

SWIMMING.

Waiatema Club's Carnival.

The Waiatema Swimming Club's third carnival of the season was held in the Albert-street baths, Auckland, at an attendance sufficient to tax the seating accommodation to the utmost.

Electric Handicap, 50 yds. — McLaren 1, Underwood 2. Six competed. A capital finish. Time 32s.

Novice Handicap, 50 yds. — Reid 1, Underwood 2. A well contested race. Time, 32.5s.

100 yds Championship of the Waiatema Club. — M. E. Champion 1, A. O'Hare 2, B. W. Kean 3. Six competed. From a successful start, Champion put himself in the lead by half a yard before 30 yards had been covered, and kept his advantage up to the 36 yards mark, where Kennott and Kean were both within a yard of him. Returning to the starting point, Champion easily maintained his own lead, and 75 yards had been covered, O'Hare had advanced to second position. Making for the tape O'Hare further increased his advantage over the third man (Kean), but Champion was more than equal to the reverse, and won easily by a yard and a half from O'Hare, who led Kean by little more than a head. Champion's time was 1m 6.25s, 2.25s longer than his own previous record of 65s for New Zealand, which he holds jointly with H. Creaghe (Dunedin). The world's record is held by C. M. Daniels (New York) whose time is 55.2.5s.

City Football Club No. 2, 1. Seven teams competed. A keen struggle ensued in this race, and the finish was very close.

Boys' Handicap, under 17. Boys. — F. Baker 1, Matthews and Stewart, dead heat, 2. Seven competed. Won on the tajs. Time 35s.

One Year Handicap, 72 yards. — Weston 1, Champion 2, Niscompeted. One of the best races of the evening. Time 52s.

40 yds Championship of Waiatema Club (12 laps and 10 yards of baths). — M. J. Champion 1, S. W. Kean 2, P. J. Kennott 3. The only competitors. Champion was at once in the lead after a few yards had been covered, and the end of the second lap found him two yards ahead of Kean, who led Kennott by a similar distance. At 150 yards, Champion was 15 yards in front of the other two, who were now swimming abreast, these positions being unchanged as the 200 yard lap terminated. With Kean and Kennott still together, Champion, swimming easily, led by 20 yards at the eighth lap, and 25 at the tenth, winning the race by that margin. Kean, who had left Kennott during the eleventh lap, was seven yards in front of the third man. Champion's time was 6m 23s, as beyond his previous New Zealand record of 6m 35s.

Fifteen-minute Handicap, 100 yds. — C. Weaver, 13s, 1. S. Dickey, scratch, 2. Won very easily. Time, 54.1.5s.

Balloon Race. — Francis 1.

Suspended.

Zoltan de Halmey, the Hungarian swimmer, who formerly held the 220 yards amateur swimming championship of Great Britain, has been suspended by the Hungarian Swimming Association for failing to attend a meeting of the association to answer questions regarding infringements of the laws of amateurism.

Australasian Championships.

In the Australasian swimming championships at Sydney, C. Healy (N.S.W.) won the 100 yards race in 58 3/4 sec, beating Hardwicke (N.S.W.) by 2 1/4 yards, Beaurepaire (Vic.) won the half-mile race in 11 min. 36.2.5 sec, defeating Hardwicke by 40 yards.

BOXING.

Fitzsimmons is Reinstated.

This is how the American sporting writers refer to Fitzsimmons' return to the ring. "Fitzsimmons has escaped from the boneway again, and is on his way to Europe to collect 25,000 dollars for four fights. Two of the goes will be with those prize royal boots, Jim Roche and Gunner Moir. Well, nobody is sorry to see the old speckled trout grab a little cash in his old age. If the King wants to see a go between a centenarian and a hunk of cheese, he can have it as long as he pays for it. It's no use to tell a farmer that the brick he is buying is gilt-edged. It only makes him sore.

"But after this don't let any of the Kink's subjects say that this is a sucker's village. It's true that our fair city falls for some awful rough stuff now and then, but not anything like this. The municipal hook may be a little rusted from the want of use, but if Rully Robert and Gunner Moir should knock at our gates the harpoon-thrower would surely answer the clamour of the people and do his duty.

"However, we shouldn't worry. The laugh is on the Kink. It's his money, and Robert can use it. We don't care who he put the bee on as long as we're not stung."

VOLUNTEER NOTES

(By RIFLEMAN.)

The Engineers go into camp at Fort Cartley on the 23rd inst., and will remain under canvas for 16 days.

Sol. Sgt. Gibson, of the Victoria Rifles, has resigned from active service in the corps, and will go on the reserve strength. It is stated that in all probability payment will be made to all volunteers who attend the Easter manuvres this year, irrespective of the proportion of company strength attending.

Capt. Carpenter, A.A.G., will probably visit Cambridge on or about Friday, the 22nd inst., for the purpose of examining those officers who are up for promotion on their practical knowledge of military duties.

A meeting of the officers commanding squadrons of the 2nd Regiment A.M.R. will be held in Hamilton on Friday, February 12, when, amongst other matters, arrangements for the Easter and annual training camps will be made.

The detachment of No. 3 Company A.G.A. have returned from their trip to the Kaitiaki and Maketu districts, after a very successful and enjoyable visit, during which they competed in several rifle matches.

Several promotions take effect this week in No. 1 Company Garrison Artillery. Corporal West becomes sergeant, Gunner Marshall becomes corporal, and Gunners Cockayne and Hipkins have been raised to the rank of bombardiers.

The examinations for the No. 2 Co. Garrison Artillery take place on the last Monday of this month. The company is also holding paid daylight parades on Saturdays, the first being on the 23rd inst. The company is taking the company through the annual camp, which commences on February 5.

Captain Richardson, artillery instructor for the Dominion, will arrive in Auckland on the 22nd inst. at the Victoria Rifles (Garrison Artillery) camp, which commences at Fort Bastion this week. He will remain through the camps of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, the former at Fort Cartley and the latter at Maketu, Hakapu, both being under canvas together.

As a result of the win by the Victoria Rifles No. 3 team of the championship in the teams' match at the recent rifle meeting, the Auckland Rifle Club will be the first and second teams of the corps are on the move to arrange a re-trial of marksmanship, the team with the lowest score to find a shooting trophy for the corps.

Col. Bell, O.C. the Second Regiment A.M.R., is at present on a tour of inspection in the Waiatema of the Government Property in the possession of the regiment. Some time ago, the New Zealand Defence Council invited applications from officers of the defence forces who were desirous of proceeding to England to undergo a twelve-month course of military instruction, with a view to being promoted to the New Zealand instructional staff. Three applications have already been received from local officers. It should be repeated that all such applications must be received by the O.C.D. before the time of their arrival at Wellington by February 25th.

With the approach of the Garrison Artillery camps, attention is once more directed to the duty of the members to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the recent circular (dated October 24th, 1908), from Captain Richardson, artillery instructor, who has travel much to say in the way of instruction and advice as regards the annual encampment. Lieutenant-Colonel Patterson, O.C. Garrison Artillery, is desirous of all giving special attention to the study of the remarks made by Captain Richardson in this connection.

Some 83 applications (including officers) have been received by the promoters, for enrolment in the new Highland Rifle Corps, for which arrangements are under way, and, as this will be proving for the first time considerably the required number, the nucleus of a second company is expected to remain after the first is formed. Mr. P. M. Mackay, who is actively participating in the work of formation, states that the uniform selected is that of the 42nd (Black Watch), and that the probable date for the acceptance of the new corps, which will be known as the Auckland Highland Rifles, will be within two or three weeks.

A White Paper recently issued by the War Office, gives particulars of the amounts granted by colonial Governments to their rifle associations. In it may be seen how much more thorough is the system of encouragement to shooting overseas than it is at home. Canada gives an average of 32 million dollars annually, nearly one-half of which goes to the Canada Rifle Association, whose teams do so well at Bisley, and who produce such a network of marksmanship-instructors throughout the Dominion. This association also receives 100,000 pounds of ammunition free. New Zealand gives its chief association £600, and when a team is selected for Bisley, a special grant of £1650 is usually made. Australia has spent an average of £8000 a year during the last few seasons in grants to clubs, quite apart from ammunition and other advantages. The Cape of Good Hope gives £2500; the Transvaal, £1000; Ceylon, 500 rupees; East Africa keeps up a voluntary rifle association of £2100 last year; Hongkong, £20,000 dollars; Jamaica, £525; Nyasaland, £100; and Rhodesia, £2200.

VOLUNTEER RIFLE CLUB.

FORMED IN AUCKLAND.

Some time ago Captain J. Potter, of the A Squadron 1st Regiment, Auckland Mounted Rifles, was approached by members of several volunteer corps in Auckland, with a view to the formation of a Volunteer Rifle Club. The project took practical form at a meeting of the Shooting Committee of the A Squadron, held last week,

when it was decided to form a club, to be known as the Auckland Volunteer Rifle Club.

The objects of the club are to promote shooting matches every Saturday during the season for trophies on the Penrose Range. All members of corps in Auckland are invited to assist in the promotion of the club, and it is expected that the club will undoubtedly prove of immense advantage to volunteers generally throughout the district. A meeting has been fixed to take place on the second week in August, 1909, when a committee will be elected, each corps affiliated to have an equal number of representatives. The annual subscription has been suggested as 5s for each corps, and every member of such corps may compete free at all matches, the entrance fee being 10s for each member of a volunteer corps not affiliated. All further information may be obtained from Captain Potter, to whom applications should be made for affiliation.

It is sincerely to be trusted that adequate support will be offered by the members of the various corps in this worthy object. The advantages to be derived in the promotion of such a scheme are so generally over-estimated, and the weekly shooting matches, open to all members of the affiliated clubs, and, on payment of an entrance fee, to other volunteers, will afford extensive opportunities of acquiring marksmanship. Trophies will, I am sure, be soon forthcoming, and it may be regarded as certain that, with such chances offering, rifle shooting is bound to get ahead rapidly, together with the general and important improvement. All interested in the work will undoubtedly join in wishing the new club every success.

EASTER ENCAMPMENT.

I learn from Colonel Wolfe, O.C.D., that, subject to the approval of the chief of the general staff, the site for the Easter Encampment was last week definitely fixed for New Lynn. The soldiers in the vicinity have (Colonel Wolfe states) very kindly afforded all assistance, by according permission for the use of their land, and a good camping ground has been arranged for about a mile from New Lynn station, towards the south. As stated in this column last week, the camp will this year partake more of an instructional nature with regard to tactics and defence, and it is probable that the manoeuvres may extend even as far out as Henderson. It will thus be seen that the camp will this year be much more conveniently situated for purposes of both training and transport than was the case last year. The units concentrate on the Thursday, April 8th, and commence work on the Friday.

A meeting of the proposed Auckland South African Scouts was held last week in the Drill Hall. Correspondence was read by Capt. Colbeck, intimating that the services of the corps could only be accepted by the defence officer on the understanding that the corps be attached to and part of the present regiment of Auckland Mounted Rifles. There are 60 men who saw service during the South African war who have sent in their names as willing to serve in a Scouts Corps, but they are not in favour of being attached to any other body. It is stated that there are already one or two independent corps in Auckland, and these men claim that if they are willing to serve as scouts, they should not be compelled to attach themselves to any other corps. The meeting decided to make further effort to have what the men desired agreed to, and for that purpose it was arranged that a deputation should wait upon Mr. W. B. Leyland, as president of the National Defence League, to see if he could do anything in the direction of having the services retained for the defence of the Dominion of men who had seen actual service in the field. The meeting decided that it could not serve under the conditions set forth in the correspondence, and forwarded a request that the New Zealand Defence Council should reconsider its decision in the matter.

ONE THING AT A TIME.

The passionate rhythms of "The Merry Widow" waltz floated through the office, and the boss looked up from his desk impatiently. "Frederic," he said, "I wish you wouldn't whistle at your work, 'I ain't workin', sir,' the office boy replied calmly. 'I'm only just whistlin'."

Tunnelling the Alps.

A lot of interesting information contributed to "Chambers' Journal" for October by Mr. H. G. Archer on the railway constructed and projected through the Alps. The following are great Alpine tunnels at present constructed:—Mont Cenis (1857-70), 7 miles 1,730 yards; St. Gotthard (1872-80), 9 miles 469 yards; Arberg (1878-83), 6 miles 550 yards; Albula (1898-1903), 3 miles 1,150 yards; Simplon (1898-1905) 12 miles 537 yards. It will be obvious that a high level tunnel through the immense barriers formed by the Alpine ranges entails long and steeply-graded ascents to its portals. The Mont Cenis tunnel has a maximum altitude of 4,248 feet above sea-level. The highest point reached by the St. Gotthard tunnel is 3,787 feet. The Arberg line has climbed up to an altitude of 4,300 feet by the time the centre of the tunnel is reached, and its approaches are almost as steep as those on the St. Gotthard. But while the Simplon tunnel is the least steeply graded, and therefore the most economical to operate, of any transalpine railway so far constructed, the tunnel itself achieves a fresh record in respect of depth. The depth of its axis beneath the surface averages 3,740 feet, and where the frontier between Switzerland and Italy is crossed attains the phenomenal depth of 7,000 feet. The deepest point in the St. Gotthard tunnel is 6,076 feet, in the Mont Cenis 4,900 feet, and in the Arberg 1,600 feet.

The cost of the Simplon tunnel (says Mr. Archer) as at present constructed, was £3,120,000. During the short time that has elapsed since it was opened such an enormous stream of traffic has flowed along the new route that it has been decided at once to proceed with the duplication of the line by enlarging the auxiliary tunnel to its full dimensions, which task will occupy about three years and cost another £1,000,000, and also with shortening the approaches from the north.

What is known as the Loetschberg railway, will be a fifth great Alpine tunnel, piercing the Bernese Alps. The object of the Loetschberg line is to shorten the approaches to the Simplon from central Switzerland, Germany, and north-western Europe generally. The south-bound traveller who enters the Continent at Calais or Boulogne will no longer pass through Paris on the other hand, he will be borne through Berne, the capital of Switzerland. By this means the length of the direct journey between Calais and Milan will be shortened from 725 miles to 672 miles, while that between Paris and Milan will become 511 miles instead of 523 miles in length. The great tunnel will pierce the Schafberg, a peak 8,440 feet in height, and pass underneath the Gastern valley and the Loetschberg Pass, emerging at Goppenstein, in the lower part of the latter pass. The distance from portal to portal is 8.53 miles, and the alignment of the perforation is dead straight. At the summit of the perforation, which reaches an altitude of 4,900 feet above sea-level, there will be a perfectly long stretch, where, if necessity arises, trains can be shunted or transferred from one track to the other. The total length of the Loetschberg railway from Frutigen to Baron will be 20 1/2 miles; and besides the great tunnel there will be thirty-three others, forming about 22 per cent of the total length of the line of access to the former. The entire contract has been let by a syndicate of Parisian capitalists for the sum of £3,500,000 sterling, and the work must be completed and ready for traffic by 1st September, 1911.

A Deaf and Dumb Band.

The only brass band in the world whose members are deaf and dumb is in America. This remarkable band belongs to the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. To teach a person who is afflicted in this way to play an instrument and get him to understand something of musical notation, would appear at first an impossible task, and it was only accomplished after many months of patience, being of necessity taught with the utmost exactness, the pupils developed a confidence of execution not found in the average musical student. Certain rules were laid down which the deaf-mute had to follow explicitly; and the result was absolute correctness in playing.



In exchange for this advt. we will present you a copy of our new Catalogue of Engraving, etc. by H. W. Evans, R.A., on absolutely free postage by 1st class. If four copies wanted add 1/6 for packing and postage. Send no money. Write to CHARLES WILKIE, 100, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

The Librarian is made solely to introduce... Catalogue of Engraving, etc.