

# SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

## AQUATICS.

(By "The Reefer.")

The Waiheke Regatta will take place at Cowes' Bay next Monday, and will be held under the auspices of the Royal N.Z. Yacht Squadron.

The Huntly Maori Regatta takes place on January 30, and present indications give promise of it proving a big success.

The headquarters of the Waitemata Boating Club is now near the Wynyard pier on the King's Drive.

Nearly every yacht belonging to Auckland's big fleet has been away from moorings during the holidays, and the harbour has worn quite a deserted look. All the favourite spots at the Barrier, Waiheke, Mahurangi, Kawau, Waiwera, and elsewhere have received visits from yachtsmen, who one and all report having had a good time. Several of the yachts will be absent till after the New Year holidays, but the majority made port on Tuesday evening.

The rowing races postponed from Ponsonby Regatta were rowed last week. The heavy-weight maidens was won by Waitemata very easily. The light-weight maidens resulted in a dead-heat between St. George's and Auckland, and was rowed off again, the result being a win for Auckland by a-quarter of a length. The heavy-weight juniors was a race between Waitemata and two crews from West End, Waitemata winning comfortably.

The Auckland Swimming Club's carnival is to be held on Saturday, January 7, in the Auckland Graving Dock.

## BOWLING.

(By the "Skip.")

The Auckland Bowling Association's Tournament will take place this year on January 28, 30 and February 4. The matches will be the permanent, shield, subscription, pairs, singles, and first year's players' competition. Entries close at 8.30 p.m. on January 21, with Mr G. B. Osmond at the Amateur Sports Club.

Entries for the Te Aroha Tournament close on Saturday with Mr A. F. Burton. Mr Carlaw, the Auckland Bowling Club's treasurer, will take entries up till noon to-morrow.

Mr Stephen Fortescue, the hon. treasurer of the English Bowling Association, has played a number of matches on the greens in Auckland, chiefly at the Grafton green. He went to Hamilton on Saturday to visit his son, and afterwards goes South. Mr Fortescue was very cordially welcomed by local bowlers, an especial feature being a bowling "At Home" given in his honour by Mr Kirker on his private green, and at which the presidents of the various clubs were all present. In a friendly trial of skill Mr Kirker and Mr Laxon defeated Mr Fortescue and Mr Ledingham by 22 points to 20.

J. Anderson, A. Nixon, C. G. Laurie, and J. S. Kilgour (skip) will be the Carlton Club's team at the N.B.A. Tournament at Gisborne.

The Auckland Bowling Club are the holders of the First Year's Players' Challenge Shield, which was presented for competition by the Equitable Life Assurance Society. The senior club will, however, have a fearfully weak team this season to defend the trophy, and it looks a good hundred to one on chance that the handsome shield will have to leave the Grafton pavilion.

In addition to the coconut matting rink game which Dr. W. G. Grace is introducing at the Crystal Palace, another form of winter bowling is finding new favour in London—the playing of straight, rather small, woods over a narrow rink of a kind of druggit. So far its devotees here are mostly confined to the Scottish element come south.

According to the "Australasian's" London correspondent, Mr W. L. Murdoch, Mr J. Horsburgh, a past president of the New Zealand Bowling Association, Mr J. R. McCallum, formerly a bowler in Victoria and New Zealand, and Mr S. Newcombe, a veteran who played for many years over the greens of the colony

named, are being corresponded with by a provisional committee with a view to the formation of a team, as large as possible, of colonials residing in England, to represent Australasia in an annual contest. Should there be a Commonwealth or New Zealand combination touring the Mother Country, the visitors would, of course, be given place to. Mr Newcombe, to whom allusion was made, though past the eighties, displays the keenest interest in the pastime, and since his return from New Zealand has been greatly instrumental in founding the fine Muswell Hill Bowling Club ground, the total outlay on which exceeded £1500.

Easton has beaten Myers in the Auckland Club's championship by two games to one, while Woodhead proved too good for Minnie in the same competition.

A very close game for the Gold Buckles took place on Saturday on the Auckland green. Dingle's team had challenged Buttle's and apparently had the game won, but Buttle with his last bowl ran through the shot bowl and snatched a victory at the very eleventh hour by 21 to 19.

In the semi-finals for the Remuera championship Hegman beat Sanderson by 32 to 28, and the Rev. Monro beat Laxon by 38 to 15.

There was plenty of bowling done on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday on the various grounds, a great many matches being played off, but want of space forbids a description.

## CRICKET.

The Auckland Cricket Association Cup competition was continued on Saturday under very pleasant conditions, the weather being fine and the wicket in good order.

Grafton scored a very easy win over Ponsonby with 184 and 130 for two wickets to 85. S. Jones (57) and Lawry (55) played nicely for the winners, while Braithwaite (21) was the only one to show confidence among the losing team.

City, with five wickets down for 76, continued batting. Cossey, one of the not-out men, had only added one run when he was dismissed. Hemus was batting in fine style, but as none of the others could stand up against Parnell's bowling, City could only reach the total of 141. Hemus (65, not out) played beautiful cricket. He scored freely all round the wicket, never making a mistake. In Parnell's second innings, Murray (85) batted vigorously, and Sale (37) played in his usually careful style. Parnell's total reached 175, and they won by 70 runs on the first innings.

## ATHLETICS.

The sports meeting to be held by the Auckland Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club, at which Shrub, Morton, and Duffy are to appear, will take place on the Domain on April 1. This will, of course, take the place of the March carnival. It is somewhat unfortunate that the date fixed upon will clash with the autumn meeting of the Avondale Jockey Club, which fixture will keep away many who would otherwise have attended to see the visiting champions perform.

A sports meeting will take place at Wairoa South on Saturday, for which very good entries have been received.

Numerous and brilliant as Alfred Shrub's pedestrian performance have been during the last two or three years, his doings on Saturday last fairly capped them all (writes the "Australasian's" English correspondent). With a view of giving him an opportunity of cutting the ten-mile record, the West of Scotland Harriers fixed up a handicap race at that distance, and, notwithstanding that wind and rain prevailed during the great part of his journey, the brave South London harrier not only did all that was expected of him, but also went on for the hour record, and succeeded in smashing many notable figures, both professional and amateur. Covering his first mile in 4min 41.5-sec, Shrub settled down into a nearly uniform gait of 5min to a mile, and at six miles (29min 59.2-5sec) he was within all amateur records, while at eight miles he was

inside professional figures also. Ten miles was covered in 50 min 2.5 sec (as against W. G. George's 52min 38.2-5sec); eleven miles in 56min 23.3-5 sec; eleven and a-half miles in 59min 10.4-5sec, while in the full hour Shrub covered 11 miles 1137 yards, which is only 149 yards short of Harry Watkins's professional paced record of 11 miles 1286 yards. All amateur records for the hour were swept away, the previous bests being W. G. George's 11 miles 932½ yards, and Sid. Thomas' 11 miles 840 yards.

## LINE & TRIGGER.

A prominent English angler has taken the records of the recent Crystal Palace casting tournament and worked out three classifications as follows: by competitors, by weight and by distance cast. These give the names of the competitors, the weight and length of the rod, the distance cast and its number of times the length of the rod; in other words, one competitor who used a 4½-ounce fly-rod 9 feet in length, cast 72 feet, or 8 times the length of his rod, while another one, using a rod 18 feet long and weighing 42 ounces, cast a salmon fly 87 feet or 4.5-6th times the length of his rod. "The deduction I draw," said this gentleman, "put concisely, are, that the average man cannot get out of any fly-rod a cast of 10 times its length, and as his rod gets longer and heavier unless he be a very strong man indeed, the number of times his rod length that he can cast declines rapidly, and the higher his rod for its length the slower the decline takes place."

The wild dog of Central Africa, an explorer writes, is common enough. He is an ugly looking beast, with a pig body, coarse hair, short head and large upright ears. These wild dogs play fearful havoc with game, occasionally clearing out whole districts precisely in the same manner as the red dhole of India, before which even the tiger is said to retreat. They have a wonderful power of scent, wonderful boldness, endurance, and pertinacity, and their loose easy gallop covers the ground far more quickly than it appears to do. They usually hunt in considerable packs, although they are sometimes met in threes and fours. We have never heard of wild dogs actually attacking a man, but they often behave as if on the point of doing so, and unarmed travellers have been literally tread by them before now.

## Australian Topics

(By "Atlas.")

Hackenschmidt continues to appear at the Tivoli, and his performances cause much interest here, the great wrestler having become a pronounced favourite. We had some Japanese wrestlers here with Fitzgerald's Circus a few weeks ago. What a draw a bout between these Japs and the great Russian bear would have been! Gus Rennert, the German, was downed by Hackenschmidt the other night, and has since "squeaked" that the Russian got an unfair grip on, but Hackenschmidt indignantly denies the soft impeachment, and offered to give Rennert another try in Graeco-Roman style, but Rennert failed to respond. Hackenschmidt has now expressed his willingness to meet Rennert in the catch-as-catch-can style which he favours.

The East Sydney Swimming Club's Carnival on Saturday was a marked success. Miss Dorothy Hill attempted to lower the world's record of 1min 19.2-5sec, but failed by several seconds. Cecil Healy attempted to lower Dick Cavill's world record for 100yds (58 seconds), but failed. In his first effort his record was 58.1-5sec, and in his final effort 58.4-5sec. B. B. Keran won the half-mile championship of New South Wales in splendid style, he being a lap and a half in front of the second man at the finish. His time was 11min 40sec. The world's record accomplished in the Australasian Championship last year is 11min 29.4-5sec.

The British Football Association have determined to invite a New Zealand team to visit Australia in the season 1905. A visit of an English team to Australia and New Zealand is also spoken of.

There was a very big crowd at the Gaiety on Saturday night to witness the boxing match for the Light-Weight Championship Cocker Tweedie and Monty Andrews. All went well with the clever Tweedie until the third round, when Andrews took a decided lead, and from this out he carded at will, and although Tweedie was game, and wanted to continue, the referee stopped the fight, proclaiming Andrews the winner. The Rocks lad (Tweedie) is very, like his predecessor, the wonderful Griffio, but his day is done.

The Austral Wheel Carnival was brought to a close on Saturday night, when there was a tremendous attendance. The Carnival right through has been a great success, the scratch events

producing the best contests. The three mile scratch race, the Burston Plate, caused a great race between G. Parley and W. Rutt, the former winning by a few inches only. The heats in the semi-final round of the Austral Wheel Race resulted as follows:—W. Houston 160yds, 1, E. Payne 2, D. Sheehan 120yds, 3, W. Ringwood 210yds 4; second heat: S. Whitson 140yds, 1, A. Tame 150yds, 2, J. McGibbon 270yds, 3, J. Brooker 250yds, 4; third heat: A. Clarke 150yds, 1, H. Thomas 130yds, 2, C. Glen-cross 210yds, 3, C. Best 200yds, 4. All these placed men started in the Final. Clarke held a good position all the time, and in the early part of the race was paced by Best. Thomas made a game effort in the last lap, but Clarke had the race in hand, and won by three machine lengths. Thomas was second, Tame third and Houston fourth.

Cricketers are now in the throes of the Inter-State contests, which are arousing more public interest than usual because of the fact that the selection of the Australian Eleven will be very much effected by the individual form shown. Victoria, so far, has done well this season. They commenced by defeating South Australia, and now they have administered a very decided drubbing to Queensland, winning by an innings and 181 runs. The match was started on Friday last, when Queensland in their first innings made 280 than's chiefly to a very fine innings by Merton, a new player from Rockhampton, who put together 135 not out. The innings was not faultless, still it was a great performance. The Victorians then went in and put together the fine score of 573, but of that number no less than 450 runs were contributed by three men, Laver 98, Armstrong 200, and Ransford 152. The first two named were members of the last Australian Eleven, and the colt Ransford is making a bold bid for inclusion in the next. In his first Inter-State match against South Australia he made 80 not out, so that 232 for once out is not a bad start. Queensland in their second innings were quickly disposed of by Col-

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