

YORKSHIREMAN FAILS IN TITLE BID

On your left, Roberto Proietti - the idol of Italy. His opponent, Billy Thompson - Britain's lightweight champion from Yorkshire. The place - London's Empress Hall. At stake - Proietti's European crown. Though no classic, there is plenty of action in this 15-round contest. Mostly a one-way traffic, from the Italian to the Briton.

The Yorkshireman's indifferent display proves that, probably because of weight difficulties, he has lost much of the sparkle that at one time earned him three boxing crowns. The Italian, though no superman, has little difficulty in dictating the pace.

Round eight brings added excitement. Thompson sends out a blow, which the crowd think is below the belt. A chorus of boos fills the arena.

The Italian, soon regains his poise and sets about the British champion in determined style. Thompson has to take some vicious punishment.

In a grand-stand finish, Thompson tries all the tricks of the ring. But there is no doubt as to whose fight it is.

Though no world-beater, the Italian has done more than enough to gain an undisputed points win. For Thompson, the future seems to be with the welter-weights. Happiest of all are the Proietti brothers - celebrating Roberto's triumph in true Italian style.