

On Wednesday week A. Dalglish, of Dunedin, reduced his own Oamaru-Dunedin record from 5hr 20in to 5hr 20min. He was 13min behind his time on reaching Palmerston, but he made up his loss during the latter part of the journey, when he was paced by H. Gunthorpe and E. Crawford.

The New Zealand Athletic Association is like unto the man referred to in that choice ditty, "E Dunno Where 'E Are," which was pretty extensively warbled some little time since (says the cycling writer of the *Canterbury Times*). Last week's meeting disclosed its muddledsome condition, and several of the delegates are offering up fervent prayers that something will turn-up soon to enable the association to retrieve its position. Signs are not wanting to show that the Alliance is acting on the association much as eczema does on the human body; it is becoming a source of irritation. The Alliance is not a very savoury body even now; no sports organisation can be that winks at years of dirty work. Therefore the association needs to be careful, and should beware of evil associations, otherwise it may be drawn into a conflict, the outcome of which no one can foretell. Undoubtedly much the best course for the Athletic Association to adopt is to cancel its agreement with the Alliance; the plea of loyalty, if much longer adhered to, is calculated to place the association in an awkward position.

The *New South Wales Cyclist* hints that there is a prospect of one body taking up the government of both branches of the sport, which every sensible and unbiased person must admit is the proper thing to do.

At Lancaster Park, Christchurch, on Saturday week, E. A. Wall, on a New Zealand bicycle, lowered the ten miles cash record to 22min 28sec, and the twenty-five miles N.Z. record for any class of rider to 57min 22sec; also the one hour's N.Z. record, covering 26 miles within the hour.

The Melbourne *Sportsman* suggests that Walne should be sent to the next world's championship meeting to represent Australia.

Does cycling tend to increase or decrease weight? That is the question. Stout women are deploring the fact that it has the former effect, thin women declare that it makes them even thinner. Probably it is a matter of constitution, and therefore one law cannot apply to all cases. Neither the stout nor the thin women must rely wholly on bicycling to bring about the desired effect; a judicious dose of the exercise should be coupled with strict rules as to diet and general treatment, and then paradoxical as it sounds, the bicycle will probably please both.



[BY VIGILANT.]

Geo. Smith, Auckland's crack hurdler and sprinter, who last week gave it out as his intention to give football best, in view of a sound preparation in stick jumping, has found the attraction of the Rugby game too strong for him and was out for City District last Saturday.

Hardingham, who will be remembered as having won the sprint double at the recent Domain Pavilion sports, plays football for the Grafton senior fifteen.

J. McKean, the well-known half-mile champion, is also an adept in the game of football, and last week donned the jersey for City.

Dick Neagle, who came to Auckland sometime since, in company with Jack Ryan, of long jump fame, to take part in one of our amateur athletic gatherings, is talking of paying us another visit. He is at present at his home in Taradale, just outside of Napier.

G. B. Bowser, who came to light as one of the surprises at one of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club's gatherings of last year, and is subsequently credited with having scooped the pool at one of our up-country districts, under an assumed name, is competing in professional ranks in Victoria.

The Thames Cycling Clubs inaugural meeting of Queen's Birthday, embraces several attractive pedestrian events, and I understand that several Auckland runners will go down to Quartzopolis.

In future the N.S. Wales A.A.A. will run all races on circular tracks left side in, this direction being in vogue in all the sister colonies.

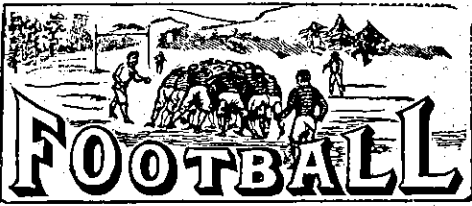
The records passed by the N.S. Wales A.A.A. for last year, are as under:—May 24, Throwing 16lb hammer, 108ft 0in, by J. Milward. October 2, 100yds flat, 10sec, by S. Rowley; one mile walk, 6min 41sec, by D. Wilson (N.Z.); 120yds hurdles, 16 1-5th sec, by J. Laidlaw; putting 16lb shot, 87ft 9in, by J. English. October 4, 220yds flat, 22 2-5th sec, by S. Rowley; pole vault, 10ft 6in, by Hori Ernera (N.Z.); three mile walk, 22min 37 1-5th sec, by D. Wilson (N.Z.); 440yds hurdles, 62sec, by A. H. Holder (N.Z.). October 9th, high jump, 5ft 11in, by J. English.

"Prodigal" of the Sydney *Referee* in reviewing a communication from our Auckland correspondent anent the fine performance recorded by George Smith in the 120yds hurdles at the recent Domain Pavilion sports here, in which the latter says: Smith would make matters very interesting for the ex-Irishman Roseingrave. "Prodigal" admits that Smith must be a good man, but states that he would be inclined to have a few cigars on Roseingrave against all-comers in the Australasian colonies over the jumps, including Smith.

The tunning of the professional ped. is proverbial, and to be as cunning as a professional ped. is to be cunning indeed, but there is one ped. in New Zealand who has been kicking himself for a month, and who is still kicking (says a Sydney exchange). I shall call him Blank. He is a champion distance runner of a sister colony, who

went to Maoriland, called himself, say, Dash, nominated for the Half and One Mile Handicaps as a maiden, got 40yds in the Half and 60yds in the Mile, and then smiled in anticipation. He won the Half easily, so easily to cause suspicion. He therefore made a dead heat in the Mile. A protest was entered, but the protestors could not prove anything; they only thought his name was Blank, and that Dash was assumed-Blank—or, as he called himself, Dash—was brought in, swore his name was Dash, did not know anyone named Blank, never ran under the name of Blank, was a maiden runner. The committee having no proof otherwise were about to award the races to him, and asked him to sign an affidavit. He did so, but in his anxiety signed his proper name, J. Blank. Tableau!

We received recently the following telegram from our Nowra correspondent (says a Sydney paper of April 19th): A man, who says he says he is walking round the world for a wager, arrived at Nowra lately on his way from Melbourne. He lunched at the Prince of Wales Hotel, the proprietor entertaining him gratuitously. The traveller states that he has completed over 50,000 miles. He goes to Cooktown (Q.) and thence to Singapore across India and back to England. In conversation, he said he was engaged in a dual contest; he was racing a man round the world to decide a wager of £40,000 made by the Earl of Dudley with another English gentleman, and was also to receive £4000 if he did the journey in a certain time. He has, he alleges, now virtually won the wager for the Earl of Dudley, as he as left his opponent in the Melbourne Hospital suffering from typhoid fever. He was offered money by a citizen, and refused it, as it was against his agreement. He also refused to take some food with him, as this was also contrary to agreement. The traveller, who has not revealed his name, said the worst part of his journey was from Westralia to Adelaide, where, for 600 miles, he never saw a living soul, and he would't do that journey again for anything. A gentleman, thinking he was a Yankee, remarked to him that he out to be in America now that war was pending. "What have I got to do with America?" he replied. "I'm an Irishman." He only remained in Nowra a short space, and left again for Sydney.



[BY VIGILANT.]

OPENING OF THE SEASON.

Cup matches commenced last Saturday. A drizzling rain, which kept up during the whole afternoon, interfered somewhat with the play; yet, despite the greasy ball and adverse circumstances, the play was interesting for a first effort.

That the Winter game has a strong hold on the Auckland public is amply evidenced in the fact that though the meteorological conditions were anything but favorable, over 2,000 onlookers attended at Potter's Paddock to witness the opening fixtures of season 1898.

Parnell and City met on No. 1 ground in front of the grandstand, and last year's runners-up proved victors to the tune of 11 points, they scoring 14 points as against the 3 recorded by the opposing side. This was a great surprise to many, who anticipated the downfall of the maroons, and not without some reason, as the City Club have a great set of backs this year, and by no means a bad lot of forwards. The winners, however, must be credited with the best condition, which told its tale as the game wore on, added to which City had all the bad luck, and should certainly have scored on two or three occasions.

Though defeated, City struck me as likely to show themselves one of the most dangerous teams in the cup matches this season, and given fine weather I should not fear to pit them against any other district in the competition, so strong are they in the back division.

The "daddy" of the winning side was undoubtedly the ex-Wellington player, Laws, at three-quarter. He played a brilliant game right through, kicked well, tackled in good style, and handled the greasy ball as no other man on the ground did.

The remainder of the backs showed nothing that calls for special mention, and appeared on the whole a moderate lot, though it is early in the day to sit in judgment on them. The old Christchurch player, Thomson, was tried at full-back, and appeared fairly safe in the position, though he frequently erred in kicking the oval down the field when the use of the touch-line would have gained more ground.

Whitley, on the wing, was very smart in his work, while in the forwards Murray, Hancock, Sampson, and Gordon (who should have had his cap last year) all stood out prominently, though it may be said that there was not a man in this division but did his share of good honest toil.

City have unearthed a good back in Donovan, and taking a line on his initial appearance I should certainly say that he will win his spurs ere long if he continues as at present. He was cool throughout and safe as that oft-quoted institution, the Bank of England.

George Smith made every use of his pace, and is going to be as brilliant as ever, though I should say on Saturday's play that he is suffering from an attack of what is known in vulgar parlance as "swelled head," i.e., a weakness for No. 1. I think he might have passed to his confederates to advantage, and on one occasion in particular I think a try would have resulted had he handed

the ball along to his mates. Another thing that I did not appreciate was his decided inclination to call into question the decision of the referee. It won't do, George; you must get rid of the idea that "Smithy" is the only man on the field, and as Paddy said, "the sooner, the quicker."

The speedy Surman, who skippered the black and reds, gave a very good account of himself individually, but did not exercise particularly sound judgment in the handling of his team.

Siddle is still the Siddle of yore, his defensive play on Saturday being remarkably good, while "Cocky" Corles made few errors behind the pack, and looked after his backs. Another man who favourably impressed onlookers was Moros, a recent addition. He is sound all round and tackles particularly well. When the rough edges have worn off, City will find him one of the useful sort.

Ponsonby, last year's cracks, met Suburbs on No. 2 ground, and found the outside district a decidedly harder nut to crack than they had anticipated. Though they ultimately prevailed by 6 points to 4—2 tries to a goal from the field—they did not find it all beer and skittles, and the game and stubborn manner in which the "hay seeders" contested every inch of the grounds, showed that, with their best side in the field and an opportunity for collective practice, they would make matters decidedly interesting for any of the outsiders engaged. They certainly have the material, but as it appears hopeless to expect to see them get together during the week in such a scattered district in order to bring about better combination, they cannot be expected to do much.

"Mase" (otherwise R. Masefield) played full-back for Ponsonby, and although, as everyone knows it is a pity he is not a little faster, there are a few more safe men to be picked up for the position. His great point, to my idea, is the fact that you can't bustle him.

Harrison, the well-known ex-Wairoa three-quarters, who gained his "rep" cap for the province last year had all his warpaint on, and waded in like a tradesman, a remark that might also safely be applied to Galloway and S. Riley, the latter a promoted junior, who is well worth a place in any senior team—a lad full of promise.

The forwards all did sound work, and while there is no occasion to individualise, among the old members a word of encouragement may be meted out to Wilson and Barker, both new men, who were always in the thick of the fight—scrum, open, and line, the first mentioned in particular, giving me a most favorable impression. The only weakness, and perhaps a somewhat excusable one for a first day was the tendency to kick too hard in the forward rushes.

Sutherland, Suburbs' full-back, filled the bill most creditably, and brought his side out of more than one awkward corner.

McPike, who will be remembered as having played for Suburbs a couple of years back, and Absolom were the best of the remaining backs, and both upheld their reputation. The first-mentioned is very dangerous with his feet when anywhere handy to the opposing goal, as Ponsonby learnt to their sorrow in the first spell when he put a very neat one over the cross-bar.

The front division all worked with a will, and Charley Speight with two wills. If only Jack Gillet and "Rab" McKenzie had been there they would have made matters particularly interesting, while Davey Gage, at five-eights, would have proved a tower of strength to the back division.

Newton defeated Grafton by 9 points (three points) to nil, but the victory was not attained without hard work, and when Grafton get their two or three maimed men back, Smith and Renwick in particular, they will be considerably strengthened.

Tommy Roberts, of hurdle fame, was the hero of the match, his two tries being the outcome of sterling play, while there was an entire absence throughout of that "funk" of which he has been so frequently accused.

Heath shaped in promising style at full-back, and Woods has evidently quality in him. C. Freeman did well.

The pack are a pretty powerful lot, and with a little more work together should do their district credit.

Walker at full-back for Grafton was only moderate, and at times got a bit mixed. I am, not, however, going to condemn the man on first sight. Hardingham shows promise, and has lots of pace to recommend him.

D. Hay was undoubtedly the pick of the backs. The Bradys (2), Hedley, and Cooksey were always prominent in the forwards.

The match of next Saturday will be that between Parnell and Ponsonby. Both districts are confident of victory, and although, perhaps, I say it as should not, I hear a little wager of £50 hangs in the balance.

D. Gage was to have applied to the management committee of the Auckland Rugby Union last night (Wednesday) for permission to play for Suburbs, and will, no doubt, be seen out for that district next Saturday.

The Wellington Rugby Union has agreed to meet the representatives of the Wairarapa Rugby Union on August 20th, provided that the visits of the Southern Unions do not clash with the arrangements.

Despite the unfavorable weather the Auckland Rugby Union gate of last Saturday was over £50.

Jack Gillet and Rab McKenzie did not roll up for Suburbs on Saturday, but will probably give the district the benefit of their services in future matches.

The Auckland Football Association inaugurate the season next Saturday, when a series of matches in both grades of the soccer game will be played at the Domain Cricket Ground and the North Shore Domain.

It is just possible that after all "Tabby" Wynyard will be persuaded to take up the cudgels on behalf of the North Shore senior fifteens.

With the several English players of note that have been added to the Association Clubs here during the past four or five months, this game will be considerably stronger than before.

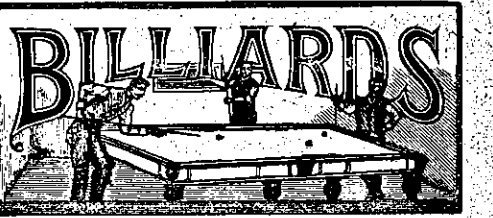
The recently formed Auckland Rugby League, with which some ten or a dozen outside clubs have affiliated, open their season on Saturday next, a series of inter-club matches having been arranged.

I hear that the new stand the Rugby Union are talking of putting up at Potter's Paddock would not be protected with a roof. If this is so, I am afraid they would not get a great many on it during the bleak wet winter months.

Phelan does not appear to have arrived in town yet, but a supporter of the Ponsonby District Club informs me that he will be here in the course of a few days.

The well-known "rep" forward, Saok Swindley, is at the Thames.

There is an idea of sending a New Zealand football team to England in 1899, the tour to be carried out under the auspices of the New Zealand Union (writes a correspondent in Wellington to a Sydney paper). The difficulty to be faced is, that the Union rules as to professionalism required for actual expenses, so that, in effect, if such a team were formed, it would have to be composed of members of the leisured classes, from which, as you know, we do not get the best footballers. According to the present state of things, therefore, it is improbable that a team, if one should be selected, would adequately represent New Zealand's full strength in the winter game.



The cable announces that Charles Dawson and J. P. Marnock are to leave England by the Ormuz for a tour through Australia. Dawson has been battling for some time with Diggle for the position of runner-up to John Roberts at the spot-barred game, but Diggle has more than once proved his superiority. The visit of the two crack players should arouse an interest in billiard circles, and it is to be hoped that Dawson will be able to arrange a visit to Maoriland.

BOXING.

A South African paper reports the death of the noted Australian boxer, Bill Savin.

An American exchange says:—"That the ex-New Zealander, Dan Creedon, recently defeated by Kid McCoy in a boxing bout, is suffering from paralysis of one of his arms.

Billy Murphy, the old Auckland lad, is said to have left England immediately after his defeat by Curley. Though the little New Zealander thinks he is as good as ever, his recent performances clearly show that his fighting days are over as far as first class men are concerned.

AN INDIAN SPORTSMAN.

According to Mr Arnold Ferris, who recently returned to Adelaide after a trip to India, the Sultan of Johore does things on a gigantic scale. His two palaces are truly Eastern in the gorgeousness. One is in Singapore, and the second is in his own dominion, Johore. His racing establishment is in Singapore, where he has a string of twenty horses always in work, including Disfigured, Culzean, and Parthenopeus. Archie Campbell, the Victorian light-weight, and Alick Pierbux do the riding and training respectively. I was greatly impressed with the magnificence of the palace, the grounds, the stables, all being illuminated with electricity. The Sultan has sets of harness with solid gold and silver mountings. Every description of vehicle is found in his coach house, including bansoms, broughams, carriages, drags, dog-carts, and light waggonettes. The Sultan is a thorough sportsman and an open-handed gentleman, only too pleased to receive visitors and provide them with tiger-shooting, paper chasing, or yachting. On his estate at Johore he has a licensed gambling saloon on the same principle as that at Monte Carlo, where anyone may gamble in unlimited amounts. The Sultan is very anxious to pay Australia a visit. He is fond of Australians, and thinks they are better horsemen than Englishmen. In all probability he will get down to Australia about next Melbourne Cup time.

P. L U N D O N

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