

fastest time in which the race has been accomplished, Multiform and Seahorse, who previously held the record, being deprived of it by a quarter of a second.

It was pleasing to find Formula at last scoring a win for the Hon. H. Massey. The filly has wonderful running blood in her veins, and it was expected she would have placed a race to her credit accounts long since. Multiform's sister has been some time opening the ball, but now she has commenced, it may be other victories will soon come her way.

The Committee of the Wellington Racing Club met on Monday last and passed programmes for the current year's meeting. The total net stakes will be £11,160, as against £9,709 last year. Mr H. Piper was re-appointed starter, Mr J. O. Evelt handicapper for the open events, and Mr J. E. Henrys for hack races.

The jumper Kanaka has been blistered in both forelegs, and is turned out in a paddock at the Lake.

The running of Mr Stead's colt Formosan would seem to indicate that he prefers a short distance race, and it seems probable that his forte will be sprint races. The running of the St. Leger colt at Hawke's Bay was a decided improvement on his showing at Wanganui, and it is probable that he may have been a trifle short of work.

Betting on the New Zealand Cup shows very little alteration this week. Record Reign, despite the rumours that were floating about town regarding the horse going sore in his work, still holds his position at the head of the list, and 4 to 1 has been accepted about the son of Castor's chance. Tortulla since her win at Wanganui has hardened to 6 to 1, while the same price may be obtained about Malatun. 7 to 1 is offered about S. Harlo, 10 to 1 Military, 14 to 1 Skobeloff, and 16 to 1 Miss Delaval.

From Sydney comes word that the brood mare industry has foaled a sister to Gaulus and The Grafter.

Seahorse will finish his cup preparation at W. Hickenbotham's establishment.

The next Calgoorlie Cup will have £2000 attached to it. Evidently racing is booming in the Golden West.

During the week the cable gave us the result of the Imperial Produce Stakes of £3000 sovs, run at the Sandown Park meeting. The winner turned up in Mr H. Chaplin's bay filly by Galopin from Queen Adelaide, while Volodyoski and Santalina finished in the other places.

Malster is a firm favourite at 7 to 4 against in Melbourne for the V.R.C. Derby. Hautboy has hardened to 3 to 1, while Finland and Kinglike are quoted at 8 to 1.

GOLF NOTES.

(By Bogey.)

Heavy rain interrupted play on the links about 3 o'clock, and most players went home by the 4.10 train, despairing of the weather. However, those who remained were rewarded by a fine hour from 4.30 to 5.30, and the links were more pleasant in consequence of there being fewer players.

The grass in the Club Houses paddock is very long—too long for any accurate play, and as sheep cannot keep the grass down at this season, the committee should put in some cattle, even at the risk of cutting up the surface of the ground a little.

Is it not time that the committee were harrowing and rolling the polo holes in order to get them fit for play?

Tom Morris is distinctly a very wonderful man, and one indeed, who seems to fall altogether to "hear the muffled tramp of years come stealing up the slope of time." Last week, during the championship, he was a central figure, and moved about in a manner altogether unbecoming a man who was about to celebrate his 79th birthday. The vast benefit to health to be derived from constantly playing golf, more especially in such air as St. Andrews, was surely never more exemplified than in the case of Tom Morris. The "young" old man celebrated his birthday on Saturday, by covering the course of St. Andrews, and though he fell to beat such a golfer as Mr H. S. S. Everard, he far from

disgraced himself, as the well-known amateur only won at the 16th hole (One can only express a sincere wish that Morris may celebrate many more birthdays in like fashion).

The following from "Golf Illustrated" may prove of interest to local golfers in the matter of straight putting:—"A. H. Scott tells me he has had a most gratifying success with his patent 'straight-line putter,' having sold many hundreds during the past year. The distinctive 'point' about Scott's putter is the narrowing down of the upper surface to an almost razor edge, by which device the eye is enabled with ease and certainty to adjust the putter face to the true right angle with the desired line of putt. In addition to this Scott has resisted the temptation, which amounts with many modern club makers to a crime of unduly shortening the blade of his club; the generous length which he allows to his putter is an additional help in 'squaring' the club to the ball."

CHRISTCHURCH.

October 1, 1900.

The final for the Christchurch Golf Club's Championship was played on the Shirley Links on Saturday last, when R. Kitto and T. Ferguson met to do battle for the honour. There was a sou'-west gale blowing, which interfered considerably with the play, but apart from that, the form shown by both contestants was extremely poor. Probably the nervousness which seems inseparable from a final had a good deal to do with it. The game was a very close one, and Kitto was only returned the winner at the 18th hole by 2 up. Kitto started off well by winning the first three holes, and then Ferguson broke his driver, a piece of misfortune which doubtless had a strong bearing on the ultimate result. He, however, played up in the most plucky manner, reducing his opponent's lead steadily till at the 8th hole he was himself 1 up. In driving to the 9th hole Ferguson pulled to the left, while Kitto fozzled and went into the swamp. By a good recovery with his niblick, however, he laid the ball three yards from the hole with his second. Ferguson fozzled his approach and took 5 to Kitto's 4. All square half way round. The game see-sawed until the 16th hole was reached, when the players were again all square, with two to play. Ferguson drove a beautiful ball to the left of the hole where the grass was rather long. Kitto played short and to the right. His second landed him on the edge of the green, while Ferguson's approach fell short. The latter fozzled his next, and Kitto laid his ball dead, going down in 4 to his opponent's 5. At the last hole Kitto managed to negotiate the swamp, while Ferguson found it, failing to get out in his net. By fozzling his 3rd, he practically gave the hole to Kitto, who got down in 4. Kitto has now succeeded in winning the Club Championship three years in succession. Ferguson's style is beautiful to watch, and his driving was first-class throughout, his approaching and putting being weak, as were his opponent's. When he is in really good form he will be a very troublesome man to beat, and I hope to see him competing in the next New Zealand Championship, when he is sure to give a good account of himself. He is certainly a great acquisition to the Christchurch Golf Club.

NIBLICK.

CRICKET.

Cricketers were disappointed for the second time on Saturday, and very little practice was indulged in. The rain held off until a good number had assembled, but as sooner were the nets up than down it came. A few of the keener enthusiasts managed to obtain some little play, but it is doubtful if the practice obtained was sufficient to compensate for the damage done to the wickets, and also to the material. As the cup contests will probably commence on the 20th, there is none too much time for getting into form, and unless the clerk of the weather shortly relents, the scoring in the opening match is hardly likely to be heavy.

The cricket season in the South was to have opened a couple of weeks ago, but at present they are in our position, wet Saturdays having prevented any play.

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CYCLING.

Amongst the many reforms suggested in connection with the British Army one of the most prominent has been the necessity for introducing the cyclist as a regular branch of the service. When such an idea was first mooted wisecracks soon poohed the idea, and the many "street corner" generals treated the idea with derision. However, the authorities were convinced, reluctantly no doubt that the idea was a good one, and the experiments made proved eminently successful, so much so that the matter may now be said to have passed the experimental stage.

Referring to cycling manoeuvres on a large scale, recently carried out under the direction of General Sir F. Maurice, the "Illustrated Mail" says:—"Not so very long ago those venturesome and innovating spirits who dared to suggest that cycles could in any way replace the time-honoured battle horse in carrying marksmen to the extreme front of an army, were thought to be entirely too subversive of all preconceived ideas. The cycle, it was then said, might be useful enough to carry orderlies or other non-effective fighting units, but anything more was impossible. However, General Sir Frederick Maurice has established once and for all the fallacy of these old-fashioned ideas. His scheme of coast defence, which was practically put to the test last week in a tentative and partially skeleton form, proved conclusively that cyclists make a very reliable and efficient line of defence, particularly for the express purpose of harrying, worrying, thwarting, and delaying an advancing enemy. The general only wished to demonstrate that much. An enemy having landed on the South Coast, it became imperative to keep him in check for a sufficient period wherein to mobilise the regular forces. Towards this end the organised defence of over forty South Coast roads by a contingent of two thousand men on each road, divided into watches of three hundred, systematically relieving one another, and continually sniping at the cuts and cross-roads whereby to keep up inter-communication between the columns, the use of motor cars for transport, and also for automatic quick-firing guns in each road, were all integral parts of the full organisation. It is now more

than probable that we are closely approaching a further development of military cycling as an important factor in home warfare, that is, in the defence of the British Isles. The possibilities of the cycle have forcibly impressed themselves upon the great chiefs of the army, including the Commander-in-Chief himself, General Maurice has been the first to put these potentialities to the test, and, thanks to the able assistance he received from one and all who allied themselves with him in the carrying out of his scheme, he has been able to show that much can be done towards using the cycle as an independent and trustworthy arm of defence."

ATHLETICS.

Supporters of amateur athletics are promised a rare treat next month at the Spring Meeting of the Amateur Athletic Club. Mr M. Rosingrave, the well-known hurdler, has returned to Auckland, and has expressed his intention of meeting our champion, G. W. Smith, over 120yds hurdles. The meeting of these two champions should prove a wonderful attraction, as Australian authorities have long contended that their crack would prove more than a match for our man, "Prodigal," of the Sydney "Referee," the admitted authority in New South Wales on all matters connected with athletics, has never tired of singing Rosingrave's praises, and one can clearly gather from his writing that he considers Smith rather lucky not to have bumped up against the Irish man.

That the two have never met, so far, has been no fault of the Auckland, as he has more than once crossed to Australia with the avowed intention of settling who was the better man, but the fates have ruled otherwise, as on each occasion Rosingrave broke down during his training. It is sincerely to be hoped that his weak member will not go against Rosingrave next month, and that the pair may go to the mark fit and well will be the fervent wish of all lovers of athletics.

It is a long way ahead to start tipping, but all the same I may state that I do not by any means agree with "Prodigal" in my estimate of the chances of the two men, and am inclined to think that the fact of their