

JOHNSON'S INITIATION ANGERS FREEMASONS

Scotsmen Up in Arms, but the
Forfar Lodge Defends Its Ac-
tion in Admitting Him.

THE GRAND LODGE MAY ACT

But It Cannot Expel Pugilist—Johnson
Is Declared to be as Good a
Man as Other Masons.

By Marconi Transatlantic Wireless Telegraph
to The New York Times.

LONDON, Oct. 28, (by telegraph to Clifden, Ireland; thence by wireless.)—Scotch Freemasons are up in arms at the recent initiation of "Jack" Johnson, the world's champion pugilist, in the Forfar and Kincardine Lodge. All the circumstances of the initiation have been reported at a Grand Lodge meeting in Edinburgh, under the Presidency of the Marquis of Tullibardine, and in some quarters drastic action is predicted.

The members of the Forfar and Kincardine Lodge declare, however, that everything in connection with the nomination and initiation of Johnson was carried out in proper form, although some punctilious persons might feel aggrieved at the hurried summoning of the meeting and the subsequent changing of the hour of assembling to suit the convenience of the pugilist.

In any case, if the Grand Lodge were resolved upon drastic action it would be

faced with serious difficulties. It could not expel the pugilist, although it might prevent him from advancing further in the mysteries of the craft. It must be remembered that Johnson was only initiated, and therefore, even under the Scottish Rite, is not a Mason in the strict sense. The mere fact that Johnson is a man of color has no effect. Indeed, the officers of the Forfar Lodge have maintained that he is every bit as good a man as any good Mason and as any Scotsman.

Many Masons in American Lodges, under the American Rite, are colored, and, under the Grand Orient, Hindus and Japanese are recognized.