

given to the caretaker not to let the grass be too closely cut so that in the event of no rain falling there will be a good thick herbage.

Mr W. C. Chatfield, architect, has presented the Club with a very handsome flag to be used by the starter. It is of silk with the Club's monogram beautifully worked upon it while the handle is beautifully turned and silver-mounted. It will be used for the first time on Cup day.

NAPIER.

January 5.

Gondolier is in work again. Avis is to be taken to Gisborne and left there.

Gilpin has Roscius, who is half-brother to Morag, in exercise.

Lord Raven is to be raced in this district. Collins is to train him. He is by Leolinus—Lady Ravensworth.

Kaimanawa will be seen over sticks again shortly.

The owner of Pinrose thought his horse too badly treated at Wellington, and scratched him immediately on the appearance of the weights.

Krina has been allotted thumping weights at Wairoa, and will be an unlikely starter.

Con. Boyle, trainer of Pinrose, offers £50 that no one can in any possible manner prove that he or the owner of Pinrose knew anything about the horses weight being 2lbs short at Hastings until the matter was reported after the race. He says the fault must have been with the clerk of the scales. They backed Pinrose and had lost their money.

Waterlily is to be put over sticks.

At Woodville Wairua, by Somnus—Folly, won the Stewards' Handicap easily from Freewill, Huia, and Snider, and paying £1 19s. Ventriloquist had a walk over for the Maiden Hurdles. The Maiden Plate resulted in a surprise. Belmo, who is by Gladiator, beat Silver, Dugworth, Amy, Hippo, Kauri Gum, Comfort and Papa, and paid £29 9s.

Spreydon won the Hurdles as he pleased, his opponents being Lord John, Dorothy, and Wairaimai. Dividend, £1 12s. Silett Friend, by Mute—Maid of the Mountain, with 7.7 up won the Woodville Handicap, beating Lady Isabel, Trickery, Prairie Grass and Sylvanus, and paid £5 9s. A protest was lodged that his trainer was not a licensed trainer, or his jockey not a licensed jockey and consideration was deferred. Buick trains his horse on his own ground and his son has a gentleman rider's license in Wellington. Marama, by Isaac Walton—Lillian, beat Samoa, Revenge, Oarsmaid, Jessie, Mishap, and Linder in the Electric event, paying £3 4s. There was another surprise for the public in the High Weight event, when Pat beat Kauri Gum, Waiwaimai, Huia, Freewill, Belmo and Otakupatu and paid £28 7s. The race was run in pouring rain. The last race was the Flying when Lady Isabel got off with the lead, after some delay at the post, and was never headed, Wairua, and Revenge being in the places. Dividend, £3 1s.

The Mohaka Boxing Day meeting was not a very great success this year. The races had to be postponed on account of the bad weather. Warrigal won the Hurdles and paid £2 2s. The Hack Hurdles fell to Airihi, who paid £3 2s. Huia was favourite for the Flying but got beaten by Muti, who paid £5 17s. A similar dividend was paid by Byna in the Hack Race, the win being an easy one. The Mohaka Stakes fell to Huia, Pairawhaata being second and St. Malo, who carried 9.10; third. St. Malo was favourite but broke down through getting his foot in a bog hole. Dividend, £6 2s. Forget-me-not won the Maori race and paid £1 16s. The Christmas Plate fell to Piano who was favourite and paid £2 3s. The last event was the Forced Handicap, which Muti won all the way, paying £1 12s.

[The above contribution from our Napier correspondent was crowded out of last week's issue.]

[BY WIRE.]

January 17th.

A regrettable accident happened at Mr Ormond's place the other day when Mr Walter Wood, the trainer, was kicked in the face by a youngster to whom he was giving physic. The horse bounded up and struck Wood who was standing on a box. One side of his face was badly disfigured but his vision is fortunately unimpaired.

I am informed that the well-known hurdle racer and steeplechaser Despised whose recent victories at Auckland stamp him as a good horse comes to this district at the end of the month; Mr G,

Heaps having purchased him. The price paid was £200. I received this information from Auckland but I see the REVIEW says the owner of Flukem has bought the horse.

Captain Webb was passed in at 300 guineas at a sale of blood stock in Melbourne the other day. No offer was made for the fine-looking chestnut Kempenfeldt, by Nordenfeldt from Bianca.

Bonus who ran unplaced in the Novel Race at Gisborne the other day has been bought for £17 by Mr Broughton.

An enquiry is being held into the Pinrose and Avis case in the Post Stakes at Hastings. To satisfy the public of course an investigation should be held but I think, somehow or other, that the satisfaction will be limited to the knowledge that there was an official enquiry. The stewards of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club sat and discussed the matter in all its bearings yesterday afternoon for a considerable time but eventually had to adjourn the matter until a future date. It is a very hard thing indeed to fossick out where the missing two pounds of weight went to, even if it ever was missing or was in existence to go astray. There is practically nothing to go upon. It is a pity the matter can not be decided one way or the other as the position in which those connected with the horse are in is a rather unpleasant one at present.

TARANAKI.

January 12.

THERE are sixteen applicants for the position of starter to the Egmont Racing Club. The committee meet next week to select one of the applicants for appointment.

Despised at £200 was not a great bargain, apart from any symptoms of unsoundness, as he has now done enough to have the weight piled upon him.

The Waitara mare Cingalee won the Ladies' Bracelet at Warrengate Meeting on Thursday. She was ridden by Mr F. Watson. Narrate won the Hurdles, Tramore the Flying, Eothen (Waterbury's relation) the Cup, and Marama the Electric Handicap, with Mr Watson's Cutlass second.

The next meetings of any importance on the Coast are Egmont and Taranaki, which will be held in February.

All-round Sport

By "BLOCKER."

CRICKET.

THE all-absorbing topic in cricket circles this week has been in reference to the Auckland-Wellington finish on Thursday last, and both from the onlooking cricket enthusiast to the players themselves it is generally conceded that it was the most stubborn and exciting Interprovincial match ever played in New Zealand.

On Friday next the Auckland team will be pitted against a team from New South Wales, and I quite expect to see our boys come out with credit, as the team chosen is a good one, a very much more powerful combination as regards batting than the team that went South. Messrs McKinney, Young and Fowke have picked the following to represent Auckland:—J. Fowke (Gordon), J. A. Kallender (Gordon), R. J. Yates (United), I. Mills (Parnell), H. W. Lawson (Parnell), Lloyd Quentery (Auckland), J. Arneil (Auckland), J. R. Lundon (Auckland), A. W. Jacobs (Auckland), Rev. I. Richards (Auckland), and R. Neill (Auckland). Emergencies—Nicholson (Parnell), C. Hay (United), and F. Kelly (Gordon).

In local cricket the teams have been somewhat weakened through the absence of the various club men with the reps., consequently it was not surprising to find Auckland defeating Parnell rather easily. United succumbed to the Gordon. This leaves Auckland, Gordon and Parnell on the same mark, and future meetings between these clubs should prove very interesting.

Parnellites are again bewailing the departure of W. Gardiner, who has gone to Paeroa to work for the rest of the season. Although not so successful with the bat since his return from abroad his brilliant fielding was of great service to the club in their matches.

There is considerable guessing as to the probable Auckland representatives in the New Zealand team. I think that Mills, Fowke, Neill and Lawson will have a big say.

In the match Gordon-United J. Ansenne is credited with having played a sterling innings for 26 not out, thereby winning the match for his team, as with the exception of Cotterill none of the others reached double figures.

For United 'Carlton Hay' got 38, playing good cricket for his runs. He was ably assisted by R. Macpherson (12), and had these two men been able to bat on the previous Saturday, as the veteran Yates observed, 'Things might have been different.'

Whelan (22) and Stone (20) did their best to put a better face on the Parnell innings against Auckland, but of little avail.

The following extract from the Melbourne Age report of the International Cricket Match, played at Melbourne between Victoria and South Australia during New Year week, will be read by followers of the game here in Auckland with interest as showing how uncertain even the most brilliant fieldsmen may become at times, as almost the same men were lauded to the skies for their brilliant fielding in the match of a day or two previous against the New South Welshmen: 'The catching of the home team was certainly the worst that has ever been seen in an intercolonial match for many years, if indeed an inferior exhibition has ever been witnessed, which is decidedly doubtful. The ground fielding left little to be desired, but the missing of catches became simply ludicrous. The usually reliable Trott was the first delinquent, dropping a ball smartly cut to him by Lyons off McLeod, when the stalwart South Australian had only made 6. Walters might have caught A. H. Jarvis off Trott in the long field when he had scored 2, but evidently quite misjudged the flight of the ball, and at 17 Jarvis would have been run out but for Harry returning badly to Lewis. Harry, however (as in the N.S.W. match), fielded so well generally, and saved so many runs during the innings that this mistake was not much of a blot on his useful performance. Stuckey also, who saved innumerable runs, had a very hard chance of catching Jarvis off Carlton shortly afterwards, but failed to hold it, though he made a good one-handed attempt. Had McLeod been on the alert he could have caught Reedman off Trott when he had scored 6. Mapelstone missed W. Giffen off Trott at 2, and Carlton off the next ball badly missed Darling, who had made 6. At 17 Darling was again softly let off by Laver off Carlton's bowling, and Bruce in the long field gave a life to F. Jarvis, who had made 5, missing him off Trott, but Bruce may be credited with making a good running attempt. Haldane before scoring was badly missed by Mapelstone off Trott, and Walters might have caught him in the slips off Carlton when he had made 6, the chance, however, being a sharp one. Subsequently Haldane gave a hard chance in the slip to Laver, which was missed, though well tried for, but as the next ball bowled him no loss to the Victorians was incurred. Harry missed Jones at 15 in the long field off Trott, but he also tried hard to effect the catch, and at 28 Jones was again missed (this time very badly) by Mapelstone off McLeod. Thus was completed one of the most formidable lists of blunders on record in a match of such importance.'

CHAMPIONSHIP SWIMMING CARNIVAL.

THE opening of the Championship Swimming Carnival attracted a large attendance to the Calliope Dock on Saturday last. So large was the gathering that hundreds were unable to obtain anything like a proper view of the competitions. The members of the committee did their best to provide proper accommodation, but their efforts were powerless in the face of the crowded condition of the sides and steps of the dock. With the exception of the 220yds Championship of New Zealand, all the events were brought off without a hitch. In the case of the 220yds race the eagerness of the majority of the competitors resulted in a *fiasco*, all the men, with the exception of one, plunging into the water at the word 'ready,' and despite the efforts of committeemen and friends, they persisted in fighting out the race, which was subsequently declared 'no race' by the committee, the event was adjourned until Monday evening.

Messrs Brigham, Dunnet, and Esam judged the events; Messrs Maloney (N.S.W.), Bartlett, and Cooke kept time; and Mr J. E. Cooke acted as starter. In most of the events the handicapping was all against the scratch men, who as a rule never had a chance of becoming dangerous in the competitions. In the Long Dive Championship there was only one entry, W. J. Allen, the present champion, who managed a distance of 61 yards, which is considerably under his last public effort. The 880yds Champion-

ship was won very comfortably by W. J. Gormley, the N.S.W. champion. The local champion, Bailey, was considered to be Gormley's most dangerous opponent, but the New Zealander was in very bad form, and gave up the contest before it was half completed. The various events resulted as follows:—

Maiden Race of 75yds.—Hoey 1, Percival 2. F. Young was the only other starter.

Boys' Race (under 16), 75yds.—Tyler 1, Bailey 2, Rew 3. This event was contested in two heats and a final. Time, 6½sec.

Ladies' Bracelet, 100yds.—W. Gumbleton 1; E. W. Marsh 2, H. Upton 3. Time, 1min 24sec.

Long Dive Championship.—W. J. Allen, the present champion, had a walk over.

Blindfold Race of 50yds.—J. Cassidy 1, J. H. Dixon 2; G. E. Farmer 3. J. A. McLeod reached the rope first, but he fouled Cassidy, who was winning easily when the interference took place. McLeod was placed last by the judge.

Boys' Race (under 14), 50yds.—J. N. Phillips 1, E. H. W. Kenny 2, H. L. F. Owen 3.

Public Schools' Handicap, 70yds.—E. H. Kenny (Newton School, 15sec) 1, A. G. Warnock (Richmond Road School, scratch) 2, N. J. W. Kenny (Newton School, 11sec) 3. Time, 1min 18sec.

50yds Handicap.—W. Johns, 5sec, 1; J. H. Morton, 6sec, 2; A. Fagan, 5sec, 3.

880yds Championship of New Zealand.—The competitors were: A. Holmes, Balmain S.C., N.S.W.; W. J. Gormley, Wentworth S.C., N.S.W.; C. Hellings, Wentworth S.C., N.S.W.; F. A. Hedges, H. Hoey, and H. J. Bailey, Auckland S.O. Gormley won easily in 13min 53 2-5th sec. C. Hellings was second and H. Hoey third.

A Water Polo Match between teams representing Christchurch and Auckland resulted in a win for the former by four goals to nil.

THE GODDARD AND LAING GLOVE FIGHT.

VICTORY FOR THE NEW ZEALANDER.

FOR the second time during his long career as a boxer (which may now be said to be ended) Joe Goddard has tasted the bitterness of defeat. He will now simply be known as the Barrier boxer instead of the Australian champion, the latter title having been wrested from him by Harry Laing of New Zealand, at the Cumberland Athletic Club on New Year's night. In all Goddard has figured in some thirty contests, and he was never beaten until Denver Ed. Smith unexpectedly stopped his victorious career in America in March last. Goddard had previously, on American soil, beaten such good men as Joe M'Auliffe and Peter Maher, and before Smith defeated him he was talking fight to Jackson and Corbett for the world's championship. The result of the Smith contest, however, altered Goddard's arrangements considerably, and after he had shown some of his old fire by defeating in quick order a little known man in Willis Kennedy, he returned to Australia in search of health. It transpired that before the Smith match Goddard had been very ill, and this, no doubt, had a lot to do with his defeat, and was also the primary cause of his going down before Laing. In a word the robust constitution which pulled Goddard through many a match, where his science compared very unfavourably with his opponent's is a thing of the past, and his determination to now retire from the ring is no doubt a wise one. In his training Goddard seemed to thrive all right, but when it came to the pinch his condition altogether failed him. His stamina was quite gone. Laing on the other hand still possesses a magnificent constitution. He is much shorter than Goddard, but is of stouter build, and far more active on his feet. He has always been regarded as a good man with the gloves, and six years ago when out of condition he gave Slavin (then at his best) an excellent fight, the issue for a few rounds being very doubtful. It was perhaps lucky for Goddard that he never met Laing before, for both men fit and well, Laing would always give Goddard a tough job to beat him. There was an immense attendance at the Cumberland Athletic Club on Monday night to witness the match, the large gymnasium being packed. No contest which has taken place in Melbourne for a very considerable time has excited half the interest. Their respective weights were announced as:—Goddard, 13.4; Laing, 13.0. Mr E. H. Nathan acted as referee. The stake was £150, the loser's end