

out that as railway fares and rates are always charged at so much for every mile passed over, the practical effect is to erect a *turnpike at every mile*. This it is, he says, which has not only compelled the people to crowd into the great cities, but has also caused the depreciations which have taken place in land values throughout the civilised world. When we remember how carefully turnpikes are avoided we shall probably arrive at the conclusion that he is not far wrong.

To remedy the evils complained of he invented his stage system. We have not space to describe it here, but briefly we may say that he proposes to abolish all mileage and differential rating, and to substitute a system of stages of varying lengths, these lengths to be determined by the density of population they pass through. This



Hanna, photo.

F. G. EWINGTON.

Auckland.

(Hon. Sec. Testimonial Committee.)

would be accompanied by a great reduction in the charges Mr Vaile has been subjected to very severe criticism, but it is now generally admitted that his finance is sound, and that the most beneficial social results would follow the adoption of his system.

A number of his fellow colonists, believing that his services deserved public recognition, subscribed for and presented to him the handsome service of plate of which we give an illustration. The presentation took place at the Chamber of Commerce, and was made by Sir George Grey, K.C.B., who, with the other speakers, referred in very eulogistic terms to the ability, energy, and self-sacrifice Mr Vaile had displayed. This should, and no doubt will, encourage Mr Vaile to continue his efforts.

HUNTING.

THE hunt came off last week at Ashcote, Napier, the weather being fine. The master and whips came over the night before with the hounds. A start was made about half-past twelve, when everyone had lunched. A great number of people attended the hunt, some following, others simply going to see the meet. Amongst the latter were Messrs Sydney Johnston and Mr Price, each with a family party, and Mr Rechab Harding. A good view was obtained from a high hill behind Ashcote. Capital runs were afforded, the paddocks being large. People wended their way home about four o'clock. Some of those who were there were the master, Mr R. F. Mason, on Wi Parata, Messrs Jackson and Hassell, whips, on Royston and Explorer; Mrs Rhodes on a bay; Mrs Giblin on Barbarian; Miss Grooms on Moe; Miss Miller, on Desmond; Miss Mackersey, on Wallace; Mr H. H. Bridge, on Lurline; Mr S. Bridge on the Skipper; Mr J. Rhodes, on Arkwright; Mr W. E. Grooms, on Tip-top; Mr T. Grooms, on Zoe; Dr. Godfrey, on No Name; Mr G. Miller, on Heslop; Mr W. K. White, on Donovan; Mr McGreevy, on Zetland; Mr F. White, on Grey Mornus; Mr G. White, on Nanki Poo; Mr Goring Johnston, on Batteredly; Mr Bennett was also there, and Messrs A. K. Howard, and Thornton, from Te Aute.

The Wellington Hunt Club held a very successful meeting at Miramar on Saturday. Unlike the Saturdays we have had lately, the weather was very pleasant and suitable for such sport, and the result was an unusually large muster, especially of ladies. The following were some of the ladies who followed or were present as on-lookers:—The Countess of Glasgow and her two sons, and the Ladies Alice and Dorothy Boyle, Miss Wauchope, Mrs S. W. Johnston, Miss E. Johnston, Miss Izard, and Mrs Gillon. Those who actually took part in the hunt were Lady Augusta Boyle, Miss Hallows, Miss Malcolm, Miss Longden, Miss Skerrett and others. The gentlemen were Captain Clayton, Mr Hawke, Hon. James Boyle, Mr Wells, Mr A. Cooper, Mr Skerrett, Dr. Gillon, Dr. Cahill, Mr J. Mills, Mr McTaggart, Mr Sackling Barron, and many others. It proved altogether a most enjoyable outing, and after the sport was over Mr and Mrs Crawford entertained a large party at their residence at Miramar with afternoon tea.

ATTRACTIONS.

WITH such a perfect day for football and the prospect of at least two exciting matches to be found, it was not to be wondered that a large crowd followed their way to Potter's Paddock on Saturday last. A larger number of ladies made use of the grand-stand than at any time previously during the present season, the stand being very comfortably filled. City and Suburbs met on the ground immediately in front of the stand, but the game did not prove as interesting as was anticipated, and during the second spell the match on the neighbouring ground between Parnell and Ponsonby deservedly attracted greater attention.

THE Committee of the Union are to be congratulated that their efforts to start the game punctually had such a happy result. The ball was kicked off sharp at a quarter past three, and the usual fifteen minutes' tedious waiting and consequent grumbling from the spectators were avoided.

CITY V. SUBURBS.

SUBURBS were considerably weakened through the absence of Peace and Rab McKenzie, and the want of these two sterling players was felt by their club all through the game. City had their full strength but played very loosely and half-heartedly at times, and had Suburbs anything like the combination they should have had City would have found it a hard matter to beat them. Suburbs played very well all the first spell, which ended in their being two points to nil, but immediately the second spell opened by City scoring a try from the kick off, the country boys became completely disorganized. Of course, one cannot expect the combination in Suburbs that is shown by town clubs, but looking at the team on paper one would not expect to find the City forwards push their opponents about as they pleased, and the City backs so outdo the Suburbs'.

HERROLD was a tower of strength to his side, doing far more than his share of work, dribbling and tackling to perfection. Marshall did not show up quite so conspicuously as he has done this season, perhaps because Herrold rather neglected him, but on several occasions he gained well deserved applause for his clever play. It would have been to his club's advantage, however, had he remembered that Absolum was playing wing three-quarter, as on two or three occasions he lost a lot of ground through kicking instead of passing to the Otahuhu representative.

ABSOLUM is very fast and punts extremely well. The way he got out of several difficulties was a treat to see. He will yet be seen on the representative field if he improves as he has done lately.

BRANSON and Noakes were, undoubtedly, the greatest blemishes amongst the Suburban backs. Neither could hardly have played worse. Rhodes did a lot of work, but there is still room for much improvement. Of the losers' forwards very little can be said in praise; handicapped as they were by the inclusion of several juniors, Dacre, Williams and Leighart had a hard task to hold up the scrums, and towards the end of the second spell, especially, City completely vanquished them, and to a great extent this accounts for the mess the Suburbs' half-backs got into on occasions.

THE City forwards played well to a man, very useful work being done by Stone.

OTWAY uses his great weight and strength rather against his side at times by pushing wildly, and thus disorganizing the City scrum. Buff Caradus played as usual a very good game, and started all the passing runs made by Cole, Pilkington, Hales, and himself. He passes very straight and low, and is up to all the finer points of the game. City should congratulate themselves that they have secured such a captain.

PILKINGTON has wonderfully improved, and takes his passes in much better style than formerly. Peter Mackie would have been one of the most useful men on the ground did he not pass so wildly. He takes the ball better than most, and is very fast and sharp at getting away, but he invariably loses all the valuable ground he has made by throwing the ball back when collared, regardless of whether friend or foe is behind him. After remedying this great fault Mackie will be amongst our two or three best half-backs. Cole played his usual off-side game at times, but at others was all that could be desired, and materially assisted in getting several scores. By blocking Herrold, the opposing half-back, Cole was the means of Suburbs being allowed some five or six free kicks, and had these been nearer the

goal line probably the Suburbs score would have been increased by sundry goals.

HILL was very clever and gained two out of City's four tries, and was always well to the fore in any passing run. Stone had some three attempts at goal and Cole two, and yet not a goal was scored. On a dry day and with a dry ball it was expected that Stone would convert almost any try, but he made wretched attempts. Cole failed also, but only by a foot or so from a place very near the touch line, and it would have been more satisfactory had Cole taken the last try also. Hill was very safe at full back, and did the little that was desired of him very well.

GREAT praise is due to Mr J. C. Webster for the efficient way in which he carried out the duties of referee. Hardly a single breach of rules escaped his eagle eye, and as breaches of the rules were very numerous on Saturday he had plenty to do.

It is quite probable that the well-known warrior, Hugh Poland, will support Suburbs forwards against Parnell next Saturday, and that he will be returning to town permanently in August next.

RHODES' try against City was very cleverly obtained. For a man fourteen stone weight Rhodes is very active and quick, and keeps his feet extremely well.

PARNELL V. PONSONBY.

THE Parnell v. Ponsonby match resulted as was anticipated in another Parnellite victory, the combination and form of the Parnellites proving too superior for their opponents. This was especially noticeable in their passing, which during the second spell was very clever. During the first half of the game Ponsonby looked as if they were going to hold their own, but Parnell played a good defensive game whenever their opponents put them to it. Ponsonby seemed too anxious to indulge in a rough game, but even that could not prevent Parnell from continually running over them. The game throughout was very fast, the Parnell backs passing splendidly, the leather going through half a dozen hands on several occasions, which was a perfect treat to the spectators, and Parnell thus won by 12 points to 4.

JERVIS again proved himself a great three-quarter. He had a tremendous amount of work to do, but he performed it almost without a fault. His running was, as usual, very clever, but his kicking was not quite so good as it has been this season. He missed one or two rather easy goals.

THOUGH Jervis played a really good game he held on to the ball at times when passing would almost certainly have resulted in a score. He is the best three-quarter we have, but he might remember he is not the whole of the Parnell team. Selfish play has spoilt many a first class man ere now, and Jervis would do well to guard against this almost isolated fault of his.

ELLIOTT played his usual dashing game, and his passing and tackling leather was very clean.

MASEFIELD was a tower of strength to his club, and he seemed to have the major portion of the work. His running and kicking were both good, and I am glad to see that he is inclined to desist his 'bumping' game.

BRAUND did not get much show last Saturday, the Parnell men invariably smothering his passes. He might, by the way, take a lesson in the science of passing from Buff Caradus, who would doubtless tell him that it is not necessary to hold the ball high above the head before passing. It can be done more smartly and surely in the one action straight off the ground.

SPEIGHT played a splendid game. He was continually on the ball, and was running and passing out to his backs in good style; in fact he was everywhere he was wanted.

WRIGHT was in great form, and the try he scored was from the best run of the day. The way he went through his opponents, both forwards and backs was a caution, and he planted the ball clean behind the posts. Jervis, of course, landed an easy goal.

COOKE and Scott played their usual game, shining occasionally, and Langford did some very useful work.

EDMONDS was responsible for nearly all the passing on