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## PASTIMES.

### FOOTBALL.

In consequence of the Auckland-Taranaki match being played yesterday (Wednesday), our football notes for this issue will be found on page 10

### CYCLING.

#### STILL ANOTHER PATENT TYRE.

A new leather tyre has made its appearance in Brooklyn, America, and, judging from the test which took place, this non-puncturable tube is one of the best on the market. The test took place to satisfy a capitalist whom the inventor is trying to interest in the tyre. The asphalt of Elm Street was strewn with broken glass from sodawater bottles, placed with their jagged ends up, and a lot of 10oz tacks were placed on the ground, points up. A tandem fitted with a pair of the tyres that have been used steadily since last November was then run over the tacks and glass. The riders weighed together nearly 350lb, and the machine was run over the obstacles a dozen or more times, each time the tyres picking up tacks. Finally, the front tyre became deflated, one of the tacks had evidently been driven through the leather by repeated poundings, as the wheel went round and round. About sixty tacks were pulled out of each tyre, but the rear tyre remained hard. All the tacks were pulled out, and the tandem returned to Brooklyn without having the tyre pumped up, the tape being put on to prevent it from creeping. This is claimed as another advantage for the tyre. They are made of sole leather, and have a rubber inner tube cemented to the leather shoe.

#### MULGA BILL'S BICYCLE.

By A. B. Paterson ("The Banjo") in the *Sydney Mail*.  
"Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that caught the cycling craze,  
He turned away the good old horse that served him many days,  
He dressed himself in cycling clothes, resplendent to be seen,  
He hurried off to town and bought a shining new machine;  
And as he wheeled it through the door, with air of lordly pride,  
The grinning shop assistant said, "Excuse me, can you ride?"  
"See here, young man," said Mulga Bill, "from Walgett to the sea,  
From Conroy's Gap to Castlereagh, there's none can ride like me.  
I'm good all round at everything, as everybody knows,  
Although I'm not the one to talk, I hate a man that blows  
But riding is my special gift, my chiefest, sole delight;  
Just ask a wild duck can it swim, a wild cat can it fight.  
There's nothing clothed in hair or hide, or built of flesh or steel,  
There's nothing walks or jumps, or runs, on axle, hoof, or wheel,  
But what I'll sit, while hide will hold, and girths and straps are tight,  
I'll ride this here two-wheeled concern right straight away at sight."  
"Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that sought his own abode,  
That perched above the Dead Man's Creek, beside the mountain road.  
He turned the cycle down the hill, and mounted for the fray,  
But ere he'd gone a dozen yards, it bolted clean away.  
It left the track, and through the trees, just like a silver streak,  
It whistled down the awful slope, towards the Dead Man's Creek.  
It shaved a stump by half an inch, it dodged a big white-box,  
The very wallaroos in fright went scrambling up the rocks.  
The wombats hiding in their caves dug deeper underground,  
As Mulga Bill, as white as chalk, sat tight to every bound,  
It struck a stone and gave a spring that cleared a fallen tree,  
It traced beside a precipice, as close as close could be,  
And then, as Mulga Bill let out one last despairing shriek,  
It made a leap of twenty feet into the Dead Man's Creek.  
"Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that slowly swam ashore.  
He said, "I've had some narrer shaves and lively rides before;  
I've rode a wild bull round a yard, to win a five-pound bet,  
But that was the most awful ride that I've encountered yet.  
I'll give that two-wheeled outlaw best; it's shaken all my nerves,  
To feel it whistle through the air, and plunge and buck and swerve.  
It's safe at rest in Dead Man's Creek, we'll leave it lying still;  
A horse's back is good enough henceforth for Mulga Bill."