

Wellington v. Auckland.

The following players have been selected to represent Wellington in their Northern tour:—Backs: J. Ryan, M. Ryan, Magee, A. Mitchinson, Erverson, Roberts, McLeod and Green.
Forwards: Reedy, Hamilton, A. Wilson, A. G. Wilson, Dewar, Alexander, O'Brien, McKellar, Hardham and Rush.

The British Team in Sydney.

The Rugby Union welcomed the English team, which arrived in Sydney July 31.

Mr. Harding, in an interview, said the team had been royally treated throughout New Zealand, and had been given a really good time, but they had been dogged by bad luck. He attributed the loss of several of the matches to ill-luck. Then, too, the men had sustained a remarkable number of injuries, limiting the selection, particularly as regards the test matches. In the first and third tests England had been badly beaten, having been undoubtedly outplayed and outgeneralled. The New Zealanders were magnificent footballers, and he would like to dispel any impression that the Englishmen's casualties were due to roughness.

"The New Zealanders play a very willing game," he concluded, "but they are not rough. The idea that their roughness was responsible for the Britishers' injuries is certainly a wrong one."

AUSTRALIAN GAME.

AUSTRALIAN GAME JUBILEE.
A team of New Zealand footballers playing the Australian game left Auckland by the steamer *Moana* on Monday August 3rd to take part in the jubilee celebration which the Council of the Australasian Game of Football are holding in Melbourne next month to commemorate the inauguration of the game fifty years ago. The game, which might be described as a cross between Rugby and Association, is tolerably well known in New Zealand, where it has been played successfully for the past five years. At the close of the celebrations in Melbourne the team will play matches in the principal States of the Commonwealth, arrangements having been made for a seven weeks' tour, which will entail an expenditure of about £1000. The team consists of twenty-four players, and Mr D. Callinan, of Auckland, has been appointed manager.

The programme of matches is as follows:—

- August 19 to 29: Carnival matches, at Melbourne.
 - September 1: South Australia, at Adelaide.
 - September 3: Northham, at Northham.
 - September 5: Ballarat, at Ballarat.
 - September 9: Seymour, at Seymour.
 - September 10: Bendigo, at Bendigo.
 - September 12: N.S.W., at Sydney.
- Other matches are being arranged at Albany and Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.

A Football Riot.

ton and Port Melbourne teams culminated in a riot.
During the disturbance the referee was violently assaulted by enraged partisans, and was knocked down, receiving slight concussion of the brain.

CRICKET.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST CRICKETERS.

SPLENDID SERIES OF ARTICLES.

So popular was the series of articles recently published on cricketing topics, that we have arranged for a new series. On this occasion the world's greatest cricketers will be dealt with, Sir Home Gordon, the writer of these brief biographies, is the author of "Crocketform at a glance," and of various articles in the *Badminton Library*. The articles contain the best and most up-to-date information on the subject. They are the work from personal knowledge, of a practical cricketer moving in the best sporting circles, and are written in interesting and entertaining fashion. It is proposed during the series to afford intimate glimpses of the following great exponents of the game:—

- HON. F. S. JACKSON,
- C. B. FRY,
- PRINCE RANJITSINHJI,
- G. L. JESSOP,
- B. J. T. BOSANQUET,
- J. T. TYLDESLEY,
- R. E. FOSTER,
- JOHN GUNN,
- S. HAIGH,
- W. W. ARMSTRONG,
- D. SCHEWARTZ.

- J. DARLINGTON,
- W. G. GRACE,
- LORD HAWKE,
- A. C. MACLAREN,
- G. HIRST,
- A. A. LILLEY,
- A. O. JONES,
- T. HAYWARD,
- V. TRUMPER,
- S. M. J. WOODS,
- W. RHODES,
- LORD DALMENY,
- R. A. DUFF.

Middlesex beat Gloucester in the county championships by two runs.
F. A. Tarrant took 12 wickets for 149 runs.

In the match Middlesex v. Gloucester, F. A. Tarrant, the ex-Victorian, scored 162.

In a match between Sussex and Natal, the Jam of Nawanagar (Prince Ranjitsinhji) scored 200 runs.

The Victorian Cricket Association made a profit of £1080 out of the M.C.C. tour of Australia last year.

Cricket Sidights.

By P. F. WARNER

(Author of "Cricket in Many Climes," etc.)

BRILLIANT BATTING FEATS.

Batting on a hard, true wicket, and on a sticky, difficult wicket, are two entirely different things, and one often sees a man who is a fair player on a fast wicket absolutely at sea when rain has ruined the pitch. A left-handed bowler, like Rhodes or Blythe, is then in his element, for he pitches the ball a good length on the leg stump; it comes across quickly to the off, and you stand a very good chance of being either bowled or caught at the wicket, or snapped up by an eager short stop. As a rule, the hitting or "long handle game," as it has been called, pays best under these circumstances, but some men who are really strong in their back and on side play can play their ordinary game. A strong defensive back player can often persuade a good length ball which breaks away on the on side for two or three runs, while a good puller has a great advantage.

The men who does not watch the ball, and watch it well, will have little or no chance on a sticky wicket. At one time there were very few men who could play at all successfully on a really difficult wicket, but of late years, what with the general improvement in back play—due chiefly to K. S. Ranjitsinhji's influence on the game—the number was increased. Hon. F. S. Jackson, C. B. Fry, A. C. MacLaren, Ranjitsinhji, Tyldesley, and Hirst are the best batsmen we have under conditions favourable to the bowler, and I shall never forget an extraordinary innings Ranjitsinhji played at Brighton in July, 1906, for Sussex v. Middlesex. J. T. Hearne and Albert Trott, of Middlesex, are extremely difficult bowlers on this kind of wicket, for they make the ball turn a good deal at a quick pace off the ground. When stumps were drawn, on the second evening of the match, Ranjitsinhji was 37 not out, the game up to that time having been played on a perfect wicket.

SCORING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Rain, however, fell heavily in the night, and with the sun coming out next morning, the wicket was a regular "glue pot." Vime made 17, but no one else on the side got more than 5, excepting Ranjitsinhji, who was last man out lbw to Trott for 202. He gave one chance in the long field when he had made about 160 runs, but, apart from this, his batting was absolutely without a flaw. Most of his runs came from hard drives, chiefly to the on, and strokes on the leg side. It was an astonishing innings, and its full significance was possibly not appreciated until Tate, on an exactly similar wicket, dismissed a powerful Middlesex eleven for just over 100 runs.

The name of Tyldesley recalls many great innings, and one of the best this "classic" batsman ever played was at Sydney in December, 1903, in the first test match between M.C.C. and Australia. The Australian first innings had been finished off for 285, and M.C.C. had three-quarters of an hour's batting before lunch; and as heavy rain in the night had been followed by a hot sun, no one would have been surprised had we lost four wickets before lunch. In fact Noble told me afterwards that he fully expected Saunders would have got four of us

out before the interval. The first wicket fell before a run had been scored, and then Tyldesley came in. The end to which Saunders was bowling was made for a left hander, but Tyldesley took him by the scruff of the neck and hit him to all corners of the field; and in fifty-six minutes hit up fifty-three out of seventy-three, without a chance or mistake of any kind.

In the second test match that season the pitch at Melbourne was very bad indeed in the second innings of M.C.C., and in a total of 103—eight of which were extras—Tyldesley scored 62; and a better innings has surely never been played on a difficult wicket. He hit Trumble for a five—a hit over the ring in Australia counting five—and roused the spectators to enthusiasm by smiting three successive balls of Saunders' for four, four, and five, the last being a grand hit right into the ladies' reserve, the ball landing over the screen placed across the path leading from the gate to the pavilion railing.

FINE CRICKET.

Trumper's great innings of 185 not out for Australia v. England represented Trumper at his best; greater praise is scarcely possible. Every stroke was in evidence, the cut, the drive, the leg glance; and that special one of Trumper's when he goes right back almost on to his wickets and forces a ball just short of a good length away past until on or between the off side fielders. In that game Foster played his immortal innings of 287 for England. His first 73 were made in three hours. During that time he was scarcely at his best, and there was one chance, and a faulty hit or two, but it must be remembered that the ball always required careful watching; for the pitch was not quite perfect, and the Australian bowling was of a high quality. 73 not out was Foster's score at the drawing of stumps on the second day. On the third day he added another 218 runs in four and a quarter hours. His batting then was, I think, the best I have ever seen on a hard, true wicket; his off driving and cutting have never been equalled—while his driving was tremendous in its power. He was exceptionally quick on his feet, frequently moving a yard out of his ground to play the ball. In the last hour he scored 80 runs—a feat Jessop, Lyons, or Bonnor have not often surpassed. Foster has beaten other records in *Gentlemen v. Players*, and *Oxford v. Cambridge*, and if he played at all regularly he would be one of the first choices for England in every test match.

Turning to the test matches at home one naturally finds the name of F. S. Jackson figuring over a hundred for England v. Australia, and the best, and the highest of these was, I fancy, his 144 not out, out of a total of 301 at Leeds, in 1905. Going in with the score at 57 for three wickets, he withstood the bowling for four hours and twenty minutes. He was batting an hour and a half for his first fifty runs, and completed his hundred in three hours and a half. The wicket was on the slow side, but his cutting was beautifully timed, and some of his drives were very hard indeed. He hit eighteen fours, and from the first ball played with that determination and concentration which have helped so much to make him the greatest batsman in the world on a big occasion. Jackson is neither so brilliant nor so attractive to look at as some other great batsmen, but he is soundness itself, and never takes a liberty. He goes in with the fixed idea of playing himself in thoroughly before taking the smallest risk, and never makes the mistake of under-rating his opponent's bowling.

SOME COMPARISONS.

The Australians will tell you that A. C. MacLaren is the greatest batsman we have ever sent them. Indeed they almost rave about him, and I have met men in the pavilion at Sydney who are ready to lay even money that MacLaren will make a hundred every time he goes in to bat on a true wicket; and certainly MacLaren's performances in Australia are as good as Jackson's in England. Until the last visit of the Australians MacLaren had never made a hundred for England v. Australia in England, but his 88 not out at Lords in 1898 was as remarkable an innings as his 140 at Nottingham. For one thing the Australian bowling in 1899 with Jones, Howell, Noble, Trumble, and Laver was far stronger than in 1906, and England was engaged in a desperate up-hill fight. Fry, Ranjitsinhji, Townsend, and Jackson were out for less than a hundred runs, and England was over 200 runs be-

hind. Then MacLaren and Hayward made a stand. As long as there was a chance for gaining the game, MacLaren was steadiness itself, but after Hayward, Tyldesley, and Jessop had been dismissed in rapid succession, and England was still behind hand, he hit out brilliantly, and the recollection of two or three drives to the pavilion rails, which he made off Jones' exceptionally fast bowling, will linger long in my memory. MacLaren in form is one of the most interesting of batsmen. He has a great variety of strokes, tremendous power, and beautiful style. Every stroke he makes is good to watch; and one wonders why he does not make more runs for Lancashire. When he is playing a great innings, one wonders why he ever gets out.

From Lords to Cape Town. Different climate, different light, and very different wicket. Here I saw an innings by J. H. Sinclair which is not unworthy to be counted among the best in the history of the game; for against Trott, Haigh, and Cuttall, at that time, 1899—in their prime, Sinclair scored 106 out of a total of 171 from the bat—the last 47 out of 61. His hitting was wonderful. Six feet four inches in height with a fine breadth of shoulder and chest and very long arms, the bat looked like a "w" ; attack in his hands.

THE KENT STAR.

The first time I saw K. L. Hutchings play was at Tunbridge Wells in July, 1902, and I thought then that given the opportunity he was bound to make his mark. He was, at the age of nineteen, as good a batsman as R. H. Spooner was in his last year at Marlborough. But other things besides cricket claimed his attention during the seasons 1903, 1904, 1905, and it was not until 1906 that he was able to take a regular part in County cricket. How splendidly he batted is a matter of history. Four times he scored over a hundred, and in twenty-five innings he made 1,358 runs with an average of 64.60; and it is safe to say that he is the batsman of the future. Very strongly built, his driving on both sides of the wicket is tremendous, and it is no fun fielding mid-off or mid-on to him. Even George Hirst is not ashamed to go back two or three yards. Against Middlesex at Tonbridge last June, Hutchings played two remarkable innings of 125 and 87 not out. Kent was set 292 to win and four wickets down for 113 runs. Two more batsmen were quickly dismissed, consequently Hutchings had to try to save the game. In this he succeeded, but it was a desperately near thing, there being still ten minutes to go when Huish—who was almost a cripple from lumbago—the last man, came in. At the finish Kent wanted 39 runs. Hutchings is not at present a particularly good batsman on a sticky wicket, but with his splendid hitting powers and strong back play, he no doubt only requires sufficient experience to be as reliable under conditions favourable to the bowler—as he is on a dry true wicket.

Next week: "An Appreciation of Lord Hawke" (by Sir Gordon Home, Bart.).

HOCKEY.

At a meeting of the council of the New Zealand Hockey Association on July 29, a letter was received from the secretary of the Dewsey and Savill Hockey Club, England, suggesting that an English amateur team should tour New Zealand next season, and play 85 matches, including three tests. The cost would be from £250 to £300. The matter was referred to a sub-committee to report.

Manawatu v. Auckland.

The interprovincial hockey match Manawatu v. Auckland, played at the Polo Ground, Remuera, on Saturday, attracted a great deal of attention. It has long been known that this would prove the hardest game of the season, and an exciting contest was anticipated. Spectators were not disappointed, and a really strenuous struggle was witnessed. Favoured with glorious sunshine, and ground in first-class condition, it is difficult to conceive of any other conditions for this growingly popular game. The playing space was roped off, which obviated any crowding on to the ground. No less than 2000 spectators were present, and the greatest interest in the match was manifested. Play throughout was characterised by very hard hitting. The visitors were considerably less in avoidance than the home team, but they showed some excellent form, hitting with great judgment and strong will. The home backs, Wright and Shirriffs, and the goalkeeper, Howell, were mainly responsible for the visitors not scoring more goals. Mr. B. Madden refereed the game in his usual efficient manner. During the afternoon the ladies' committee provided all players and visitors with afternoon tea, doing yeoman service in tending to the comfort of all. The following are the teams:—