

# Sports and Pastimes.

## WITH SAIL AND MOTOR

### NOTES FROM THE WATERFRONT.

(By RINGTAIL.)

**A** MEETING of the Committee of the Auckland Anniversary Regatta Association was held in the office of the Secretary (Mr. C. C. Daere) on Wednesday last, and every member was present. This regatta promises to be the best held for many years, and the Committee are quite enthusiastic about their work. No difficulty will be experienced about a flagship this year, as there are several large liners due in port about the date fixed (owing to the 29th January falling on Sunday, the regatta will be held on Monday). The entries for all classes are expected to constitute a record, and it is hoped that it will be so, as the committee give a very great deal of time to the getting together of funds, and as Aucklanders are justly proud of their beautiful harbour it is to be hoped that they will give the committee the assistance that is expected. It would be a thousand pities for the time honoured function to be allowed to drop. It is quite possible that we may be favoured with a visit from the Australian Squadron in January, and this would lend additional attraction to the function. It is to be hoped that we get a finer day than we had last year, which, of course, makes all the difference in the number of spectators, but that not being in our hands we must hope for the best. There can be no finer sight for people who live inland, as well as those along the waterfront, than the harbour covered with white sails gliding along with a fresh breeze over the sparkling water. There is not a dull moment in a whole day spent aboard the flagship on Regatta Day.

Building is still very brisk. Mr. C. Bailey has a large launch for the Clevedon Steam Ship Co. planked up and caulked, and she should be ready for the water about the middle of December.

The keel of the twin-screw launch for the Tongan Government will be laid down this week, and the work pushed forward as fast as possible. She will be fitted with two 14 h.p. Anderson engines.

Messrs. Bailey and Lowe's yard has a very busy appearance. A number of small boats are on the stocks in every stage of construction. The fine launch for Mr. Twigg has now been planked up, and has a very powerful appearance, no pains having been spared to bring her as near perfection as possible.

Messrs. Collins and Bell have their shed full of small work, besides a 26ft. launch for Mr. D. Bell.

A fine twin-screw steamer for the New Zealand Shipping Co., Ltd., was launched from Mr. C. Bailey's yards on Saturday morning. She is to be used at Napier for lightering purposes. The launch took place a little before nine o'clock. As the vessel started to glide down the ways Miss Laurel Bailey, the builder's daughter, broke a bottle of champagne over her bows, and christened her Kotunui, amidst the cheers of the spectators. The anxious moments, as she increased speed down the ways, were groundless, as she took the water without the slightest hitch, shooting well out till brought up by the cables. She was brought alongside the breastwork, where the work of installing boilers and engines and stepping masts will be carried out. The following are the dimensions of the Kotunui: Length between perpendiculars 107 feet, water-line 97 feet, beam 24 feet, 8 feet depth of hold, draught 8 feet loaded. The engines are being installed by Fraser and Sons, engineers, of Auckland.

Mr. G. Nicol also launched from his yard a few minutes later a handsome scow for Messrs. Wilson, Ltd., for the cement trade between Mahurangi and Auckland. As soon as the ties were cut a bottle of champagne was broken over her bows, christening her Portland, and amidst the cheering of all present, she took the water without a hitch. The masts will be stepped this week, and she should be ready to take up her run-

ning by the end of the month. The following are the dimensions of the Portland: Length 75 feet, beam 21 feet, depth 5 feet. She will be ketch rigged by Messrs. Jagger and Harvey. Messrs. J. Burns and Co. are making the sails. She is very strongly built throughout. Her topsides are painted white, and she is sheathed with totara below the water-line.

#### NORTH SHORE YACHT CLUB.

##### FIRST CRUISING RACE TO AWAROA BAY.

The North Shore Yacht Club held its first cruising and harbour races on Saturday. There were five cruising races, which were to Awaroa Bay, a good fleet entering for each race. The wind was well easterly, with a strong flood tide.

**Class I.**—In this class all crossed the line bar the Mammoth. The line crossed the line first, followed by Kitiwake and Marangi, and the rest well up. The times and positions are as follows: Marangi, finishing time 7h 26m 45s, corrected time 7h 25m 45s; position 1; Watiki, 7h 48m, 2h 25m, 2; Teatseuse, 7h 48m 50s, 7h 48m 50s, 3; Thistle, 7h 52m, 7h 30m, 4; Mahaki, 7h 52m 10s, 7h 44m 10s, 3; Kitiwake, 8h 27m, 8h 20m, 3; Speedwell, 8h 50m, 8h 50m, 7. Bronzewing did not finish.

**Class II.**—All started. Romp crossed first, followed by Pandora and Perl. Times: Romp, 7h 41m 35s, 7h 41m 35s, 1; Perl, 7h 49m 13s, 7h 49m 13s, 2; Pandora, 8h 23m, 8h 12m, 2; Lida, 9h 14m, 9h 7m, 4. Alexa, Maybelle and Tangaroa did not finish.

**Class III.**—This class got fairly away together, the Ronaki getting over the line first, closely followed by Calypso and the rest. The Emerald did not start, also Foam, Waitangi and Lina. Times: Calypso, 7h 29m 50s, 7h 29m 50s, 2; Waitere, 7h 30m, 7h 27m, 1; Ronaki, 7h 43m 13s, 7h 43m 13s, 4; Mistral, 7h 43m 30s, 7h 43m 30s, 3; Zee, 7h 52m 2s, 7h 44m 2s, 5; Mystery, 7h 57m 38s, 7h 49m 38s, 6. Gannet did not finish.

**Class IV.**—Eileen crossed first, followed closely by Hilda, Acacia and Dolphin. The rest was about 5min late. Times: Venus, 8h 1m 40s, 8h 1m 40s, 1; Mowat, 8h 37m 36s, 8h 37m 36s, 3; Kowhai, 8h 40m 45s, 8h 30m 45s, 2; Eileen, 9h 21m, 9h 11m, 4; Acacia, 9h 27m, 9h 25m, 5; Hilda, Waitangi, Mel and Dolphin did not finish.

**Class V.**—Only three started in this race, the Niobe getting away well before the other two, Kouini and Eua. The Eua was the only one to finish; time 11h 40m, corrected time 11h 38m.

**Open Boats.**—All started bar Wodonga. Rosina crossed first, Olive being next, and Mistral next, followed closely by the rest. Times: Mistral, 3h 3m 36s, 3h 3m 36s, 1; Flattie, 5h 9m 27s, 5h 4m 27s, 2; Saint, 5h 13m 18s, 5h 7m 18s, 3; Olive, 5h 15m 18s, 5h 10m 29s, 4; Rauwahi, 5h 20m 11s, 5h 12m 14s, 5.

Mr G. White was starter, and Mr W. T. Shaw timekeeper and judge, assisted by Mr H. Seager.

Geo. A. Tyler. E. Harvey.  
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**AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN SPRING SHOW, 1910.**

**ALEXANDRA PARK.**  
**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 25 AND 26.**

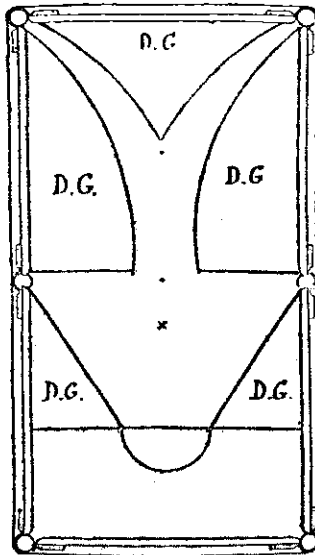
Office:  
HALL OF COMMERCE, HIGH-STREET.

### BILLIARDS.

#### Red Losing Hazards.

With that chief exponent of the losing-hazard game, the eighteen-year-old Australian youth, George Gray, about to engage in a series of matches throughout Great Britain, it is only reasonable to expect some uncommon performances in this direction, and a consequent desire on the part of our amateur players to follow his lead, remarks an expert in the "London Daily Telegraph." There are few billiardists, surely, who have failed to hear of the really remarkable scoring from the coloured ball young Gray has achieved in Australia during the past two years. Breaks of 400 and 500 points almost entirely compiled by his particular agency were events of minor importance to him. His fairly frequent 600's, and an occasional 700, were the stepping-stones in the formation of a new page in billiard history. This received its finishing touches when the mammoth break of 836 points, all but five points of which were scored by hazards from the red ball, came to pass last year. There were sceptics at Home here (including the writer) who mistrusted the message that the cables brought. It seemed too big a score, too heavy a strain on one of Gray's immature age. There were rumours, also, of an enlarged bank area, a circumstance wholly without foundation, but one which, had it been as alleged, must have materially lessened the magnitude of a very painstaking and, evidently, most accurately delivered chain of strokes.

In Justice to Gray, it should be stated that he received no such ulterior assistance in the making of a world's record break. To dispel any lingering doubts which may still remain in the atmosphere of the far-reaching billiard world, (Gray has come to the hub of it to prove his worth among the cream of the talent. This bold and confident step will, as I have pointed out, send the pendulum of billiard-playing fancies away from the top-of-the-table extreme, where it has mostly stood these past ten years, to the opposite side, and where it was placed in the days of the so-called spot-barred game which prevailed when the prolific spot-stroke held sway.



Showing the true field of positions for the red ball in a sustained run of losing hazards. The enclosed sections marked D.G. indicate the dead ground where the red ball should not stop. The point marked with X below the centre spot is the ideal position, affording the player, as it does, an optional losing hazard in either middle pocket from the D.

A red-ball break, by which term a snore or less prolonged succession of losing hazards from the red ball is meant, is at once a pleasing spectacle to those within easy sight of the table, and a trying achievement, as soon as it goes beyond moderate lengths, to the player. Having to play from about the same position out of bank, stroke after stroke, and utilise the same set of muscles in what may fairly be described as a very similar set of shots, the losing hazard operator will find himself more

tired after a lengthy attack upon the coloured ball than if he had scored double the amount of points by the more customary open, all-round play. The very effort of walking from point to point around the table between the strokes gives the necessary relief to the continual tax made upon the legs and back. Variety is ever charming, and in its own particular way, most restful. Anything to relieve the stress of monotony is the keynote in most things, and much so in billiards as in other matters of our daily lives. Without a doubt a special kind of training, and not less so the dogged phlegmatic temperament, is a rare factor in connection with long sequences of losing hazard strokes. Nine times out of ten it is fatigue that causes the failure. The eye or body is tired, the hand, as the controlling power for the shot, does not follow its given direction, and the object-ball is taken too fully or too thinly, and the score, if made, leaves the object-ball in unfavourable scoring ground, or, as is most likely, the opposing player is called to the table.

There are parts of the table to be avoided, "dead ground," as it were, which put the red ball out of reasonable scoring latitudes, as apart from its being left inside the bank line. These are approximately set forth by curving lines drawn against the top and side cushions on Diagram 1. Briefly, the player's aim is to bring the coloured ball shot after shot to the centre of the table, and, preferably, to a point some 18in. directly below the middle spot. This position admits of an optional losing hazard at either of the centre pockets. But like all the very best things possible, it is seldom realised. You may start off upon a losing hazard expedition with the red ball so placed, and never again get it there, or even directly in the middle line of the table, despite the fact that all things are possible in the unending variety of this, the most complex of all games. This is my own experience, and one duly confirmed by a close vigil kept for many years now upon the play of the leading practitioners. The red ball in almost every stroke is sent up to the top cushion, to come straight back at single strength, or at double strength through bank; but in the case of a long and short "jenny" and the very occasional slow, thin hazard, it comes squarely off the side-cushion or runs diagonally on the cloth. These references are confined to the middle pocket, which are decidedly more simple than those aimed at the top pockets, which are not so certain to be made nor replace the red ball well for the succeeding shot.

Without a doubt, the ideal of the pronounced losing hazard player, such as Gray now is and our own Melbourne Innan formerly was, is as lengthy a sequence of middle-pocket hazards as can be played, with the top-pocket "long losers" merely fitted in to regain contact with the middles. That is the theory of the red ball "break," and, like all theory, it needs the best of practice to keep at all in touch with it. The general amateur idea of playing up to one pocket is totally sound. When the red ball lies at the sides of the table, whether it be by the top or middle pockets, the player should frame his stroke so as to send it into the centre of the table. The idea is to keep it out towards the middle, when it lies there by full shots for the middle pockets, and half-ball drives for the top-pockets, that send it around the upper half of the table. And of all the strokes possible, the run-through at the middles is easily the safest and best when a connection is opened with the centre-pockets. This shot will, unless I am greatly mistaken, be more in favour with amateurs in a few months' time than is now the case. The lessons in losing hazards which the youthful Australian will furnish this billiard season will set a premium upon the run-through at the middle pockets.

Upon the second diagram, the two strokes given indicate the nature of the run-through shots mentioned. To those who never play the follow-through, unless actually compelled to do so, their apparently daring character will no doubt compel a close scrutiny. They only serve to show how vastly a different game is played by the professional experts and the skilled amateurs than that known to and rendered by the average every-day player, who dwells in little else than quarter to half an striking for almost every cannon or losing hazard. The "hundred-break" mere control and steer the object-ball, in addition to making the actual scoring stroke, which is only considered to be