

Sports and Pastimes.

LAWN TENNIS.

Davis Cup Matches.

TO BE PLAYED IN CHRISTCHURCH.

A SPECIAL meeting of the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association was held last week to decide the location of the Davis Cup contest for 1911. Mr C. J. W. Griffiths, president of the association, occupied the chair. The meeting first decided, by 31 votes to 18, after a brief discussion, that the New Zealand championships be held at the same time and place as the Davis cup contest.

Mr. W. Goss (Canterbury) moved that the Australasian Association be recommended to fix Christchurch as the place at which the Davis cup matches for 1911 should be played.

Mr. W. J. Organ (Wellington) moved an amendment in favour of Wellington.

There was no discussion on either motion or amendment, delegates apparently being satisfied that all possible arguments had already been advanced. The amendment was rejected, and the motion carried by 34 votes to 15.

The following committee was appointed to make arrangements for the contest—Messrs. E. J. Ross (convener), R. D. Harman, A. F. Wright, C. T. Aseham, E. J. Taylor, W. Goss, P. H. Cox, C. J. W. Griffiths, and (as ex-officio members) the presidents of the New Zealand Association and the Wellington, Canterbury, Auckland, and Otago Associations.

Mr. Organ congratulated Canterbury on the result of the voting, and said that the Wellington Association would do its best to make the tournament successful.

FOOTBALL.

Sport in Wairarapa.

Gladstone defeated Red Star in the senior competition last Saturday by 5 points to 3. It was the biggest surprise of the season, as Red Star was leading in the competition, and had just previously easily defeated their most formidable opponents, Carterton. Carterton seniors beat Masterton by 13 points to 3, at Carterton, last Saturday. Owing to Gladstone defeating Red Star the senior competition is "anybody's." Carterton, Red Star and Gladstone all being in the running.

Time was when passing rushes amongst the backs of Wairarapa were straight down the field. Now in most instances the reverse is the case, and the wing three-quarter rarely ever gets a decent run on. Of course, we see nice passing rushes occasionally; that is, the ball going through a number of hands, but how much ground is gained? Sometimes a few yards, and sometimes nothing at all. In many instances players lose ground through foolishly running back in the hope of getting round opponents. Was there ever a greater piece of folly? Wairarapa has not had a decent back since Joe O'Leary went to Auckland the year ago. Wairarapa was rich in backs years ago, men of undoubted ability like Archie D'Arcy (N.Z. rep.), Harry Whitley (in his day the best all-round back in New Zealand, playing in any position from half to full back), George Hanseca (the best half back Wairarapa has ever produced), Willie (who played many times for Wellington), "Barney" Ronaldson (who played for Wellington against Auckland in 1880, and has represented the Empire City on various occasions), Edgar Wright (a New Zealand rep. and not one of England's leading Northern Union players), Joe Perry, "Clipper" Fairbrother, "Tiki" Hudson, "Ted" McKenzie (a North Island rep.), Percy Rogers (a North Island rep.), Joe O'Leary (the best centre back Wairarapa has ever had), and hosts of others one could name. In the finer department of the game, we are going backwards, but it is pleasing to note that there is some slight improvement in the forward play this season. Wairarapa should be capable of turning out a good forward team this year.

The Wairarapa Rugby Union has a credit balance of some £30 now, and is in a position to make a tempting offer to Thames or Auckland for that matter—to visit this district and play.

The Rugby rough still continues his career unchecked. On Saturday last players in several games were knocked out, one in the Red Star-Gladstone match being rendered unconscious for fifteen minutes as the result of a savage kick by an opponent. It is estimated that the defeat of Red Star by Gladstone last Saturday resulted in about £300 changing hands, including on football matches held in Wairarapa, large sums of money changing ownership each Saturday. The betting has been heavier this season owing to the evenness of the teams in the senior competition.

BILLIARDS.

CHIVVYING THE WHITE.

A BILLIARD FORECAST.

The remarkable play of George Gray, the Australian boy champion, has induced the London "Punch" to give the following humorous forecast:—

From the "Sportsman" of January 1, 1913.—The outstanding event of the past year in the world of billiards, has undoubtedly been the new regulation about the losing hazard off the red. Mr. George Gray's (unfinished) break of 10,179 at Leicester in June, on which occasion he occupied the table for three consecutive weeks, and his opponent felt justified in spending the week-ends in the country, has at last opened the eyes of the authorities. It is not generally known that in the course of this match the right-hand centre pocket had to be three times renewed by a local upholsterer. The stroke was repeated with such perfect precision that after the first ten days no objection whatever was raised to spectators placing their hats on the left-hand side of the table, and on one evening towards the close the umpire went so far as to take his tea off it. While heartily sympathising with Mr. Gray, we feel sure that he will recognise that in the best interests of the game the new regulation could be no longer delayed, and his favourite stroke was bound to go the way of the spot-stroke and the anchor-stroke. Now that only ten such consecutive losing hazards off the red are permissible, we look for a revival in the interest taken in the game.

From the "Sportsman" of January 1, 1915.—It has been a year of great unrest in the billiard world. There is no doubt that the advent of the Chilian champion, Signor Pianola, has shown up weak spots in the game as it is at present played. His wonderful new stroke, by which he makes the red ball run along the top of the cushion, off the spot, into one corner pocket, while his own ball screws back into the other, has led to some astounding scores. As he always makes six in this manner at a single stroke his figures mount rapidly, and he appears to be able to repeat the performance indefinitely, so that his (unfinished) break of 23,675 at Wolverhampton in September was compiled in the remarkably short period of seventeen days. The authorities are, however, looking into the matter, and drastic action is expected. It is abundantly clear that the game has become too easy.

From the "Sportsman" of January 1, 1925.—The redoubtable Scot, Alexander McKetrick, who has caused such a profound sensation by his (unfinished) break of 78,952 at Exeter, which began in October, and was suspended in the beginning of last week, when the umpire declared the spot ball no longer playable, in formed our representative in the course of a chat last evening that he had spent no fewer than eight years in perfecting his new policy of chivvying the white. He pointed out that the red ball was now so hampered and protected by limitations that he had found it best to tuck it out of the way under the bottom cushion while he goes in off the white into each of the six pockets in turn. It is understood that the special regulations for the coming season are now under discussion.

From the "Sportsman" of 1951.—The match between Mr. Percy Plump and Herr Hans Kartoffen for the world's championship, which begins at Widnes on February 3, will be played under the new regulations. That is to say, with the circular table, the oblique pockets, and the diminished red. It is, by the way, whispered in certain circles that Mr. Plump has been elaborating a new stroke off the bunker guarding the centre pocket which may cause trouble. Herr Kartoffen has lodged a protest against the extension of the bank, pointing out—not without reason—that being a man of small stature it makes it almost impossible for him to play from behind the popping-crate without the use of the long rest. There is something, we think, to be said on both sides of this question.

Much interest is manifested in the

CHESS.

All communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor, "The Weekly Graphic and New Zealand Mail," Box 283, Auckland.

The Auckland Chess Club meets on Monday Thursday, and Saturday evenings, at No. 24, His Majesty's Arcade, Queen-street (2nd floor).

Notes.

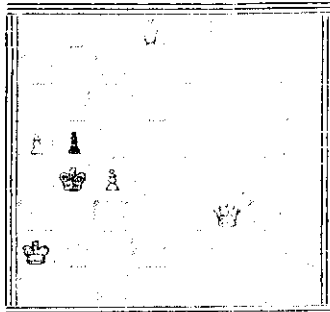
G. O. K-55 ch	B. Q2
7. QxKtP	B. K3
K. B. K5	Q. Kt
9. Q. B8. mate.	

A team chosen from players residing in the Wairarapa district has just paid a flying visit to Wellington, the trip being by way of a return call. It will be remembered that last spring, a representative team from Wellington journeyed to Masterton and played a couple of matches against the Wairarapa players. The visitors' sojourn in Wellington on this occasion extended over 43 days, during which time they played matches against the Workingmen's Wellington, Kibirnie, and South Wellington Chess Clubs. The scores were 34 to 54; 44 to 74; 44 to 64; and 3 to 8, respectively. In other words the wanderers scored 154 out of 43 games played, which is equal to 36 per cent. Considering the disadvantages under which a visiting team labours, this must be considered a fairly good performance. Following is a table showing how the individual players were placed by their captains, and how each one acquitted himself, the figures denoting the numbers of the boards at which the several members of the team played in each match. A win is denoted by the figure with asterisk, and a drawn game is indicated by the numeral being enclosed within brackets.

Position No. 99

(By A. Ursic.)

Black—two pieces.



White—five pieces.

White to play and mate in three moves.

Forsyth notation: 3B4, 8, 8, P16, 1kP5, 6Q2, K7, 8.
(Two weeks allowed for solution.)

Traps.

The following well-known trap is mentioned by the "Australasian" as having claimed Philidor as a victim in his early days. The same trap was presented by Dr Lasker in his first lecture before a London audience, and afterwards embodied in his "Common Sense in Chess."

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| 1. P-K4 | 2-K4 |
| 2. Kt-KB3 | P-Q3 |
| 3. B-B4 | P-KK3 |

The "Australasian" remarks: "This last move is typical of a young player afraid of some premature attack: Kt-QB3, developing a piece, should be played." Lasker says practically the same thing.

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| 4. Kt-B3 | B-K5 |
| 5. KtP | BxQ |
| 6. BxPch | K-K2 |
| 7. Kt-Q5 | mate. |

The "Australasian" adds: "Black had nothing better than 5. P-Kt, when White would have played 6. QxB, winning a pawn."

Here is another little game, which was recently played in the Auckland Chess Club, and which once more forcibly illustrates the folly of being too anxious to grab pawns. When one gains a pawn by the acceptance of a gambit, it is more often than not wasted energy to endeavour to retain "material" so gained. It is frequently wiser to abandon the pawn or piece which effected the capture, bearing in mind that the player who offered the gambit did so to gain "time."

CLOTH GAMBIT.

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|-----------------|--------------|
| White. | Black. |
| Rev. A. Miller. | Mr. Freeman. |
| 1. P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 2. P-K4 | P-P |
| 3. Kt-QB3 | Kt-KB3 |
| 4. B-KK5 | B-B4 |
| 5. Q-K2 | QxP |

This last move is disastrous, as will be seen. Black might safely play 5. P-QB3, or P-K3.

probable effect of the two new regulations—that which lays down that every stroke shall include a cannon off the red, and that which compels the player to use both ends of the one alternately. It is hoped that they will not so far reduce the scoring as to cause any further marked curtailment in the leisure of the performer who is not in play. The old custom of paying a visit to the Continent has already fallen into desuetude, but short trips to British beauty spots should still be possible.

The table will be tilted, as is customary, at an angle of 13 degrees.

This shows that, with one exception, every one of the visitors took a snip home with him. This should afford them individually some consolation for the fact that their side did not win; it also shows that the visitors were not altogether outclassed.

We expressed the opinion last year that these exchanges of visits are productive of much good. They enhance the brotherly feeling that undoubtedly exists between chess players all the world over, they make and cement friendships, and they give a tremendous fillip to chess in the country districts.

We now venture to throw out a suggestion to the Auckland players and the various country clubs.

Let Auckland city send a team to, say, Hamilton or Invercargill, or any other convenient meeting place, to meet a combined team representing the Auckland district. The latter would be composed of representatives from, say, Hamilton, Cambridge, Taunanga, Waikato, Paeroa, etc. They need not all be members of existing clubs. Doubtless many strong players lie hidden in the bush, and would emerge if a challenge were raised abroad. Then the country players could organise a return trip, and play the Auckland, Auckland Workingmen's, Leys Institute, Stanley Bay, and Otahuhu Clubs. No doubt other matches could be arranged on such an occasion. We don't think the expense need stand in the way, at any rate so far as a visit to Auckland is concerned. The visit of the Sheffield Choir has shown what can be done in the way of reducing the cost of a visit.

We believe that such a visit would provide more interest, excitement, and all round enjoyment than even a chess congress, and at less cost.

The reason the Sheffield Choir is here is because it is the best that England can give; and because it is the best, it is most good for us in the overseas Dominion, in my opinion. We are enlightened people, capable of absorbing the best in art that can be provided for us. After ten years' preparation, it is a proud moment for me to be able to say I can command the best all over the world.—*Dr. Chas. Harris.*