

Probably the greatest match of the year has just taken place in Paris. Champion and Bonhours, the middle distance champions of France, met Tom Linton and F. C. Armstrong, representing England. The contest, which was over 50 kilometres, took place on the Parc des Princes track, and it had been arranged that the victory for either side should be according to the positions at the finish. In the event of points being equal the rider who first crossed the tape was to give victory to his side. The four riders appeared on the track all paced by electric tandems, in respect to which each was equally well served. At the pistol all got away to a capital start, Champion as usual cutting out the pace at a fast rate, but he was soon passed by Armstrong and Linton. In the fourth kilometre Armstrong's tandem stopped dead, and Linton's shortly afterwards followed suit, the result being that the English representatives were left without pace. Armstrong got a fresh tandem, and went in pursuit of the Frenchmen, while Linton was left temporarily out in the cold. Champion led at the eleventh kilometre. Armstrong at last got behind a fast tandem, and gave the spectators a taste of his ability. He speedily overtook Bonhours, and went in pursuit of Champion, whom he passed at a terrific rate of speed. Linton, in the meantime, was hanging out signs of distress, and he was lapped by Bonhours. In the twentieth kilometre Armstrong was leading by 400 yards. Linton now began to ride better, and in the fortieth kilometre he left Champion and caught Bonhours, whom he passed. Linton made a game effort to catch Armstrong, who was several laps ahead, but the latter answered sprint with sprint. Armstrong won by two laps in the splendid time of 58min 42 2-5 sec, Tom Linton second, Bonhours third a lap behind Linton, and Champion a lap behind Bonhours last. The English representatives therefore won very decisively. Armstrong's time is a French record.

It is very easy to know if any ride has overtaxed the strength and caused over-fatigue, says the famous cycling physician, Dr. E. B. Turner: Under such circumstances the rider will be unable to eat, he will be hot, thirsty, restless, and feverish at night, and quite unable to sleep, and the next day will suffer from lassitude and a distinct disinclination for any form of exertion. If rest be taken, these symptoms of "fatigue fever" will rapidly subside; but if they be disregarded, and the offence repeated, nature will step in to exact the penalty due to her outraged laws.

The science of correct ankle action is not always an easy one for the novice to learn. They don't seem to understand this new application of the ankle, and sometimes in the attempt to obey the directions of their tutor will slip the pedal until brought up sharply by the heel. The simplest explanation of the movement we ever heard given by an instructor was: "Fancy you are turning a handle with your foot," and when one comes to analyse the words they will be found to contain a wealth of meaning. Everyone knows how the wrists adapt themselves to the turning of a handle, and when the cycling novice has this basis on which to work he soon learns to use his ankles with the greatest effect.

There is a likelihood of A. MacDonald of transcontinental fame, making an attempt to reduce W. Kux's Adelaide to Melbourne record of 545 miles in 51 hours 48 minutes at an early date, as MacDonald is very confident, that with fair weather and pacing, he can lower the existing records. The last man to attempt this ride, was the crack N.S.W. road rider, W. S. McCombe, but he failed, through meeting wet weather most of the way.

An amusing story is going the rounds anent one of Melbourne's big cycle manufacturers. Mr A. Robb, was recently had up before the Melbourne Court for riding with his hands off, and after a deal of evidence on both sides, was mulcted in a small fine. A week later Mr Robb attended the Mayor's dinner, and received a bit of a shock when placed beside and introduced to the identical Magistrate who had, a few days previously, fined him for riding hands off. Mr Robb then tackled the on an equal footing, and so convinced his antagonist that he ended up victoriously by selling him one of his firm's machines, which Mr Robb had contended in Court, ran as easily and steadily with the hands off as on. Mr Robb has now gone a step further; he has appeared, with success, to the Chief Justice and obtained an order nisi to review the Magistrate's decision, so that, up to the present, the honors are with the cyclist.

Lilian Russell, the celebrated actress, is said to own the most valuable and beautifully decorated drop-frame machine ever manufactured. The frame is of gold and silver, thickly set with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Mrs Langtry has a wheel of solid silver, a prize that she values most highly, although it is of very little use as a riding machine. A tandem worth £2500 is something of a novelty, yet one that has been known for a long ago.



SNAPSHOT OF D. WILSON IN THE THREE MILE CHAMPIONSHIP WALK, SYDNEY.

Gold, silver, and gems covered every visible part of the machine, while on the tubing were painted beautiful pictures of outdoor scenes and animal life. Though the money value of these cycles is immense, yet a practical cyclist would value far more a well-built cycle that may be used at leisure, not fearing the least contact with dust or mud, or "inquisitive gentry."

The performances of Forbes, the speedy New Zealander, in Melbourne since the recent League meeting in Sydney stamp him as being one of the most consistent riders on Australian tracks at present (states the Sydney Evening News). Forbes beat all comers a few days ago in a 25 miles scratch race on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and gave such a splendid exhibition of pace and judgment that local critics had no hesitation in speaking of him as the best man on the ground. He defeated Parsons, the Victorian champion pace follower, when everyone thought that popular rider was going to score an easy victory. The New Zealand champion is a dangerous man always, but especially so over a long distance. He can set a terrific pace, and then sprint like a demon at the finish. In the scratch race alluded to the pace was jerky and broken, being exceptionally fast in patches. This broke Parsons up, though the brilliant Victorian made an excellent show in the running. When it came to the final sprint, however, none of the field could hold Forbes, who won easily. This splendid achievement by the New Zealander makes Megson's recent riding seem all the finer. On Forbes' Melbourne showing he is certainly the crack Australian stayer at present, and he will return to Sydney to race at the forthcoming electric light meetings on December 23 and 28 with his reputation enhanced, and more anxious than ever to lower Megson's colors. It will be remembered that after Megson defeated him in their match in Sydney a few weeks ago Forbes expressed himself as being confident that he could reverse the decision if the race were ridden over again, and he wished for another meeting. Megson, on the other hand, was just as confident that he could beat Forbes every day in the week. As the Sydney sprinter is just now in splendid form it is probable that some sensational racing will be seen at the coming evening meetings.

week. This race is now the largest held in N.Z. and attracts riders from almost every centre in the colony. On the first day the attendance numbered over four thousand, and fine weather prevailed, but a strong nor-wester interfered with times. The following are the results:—

ONE MILE MAIDEN.—E. T. Scrimsher, 50yds, 1; H. Smith, 40yds, 2; V. Ritchie, 50yds, 3. Time 2min 18 2-5sec.

DASH HANDICAP. One lap.—First heat: J. Hanley (Dunedin), 35yds, 1. Time, 45 1-5sec. Second heat: W. Robertson (Christchurch), 40 yds, 1; A. Jones (Auckland), 15yds, 2. Time, 45 3-5sec. Third heat: A. C. Middleton (Melbourne), scr., 1. Time, 46 2-5sec. Fourth heat: T. MoNaught (Timaru), 40yds, 1. Time, 47sec. Final heat: A. Jones (Auckland), 1; T. MoNaught, 2; Robertson, 3. Won after a magnificent sprint by inches only. Time, 45sec.

ONE MILE AMATEUR.—B. Bassett (Christchurch), scr., 1; T. Oates, 50yds, 2. Won by 30yds. Time, 2min 29 3-5sec.

N.Z. WHEEL RACE HANDICAP, two miles. First prize £40, second prize £20, third prize £10, fourth prize £5.—First heat: C. C. Derrett (Hororata), 180yds, 1; E. Henry (Christchurch), 70yds, 2; A. Huston (Ashburton), 220yds, 3; A. Jones (Auckland), 80yds, 4. Won by twenty yards. Time, 4min 37 1-5sec. Second heat: H. Holland (Ashburton), 180yds, 1; E. A. Wall (Christchurch), 40yds, 2; A. C. Middleton (Melbourne), 20yds, 3; G. Sutherland (Christchurch), scr., 4. Won by ten yards. Time, 4min 31 4-5sec. Third heat: A. Holmes (Christchurch), 100yds, 1; A. E. Barker (Christchurch), scr., 2; D. J. Plunkett (Wellington), 60yds, 3; R. J. Cook (Christchurch), 100yds, 4. Won by a length. Time, 4min 39 4-5sec. Final heat: H. Holland, 180yds, 1; A. Barker, scr., 2; G. Sutherland, scr., 3; E. Wall, 40yds, 4. Time, 4min 36sec.

CYCLIST CHALLENGE SHIELD SCRATCH RACE. Two miles.—G. Sutherland, 1; A. E. Barker, 2; A. Ralston, 3. Other starters—D. J. Plunkett, A. C. Middleton, N. Ralston, W. Stackwood, W. Bennett, R. Hendry, R. Cook. Won by a wheel, others close up. Time, 4min 54 1-5sec.

FLYING STAKES. Half mile.—First heat: K. Rodger, 40yds, 1. Time, 1min 13 5-5sec. Second heat: Barker, scr., 1. Time 1min 3 1 5-5sec. Third heat: C. Jones, 50yds, 1. Time, 1min 3 1-5-5sec. Fourth heat: G. Sutherland, scr., 1. Time, 1min 5sec. Final heat: Sutherland, 1; Clarkson 2; Ferris (Oamaru), 40yds, 3. Won on the tape. Time, 1min 3 3-5-5sec.

MULTICYCLE HANDICAP. Two miles.—G. Henwood, Scrimshaw, Lewis, Wearne (quad), 250yds, 1; H. Ritchie and V. Ritchie (tandem), 200yds, 2; A. Holmes and K. Rodger (tandem), 100yds, 3. Splendid race. Won by a length. Time, 4min 12sec.

The attendance on Saturday was only fair. The racing was again excellent, except in the big race which was won by Holland, of Ashburton, in an easy manner. He set out at a fast pace from the start. As the scratch men refused to pace one another, they could never get near Holland, who won by a dozen lengths.

ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP. One mile.—First heat: C. C. Willis, 110yds, 1. Time, 2min 12sec. Second heat: A. W. Humphreys, 45yds, 1. Time, 2min 12 2-5sec; third heat: J. Stanton, 80yds, 1. Time, 2min 13sec. Fourth heat: W. Clarkson, 80yds, 1. Time, 2min 12 4-5sec. Final heat: Humphreys (Wellington), 1; Clarkson (Christchurch), 2; H. Gunthorpe (Dunedin), 85yds, 3. Won by two lengths. Time, 2min 9sec.

THE N.Z. WHEEL RACE MEETING.

[BY OUR CANTERBURY CORRESPONDENT.]

The Great New Zealand Wheel Race Meeting, promoted annually by the Christchurch Cycling Club, was held on Friday and Saturday of last

Photo by Gregory, A. W. A.