

[BY VIGILANT.]

The senior cup matches for Saturday are Ponsonby v. North Shore, Suburbs v. Grafton, and Newton v. City; Parnell a bye.

Judging by the manner in which Grafton have bowled over City and Ponsonby in the last two matches, I should say that they will make a good stand against Suburbs, though I expect to see the latter win if again operated by the team that played against Parnell last week.

Although the rain was coming down in bucketsful at 2 o'clock on Saturday last, the Auckland Rugby Union did not see fit to postpone the cup fixtures, evidently thinking that our players might as well adapt themselves to a greasy ball as be fine weather players. If the assumption is the correct one, then the Union acted wisely, as, for all we know, one of our big foreign matches may have to be played on a wet ground.

The result was a huge falling away in attendance, there not being one-fourth of the usual number of onlookers present, but those that did turn out got full value for their money in the Suburbs v. Parnell match, a great struggle, won by the suburban players by 7 points (a goal from a mark and a try) to nil.

The Maroons, whose front division are undoubtedly a great lot, and had not known what it was to be beaten up to the present match, found their "Waterloo" in the heavy, fast dashing pack of the out-district, while their backs could not compare with those of the black fifteen in point of speed, though I must compliment them on the sound defence set up. Add Charlie Speight to Suburbs, and what a great team they are, and how difficult to beat for the cup if they stick together.

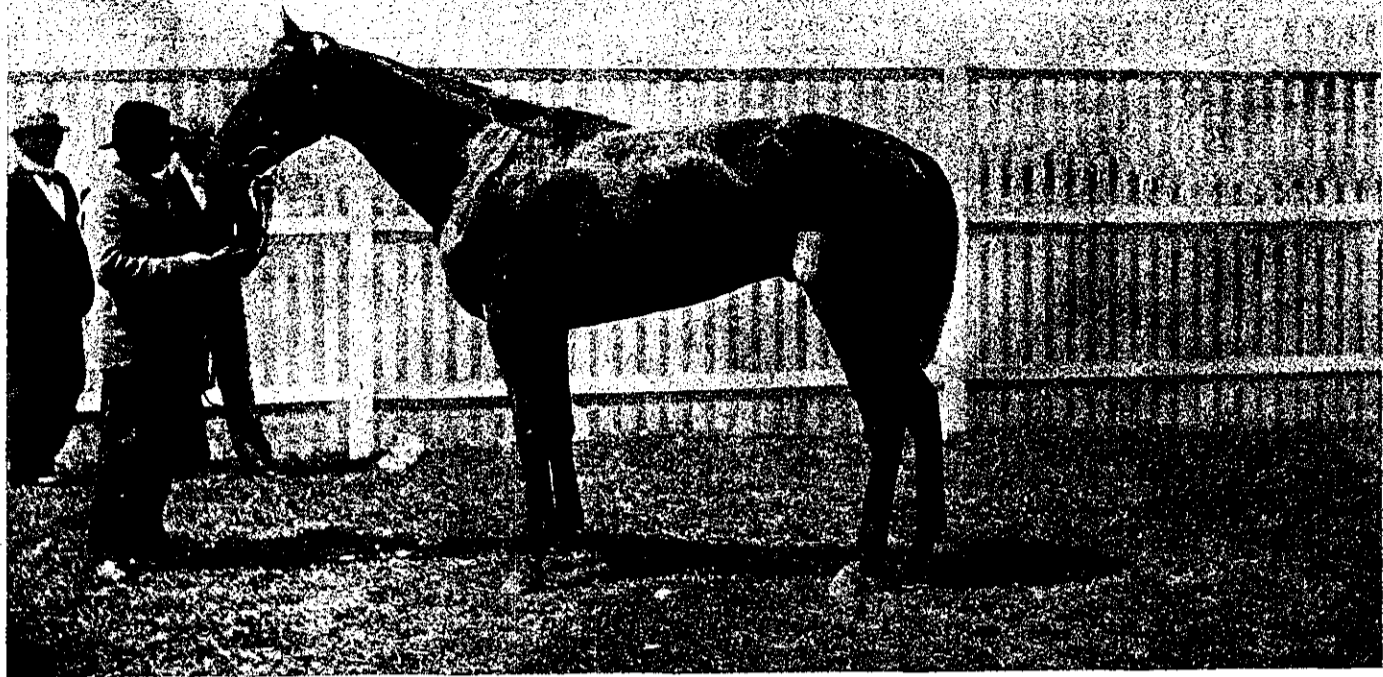
Sutherland at full-back for Suburbs, has played better games, and, though, on the whole he left nothing to cavil at, he muffed the ball on one or two occasions that might have proved more disastrous than was the case.

The great pace of Absolum, McPike, and Bennett, make them a most dangerous set of three-quarters, while the splendid drop-kicking of the latter is always a menace to the opposing side. They got off some very good passing runs on Saturday considering the greasy state of the oval, and Bennett had decidedly hard luck in not being given that goal from the field that he undoubtedly kicked. Everyone who saw it agrees that it was a drop kick, but Mr Katterns, the referee, took it to be a punt, and gave his decision accordingly. While apparently a wrong decision, Mr Katterns must be credited with a prompt and, what he believed to be, a correct award.

Gage, at five-eighths, was the "daddy" of the winning team, and times out of number his grand defence was shown in the manner in which he pulled up the forward rushes of the Parnell front rank. Not only did he work wonders in this direction, but was at all times prominent in offensive play, initiating the passing runs and kicking with great judgment down the line. From a mark by this player Suburbs obtained their first score, a potted goal, Absolum taking the shot.

Jones, a promoted junior, played behind the pack, and although somewhat at sea for the first twenty minutes of the game, made very good use of himself through the balance.

That old war-horse, "Rab" McKenzie, and J. Gillet proved a tower of strength to the Suburb's vanguard, and were always in the thick of the melees. Spurred on by the brilliant play of this pair, the younger members of the forward division worked like Trojans, and not a "waster" was to be seen among them.



VANISH (BY NATATOR) RECENTLY DESTROYED.

Thomson was very safe at full-back for Parnell, but a trifle slow in getting the ball away sometimes. His tackling was very sound.

Of the maroon three-quarters Laws was undoubtedly the best, making good use of his feet and collating well. Hedges and Thomson, the other three-quarters, played up to form, but lacked the pace of the opposing division, and did not pass too well with the wet ball.

Pierce and Richards being behind a beaten pack were naturally not seen to advantage, yet they worked hard.

Whitley played with great dash on the wing, and Murray and Sampson stood out as the most prominent of the forwards, who all did their utmost to avert defeat, the task, however, being beyond them.

Our Napier correspondent wires:—At the Recreation Ground on Saturday the senior match, Napier v. Clive, came up for settlement, after a keen and exciting struggle the country team proved successful by a brace of points, the score at the close of time being Clive 5, Napier 3. In the place kicking and forward work the victorious team were a long way ahead of their opponents, who did not show such proficient or combined work as the country team, and to this cause must be attributed their defeat. For the winners, Geordine, R. Caldwell, and Cheer were the pick of the forward lot, Russell and W. O'Connell being the most prominent amongst the backs. In the Napier contingent, Cameron and Munro (forwards) and Miller, Thompson, and Hallimore (backs) were conspicuous for good all-round, serviceable work. At times a great deal of off-side play was indulged in, the Clive combination being the principal aggressors against the rules, and consequently the referee (Mr Hislop) had a particularly busy time of it with the whistle. He also had to caution two of the Clive fraternity, Cheer and Caldwell, for rough play. In the senior match, Pirates v. Te Aute, which was to have taken place at Farndon Park, the latter forfeited to the Pirates, the state of the weather,

which was of the cold, rainy sort, precluding them from travelling to the scene of action.



[BY DICKEN.]

Owners made a very fair response to the invitation of the Auckland Coursing Club to nominate for the Puppy Stakes. The following are the nominations taken out:—T. Stewart 1, M. Furlong 1, J. Taylor 3, J. Porter 1, J. C. Troy, 1, W. Young 2, N. Christian 2, C. Philpot 1, C. Whitten 1, E. Wylie 2, J. Gallagher 1, F. Malam 3, J. Spear 1, A. E. Stych 1, P. E. Barton 1, J. Handcock 1, J. Proudfoot 5, J. Coulson 3, H. Barton 1. Messrs J. Barr, J. Ferguson, and D. Brennan have been nominated for the position of slipper. The nominators for the Puppy and Great Northern Challenge Stakes will elect the slipper this evening by ballot.

To-night the final payments for the Great Northern Challenge and Puppy Stakes are due.

In addition to Favonus and Rocket, Frank Baker has The Fiend and Miss Trilby in hand. The Fiend is showing improved form, and Miss Trilby is also doing well. I am sorry to hear that Favonus' feet are a bit dickey.

Mr Stych's Sealed Packet and Playboy had a trial at the Plumpton last week. The hare was a splendid one, and doubled back from the escapes, which made the trial a grueller, disastrous to the dogs. Seal Packet killed, and dropped exhausted with the hare in his mouth. Playboy also

dropped exhausted, and had to be carried off the Plumpton.

According to a recent English paper, there was a large attendance at the sale of Colonel North's sporting trophies at Avery Hill, Eltham. There were only a few sporting men present, and the competition was not very keen, most of the trophies being secured by dealers. The Goodwood Cup of 1890, won by Philomel, and weighing 154oz, fetched 13s an ounce, the highest rate obtained throughout the sale. The Brighton Cup of 1890, and the Liverpool Autumn Cup of 1889, which also fell to Colonel North's share by the aid of Philomel, sold for 8s 8d and 8s an ounce respectively. The weight of the former was 333oz, and that of the latter 185oz. The trophies which Colonel North purchased to commemorate the four successive victories of his famous greyhound, Fullerton, in the Waterloo Cup evoked much admiration, but did not realise very high prices. The cups of 1889, when Fullerton divided with Troughend, and of 1890 fetched 6s 2d and 7s 11d an ounce respectively. The 1891 shield, embossed with medallions of coursing scenes, sold for 6s an ounce. The Waterloo Cup 1892 is a magnificent embossed and chased silver gilt two-handed cup and cover, surmounted by a large model of Fullerton. It weighs 544oz, and stands 3ft high. Starting at 2s 6d an ounce the bidding gradually rose to 5s 10s, at which rate the handsomest coursing trophy in the country was knocked down to a dealer for about £160. The jugs and goblets en suite with the Goodwood Cup, and weighing about 300ozs, averaged 10s an ounce.

The Coursing Club, contrary to the practice of former years, offered the privileges in connection with its meetings for sale at Messrs. Churton and Co's mart on Friday last, but the experiment was not a success. For the booth (eight days' coursing) £25 was the top price offered, and as this did not reach the reserve price, the booth was withdrawn and submitted for one meeting only, the result being that Mr Enwright became the purchaser for £7. The sum of £60 was offered for the gates by Mr J. Tobias, but the offer was declined, as was also an offer for the cards.

In consequence of the Takapuna Jockey Club's second day being postponed until Saturday next, the Auckland Coursing Club has decided to put off the first day of its June Meeting until Wednesday next, June 1. The second day's coursing will take place on the following Wednesday, June 8th.

THE SLIPPER.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I see by the paper that I have been nominated for the position of slipper to the Avondale Club. Whilst I have every wish to encourage the sport, I must assert a little respect for myself by declining to stand for election. I thank the gentleman who have nominated me, also those who were willing to support me, but my decision is that I will not accept the position as slipper. I wish the sport every success. Yours truly, JAMES BARR.

The following may be accepted as an evidence of the bias of the conservative Britisher. The *Sporting Times* remarks:—Advance, Australia! But please do it as gradually as you can. I think we have had quite enough bounce for the present about the doings and capabilities of Kangarooland. They have whipped us at cricket—chiefly because Stoddart can't toss for Barcelonas—but the superiority of their horses has yet to be proved; and con-found that Starting Gate. I was once privileged to see St. Simon and Carbine side by side, and it was like putting the Duke of Portland and a Latimer Road landlord on the same hearthrug, or Koch *filis* and fourpenny ale in the same jug. In the matter of production of race horses Kildare is as far in front of New South Wales as Sir Henry Irving is in front of our curate when he recites "The Dream of Eugene Aram" at a penny reading; and the Starting Gate if all right in theory, is in practice about as dangerous to life and limb as dynamite or rattlesnakes.



NOR-WEST (BY SOU'-WESTER—BETTY) WINNER OF THE FIRST HANDICAP HURDLES AT TAKAPUNA J.C. WINTER MEETING

Call and see the new stock of ties and mercery at Geo. Fowlds