

The Rev. C. G. Lane, a well-known English cricketer and oarsman, passed away on the 2nd November. As recently as 1887 Mr Lane figured in a cricket match of importance, playing for the Veterans against the M.C.C. at Lord's on the occasion of the centenary of that club, but it was as long ago as 1856 that he played for Oxford against Cambridge, appearing again in the team in 1858, 1859, and 1860. In two of these years Mr Lane also assisted his university in the boat race, rowing No. 3. Mr Lane, who was in his 57th year, was a member of the famous Surrey County Cricket team of the early sixties. As the most capable judges of his time always ranked Mr Lane as one of the best batsmen in Surrey County there can be no doubt that he was a very fine player. As a fieldsman he was also famous, cover point and long leg being his favourite positions. Now that he is dead there are only four survivors left of the old Surrey Eleven that twice defeated the full strength of England. These four are William Caffyn, H. H. Stephenson—for many years past coach at Uppingham school—Mr F. Burbidge, and Mr E. Dowson. The others—Lockyer, Mortlock, Griffith, Sewell, Julius Cæsar and F. P. Miller—have all passed away.

The gross takings in connection with the two intercolonial cricket matches recently played at Metbourne—Victoria v. New South Wales, and Victoria v. South Australia—amounted to £3301, and the expenses to about £700, thus leaving a very handsome balance to the credit of the Association.

Our Wellington correspondent wires that at the Palmerston North Sports on Monday the Putting-the-Weight record, 38ft 9in, established by T. O'Connor, of Auckland, was beaten by O. McCormack, who covered 39ft 4in.

In referring to the Ten Mile Handicap for veterans over fifty years of age, promoted by Sir J. D. Astley, and decided at Stamford Bridge Grounds, London, on November 28th, "Maggie" writes as follows in the London *Globe*:—"It is not vouchsafed to every man to possess such a cast-iron constitution as that of Sir John Dugdale Astley, whose whole being is permeated with a love of sport that positively amounts to fanaticism. Sir John Astley ran races under the guns of Sebastapol, and laughed at the Russian artillerymen the while he was sprinting home with his brother officers. He is built of the same material as the young Etonian described by poor Whyte Melville, who, when the Russians retreated after a sortie from the besieged walls of the Crimean citadel, ran after them and threw stones at them. But Sir John should remember that we cannot be always young, and that there is no sadder spectacle than the sight of senility attempting to ape youth. No doubt pure goodness of heart, combined with idolatry of sport, inspired Sir John to promote the ten mile race for pedestrians of fifty years of age and over at Stamford Bridge on Monday, but take it all in all it was not a comforting spectacle to gaze upon the majority of the old men, wrecks of their former selves, who took part in the display. There was Bill Lang, upright and resolute, trying to look like the Bill Lang who, years ago, ran a mile down hill in 4min 2sec, and made a dead heat of it in a mile race with Richards in 4min 17½sec, which record, by the way, stood in the book for many years, until W. G. George annihilated it. There was old Jackson, the 'American Deer,' now seventy-one years of age, who used to star on pedestrian tours with 'Deerfoot'; Moorehouse, the 'Waterloo Pet,' seventy-three years old; J. Reynolds, better known as Joe Spencer, seventy-two years of age; and many other veterans whose ages topped threescore; and although to many of these the old adage of 'There's life in the old dog yet,' would apply, yet I contend it was a melancholy sight to view these resurrectioned athletes running in a ten mile race. Neither Lang nor Jackson did anything but disport themselves on the track, as each retired early in the race, which was won by the scratch man, Choppy Warburton, fifty years old, in 61min 39 1-5th sec. W. Shipley, fifty years old, the other scratch man, was second, in 67min 34 1-5th sec, and R. Bullivant, fifty-four years old, 200yds start, was third, in 71min 5 4-5th sec. After all expenses had been met, there remained £182 to be divided amongst the thirty-seven competitors. Warburton received £50 and a gold medal, Shipley £20 and a gold medal, Bullivant £10 and a gold medal, Jackson (American Deer), originator of the race, £10, Moorhouse (eldest man in the race) £5, and the remainder sums ranging from £4 to £1."

The remains of William O'Connor, the celebrated oarsman, were interred in St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Toronto, on Nov. 26. The pall-bearers were Edward Hanlan, William Kennedy, Fred Mossop and Joseph Rogers. Speaking of the dead oarsman an English paper says:—"O'Connor became a rower by a sort of accident. He held a post in the Toronto office of the Grand Trunk Railway, but his health breaking down he was ordered by his doctor to go in for plenty of outdoor exercise. Thereupon he joined a boating club, and it soon became apparent that he was much above the ordinary run of scullers. He was only 29 years of age at the time of his death. He was a genial gentlemanly young fellow, and his sorrow for the death of his antagonist friend, Searle, was real and touching."

Alluding to the movement for shifting the headquarters of the Swimming Association from Auckland to Christchurch the *Canterbury Times* says:—"It appears as though the removal is not to be accomplished without some decided opposition from Auckland. Naturally Auckland feels the motion for the removal very keenly as the Association was started there, but Northern swimmers must admit that Canterbury is far ahead of Auckland both as regards clubs and membership. As to the charge that the movement is prompted by provincial jealousy and personal feeling there is not the slightest foundation for it. The Canterbury Clubs feel that in view of the large and increasing number of clubs and the greater interest taken in swimming matters here, added to the fact that there are more clubs in Canterbury than in the whole of the North Island the change of headquarters is highly necessary."

Professional rowers (writes "Trident" in the Sydney *Mai*) seem to be having a very quiet time indeed, and no matches are spoken of. Stanbury has gone inland erecting telegraph poles or fences. Dutch is at his trade with the anvil and sledge. Neilsen is enjoying a rest and looking after his boathouse at Mortlake. Lambert, I think, is farming, and Kemp is at his home on the Hawkesbury. Sullivan is on one of the northern rivers, and will row at Coraki at the end of the month.

With a view of selecting a team of athletes to compete at the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association's annual championship meeting to be held at Wellington, the committee of the Canterbury Amateur Athletic Club have decided to hold a trial meeting to-day (January 26). The events set down for decision are as follows:—100yds Flat, 400yds Flat, 880yds Flat, One-mile Flat, 120yds Hurdles, 440yds Hurdles, One-mile Walk, High Jump, and Throwing 16lb Hammer. All events are handicaps.

Ball is training hard for the forthcoming Test Races, under the mentorship of Taylor. Farquhar is being carefully looked after by McDermott. Johnson is doing steady work at the Shore. Beale will not be among the starters in the Test Races. Martin and Hackett are still doing good work under the capable supervision of S. Goodman. Roberts is suffering from a bad leg and will probably be among the non-starters. Creamer is practising steadily on the off-chance of Burton not being a competitor.

The New Zealand Cup winner British Lion has come down in the racing scale indeed. He ran at the Kumara (Westland) meeting on the 4th inst. and finished last of four starters in the Kumara Handicap, one mile and a half, won by J. E. Pilbrow's Flywheel, well known in the Nelson and Marlborough districts. Harkaway was second and Miss Ann third. Harkaway carried 9.11, British Lion 9.6, Flywheel 7.10, and Miss Ann 7.3. Harkaway got home by a head only. British Lion's only other appearance at the meeting was in the Consolation, when carrying 7.2 he failed to give Tyrant 9lb.

After a lengthy retirement, Cruchfield's younger brother Lord Aston made his re-appearance under silk in the Bangor Plate Handicap, one mile, run at Hororata (Canterbury) Meeting on the 13th inst. He put up 7.8, and was just beaten a head by Au Revoir, 6.7, the property of "Patsy" Butler, who has been out of luck so far this season. Au Revoir, who is by St. George—Farewell, and is therefore full brother to Marlborough, paid the nice dividend of £10 8s. On the strength of his victory, his stable companion Crown Jewel, 8.5, was made favourite for the Hororata Cup Handicap of 55sovs, one mile and a-half, in which she was opposed by a quartette, but she was beaten half-a-mile from home, and Cajolery, 8.12, won by a length from Inez, 8.2, with Warrington, 7.13, third. Au Revoir, with 7.0, could not improve on the position of third to Maria Martin, 6.7, and Warrington, 8.9, in the New Year's Gift, six furlongs, and Crown Jewel, 8.11, was beaten half-a-length by her only opponent Rosehill, 8.0, in the Consolation Handicap, one mile. I had almost forgotten to mention that the big dividend of £67 5s. was paid over the victory of a piebald pony called Muses in the Trot.

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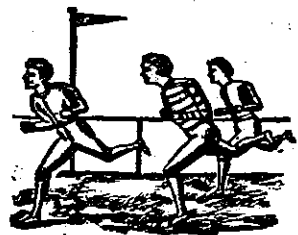
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