaps being rash for writing a history of the match (with Marciano an early victor) before the bell goes, for Cockell will weigh in at 15 stone, probably about a stone heavier than Marciano, and further, most sports writers seem to rate Cockell the better boxer.

Whatever Marciano's shortcomings as a scientific boxer he has so far had one great virtue: he has always won.

All of his first seven professional fights (the first was on July 12, 1948) he won by k.o.'s, six in the first round and one in the third. The first time he was knocked down himself was by the champion Jersey Joe Walcott in 1952—but he got right up again and took the title off Walcott in the 13th. By that time he had had 43 bouts, all 43 of them wins—including 38 knock-outs. Since then he has defended his title four times: against Walcott, La Starza and Ezzard Charles (twice).

Incidentally, the Kezar Stadium is three stories high and oval-shaped, containing a running track, while within that is an American football gridiron, 120 yards long and nearly 100 yards wide. A tunnel, a quarter of a mile long, connects the stadium with the dressing rooms outside—quite a distance to carry the unlucky one.



THE CHAMPION  
So far, one great virtue



FARMER COCKELL  
American sports writers may be rash

## Notable Premiers

NOT every New Zealand Prime Minister has claims to greatness, and it would be hard to find general agreement about those who have, but Vogel, Seddon, Massey and Savage—who are discussed in a new series of NZBS talks—are certainly four who have left their mark. Vogel's claim to greatness, says R. M. Burdon in the first of these talks, rests not so much upon what he placed in the statute books as upon the tradition he has handed on—a tradition of self-reliance, and a scorn for the policy of drift or laissez-faire that derives in no small measure from the abounding faith he never failed to show in the power of nations to shape their own destiny.

Dr. G. H. Scholefield in his talk on Seddon gives a picture of him not only as a policy-maker but as a man—the sort of man who would end a day's journey from Christchurch to Grey-mouth near midnight with half a dozen deputations yet to be heard (and for the Press 10,000 words still to be telegraphed!)

These two talks from *Four Prime Ministers*, which will be broadcast first from 3YA at 8.45 p.m. this Friday (May 6) and at 8.44 p.m. on Friday, May 13, will be following in succeeding weeks by Leicester Webb on W. F. Massey and Professor F. L. W. Wood on M. J. Savage.