

At last week's meeting of the committee of the Auckland Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club, Mr C. Jones, in reply to the local secretary (Mr W. C. Speight), wrote stating that he feared there would be little or no prospect of a cycle meeting being held in conjunction with the forthcoming championship gathering, to be held in Auckland in February next, owing to there being no suitable track here, riders not caring to ride on the grass. Surely it is time something was done in the direction of providing an asphalt or cement track for this city.

Palmer, an English cyclist, has put up a world's track record for 100 miles—4hrs 47min 47 3 5sec.

Parsons has made several engagements (says *The Cycle*) for his European tour. His present list holding good, he will open in Paris for a fortnight, proceeding then either to London or Copenhagen. If to the former, he will ride a series of time tests, but will do no racing. If he goes direct to Copenhagen he will fix up events with several of the leading Continental riders, and will take part in events at a mile, five, and ten miles, together with rides against the watch. Parsons, we may add, has been guaranteed a large sum if he will visit, in turn, New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia, but has not made up his mind upon the matter of crossing to the land of the Stars and Stripes.

A tax on bicycles is urged by the Waimea (Nelson) Primrose League, because (1) they are getting so numerous as to become a nuisance; (2) are injurious to farmers, horsebreeders, saddlers, blacksmiths, etc.; and (3) are purely a luxury, and one likely to become general.

A novel brake has just been introduced. It is a narrow brush about a foot long, clamped to the back fork above the chain, which is ridden rather slacker than usual, and so adjusted that when pressure is put on the pedals it just clears the chain. When back-peddalling the chain is pulled up against the brush. Down steep hills marvellous control of the machine is obtained, and when travelling fast the machine can be pulled up with remarkable celerity. It also has the effect of keeping the chain clean and bright, which means additional speed.

Local cyclists are growling every day because they have not a suitable track to train on. They don't like the slippery grass track any more than cyclists in other parts of the world do. As athletics (running, walking, jumping, etc.) are now quite subsidiary to cycling, which has bounded in front of athletics in public favour, the local cyclists should form a company to put down a dry track. If a separate cash cycle club were formed, and a suitable piece of ground leased near town, influential city men would take up shares, because when professional cycle meetings are held the "gate" is a very profitable item. If prizes (money, of course) of fair value were offered, we would have several speedy cyclists over from Sydney. Cycling would then take on as much as football does at present; but the local cyclists will have to bestir themselves, and it is no use them trying to emulate Micawber by waiting for something to turn up. The Manawatu cyclists, as soon as they decided for a suitable track, were not long in interesting the business people in the town in the project, and they soon acquired a suitable bit of property—one of the most picturesque spots in N.Z.—and laid down a real good track, which can be cemented or asphalted at any time. If the Avondale Jockey Club were cute they would provide the cycling enthusiasts of Auckland with a track. There's money in it.

ATHLETICS.

A meeting of the committee of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club was held at the club-room of the Metropolitan Hotel on Friday evening last, when several items of correspondence were dealt with. Mr Harley, secretary of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association, forwarded a communication confirming the report that the championship meeting of 1897 would be held at Auckland during February next, and wishing the Club a successful gathering. The Auckland Eight Hours' League wrote asking the sanction of the Club to place amateur events on the programme of the Eight Hours Demonstration Sports, and, after discussion, it was decided to recom-

A FAMOUS ATHLETE.



DONALD DINNIE.

mend the N.Z.A.A. to permit four events to be granted, two for pedestrians and two for wheelmen. A letter was received from Mr Goddard, secretary of the New South Wales Athletic Association, inviting members of the New Zealand clubs to take part in the New South Wales championship meeting, at Sydney, on October 5th. It was agreed to write to Messrs Brady and 'reamer (walking champions), and Messrs W. Martin and T. Roberts (hurdle champions), asking them if they would be prepared to make the journey if chosen to represent the Auckland Club. Of these four, the

Committee intend recommending that two, if possible, be sent to the Sydney meeting. Mr C. E. McCormack presided.

This week we give a picture of the famous Scottish athlete, Donald Dinnie. It is simply marvellous the strength that he displays, even up to the present, and in his 59th year. Only quite recently he lifted the 200lb weight four times. "The champion athlete of the world," as he is fully entitled to be called, was born at Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on the 10th July, 1837. He stands 6ft 1in in his shoes, weighs in his best form

220lbs, measures 48in round the chest, biceps 16½in, thigh 26½in, calf 17½in. He first appeared in the athletic arena when only sixteen years of age, consequently he has been before the public for forty-three years. During that time he has won ten money prizes, and over one hundred champion medals, cups, etc. At wrestling he has never been beaten in his own native style. Here are a few of his performances:—In 1871, at Coupar, Angus, he threw the 16lb hammer, fair stand, 138ft 8in; at Stonehaven in 1873 he threw a 22lb hammer, fair stand, 104ft 6in; at Coupar, Angus, in 1868, he put the 22lb stone 39ft 9in; at Perth in 1868 he put the 16lb stone 49ft 6in; at Glasgow in 1874 he put the 14lb stone 52ft; at Aberdeen in 1868 he threw a 56lb weight by ring, fair stand (total length, including ring, 14in), 28ft 4in; at running high jump he has cleared 5ft 11in; 20ft 1in at running long leap; and 44ft at hop, step, and jump; he has run 100yds in 10 2-5sec; at Turriff in 1860 he got a record of 6ft 2ft at running high leap. I must agree with the *Edinburgh Courant* of May 18th, 1880, in an article on athletic sports, which says: "Donald Dinnie recalls to us the labours of Hercules and the feats of Samson."

The champion distance runner, Bell, of Manawatu, is to take up his permanent residence in Auckland. This will augment our ranks over the long journeys, and we can well do with such a man in view of the big '97 gathering.

CRICKET.

THE AUSTRALIANS AT HOME.

Below are the particulars of matches played by the Australian team. Up to the time these columns closed they had played 30, having won 18, lost 5, and drawn 7.

May 11—v. Lord Sheffield's team. Drawn. Australians, 257 and 194; Sheffield, 190 and 180 for four wickets.

May 14—v. Essex. Won by seven wickets. Australians, 223 and three for 100; Essex, 166 and 149.

May 18—v. an All England Eleven. Won by an innings and 226 runs. Australians, 379; English Eleven, 114 and 39.

May 21—v. South of England. Drawn. Australians 328 for six wickets; South of England, 134 for five wickets.

May 25—v. Yorkshire. Won by an innings and eight runs. Australians, 262; Yorkshire, 118 and 136.

May 28—v. Lancashire. Won by 154 runs. Australians, 281 and 139; Lancashire, 168 and 98.

June 1—v. Oxford University. Won by seven wickets. Australians, 303 and 59 for three wickets; Oxford, 237 and 129.

June 4—v. Gloucestershire. Won by an innings and 91 runs. Australians, 382; Gloucestershire, 110 and 181.

June 8—v. An English Eleven. Won by 135 runs. Australians, 106 and 131; English Eleven, 65 and 37.

June 11—v. M.C.C. and Ground. Lost by an innings and 18. Australians, 18 and 183; M.C.C., 219.

June 15—v. Yorkshire. Drawn. Australians, 144 and 31 for one wicket; Yorkshire, 108.

June 18—v. Midland Counties. Lost by four wickets. Australians, 138 and 254; Midland Counties, 267 and six for 126.

June 22—v. All England. Lost by six wickets. Australians, 63 and 347; England, 292 and 109 for four wickets.

June 25—v. Notts. Won by six wickets. Australians, 246 and 170 for four wickets; Notts, 269 and 146.

June 29—v. Yorkshire. Won by 140 runs. Australians, 224 and 251; Yorkshire, 145 and 190.

July 2—v. North of England. Won by 42 runs. Australians, 195 and 119; North of England, 123 and 149.

July 6—v. Hampshire. Won by an innings and 125 runs. Australians, 462; Hampshire, 134 and 203.

July 9—v. Players of England. Won by an innings and 137 runs. Australians, 454; Players, 197 and 120.

July 13—v. Leicestershire. Drawn. Australians, 584; Leicestershire, 87 and 180 for nine wickets.

July 16—v. All England. Won by three wickets. Australians, 412 and 125 for seven wickets; England, 231 and 305.

July 20—v. Derbyshire. Drawn. Australians, 625; Derbyshire, 292 and 61 for two wickets.

July 24—v. M.C.C. and Ground. Drawn. Australians, 201 and 331; M.C.C., 367 and 99 for three wickets.

July 28—v. Surrey. Won by seven wickets. Australians, 367 and 65 for three wickets; Surrey, 282 and 147.

August 2—v. Earl de la Warr's team. Lost by four wickets. Australians, 80 and 138; Earl de la Warr's team, 102 and 117 for six wickets.

August 5—v. Warwickshire. Won by an innings and 60 runs. Australians, 339; Warwickshire, 127 and 152.

August 8—v. Kent. Won by 176 runs. Australians, 310 and 203; Kent, 196 and 141.

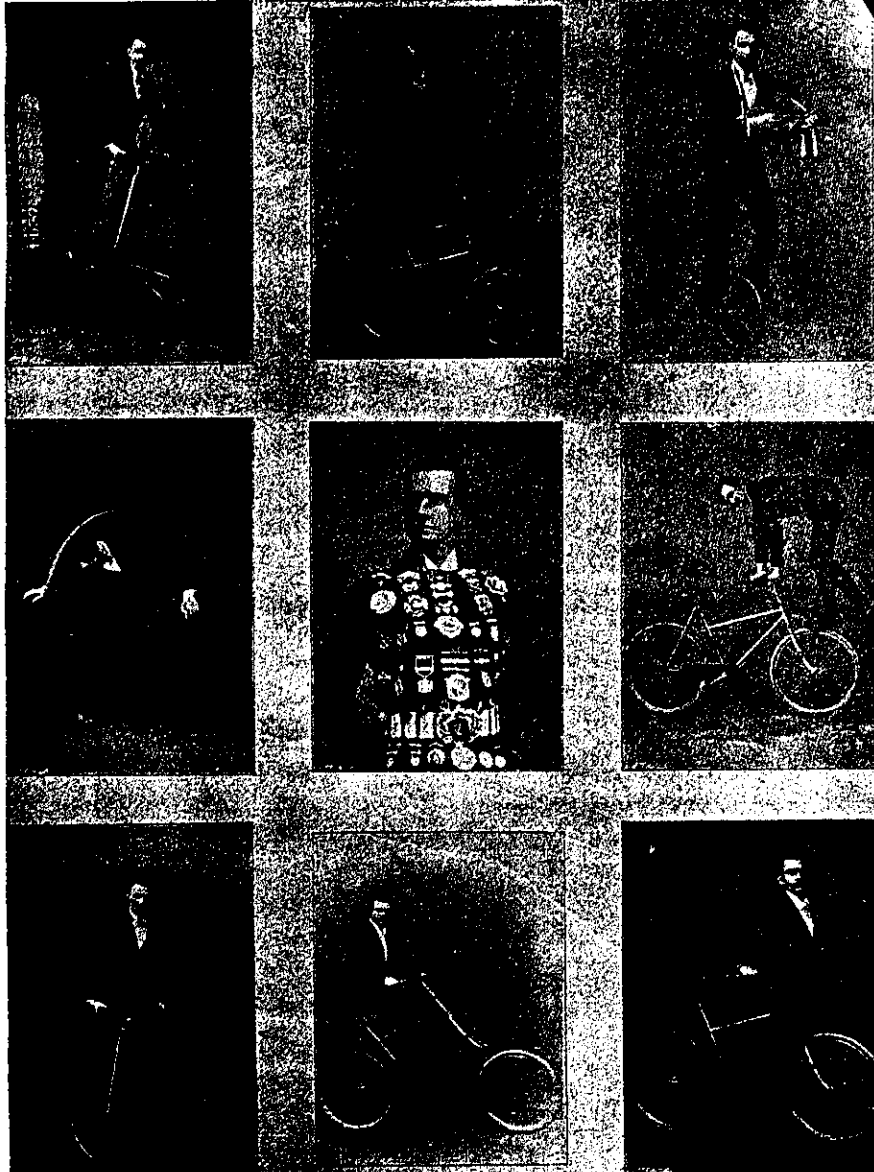
August 13—v. All England. Lost by 66 runs. Australians, 119 and 44; England, 145 and 84.

August 15—v. Sussex. Won by six wickets. Australians, 352 and 119 for four wickets; Sussex, 221 and 248.

August 18—v. Surrey.—Drawn. Australians, 224; Surrey, 295 and 90 for five wickets.

August 22—v. Gloucestershire. Won by an innings and 54 runs. Australians, 204; Gloucestershire, 138 and 17.

TRICK CYCLIST.



N. E. KAUFMANN.

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