

## SPORTS, GAMES AND PASTIMES.



MR. N. L. GURR.

Mr. Norman Leslie Gurr is the son of the late Mr. J. Gurr, of Launceston, School Inspector, also Captain of Volunteers. He was born 6th March, 1865, educated at the Adelaide Park-side Educational Institution, South Australia. At an early age he was imbued with a love for athletics, which might be termed hereditary; his father having been a great athlete in his younger days. Before Mr. N. L. Gurr left Australia he had earned for himself the highest of reputations as an amateur athlete, and since his arrival in New Zealand he has taken a most prominent part in athletics generally in different parts of the colony. He first ran in New Zealand in August, 1889, when he won the Wellington Athletic Football Club's half-mile Handicap, by a distance of 60 yards. His record performance occurred in Timaru, when he won four championship races on the same day. At the present time he holds the New Zealand Championship medals for quarter and half-mile, which he won in Wellington in February, 1893. In September, 1893, he was invited by the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association to represent the colony at the Australian Championship Meeting, but was unable to attend, owing to an accident he met with, while leading in the 100 yards race at the H. B. Amateur Athletic Club's meeting in September, 1893. He is also prominent in musical circles, cricket, football, rowing, cycling and swimming. He has without doubt the choicest collection of trophies in New Zealand. He is District Manager in H. B. and Gisborne for the Mutual Life Association of Australia. The following are some of his performances in the athletic field—1st in  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile at W.A.F.C.'s Sports, 1889. 1st in 100

and 150 yards at W.F.C.'s Sports, Sept., 1890. 1st in 100 yards at W.A.A.C.'s Sports, December, 1890. 1st in 100 yards champion, 1st in  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile handicap, and 1st in 440 yards handicap at South Canterbury Meeting. In December, 1891, he won with ease a four mile cross country race at Wellington, 1st in 200 yards handicap and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile handicap from scratch at W.A.A.C.'s meeting in October, 1891. 1st in 440 yards handicap from scratch at Wellington Caledonian Sports, Jan., 1892, 1st in  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile championship and 440 yards handicap from scratch at Wellington in April 1892. Secured the following championships at Timaru in May, 1892, viz., 100, 250, 440, and 880 yards, also 1st in 300 yards Club championship. Winner of championships (N.Z.)  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile at Wellington in February, 1893. Out of 38 starts he has won 29 races, of from 100 yards to four miles, being second in the other nine events. He was chosen to represent Wellington in the championship meeting held at Dunedin on the 16th inst.

## AQUATIC.

In the Wellington Rowing Club's Fours A. Minogue bow, A. M. Burns 2, E. Nicholson 3, W. M. Wilson stroke, and F. Usmar cox; defeated W. Ross bow, H. Burford 2, I. R. Crawford 3, J. E. Gamble stroke, and D. Plunkett cox, after a close and exciting race by about half a length.

W. Fountain bow, A. W. Smith 2, A. McLaren 3, G. B. Nicholls stroke, W. Plunkett cox; had a very easy victory over S. G. Ross bow, G. S. Hill 2, A. S. Paterson 3, M. F. Marks stroke, and J. Usmar.

A. Minogue bow, A. M. Burns 2, E. Nicholson 3, W. M. Wilson stroke, and D. Plunkett cox; defeated W. Fountain bow, A. W. Smith 2, A. McLaren 3, G. B. Nicholls stroke, and F. Usmar cox, after a close and exciting race by half a length.

B. J. Finucane bow, W. Strange Muir 2, C. Poll 3, R. A. Heise stroke and F. Usmar cox; defeated F. Smith bow, I. N. Barrie 2, T. Shields 3, A. Sargeant stroke, and D. Plunkett cox. by a couple of lengths after rather an easy race.

In the senior final heat B. J. Finucane bow, W. Strange Muir 2, C. Poll 3, R. A. Heise stroke, and F. Usmar cox, met F. Ross bow, J. S. Swan 2, W. H. Jackson 3, C. Hooke stroke, and D. Plunkett cox. and beat them after a splendid contest by two feet.

Owing to a family bereavement W. H. Morrah's place in the S.B.C. Senior Fours has been taken by A. G. Hume, and in the Senior Pairs his place has been taken by R. W. Wallace, in both cases the change is the best that could have been made, and the crews have put in good work prior to going south last Monday. The regatta will be over before this reaches our readers, but we do not anticipate that any of the local

crews will win unless Hume, the Sculls, the Star Maiden Four, and Senior Double Sculls, in which three races they will have the best chance of success. Owing, unfortunately, to some of the W.R.C. men being unable to get leave the Club will not be represented at the Christchurch regatta.

The following are the S.B.C. crews which have gone South to take part in the Christchurch regatta, viz.:—Senior Fours—A. G. Hume, bow, G. F. Johnston No. 9, E. W. G. Strange, No. 3, R. W. Wallace, stroke, T. W. Brown, cox. Senior pairs—J. G. Duncan, bow, R. W. Wallace, stroke. Senior Double Sculls—J. G. Duncan, bow, A. G. Hume, stroke. Senior Sculls—A. G. Hume. Maiden Fours—T. R. Herd, bow, H. Shearman, No. 2, G. C. Fache, No. 3, K. D. Duncan, stroke. Junior Pairs—T. R. Herd, bow, G. C. Fache, stroke.

In the S.B.C. Junior sculls T. R. Herd just managed to beat J. E. Widdop by three-quarters of a length through being in better condition. J. C. Lewis easily defeated R. F. Page, R. Pownall easily defeated W. H. Denton, D. Burnes easily defeated P. G. Didsbury, R. Pownall had an easy victory over J. C. Lewis.

In the Oriental Boating Club's Junior Sculls W. Spencer defeated W. Gleeson somewhat easily by three or four lengths.

The Wanganui Rowing Club have selected the following crews to go into training for the Wanganui Regatta, which is to be held on March 15th:—Seniors—Pownall, Atkins, Ward and Bell; Maidens—Dymock, M'Lean, Blackmore, and Morton; Juniors—Tasker, Day, St. George, and Wilding; College—Hogg, Ballantyne, Wright, and Duigan; Double Sculls and Pair-oar—Atkins and Pownall.

The Wanganui Regatta Club have adopted the following programme for their regatta:—Maiden Fours, Senior Fours outrigger, Stump Outrigged; Junior Fours Outrigged, Ladies' Plate outrigger, Pair-oar in clinkers, College Race. The Star B.C., Wellington, have signified their intention of sending crews to compete, but the Nelson, Christchurch Union, Napier, and Oriental Clubs have written stating they will be unable to send crews.

## ATHLETIC.

The fifth annual Championship meeting of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association took place last Saturday at the Carisbrook Ground, Dunedin. There was an attendance of about 3000. The arrangement and management in every detail was splendid. We must heartily congratulate the Wellington competitors on their success, with the exception of Gurr, whose action in going down in an unfit condition, has been severely condemned in pretty strong language, and justly so to. We heard when he was in town that he was not fit, and the result has justified this by the times of his races and the places he occupied in them. Last,