

# ATHLETICS.

PROFESSIONAL Athletics do not seem to catch on in New Zealand. A determined effort to put things on a better basis was made some time ago by the Northern Athletic Club, an organisation of professionals, who were anxious for some share of the patronage lavished so liberally on the amateurs. Their first meeting was fixed for St. Patrick's Day, but Providence seemed against them, and the rain came down in sheets. A postponement, of course, took place, but when the function did come off there was no specially manifested desire on the part of the public to travel to Potter's Paddock to participate therein. Notwithstanding these things, and that amongst the runners themselves there were grown ament the percentage of prize money paid, the committee of the Northern Athletic Club attempted and carried out a good programme of sports on Saturday last, the venue being the Auckland Domain. That section of the public who through in their thousands to the amateur carnivals was, sad to relate, conspicuous by its absence, but there was a fair attendance of the sporting classes. Ladies were so much in the minority as to be practically invisible to the naked eye. On the principal of 'not good enough' several well-known men who ought to have been *en evidence* did not enter, and several important events had to be abandoned owing to insufficient entries.

THOSE events that did come off were, so far as could be judged, well contested. Some of the times were excellent—so excellent, in fact, that one feels inclined to take salt with one or two of them. In the heats for the hundred yards handicap Pearson is credited with negotiating the distance in 10sec., and in the final won by two yards in 10 1-5th secs.; and when it is remembered that he was put back a yard for this race, the performance was indeed excellent. Even more wonderful was his winning the 200 yards easily by considerably over a yard in 20 secs, a penalty yard also militating against him in this event. Donnelly won the mile without any trouble in 4min 41sec., a performance which speaks for itself when it is remembered that he romped in 8 yards ahead of the field, and was not pressed at any time.

SAYS my Dunedin correspondent:—'The match between the Masterton and Alhambra Clubs, a report of which I wired you, has been the chief topic of conversation in football circles this week, and the play of the latter club is everywhere the theme of admiration. The only departure in which the club did not appear to advantage was in regard to their wing three-quarter backs. Noel and Crawshaw both played streakily, and had the Alhambra been pressed at all the consequences might have been serious. What the club wants is the services of two good defensive wing three-quarters—not necessarily scoring men, but men who can be relied upon to defend when called upon. The forwards and half-backs can be trusted to do the scoring, seeing that the passing game is the chief plank of the club's play. I consider with the form I have indicated the Alhambra Club's fifteen would successfully represent the province in representative matches against the Rugby Union teams of other provinces.

'THE Masterton Club were on Thursday without the services of Hannister (one of their best forwards) and D'Arcy (one of their best backs), but had these men been playing, I am sure the result of the game would not have been different. Their play was disappointing, to say the least of it. Their forwards with their great weight should have carried the scrummages, but the local men quite held their own here. The visitors did not back smartly, and with not much system. It was not, as I had almost expected to see, a race as to who should be first man up to the scrum-mage. Their combination was also poor. Often throughout the game one of their men would get away with the ball, but he was invariably unsupported, and the advantage gained thus lost. In one respect the Masterton team excelled their opponents, and that was in collaring. In this branch of football North Island players are superior to their South Island brethren. I really think the Taranaki men beat all others in this respect. Their victory over the Englishmen in 1888 was almost entirely due to their skill in this direction.

'SPEAKING of this reminds me that the Taranaki Rugby Union are trying to arrange a match with our representatives. I hope this can be done, as it will be the first visit of the Taranakians to Dunedin, and I am sure they will be welcomed.

'THE matches played on Saturday were mostly uninteresting, and hardly worth recording. The inter-club matches start on Saturday 7th May, when the Pirates and Alhambra Clubs meet.'

THE St. George's Rowing Club was established in 1883, and the boat-house was then in St. George's Bay, the captain being F. J. Sanderson, and hon. sec. and treas. H. W. Hudson. In 1886 the boat-house was burnt, and the new site was fixed in Judge's Bay, where a small shed was built. In 1888 the present boat house was built, and is now the largest and most commodious in Auckland.

THE present membership of the club is about seventy, Mr F. Jervis being captain, Mr T. Kilfoyle, hon. sec., and Mr A. S. Bankart, hon. treas. Mr J. H. B. Coates holds the position of Commodore of the club.

THE club has come rather prominently before the public in racing during the last two years, and its success in this line is mainly due to the untiring efforts of Mr C. F. Thomas, an ex-Victorian intercolonial oarsman.

ST. GEORGE'S. ROWING CLUB—MAIDEN CREW.



F. EDWARDS, photo. Auckland.  
A. E. WHITE (No. 2), E. A. REES (bow), H. A. MARRINER (No. 3), C. F. THOMAS, ESQ. (hon. coacher), A. MCHARDY (stroke), F. WYLD-BROWN (cox).

THE subject of our engraving is the club's maiden crew, which has been the most successful crew in Auckland this season. This crew's record is as follows:—At A.R.A. Regatta on December 12th, 1891, won maiden inrigged gigs, beating five crews; second, junior inrigged gigs won by Ponsobny Rowing Club by one and a-half lengths. At Judge's Bay Regatta on 23rd January, 1892, won maiden whaleboats, beating three crews; won maiden inrigged gigs, beating three crews. At Auckland Annual Regatta 29th January, 1892, won maiden inrigged gigs, beating two crews; second, maiden whaleboats, won by North Shore Rowing Club by two lengths. A.R.A. Regatta, 9th April, 1892, won maiden inrigged gigs, beating three crews; won junior inrigged gigs, beating three crews.

ONE of the great social events of each winter is the St. George's dance, and it is expected that the next one will be held during May. Judging from the success of past efforts, we hope to see it, as before, the ball of the season.

It may possibly be thought odd that the GRAPHIC should give the picture of a maiden crew before that of some of the seniors, or even juniors, who have distinguished themselves of late. The explanation is simple. The St. George's people took the trouble to let me know about the photo and sent me particulars thereon. Photographs of other teams from all over the colony will be inserted in this paper if their position justified their inclusion.

I AM glad to hear that there is a proposal on foot to secure a new football ground at Petone. Newtown Park has always been very unsatisfactory, as no legal charge can be made for entrance, and there are other disadvantages.

ON Saturday last the cricket match, Wellington Club v. Phoenix Club, was continued from the previous Saturday, and finished under rather peculiar circumstances. The Phoenix on the previous Saturday had eight wickets down for 63, and on returning last Saturday they finished their first innings for 73, this being 10 behind the Wellington's first innings. The Wellingtons then went in and scored 109, and were, by the way, only batting 10 men. This left the Phoenix 120 to get to win, but at 5 o'clock the Phoenix men called out 'time' on the ground that the light was getting bad. The umpires, however, ordered the game to proceed, but Harris, who was captaining the Phoenix, called his men from the wickets shortly after their second innings had started. The Wellington captain, E. Izard, thereupon claimed the game, and it was, of course, awarded them. In the Wellington's second innings there was some fine batting, Izard, with 56, heading the score. Crawshaw made 27, and Longden 17. Doughty was absent.

THE Midland v. Rivals also continued their match on the same day, the result being an easy win for the former by an innings and 27 runs. Several of the Rival men played well, but the others made a sorry show. Reid put up 18 in the second innings, Ramsay, 20 (not out), Lynch and Dryden 10. In the first innings Ramsay also scored 20, Lynch 16, and Read 11, the other men not doing anything worth mention.

SAYS my London correspondent:—'Aston Villa in the old country appears to be going in desperately for a record in the way of cup collecting, and the more sanguine of their supporters are already talking of five cups falling to the share of the Perry Bar Club. Already they have reached the final stage in three competitions, namely, the English Cup, the Staffordshire Cup, and the Foresters' Cup—the latter, I believe, a purely local trophy. They had to meet St. George's in the semi-final for the Staffordshire "piece of plate," and it is no exaggeration of the ease with which the Villa romped home to say that their opponents never had a single chance of winning from start to finish. The match was played in bitterly cold weather, but there was a remarkably good attendance for such a game, and just at the present time there can be little doubt that the Villa team, as a whole, are as popular as at any time in their career.'

OXFORD and Cambridge now meet at rowing, cricket, football, golf, chess, rackets, billiards, tennis, athletic sports, and a few other trifles. We hope confidently that Inter-Varsity contests will be added at whist, nap, loo, baccarat, coddam, shove-halfpenny, glove fighting (with an 'out'), snooker, bumble puppy, and other national forms of sport. We see no reason why they shouldn't, and a good Inter-Varsity glove-fight would be good business. Anyhow, the multiplication of these things must already have convinced everybody that, as centres of intellectual education, the two universities have long been given up as hopeless and useless (which they are), and that their only mission in life is to provide places where young men can learn the mysteries of sport, and get their first glimpses into the arcana of financial difficulties. Up to date we have heard of an Inter-Varsity contest in Latin verse, Greek particles, higher mathematics, or the ethical theories of ancient and modern philosophers.

IT seems a wonderful feat on the part of a man 56 years of age next June to cover twenty miles in 2hrs. 35min. 5sec. as C. M. Callow did recently at Stamford Bridge, London, and on a day cold enough to stop any ordinary mortal. It is quite possible that this feat may bring down the curtain on Mr Callow's athletic career, which commenced as long ago as 1854, and has consequently lasted over the lengthy period of thirty-eight years. Mr Callow is a speaking example of what an elderly man may do if he takes plenty of active exercise. We are all of us too fond of taking 'our ease at our inn,' a by no means unpleasant relaxation, and which may be indulged with impunity if one works off the