

more than he. I expect she holds him quite safe. Cambria, 7st. 2lbs., was not within a stone of The Dreamer as a two-year-old, and I don't think he is likely to be any closer to him as a three, therefore I pass him by. Glaucus, 7st., on his last season's form, hasn't a donkey's chance. Cartridge, 6st. 8lbs., is not a bad little mare, but, unless she has improved considerably, she will find some of this company a trifle too select. Torment, 6st. 3lbs., is another from which a capital view of the race should be obtained. Country Boy, 6st., I do not know, but he is, I hear, in the same stable as Belmont. To sum up, I consider the best treated in the race are Hilda, Leorina, Reprisal, The Dreamer, and Pinfire, and to pick two against the field, I should select REPRISAL and THE DREAMER, but as both of these will probably start in the Guineas, which is the race but one before the Handicap, perhaps HILDA will get home with all her weight.

THE Handicap Hurdle Race is headed by Silvio, 11st. 12lb. I fear he is a light of other days, and has lost his pace. Hopeful Kate, 10st. 10lb., has been given what she is entitled to, and the same remark applies to Orlando, 10st. 7lb., Hune, 9st. 12lb., and Parnell, 9st. 10lb., all of which are equitably treated on last season's running. Of these four I prefer Hune, as she will probably have improved more than the older horses. Satyr, a non-performer over sticks has been given 10st. He might have been let off with a little less. Fishmonger, 9st. 7lb., has some pace, and may have an outside show. Torment, 9st. 5lb., and Te Kooti, 9st. 4lb., are, like Satyr, maidens over hurdles. Why they should receive so much weight from him is one of those things "a fellah cannot understand." I take Te Kooti to be a better performer on the flat than Torment, and Torment a better performer than Satyr. But evidently Mr. Evitt is of exactly the opposite opinion. If Te Kooti has received a careful jumping education through the winter at the hands of Gent, he should just about win. Fragrance, 9st. 3lb., will be a performer to-day at the Hunt Club Races, when her merits or demerits will be exposed. Begorra, Sentinel, Hailstone, Yum Yum, and Carronade are each let off with the minimum, 9st. I do not know Sentinel, but the others are not likely to be dangerous. If I had to pick two against the field I should select TE KOOTI and HUNE, and perhaps Parnell is the next best.

In the SPORTING REVIEW of August 30th I wrote an article on the Caulfield Cup, and, after wading through the list of the 102 horses then engaged, I essayed to name the winner in nine picks. My selections were:—Dunkeld, Leopold, Churchill, Bothwell, The Promised Land, Sultan, Tarcoola, The Serf, and Midas. Of this lot, Dunkeld, The Promised Land, Sultan and Midas have dropped out, and I am left with five to do battle on my behalf. Leopold has been striding along, so the cable tells us, in excellent form, and promised to be a worthy representative of Auckland. Besides the Newmarket Handicap winner, Churchill, Redfearn has a six-year-old mare named Ivy engaged. Bothwell has occupied a prominent position in the betting all through, and I hear from a reliable source is very well. Tarcoola was backed for a lot of money on Friday night, and is sure to run prominently, while The Serf, a beautiful colt in Mr. J. Wilson's dangerous stable, although not backed at the time of writing, may be expected to come with a rush at the finish. Other horses from which I anticipate danger are the mysterious Marvel and the well-backed Little Bernie and Pygmalion, but I shall stick to my original selections, and risk a place selection thus:—

- THE SERF, OR LEOPOLD 1
- BOTHWELL 2
- TARCOOLA OR CHURCHILL 3

At a pigeon shooting match in connection with the Ballarat Gun Club some extraordinary good shooting took place. There were 93 competitors and the birds were particularly good and strong. Ten of the competitors killed no less than 19 consecutive birds. Mr. T. G. Greenfield—who was handicapped at 27 yards and had two charges—killed 38 birds without a miss, only using his second barrel three times.

VOLUNTEER NEWS.

[Volunteers and others are invited to contribute to this column. All communications should be addressed to "Carbine," and left at the office of this paper not later than Wednesday in each week.]

RANGE TIME-TABLE.

October 18	Auckland Navals, Ponsonby Navals.
October 25	"A" Battery, "O" Battery, Engineers.

[BY CARBINE.]

COL.-SERGT. SKINNER, Victoria Rifles, whose portrait we give in this week's issue, is a young and reliable shot. The whole of his performances I have been unable to gather, but the principal ones are:—Condon's Trophy, presented to the Company, won four times—1885-6-7-8—now becoming his own property; Auckland Rifle Association, 1889, Beck's Cup and several money prizes; also the Schapp Belt.

A number of volunteers who intend to try their luck at Napier at the forthcoming meeting, journeyed out to Onehunga last Saturday to practice shooting at the long distances, the Onehunga Rifles having given them the use of the range for the day. Considering the shootists had a strong wind to contend with and some time having elapsed since many of them have fired at the 700 yards range, some very good shooting was made, as the following will show:—

Name.	500 yds	600 yds	700 yds	Grand Total.
Corp. H. Doughty, 'A' B.	23	25	24	77
Gun. Taylor, 'A' B.	29	23	23	75
Gun. Moore, 'A' B.	28	24	14	66
Bomb. J. Webster, 'A' B.	28	24	13	65
Sergt. Parslow, 'A' B.	30	22	13	65
Gun. Greenshields, 'O' B.	28	20	15	63
Capt. Tobin, R.I.	30	22	2	54
P.O. J. Spinley, P.N.	22	15	15	52
Corp. Kearsley, 'A' B.	13	22	10	45
Gun. J. Buchanan, 'A' B.	17	12	15	44
Sergt. R. Soall, C.G.	16	16	12	44



Electrograph Engraving Co. Auckland.

COLOUR-SERGEANT SKINNER.

An inspection parade of the Rifle Companies was held in the Drill Shed on Tuesday evening last, when there was a moderate attendance of the four Companies. The Royal Irish had the best muster, while the Victorias, City Guards, and Newton Rifles were fairly represented. Capt. Kohn was in command of the battalion, and after a few movements in the shed, the battalion was formed up and marched out, headed by Hunter's Artillery Band, as far as the Newton Reservoir, where they were handed over to their respective captains and dismissed.

The officers of the Auckland garrison held a meeting on Wednesday last to appoint a committee for the annual volunteer sports. A representative from each Company being elected, the meeting was then adjourned pending word from the Governor as to the time he will be in Auckland.

The Defence Committee for the Colonies, sitting in London, has endorsed Major-General Edwards' report in respect of arming the volunteer forces with the Magazine Rifle, but think that 8,000—instead of 16,000 as recommended by Major-General Edwards—would be sufficient for New Zealand.

Colonel Shepherd is at present in Whangarei inspecting the Rifle Corps.

The "D" Battery, Wellington, fired a Martini match on Saturday last, with teams of six picked by Captain Moorehouse and the sergts. of the Battery, and which after a very close contest was won by the captain's team with 5 points to spare. The totals are:—captain's team, 283 points; sergeants, 278 points. Seven shots were fired at 300 and 500 yards.

At a meeting of the Gordon Rifle Trust Committee (Messrs. J. B. Fairs, E. Buchanan, J. W. Leigh, and J. F. White) held on Wednesday evening, it was decided to accept the tender of Mr. A. W. Mundy to make the "Challenge Shield" recently presented to the volunteers of the Auckland district by the members of the late Gordon Rifles. The design was furnished by Mr. Blomfield of the 'Observer' and is an original one. The groundwork is to be on black wood, and massively mounted in silver and gold. The centre piece, bearing inscription, is to be a silver shield, supported by the Union Jack and New Zealand flag, also in silver; above this in gold letters "Gordon Rifles' Challenge Shield;" below in gold letters the year of presentation, "1890." Around these the shields on which the winning teams are to be engraved are neatly arranged; the whole being a work of art. The various corps are getting their teams together for the first competition which is to take place in November next, and a very keen contest may be expected.

ATHLETICS.

[BY NIMBLEFOOT.]

PONSONBY FOOTBALL CLUB.

WITH this week's issue we give our readers a portrait of the Ponsonby Football Team, winners of the Auckland Rugby Union's Senior Cup for the season of 1890.

The Club had a most successful season, playing 13 matches, winning 11 and losing 2. They scored 91 points, while only 35 were scored against them. Nine goals were kicked from tries, ten from the field, while forty-six tries were scored. The chief scorers were Breen 42 points, Masfield 12, Bruce 6, and Hobson and Mills 5 each.

Since the Cup contests have been started Ponsonby have won thrice, Grafton twice, and Gordon once.

The Ponsonby team this year was not individually brilliant, but they played with combination, which is much superior to individual efforts. Undoubtedly their combination—which depended so much on their captain, Albie Braund—won them the Cup. Without Braund—as in the third Gordon match—they seemed at sea, and I think they owe the position they now hold as the Cup winners of 1890 to his good generalship.

Breen has been a tower of strength to them this season, scoring nearly half the points got by the team, while he has also improved greatly in his defensive play. Conway played consistently well at half all the season, and proved of great value to his side. Masfield did not play up to his form, though he played one or two fair games. Tanfield proved himself a very useful member of the team. Jim Poland has been playing consistently well in the forward division and has considerably improved in dribbling. Caulton is undoubtedly one of the best forwards in the team; and played with a good deal of judgment. Hefferman in the first half of the season played half-heartedly, but towards the end resumed all his old dash. Mills was fairly good all the season but was inclined to loaf a little. Cole played a right good game all through, and with another year's experience should rank as one of the best forwards here.

The following are the players who have distinguished themselves during the late season.

M. H. LAIRD (full-back) is very fast, a good kick, but weak tackler. He played well at the beginning of the season, but fell off towards the end.

R. MASEFIELD (wing $\frac{3}{4}$ back), is a good defensive player, strong tackler, and pretty good kick. He played indifferently till towards the finish of the season, when he came back to his old form of 1889.

J. BREEN (centre $\frac{3}{4}$) is a very much improved player. Potting at goal is his forte. During the season he has kicked 6 goals from the field. He has proved himself clever at feinting and passing, and altogether has played a consistent game for the Club. He represented the Province against Taranaki, 1890.