



THE NORTHERN MAIN TRUNK LINE.

Map of the country North of Helensville, which will enable the reader to follow the question of the route of the Main Trunk Line North of Auckland. The line is now open to Wellsford; and up to Tapanui. Bridge there is no dispute. The dotted lines show two divergent routes advocated by the Eastern and the Western parties, and the plain black line indicates the portions where they are in accord.

Hobson County Council, the Kaipara Chamber of Commerce, and the Kaipara Railway League, to the Hon. R. McKenzie, Minister for Public Works, the Minister spoke very enthusiastically of the quality of the land he had seen so far in Auckland North. People in the South had the impression that the land in the North was a bare and barren wilderness, but he could assure them that the land he passed through yesterday and to-day was the best he had seen in the country, and was so good and the population was so grand that

the country was warranted in vigorously pushing this North Auckland Trunk Line through. The cost of the line would reach fully 12 million. He again explained his position in the matter of the route, and he emphasised the fact that he was there to see even-handed justice to all. Whichever route was agreed upon, it would be fixed with the confidence that it would be best for the country generally, and he was satisfied that the Government would in this matter retain the confidence and goodwill of the settlers concerned.

# Sports and Pastimes.

## CRICKET.

### Auckland.

The championship matches, under the auspices of the Auckland Cricket Association were continued on Saturday last. Ponsonby went in first in their match with University and compiled 194, those who got into double figures being Woods 64, Kavanagh 47, not out, Siedden 26, Francis 25, and Henon 12. Fawcett took four wickets for 63, Robinson three for 55, and Fenwick two for 33. When time was called the University team had 78 up for three wickets.

E. Horspool's innings for 120 was the feature of the Grafton match with Eden A. Grafton were at the wickets all the afternoon for 375; the prominent scorers besides Horspool being R. Mason 82, P. Horspool 61, D. Hill 38, and S. P. Jones 25. Cummings, Murdoch, and Bridges took two wickets each, and Stevens, Mills, and Brooke-Smith were responsible for one wicket each. Parnell compiled 110 in their first match against Eden Collis, the three dou-

ble figures scorers being E. V. Sale 47, Somerville 31, and C. O'Hill 13. Reff was as usual responsible for the smallness of the total, his average being six wickets for 34 runs. Alexander took three for 24. The Colts have 111 up on the board with only three wickets down, Reff making 63, and Taylor 25. O'Hill took three wickets for 28 runs.

City made a very poor show against North Shore, their first innings only realising 59. Of the Shore bowlers, McMahon took four wickets for 6 runs, Jackson, three for 10, and Howden two for 19. The Shore knocked up 238 before stumps were drawn, the chief scorers being Hadden 65, Kallender 43, Philson 34, Howden 29. The most successful bowler on the City side was Neill who captured seven wickets for 108.

### Thames.

The Hauraki and Tararua teams met for the third round of the season on Saturday, and as the match will practically decide the cup competition, considerable interest was manifested. Tararua, batting first, were

dismissed for the small total of 37. Brown 20 and Hurchan 13 being the principal scorers. Hauraki faced even worse, and when the last wicket fell the total had only reached 41. The game will be continued next Saturday.

### Hamilton.

The Cup matches were continued on Saturday in fine weather. At Seddon Park, East B. beat East A. by six runs. At Steel Park, Rangitira met Kaitiaki, winning by 60 runs.

### Waikato.

#### WAIKATO, Saturday.

The concluding match of the Cup competition under the auspices of the Waikato Cricket Association was played this afternoon between Suburbs and West Clubs, resulting in a win for the former by six wickets and 113 runs.

West were all disposed of for the small total of 18. Johnston took seven for 12, and Carnalwhaita two for 7. Loveridge 50, Loveridge 51, and E. Johnston 18 (not out) were the principal scorers for the winners.

Suburbs win the Waikato Company's championship Challenge Shield for the third year in succession. This season they have won all their matches—nine in number.

### Canterbury.

#### CHRISTCHURCH, Saturday.

The eighth round of the senior grade matches was commenced this afternoon. When the wickets were in capital order consequent on the spell of dry weather experienced lately, West Christchurch gained practically a winning position against St. Albans, whilst Sydenham occupied the wickets all the afternoon against East Christchurch, putting up the fine score of 307 for nine wickets. Linwood gained a strong lead over Riccarton, who were all out for 106. Linwood responding with 193 for four wickets. The scores were:—Riccarton, first innings, 106; Linwood, first innings, 193; St. Albans, first innings, 47, and 83 for seven wickets. The match Canterbury A. v. Albion resulted in a victory for the former, also on the first innings. Canterbury declared the first innings closed with 292 for three wickets (Blairies 138 not out, Watson 71, Albion, who made 69 in the first innings, put on 321 for eight wickets in the second innings (Anderson 103, Haldenstone 51).

### Otago.

#### DUNEDIN, Sunday.

Crickets matches were continued yesterday in fine weather. Carisbrook B. defeated strange by 39 runs on the first innings. The totals were 174 and 116 (Byrnes 47, and the former 189 Austin 46, and 46 for three wickets. Opoho secured a win over Dunedin by 23 runs on the first innings. The winners compiled 177 (Ellis 61, and Dunedin 124 and 83 for seven wickets. The match Carisbrook A. v. Albion resulted in a victory for the former, also on the first innings. Carisbrook declared the first innings closed with 292 for three wickets (Blairies 138 not out, Watson 71, Albion, who made 69 in the first innings, put on 321 for eight wickets in the second innings (Anderson 103, Haldenstone 51).

### New Zealand Umpires' Association.

The Auckland Cricket Umpires' Association have discussed the formation of a New Zealand Umpires' Association, and the following outline of the scheme has been decided upon, the secretary being instructed to refer the same to other associations for consideration:—

1. The New Zealand Umpires' Association shall consist of deputy members of all umpires' associations in the Dominion.
  2. The objects of the association shall be:—(a) To furnish competent umpires for all representative matches; (b) to constitute an Appeal and Advisory Board to deal with all matters pertaining to the laws of cricket; (c) to promote the interchange of opinions and ideas between members of the different umpires' associations; and to secure, if possible, any desired alteration or amendment of the rules of cricket which may conduce to the improvement and popularity of the game.
  3. The officers of the association to consist of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer, examination committee, and hon. solicitor.
  4. All members of the New Zealand Umpires' Association shall pass the examination set by the examining committee.
  5. The headquarters of the association shall be in Wellington.
  6. Meetings shall be held annually, and the expenses of the delegates shall be defrayed by the several cricket associations. The first meeting to be held early in 1909.
  7. The number of delegates from each association shall not exceed three, seven to form a quorum.
- All other matters to be decided at preliminary meeting at Wellington.

### The N.Z. Council.

The New Zealand Cricket Council decided last week that the secretary should communicate direct with the South African cricket authorities, and ascertain the terms upon which the team which is to visit Australia would extend its tour to New Zealand. It was further decided that the Management Committee should consider the rules governing the Plunket Shield matches, with a view to alteration if advisable, the committee to consult the associations with the proposed alterations.

It was resolved that the Management Committee consider the best method of dealing with the net proceeds of the Plunket Shield matches. The mover suggested that the gate receipts, after expenses had been deducted, should be divided equally between the association holding the trophy. The challenging association, and the committee on this was objected to, and the opinion was expressed that the net proceeds after expenses had been deducted would be sufficient for the committee.

### Public Schools Cricket.

The cricket championship banner, competed for by the public schools of Auckland, and won this year by the Mount Eden School, was presented to the winning team on Saturday at the Domain pavilion by the Rt. Hon. Sir J. G. Ward, Prime Minister.

The weather, which had been overcast in the early morning, threatening rain, had brightened up considerably by 11 o'clock, and there was a large attendance of cricketing enthusiasts, including several hundred schoolboys, at the Domain.

### Postal Match.

Great interest is being taken in postal and telegraph circles in the about to be inaugurated annual cricket match between officers of those departments who are stationed in Auckland and Wellington. The fixture is to be played in Wellington next Thursday and Friday, and the Auckland representatives left for the South via the Main Trunk last Tuesday night. The teams are as follows:—Wellington: Messrs. Jackson, Hollis, Howard, Loader, McKay, Moffat, Phillips, Pinner, Tyrrell, Wyatt, and Eccleton, Auckland: Messrs. Little, Wilk, Mill, Duffy, Cossey, Warner, Graham, A. Jackson, T. A. Jackson, Lloyd.

### The Australian Eleven.

The choice of the Australian Eleven is causing the usual storm of criticism.

The preponderance of opinion is that the combination is strong in batting, but weak in bowling.

The Eleven has, as was generally expected, elected Frank Laver manager.

The Board of Cricket Control has decided to select Hopkins as alternate man for the team. Noble has been appointed captain.

### LONDON VIEWS.

The "Times" regrets Clem. Hill's absence from the Australian eleven, but says that the inclusion of Rusford and Bardsley is some compensation. The batting is exceptionally strong, but the bowling is weak. Noble will make an admirable captain.

"Sporting Life" considers the bowling doubtful.

A. O. Jones, who captained the English team which visited Australia last season, writing in the "Daily Mail," is greatly disappointed at the choice of the remaining six. It is, he says, strange that the other selectors have gone against Hill's superior judgment. Perhaps the fact that McAlister is on the Selection Committee had something to do with his selection. The batting is strong, but the bowling is weak. The redeeming feature of the side is its fielding.

### Facts and Figures of N.S.W. Victorian Matches.

### SOME EXCITING FINISHES.

### AND RUNAWAY VICTORIES.

On the cricket field New South Wales and Victoria have figured in many remarkable contests, which have recalled the often-quoted expression concerning "the bulldog tenacity of the British race." There have been occasions when the odds were tremendous against one of the teams winning, yet the players have "set their teeth" and fought on until the tide had turned, and almost certain defeat has been converted into victory.

One splendid win, which will long be remembered, was gained by New South Wales in the match at the Sydney Cricket Ground in January, 1903. It was, in fact, a remarkable game throughout. On a perfect wicket the Victorians were dismissed for 207, McBeth capturing four wickets for 70 and Pye four for 63. Then Victor Trumper and Reg. Duff went in, and passed their opponents' score before being