

**BARTON HANDICAP of 17500s.** One mile and a quarter.  
 C. Renault's Nighthawk, 6.13 (Conquest) 1  
 Sir Teatram, 8.6 (W. Lynn) 2  
 The Rover, 8.12 (R. J. C. G. G.) 3  
 Also started: Unsettled 9.10, Sandstream 8.6, Labour Day 8.3, Brown Trout 7.10, Kilmorie 7.10, Aloha 7.7, Ohaio 7.7, Kilmorie 7.7, Mountfau 7.4, Midland 7.3, Odessa 7.10.  
 Won by a length and a half. Time, 2.45.

**ELECTRIC HACK HANDICAP of 7000s.** Five furlongs.  
 L. Buckman's Lady Louisa, 7.5 (W. Bell) 1  
 Kaitia, 7.8 (L. Nodder) 2  
 Peagle, 7.0 (H. Berry) 3  
 Also started: Lady Louisa, 7.3, King 9, Yavonille 8.2, Merlin 7.10, Armitah 7.8, Miss Roberts 7.7, Perceval 7.0, Florence Nighthawk 7.6, Sir Daniel 7.3, Lady Mildred 7.1, Rosamund 7.0, Hierarchical 7.0.  
 Won by over two lengths. Time, 1.14.

**HACK STEEPCHASE of 10000s.** Two miles and a half.  
 G. Headley's Kelp, 9.12 (P. Cross) 1  
 Laughaun, 9.7 (H. Fitcher) 2  
 Tebel, 9.11 (A. J. McPherson) 3  
 Also started: Kaitia 9.12, Mountain Man 9.13, Papanaha 9.13, Puketotara 9.13, Bismarck 9.13, Smeone 9.7, Hiamoe 9.7.  
 Won easily. Don Carlos was left at the post. Papanaha hauled at the dead jump. Hauler of the hump and broke his neck. Time, 3.54.

**TUTAENUI HACK WEIGHTS.**  
 J. Cameron's Blood, 8.9 (C. Jenkins) 1  
 Master Ladd, 8.9 (W. Adams) 2  
 Cool Rogger, 8.13 (C. D. Jones) 3  
 Also started: The Native 8.8, Mountain 8.11, Sernity 8.8, St. Helena 8.4, Walwets 8.2, East Wind 8.0, Nehodun 8.0, Rexer 8.0.  
 Won easily by two lengths. Time, 1.47.

**N.Z. CUP ACCEPTANCES.**

**CHRISTCHURCH, Friday.**  
 The following acceptances have been received for the New Zealand Cup of 2,000 votes, two miles.

St. No.	Name	St. No.	Name
1	Princes Court	7	1
2	Tanhausser	8	7
3	Allegory	9	0
4	Tom Tom	10	0
5	Sinab	11	0
6	Coramandel	12	0
7	Mia	13	0
8	Martine	14	0
9	Mumura	15	0
10	Messia	16	0
11	Mantiform	17	0
12	Haskayne	18	0
13	Tuena	19	0
14	Keana	20	0
15	Mallow	21	0
16	Ohigani	22	0
17	Multiply	23	0
18	Sir Daniel	24	0
19	Yahalia	25	0

**THE ROVER CASE.**

The finding of the adjourned meeting of the stewards of the Canterbury Jockey Club to inquire into the facts surrounding the scratching of The Rover in the Grand National Hurdle race was as follows:—  
 "The stewards find that The Rover was entered and fully paid up for the New Zealand Grand National Hurdle Race, 1912. The horse was fit and well the day of the race, and was looked heavily by the public, and had against it an unwarrantable manner. The horse was scratched at 11.45 a.m. on the day the Grand National Hurdle Race was to be run, on an unimpaired authority, signed by Wright, lessee of the horse. No notice or intimation that the horse was to be scratched was received by either Price, the man in charge of the horse, or the secretary of the club. The lessee, having needed the horse without success on the flat during the greater part of his lease of one year, induced the lessee, about June last, to waive the condition in the lease that the horse should not be raced over hurdles, and they entered him for the Grand National Hurdle Race, and prepared him to run, and, according to the evidence of Price, acting on orders from the lessee, the horse was scratched after the start on the morning of the day of the race. On the running of The Rover in the Jumpers' Flat Race on the first day of the meeting, the horse seemed to have an excellent chance of winning the Grand National Hurdle Race."  
 Questioned by the stewards as to why The Rover was scratched for the race at 11.45 on the day it was to be run, Wright, the lessee, gave as his reason that he was afraid of injuring the horse. He hoped to get a further lease of him from September 30, 1912. The reasons given for scratching The Rover, taken in conjunction with the state of the betting market, satisfied the stewards that Wright, the lessee, was guilty of corrupt practices, within the meaning of the rules of the race, in so scratching the horse. They disqualified him for a term of two years.

The stewards would like to add that in coming to this decision they recognize that if the betting public would adhere to the law by not betting with bookmakers, the case would not have arisen, because to betting would then take place until the total-lator opened.

**AUSTRALIAN RACING.**

**THE BOULDER CUP.**  
**PERTH, September 4.**  
 The Boulder Cup, which was run today, resulted as follows:—Lily Vell 1, Camulbo 2, Carnamba 3. There were 15 starters, Lily Vell won by two lengths and a half. Time, 2.30.

**VICTORIA AMATEUR TRUMP CLUB'S MEETING.**

**MELBOURNE, September 7.**  
 The V.A.T.C. held their meeting at Caulfield today. The leading results resulted as follows:—

**THE MEMPHIS STAKES of 50000s.** Weight-for-age, with penalties and allowances. One mile and a furlong.  
 Sir J. J. Currier's Captain White, by Gye, by Flaxus Chutney 1  
 Bathica, 3rs 2  
 Widawa, 3rs 3  
 Nine started. Captain White won easily by a neck from Bathica, who in turn was three-quarters of a length in advance of Wolawa. Time, 1.56.

**THE WARRISTON WELTER HANDICAP.** Seven furlongs.  
 Mr. E. J. Watt's b/g Wimmera, aged, by Merriwee Mousquetier, 8.13 1  
 Malby, 7.13 2  
 Pyllos, 7.15 3  
 Twenty started. Wimmera won by a neck from Malby, with Pyllos two lengths away, in third place. Time, 1.30.

**DON QUEX A WINNER.**

**SYDNEY, September 8.**  
 At Canterbury Park today the Auckland-bred Don Quex won the Third Race, beating King Laure, Light Brigade and nine others. Don Quex won by two lengths. Time, 3.28.

**A Remarkable Ceremony.**

In the Val de Herens, near Sion, in the Rhone Valley, Switzerland, a very ancient and, truth to tell, somewhat barbarous ceremony has just taken place—the choosing of a Queen Cow by the cows themselves, on the high Alpine pastures, to which they generally go about the first week in July. Two hundred and thirty cows were assembled on the battlefield to choose their queen—in other words, to find out which of them was strong enough to fight all the other cows off the pasture, and remain in possession of it herself. The points of their horns had been carefully taken off beforehand by their owners, who are not now allowed either to egg their cows on to fight or to prevent them from fighting. The reason for these regulations is that the honour of owning a Queen Cow is so keenly coveted by the local herdsmen that they would do almost anything in order to possess it. Some of these herdsmen, indeed, in their anxiety for their cow to distinguish herself, will even feed her for a week or a fortnight beforehand on bread and wine. The cows themselves are descended from a combative breed (that of the Val d'Herens). Fighting is in their very blood, and often the herdsmen have to keep the peace between them during the summer months. Before the cows were led up to the scene of the battle, which was carefully marked out on an Alpine pasture, the cure of the neighbouring village of Vex solemnly blessed the pasture and sprinkled the cattle with holy water. The fight for the honour of being Queen of the Alpen went on for most of a day, and crowds of herdsmen and peasantry, and even some tourists, watched it. The queen cow for 1912 is a rather small animal, very strongly planted on her hoofs, and with a thick neck and a very broad chest. She cost her owner £50, but now her price is above rubies.

**THE GAME OF BRIDGE.**

**THE CALL FOR TRUMPS.**

It does not seem sound to maintain that, because at Bridge a player has the privilege of doubling, therefore it is unnecessary to afford him any facilities for calling for trumps.

The privilege of doubling has to be exercised before any card has been seen; besides which, one may not care to double the value of the suit declared. Then, again, when one doubles, one may be redoubled, which may be the last thing one wishes to happen. Lastly, one very often holds a hand which though it is not strong enough to double with, may, possibly, after the lead, and after one has seen the exposed hand, achieve excellent results if a trump were led. Therefore, so long as players are supplied with a means of calling for trumps, which does not clash with the call for a ruff, it must be an improvement.

Advanced players in Sydney and Melbourne are always glad to welcome any developments that may tend to add to the charm of an intellectual game, provided that these strengthen their general grasp; and the more conventions that can be introduced, with a view to assisting the Bridge player in some measure to equalize the advantages possessed by the dealer, cannot but succeed in meeting with approval.

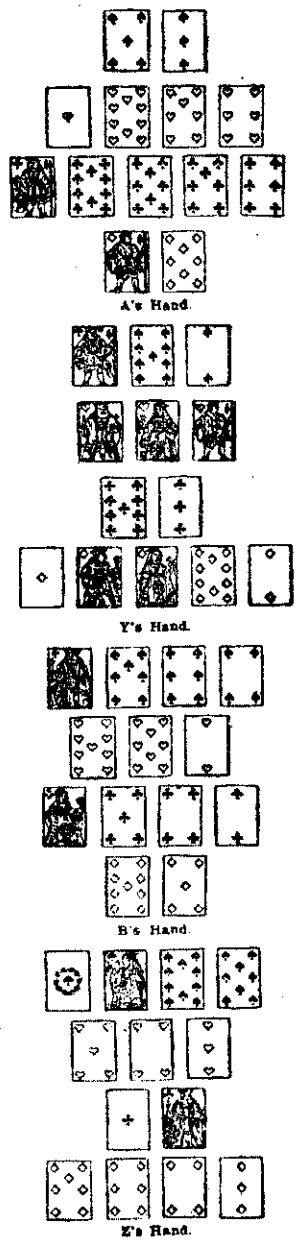
This being undisputed, a system has been devised, and given a fair trial,

which enables a player to call for trumps in positions where such a course appears desirable.

A number of players in London, Sydney, and Melbourne have adopted this plan (which, without interfering with the primary signification of the call, permits of an extension of it) for communicating to one's partner the information that a trump lead is deemed desirable. This plan has already passed out of the experimental stage, and is recommended whenever the occasion for its use may arise.

There are three ways in which a player may call for trumps:—

- (1) By playing to the first and second rounds of a suit led by one's partner higher cards than on the third.
  - (2) By playing a higher card to the first round, and a lower to the second, of a suit led by the dealer's side.
  - (3) By discarding a higher, and then a lower card, to two winning cards led by one's partner, when unable to follow suit.
- The working of these methods can best be illustrated by an example, as given by "Hellsport" in "Bridge":—



A deals and leaves it; B declares spades; Y leads the king and queen of diamonds; Z plays the six and seven. Y next leads the king of hearts, Z plays the four, A wins and leads a small club; Z wins it, and returns the five of hearts. Y wins with the knave, and continues with the queen, to which Z plays the three of hearts, and completes his call for trumps. Y leads a trump, and YZ make the remaining tricks. The same result would be achieved if Z doubled; but his hand is hardly strong enough to double on.

**Dangers of Celluloid.**

**EASILY IGNITED MATERIAL.**

We have had many lessons in the Old Country during the past ten or fifteen years of the dangers attaching to the use of celluloid in many branches of industry, and scores of illustrations of the dangers attaching to the use of celluloid by way of personal adornment. On Tuesday evening last London was shocked by another fatal fire which, so far as can be ascertained, was directly traceable to the accidental ignition of celluloid through a piece of red-hot sealing-wax. The result was that eight young women and girls lost their lives, and it was only a happy combination of circumstances that prevented the fire developing into a devastating holocaust and claiming victims by the score.

The scene of the outbreak was the premises of Messrs Angus Thomas and Co., Christmas-card publishers, who occupy the sixth floor of a large block of buildings in Moor Lane, in the very heart of what the London Fire Brigade and the insurance companies know as the "danger zone" of the City.

Messrs Thomas's premises—two rooms occupying about 2,200 square feet—were used for a process known as "aerography," which may be described as tinting and powdering cards by means of an air-brush. Celluloid and methylated spirits (a combination that would reduce the heart of a Yankee "fire-bug") are used in some of the processes. It was in the front room that the fire originated. The actual cause must remain more or less a mystery, but, so far as can be gathered, the outbreak seems to have been the result of dropping some hot sealing-wax on celluloid, which at once burst into flames. Those at work in the front room ran to the staircase and escaped. Those in the back room, however, could not get to the staircase in time, the flames having spread with great rapidity. Indeed, the fire seems to have been at first more like an explosion. Finding their escape cut off, the girls in the back room became panic-stricken, returning to their own room and going to the window, which seemed to offer the only hope. Here they waited and screamed. The clothes of most of them were on fire. Some efforts were made by those in rooms in an opposite building to help them. A plank was put across, and two of the girls safely escaped by this means, while a third lost her nerve and fell into the yard below. Others jumped a distance of 70ft, some being killed, and those who were not killed outright being terribly injured. One girl went through a glass skylight covered with wire-netting, and dropped on to a desk in the room below. She was in flames when she jumped, but going through the skylight not only broke her fall but extinguished the flames, and when the firemen broke into the room where she was they found her walking about, badly burned and half-demented with pain and horror, and crying "Horrible! Horrible!" Others climbed on to the roof, and five were found burnt to death there when the firemen arrived, which was within seven minutes of the alarm being given. They were in time to prevent the fire spreading, and in less than half-an-hour from the alarm all danger of an extension was over, but the engines continued to play on the gutted sixth floor for some time after, to make assurance doubly sure, for in the building itself and in the surrounding warehouses were tons upon tons of stuff of a highly inflammable nature.

The block in which the outbreak occurred is encompassed by narrow thoroughfares, in all of which are equally high buildings where trades requiring the storage and handling of more or less inflammable goods are carried on. Fire in any part of this busy centre, of course, imperils the houses in the immediate vicinity, and on Tuesday evening the danger was all the greater because the flames broke out at a time when the narrow streets are usually full from end to end with vans loading with all kinds of merchandise for despatch by rail. Happily, the vans were fewer than usual, and the brigade got through the press of traffic in well-nigh record time. Their speedy appearance undoubtedly averted a tremendous destruction of property, and probably a greatly-enhanced death-roll; but swift as they were, they might have failed but for the fact that there was no wind to carry the first fierce blasts of flame across the narrow streets.