

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

ATHLETICS.

Next Saturday the Auckland A.A. and C.C. will bring off the big sports meeting on the Domain. With Shrubbs, Duffey, Widmer and Wheatley making their appearance there should be some capital sport, and given anything like fine weather some keen finishes should be seen. A very good programme has been drawn up, and as excellent entries have been received, spectators have nothing to cavil at. Duffey will turn out in the 50Yds, 75Yds, and 100Yds Handicap, and bearing in mind that the Domain track is exceptionally fast, and that the American crack is in his best form, he should hoist figures that will take some beating. It is unfortunate that Shrubbs is apparently still a good deal below par as regards health, but even not at his best he will be the greatest distance runner who has ever appeared in Auckland. The Sydney sprinter, Widmer, should also be seen to greater advantage than he yet has in the colony, while Wheatley may prove too good for all the middle distance men. In the event of fine weather it is to be hoped there will be a very large gathering under the oaks on Saturday to welcome the visitors from England, America and the Commonwealth.

The Wellington Athletic Club's International meeting proved a big success. Fine weather and the presence of Shrubbs, Duffey, Widmer, Wheatley and Co. had the effect of attracting some 6000 people to the convincing ground, and over £300 was taken at the gate. The sport proved interesting, the only jarring note being the action of the starter who, owing to Duffey and Widmer repeatedly trying to beat the pistol in the 75Yds Handicap, ordered the two visitors off, a step in which he was quite justified. The committee, rather than disappoint the public, allowed the two offenders to start in other heats, and a change of starters got over the trouble. In the One Mile Flat J. Bradbury (60yds) won by a dozen yards from the Victorian, Wheatley (45yds), Shrubbs being quite unable to get up, the time being 4min 25 2-5sec. Duffey won the final of the 75Yds Handicap, defeating Stubbs (23yds) by inches, with Widmer (1yd) close up. Wheatley (scratch) won the Half-mile Flat by two yards from M. Barnett (10yds). A Wellington College student in F. W. Goodchere (23yds) defeated Duffey in the 50Yds Dash by inches, the distance being run in 5 1-5sec, so that the American must have been inside the world's record. In the 100Yds Duffey failed to give away 7yds to Seddon, Carpenter of Auckland also beating the American. Prendeville (250yds) fairly romped home in the Three Miles Flat, beating Shrubbs by 50 yards. S. Arnt won the bicycle events rather easy, while the other races were in nearly every instance well contested.

Georgetown is to the fore again with another promising sprinter (writes the American correspondent of the "Referee") It was at Georgetown that Arthur Duffey rose to fame, and now the college at that point has Charles J. Seitz, who promises to out-Duffey Duffey. It is claimed that Seitz has several times equalled the 60 yards record established nearly twenty years ago by Lou Myers. At the second annual inter-scholastic meet of the Washington High Schools held at Washington, D.C., on January 28, Seitz created a new world's record, covering the sixty yards in 6 1-5sec. He was paced by Herbert Doyle and J. Walker, of Georgetown. Four watches caught the time, and all agreed perfectly. After breaking the sixty-yard record Seitz tried for the fifty, but the best he could do, was equal the old mark, to wit, 5 2-5sec.

Commenting on the recent championship gathering at Christchurch, "Sprinter" says some discussion took place over Wheatley's action in the Mile Championship. After pacing the field—apparently in the interests of Shrubbs—for half a mile, he drew off, and in doing so, slightly interfered with Burk. The Victorian made a special journey across the green to the officials to explain that his interference with Burk was quite accidental. This was quite unnecessary, as would be evident to anyone who knows Wheatley, and in any case, the occurrence did not really warrant any suggestion of unfairness. At the same time Wheatley, as an experienced runner, acquainted with amateur athletic rules, should have known better than to use his position as an entrant to go on the tracks and act simply as a pacemaker. He stated that he did so, not to help any particular competitor, but to assist in putting up good time. There is too much of this

spacing of competitors, and other instances occurred in races both on Friday and Saturday. It appears to be considered a sportsmanlike action for a competitor after finding himself beaten to wait on the track and assist a backmarker. This is not only against the rules, but is manifestly unfair to other competitors.

Shrubbs evidently felt his defeat in the Mile Championship very keenly, and although he accepted it in good spirit, he pleaded very hard afterwards for a return match. He maintains—and there appears justice in the contention—that after having turned out in the mile while still unfit, to please the public and also Burk, the latter should now make an effort to meet him under circumstances more favourable to the Englishman. In common with every member of the sport-loving public, I certainly hope another meeting will take place, and the result, no matter what town in New Zealand held the fixture, would be a "gate" very welcome to the N.Z.A.A.A.

LINE & TRIGGER.

Excitement among the pigeon-shooting fraternity at Monte Carlo culminated in the contest for the great prize of the gathering (writes the London correspondent of the "Australasian"), which, to give its full title, is the Grand Prix du Casino, of 800 sovs and a work of art, added to a sweepstake of 8 sovs each; second to receive 160 sovs and 25 per cent. of the entries; third, 80 sovs and 20 per cent. of the entries; fourth, 40 sovs and 15 per cent. of the entries; remaining balance to go to the winner; 3 birds at 26 metres, and 9 birds at 27 metres; two birds missed to disqualify; previous winners to stand back one metre. There were in all 152 competitors, or only one less than last year, and of these no fewer than 74 were Italians, with 42 Englishmen, 18 French, and the rest made up of Spaniards, Germans, Hungarians, and Belgians, with one each from Australia and America. Betting prior to the opening of the shooting showed that the Australian shot, Mr Mackintosh, who was "runner-up" to Captain Pellier Johnson in 1903, was favourite at 100 to 6; next coming last year's winner, Signor Schianini, at 100 to 5; Mr H. J. Roberts, winner so long ago as 1883, and Mr Forden at 100 to 4; with odds ranging from 33 to 100 to 1 against the rest. The birds proved to be very fresh and strong, and misses were plentiful from the outset. After five rounds had been completed only 61 shooters remained in, and but fifteen had killed all five birds. Mackintosh and Roberts were among these, but the latter missed his sixth bird, while Mackintosh had cruel luck with his seventh, hitting hard, but the bird just tipping over the barrier. After the ninth round only four had killed all, these being Bersford and Eze (England), and Grasselli, winner in 1902, and Marconini (Italy). All four killed their tenth birds, but in the eleventh round both Englishmen broke down, while the Italians killed eleventh and twelfth in fine style. This pair in shooting off had to go as far as 19 birds, when Marconini missed, and had to put up with second prize of 12,613 francs, while Grasselli killed, and took (for the second time in four years) the trophy and 24,680 francs, say, £1,000. Signor Petrosino took third money, 7,810 francs; while Mr Peresford and Marquis Villarciosa divided the fourth, 5,350 francs. Marconini was among the 100 to 1 division at the start, and Grasselli at 10 to 1. The trophy has now been won twelve times by England, and eleven times by Italy.

It is proposed to liberate the twenty wapiti, which arrived by the last mail steamer from America, in the neighbourhood of Lake Te Anau, where it is thought the conditions more nearly approximate to their native country than any other part of this colony does.

"The wapiti is the lordliest of all the true deer, and among all the beasts of the chase there is none more stately or more beautiful, and none which yields a finer trophy to the hunter. It is essentially a gigantic Scotch stag, or, rather, the stag and the wapiti are the extreme forms of several races of the red deer type, which succeed one another in tolerably regular gradations as we pass from west to east through temperate portions of Europe, Asia, and North America."

The twenty-four white-tailed deer, which arrived by the same steamer, will be liberated in West Otago. These lovely little deer have, according to J. Turner Turner, in an article on big game in the "Encyclopaedia of Sport," perhaps the widest range of any deer in the world. They penetrate from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but do not extend far north in British Columbia. They are very abundant in East Kootenay, and are well worthy of all the hunter's skill, which in fair stalking will be taxed to the uttermost.

The remaining five black-tailed deer will remain in the North Island. These deer are unknown, save along the Pacific coast. They never wander far inland. From Vancouver into Alaska many islands and the whole coast abound with them. They are easily approached.

According to "Sirius," a fine specimen of the Irish terrier breed has just arrived in Wellington in the shape of the well-known Australian champion bitch Alta Melody who, though only two years old, has already won thirty-six first and champion prizes. She was accompanied to New Zealand by three puppies of a different strain.

CRICKET.

AUCKLAND V. HAWKE'S BAY.

The chief cricket event of the week has been the inter-provincial match between Auckland and Hawke's Bay. This was commenced on the Domain on Friday, and concluded on Saturday, the weather fine and the wicket in good order. Very little public interest was taken in the match, only £24 being taken at the gates during the two days, which means a loss to the Cricket Association.

Auckland batted first, but there were many failures in the team, Elliott, Hemus, and Kallender failing to score, while seven men were responsible for but 20 runs. The feature of the play was a fine innings by W. Smith, who showed to great advantage, scoring all round the wicket. His innings of 112, not out, was the best he has yet shown, and stood out in very bright contrast to some of the other players. He hit 16 fours and never gave a chance. E. MacCormick played well for his quota of 42, and looked good for a lot more runs when he put one into Sharp's hands. The North Shore player, Hussey, showed to advantage in his compilation of 42, while S. P. Jones looked like making runs when he got his leg in front to Fenton. The innings closed for 218, a very respectable total, when all things are considered.

The display made by Hawke's Bay was disappointing in the extreme, and with the exception of Lusk, who hit up 45 in quite his old style, none of the batsmen shaped with any confidence at the rather moderate bowling. A very tedious innings realised 105 runs, which meant a follow-on. Very little improvement was noticeable in the second attempt. The first wicket put on 3 runs, and with such a lively start it was disappointing to find the whole side out for 126. Hall showed to most advantage, getting 30 out of the first 50 runs, while the best of the others was Cato, who batted very patiently for his runs.

The particulars were as follows—

Auckland. First Innings.—T. Elliott, b Cotterill, 0; C. Olliff, c Hughes, b Fenton, 4; F. R. Mason, b Cotterill, 5; S. P. Jones, lbw, b Fenton, 22; E. Sale, b Fenton, 9; E. MacCormick, c Sharp, b Fenton, 42; W. Smith, not out, 112; J. Kallender, b H. B. Lusk, 0; L. G. Hemus, b H. B. Lusk, 0; J. Hussey, b Cotterill, 42; W. Stenson, b Fenton, 2; Extras, 10; Total, 218.

Bowling Analysis.—Fenton, 78 runs for 5 wickets; Cotterill, 58 for 3; Torkington, 19 for 0; Cato, 14 for 0; Lusk, 39 for 2; Hughes, 30 for 0.

Hawke's Bay. First Innings.—Lusk, b Hussey, 45; Howard, st Elliott, b Stenson, 1; Cato, b Stenson, 6; Fenton, lbw, b Stenson, 0; Hallamore, c Mason, b Stenson, 9; Sharp, c Sale, b Kallender, 13; Cotterill, b Stenson, 3; Hughes, b Stenson, 7; Hall, b Stenson, 14; Tuke, b Kallender, 3; Torkington, not out, 0; Extras, 4; Total, 105.

Bowling Analysis.—Stenson, 60 runs for 7 wickets; Olliff, 14 for 0; Hussey, 16 for 1; Kallender, 8 for 2; Smith, 3 for 0.

Hawke's Bay. Second Innings.—Hall, lbw, b Olliff, 30; Howard, b Hussey, 15; Lusk, b Hussey, 18; Fenton, b Hussey, 1; Cato, b Olliff, 18; Sharp, b Stenson, 1; Hallamore, b Hussey, 1; Cot-

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terill, c Sale, b Stenson, 6; Hughes, c Elliott, b Stenson, 0; Torkington, b Jones, 14; Tuke, not out, 4; Extras, 18; Total, 126.

Bowling Analysis.—Stenson, 37 runs for 3 wickets; Kallender, 15 for 0; Jones, 6 for 1; Olliff, 23 for 2; Hussey, 27 for 4.

Eden rather easily defeated Helensville on Saturday in the Domain, winning by 253 to 77. For the victors, A. Brown 85, H. Hobson 43, Shephers 41, and Rev. J. W. Smith 33 (retired), did best, while for the losers, D. Donovan 37, and Earke 20, were top-scorers. For Eden the Rev. J. W. Smith took 5 wickets for 31, and Hotson 3 for 7 runs. For the losers the Rev. H. Spurr bagged 5 for 40.

When an Australian team leaves Sydney there is apt to be a big demonstration on the part of the public. It was curious to notice that when the Navua hauled off from the Queen Street Wharf last week with the home-going Australians, there were but few, if any, more than the ordinary number of people down to see her off, and not a single cheer was raised, nor was there a sign of enthusiasm anywhere. Laver's men must have thought that the series of defeats ranled, but Aucklanders are too good sportsmen for that, and probably had overlooked the fact of the departure of the cricketers for the Old Land. Their success in England will be quite as eagerly wished for here as in Australia.

When in England, in 1902, Armstrong was a terror for playing not out, his average being about one not out in every five innings. The tall Victorian evidently means to uphold his reputation in this respect, for in New Zealand he was thrice not out in six innings. He was thus enabled to head the batting averages with 102.66. Trumper, who compiled the highest aggregate (538), and the highest score (172), was second, with 89.66; Hill being third, with 68.82. Noble did little with the bat, but made amends as a bowler by securing the bowling average, with 29 wickets for 302—average, 10.41. Armstrong, however, was a close second, with 28 for 293 (10.46), and Cotter third, with 22 for 231 (10.50). Armstrong is likely to be a much greater success as a bowler in England than many people expect, as the slower wickets will suit his deliveries better than the fast Australian pitches.

The Marylebone Cricket Club's board of control in connection with the test matches have decided that the Australians' share of the takings in the five matches should be, as usual, half the gross gate-money. The selectors of the English teams appointed are Lord