

Carpentier Beaten.

French Boxer Knocked Out by Negro—
Battling Siki's Plans.

(New of the World, London, Report)

Battling Siki, a coloured boxer, has sprung a big surprise on the sporting world by reason of his victory over the French idol, Georges Carpentier. In a fight scheduled for 20 rounds at the open-air Stade Velodrome, Buffalo, near Paris, Carpentier was so badly battered that he sank to the boards in the sixth round. The referee, Mr. Henry Bernstein, the dramatist, at first announced that the coloured man had been disqualified for committing a foul by throwing his man. This verdict stood for the better part of an hour, by which time it had been flashed to all parts of the world. After, however, the three judges had met and considered all the circumstances the decision was reversed, and Siki declared the winner. The huge audience which witnessed the fight accepted the verdict without question, and Siki was afterwards carried in triumph through the streets of Paris. Siki has announced that he will at once challenge Dempsey for the heavy weight championship of the world. All accounts agree that Carpentier was a badly battered man when the end came, and equally indicate that he threw the fight away by holding his man too cheaply, and by "playing to the gallery" in the early rounds. In the first round Carpentier appeared to be toying with Siki in contemptuous manner. The Frenchman gave a pretty exhibition of boxing against the "windmill" antics of the coloured man. Siki uncovered himself repeatedly and half-way through the round dropped on one knee in an attitude suggesting admittance of defeat. The referee, Mr. Bernstein, immediately said to him: "You have not been touched, Siki! Get up!" Judging from the subsequent course of the fight, this was simply a trick of Siki to declare Carpentier. The round finished with Carpentier apparently easily superior, and under the impression that vanquishing the Senegalese was child's play. Siki made a better showing in the second round, and although he appeared rather wild, he got in a

NASTY STRAIGHT LEFT TO THE JAW,

and began to hold his own in fighting. Carpentier strove for an opening, but failed to find one. At the start of the third round Carpentier received a nasty jolt to the body, which he affected to regard with indifference, and, amid laughter, he proceeded to pat Siki in gentle sparring. Finally he floored Siki, who took a count of "seven," but then rose, and set about the Frenchman, landing on head and body, leaving him at the end of the round greatly shaken. After the third round it became evident that Carpentier had more than met his match. The fourth round was the beginning of the end. Carpentier remained chiefly on the defensive. His eyes were practically closed, and blood was pouring from his face. Carpentier was pushed all round the ring and badly punished. From time to time he pulled himself together and rushed at his opponent. It was of no avail; his blows were without effect. Carpentier was pushed all round the Frenchman was warned for butting. An unfortunate incident occurred in the fifth round. Carpentier, with only half his wits about him, struck Siki just after the Senegalese had helped him to rise after being floored. The spectators hooted, and thereafter their sympathy was dead against Carpentier. In the sixth round Carpentier was at Siki's mercy, and the coloured man set an extremely fierce

pace, wading thro' Carpentier right and left. During the final five minutes Carpentier could hardly see, and he was a mere punching ball. When he was finally dropped, the crowd cheered Siki, and there was nothing but jeers for Carpentier. Everybody thought the latter had been knocked out. There was an inexcusable mistake at the finish. It was first announced that Siki was the winner; then that he had been disqualified for tripping his opponent. An uproar arose among the spectators, and, after a consultation among the judges, Siki was

FINALLY DECLARED THE WINNER

amid wild enthusiasm. Descamps was hostily mobbed, and the referee had to take refuge beneath the ring, under the protection of the police. Carpentier was beaten fairly and squarely by a better man. When he was finally floored he presented a pitiable figure, and it was at least ten minutes before he could be carried out on the back of one of the attendants. A later message from Paris stated that the judges awarded Siki the decision on a knock-out, setting aside the referee's previous disqualification. When Carpentier was taken to the rooms of the Velodrome after the fight he bore many marks of the combat. He was laid out on the table and attendants bound his foot, bathed the numerous bruises on his face, and put on bandages. His features were so battered as to be unrecognisable. His nose and mouth were swollen and bruised, and his eyes bore the appearance of two great purple mounds. When Carpentier was lifted, bruised and bleeding from the ring, Siki showed no signs of distress. He was hoisted on the shoulders of his seconds and frantically cheered by the spectators. Commenting on the fall of the once-popular idol, the "Matin," in a severe criticism of the methods of Carpentier has followed during the past few months says: "Too confident in himself, ill-prepared, having looked for nothing else in the sport of boxing since his defeat at the hands of Dempsey but the means of filling his purse with pounds by the thousand before entering definitely into his cinematograph career, the ex-boxing champion, Georges Carpentier, was beaten, without contest, by the Senegalese boxer, Battling Siki, in

SIX ROUNDS OF PASSIONATE INTEREST.

and after a misguided decision by the referee, who, without taking advice, first of all disqualified Siki and offered him up as a sacrifice to his opponent. "Carpentier thus loses the title of middle-weight champion of France, of Europe and of the world. At the same time he has lost all the confidence that the French public placed in him. He had wished to play about with Siki. He wanted to see what Siki was capable of, but Carpentier had over-estimated his own strength." In reply to one of his friend's questions, Carpentier admitted that he had the worst of the encounter. "I waited too long," he remarked. "I wasted too much time in seeking Siki's methods. I should have seized the opening Siki gave me in the fifth round when he was boxing like a windmill, and when by a lucky punch he sent me down with a blow on the chin. I am not going to finish my boxing career this way," he said. "As soon as I recover I am going to demand a return match. I shall never lay aside the gloves until I get it." Mr. Descamps states that Carpentier was

the victim of over-confidence, and that Siki's blow was the luckiest he had ever witnessed. In an interview quoted by the Exchange correspondent Siki said:—"I did not put forth my best. I am going to meet Dempsey, whom I will fight either in America or France. It is true that Carpentier hit me heavily, but I hit more heavily. Georges did not show himself a gentleman, he who makes a boast of being one. When I helped him up in the fifth round, he was no sooner on his feet than he hastened to strike me." The paradox of the fight is that Carpentier, defeated, receives 200,000 francs, while Siki, the victor, gets only 60,000. The receipts totalled 650,000 francs.

POSED FOR THE PICTURES—HOW CARPENTIER CONTRIBUTED TO HIS DOWNFALL.

The following pen picture of the fight, sent over by the Paris correspondent of the "Sportsman," gives a possible explanation of the downfall of the Frenchman. Throughout the first round Carpentier asserted obvious superiority, and gave the general impression that he could have disposed of his man two or three times in the first couple of minutes. Siki appeared timid, and nervous, keeping his head down and constantly covering up. Frequently Carpentier seemed to have the coloured man entirely at his mercy, but for some inexplicable reason did not administer the blows which might have changed the whole aspect of the match. The high platform, a little distance from the ring, containing cinema operators and photographers, supplied an explanation. Carpentier was clearly posing for the film, and this was probably the true reason of his apparently lenient treatment of Siki. In the second round Carpentier continued to dominate the Senegalese boxer for some time, but a couple of heavy and well-aimed swings to either side of the white man's head brought about a sudden change in the aspect of the match. From this moment it was a more serious affair, and Carpentier was now thoroughly drawn out. Fighting more vigorously in the third round, both men went down for short counts, and towards the end of this round Siki got home a terrible right hook from which Carpentier never recovered. In the fourth round Siki seemed to have gained complete mastery over his opponent, and administered a terrible and continuous punishment, while Carpentier, in a general stupor, was fighting blindly, and seemed to have lost control of himself. He presented a pitiful spectacle, with one eye closed, the other almost hidden in a big lump, and his face and lips bleeding freely. The fifth round was furious and savage, and the fighting was quite devoid of science. Both men were cautioned for irregularities, and Carpentier, now a hopelessly beaten man, was no longer able to defend himself, was mercilessly punished about the head and body. The climax came in the sixth round, when Carpentier lay on his side in a state of complete unconsciousness. Then followed an undecipherable scene of confusion. The referee first disqualified Siki for some unfair movement of the leg, which no one else had seen. Then the judges held a lengthy deliberation, and it was nearly an hour later before the official verdict was announced in favour of Siki by knockout. Thus terminated one of the most sensational boxing matches of modern times.

SIKI AND DEMPSEY.

As soon as Carpentier has recovered from his sprained foot, says an Exchange Paris message, he will go to Biarritz, where his wife and daughter are at present staying. If Carpentier persists in his demand for a return match with Siki, he must address his application to the French Federation of Boxing, as the Federation considers that Carpentier has found new form it will transmit the challenge to the International Boxing Union. In its turn this Union will make an enquiry. If it accepts Carpentier's challenge it will leave a month for the champion Siki to give his decision. From this moment the match must take place within three months. While it is admitted that Descamps threw out a challenge in the name of Georges Carpentier for a return match, it cannot take place for five months at least. Dan McKetrick, the New York manager of Jack Dempsey, the world's champion, states that Dempsey will certainly accept any challenge from Siki. The New York State Athletic Commission, however, announces that Siki is an unknown man, and he must prove himself against Harry Willis, the Negro, Harry Greb, and other American boxers, before he will be allowed a match for the championship of the world.

WHAT THE PICTURES SHOW.

After a careful study of the pictures of the fight, thrown on the screen for the benefit of a number of pressmen at the West-end Cinema, our representative came away with the impression that Battling Siki, although by no means a clever boxer, is altogether a more formidable opponent than we had been led to suppose. So far as one can follow a boxing match on the pictures, Carpentier was easily the master in the first three rounds—so easily, in fact, that one rather suspects if might have been part and parcel of the coloured man's plan of campaign to lead Carpentier "up the garden" into a false sense of security. Or is it that Carpentier has lost his punch, and could not hurt the coloured man? Time and again we see the Frenchman measure his man and send over that famous straight right. On two occasions the coloured man was sent down, but was soon on his feet. Once, at least, Carpentier appeared to have his man in "Queen Street," and in the past, when the Frenchman has got a man into that condition, he has usually found no difficulty in applying the finishing touch. It was in the third round that Carpentier caught the punch that led to his downfall—a fine right-hander. It was the turning point of the contest, and the Frenchman was never the same afterwards. At times he fought with the fury of desperation, and it was then that Siki showed that he knew more than a little about fighting, both in attack and defence. The pictures show very plainly that Carpentier lost his temper in the fourth round and butted his man into a corner in the most flagrant manner. The fact that Carpentier once struck out at Siki after the latter had assisted him to rise can be passed over. It was a characteristic attempt on the part of Carpentier to seize an opportunity. Siki was much the stronger man in the last two rounds, and must have punished the Frenchman severely. Of the alleged "tripping" incident, at the close of the fight, too much would appear to have been made. A contact of legs there certainly was, but Carpentier was going down to a punch from which he was unlikely to have regained his feet, and if there was any trip it was accidental, and made no difference to the result. On the day and as the contest was fought, Siki showed himself to be a good winner.

FRENCH PRESS COMMENTS.

The "Auto" says that no excuse can be sought for. "Carpentier was uncontestedly beaten. Even revenge is not permitted him. He must retire and give place to the younger men, and live upon his memories." The "Journal" emphasises that Siki showed himself to be a boxer to be dreaded, not only by reason of his blows, but also for his skill. The "Figaro" declares that Siki's victory was fully deserved. The "Petit Parisien" says that Carpentier at the outset was imprudent. His defeat cannot be regarded as final. A return match is necessary. The "Matin" is extremely severe on Carpentier, who, it says: "has lost at once the middle-weight championship of the world. He has also sacrificed all confidence the French public had placed in him. He thought he was in for a joy fight, and presuming on his power, he even tried to cast ridicule on Siki in the first round. The view of many boxers and boxing authorities, adds Reuter, is that Carpentier's defeat was chiefly due to the cinema. They declare that instead of going for his man he immediately he preferred to pose during the first two rounds, thereby giving Siki time to take his measure and gain confidence.

DESCAMPS' ADMISSION.

The Frenchman's manager, Francois Descamps, has frankly admitted the defeat of his protegee. He explains it by an excess of confidence. Carpentier thought he had the nigger at his mercy, and could hit him as he liked. But it was Carpentier who received the first big blow, and he was then at the mercy of his adversary. Siki on this day was a most redoubtable boxer, not only by the strength of his blows, but by his skill and science. He acquitted himself like an old master of the ring, and he always attacked without hesitation the moment he saw an opening.

BATTLING SIKI'S CAREER.

There is quite a romantic story at-

taching to the upbringing of Battling Siki. He was born in Senegal—which, of course, is French territory—in September, 1897, but at the age of 10 he attracted the notice of a Frenchwoman of means, who brought him to France and had him educated. Had his benefactor lived, boxing history might have been different; but she died a year or two later, and young Louis Phal—that is his real name—became a barman at Toulouse. It was in that town that he won his first two boxing matches at the age of 16. The war brought him the Croix de Guerre. Then he returned to Toulouse, and afterwards took service at a Nice hotel before he was "discovered" and launched into the fistie world. Siki is of negro descent. Commencing serious boxing in 1913, Siki beat Jules Perroud, Nicholas, and Frank Roose, and in 1914 he lost on points in ten rounds to Jean Andouy. During 1920 he defeated Henry Andouy, Doremy, Leveque, Victor Marchand, Jeff Dupuis, Westbrock, Rene Devos, Tom Berry, of Custom House, Nicol Simpson, of Newcastle. In 1921 his victims included the German, Breitenstrater, Ermino Spalla, the Italian, Harry Reeve, Gabriel Pionnier, Ercote, and Paul Journe. This season he has vanquished Rogers in 12 rounds, and Marcel Nilles, the French heavy-weight, in 15 rounds, the latter being accounted a 20 lb. fight. According to the French Record Book "Annuaire du Ring," Siki met the well known English light-heavy-weight, Tom Berry, twice in 1920 at Rotterdam. The first contest he won on points in ten rounds, and the second he lost over 15 rounds. Siki was known to be of a tough and enduring sort, but very few judges thought that he stood any real chance with Carpentier.

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