

# AQUATICS.

(By "THE REEFER.")

The Laphorne sails for the new cutter Rawhiti are due early next week. In the meantime the vessel will be given a spin or two under cruising canvas. I understand she will carry a trysail on the voyage across the Tasman Sea.

Mr. W. Evers, who has resigned the position of captain of the Waitemata Boating Club, has been made a life member.

The following is the text of the address recently presented to Mr. C. P. Murdoch:—

Auckland, September 21, 1905.

Dear Sir,—On this the occasion of your re-election as Commodore of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, the members desire you to accept the accompanying purse of sovereigns as evidence of the very high esteem in which they hold you, and also as a small token of their appreciation of your kindness in again consenting to sacrifice your personal convenience and accept office in response to their requisition. They also desire to take this opportunity of congratulating you on having been the first Commodore of the Squadron, to which position you have been unanimously re-elected for five successive years, showing that the members have gratefully appreciated the self-denying zeal and unflinching tact which you have displayed in navigating the Squadron to the safe and prosperous waters in which it now finds itself. Trusting that you may long enjoy health and strength to take a leading place in the cruises and councils of the Squadron, and wishing you every prosperity and happiness.

We are, on behalf of the members, yours faithfully,  
Alex. Alison; Vice-Commodore; John Alexander, Rear-Commodore; J. C. Macky, Chairman of Committee; F. E. Jackson, Chas. Seagar, Committee.

Things are very busy just now amongst the Ponsonby yachtsmen. A Sunday morning visit to their haunts discloses any amount of active preparation. Masts and booms are being scraped and varnished, a coat of paint administered here and there upon hulls where the work is more forward, and hosing down and scrubbing upon others.

Sunday morning's weather was tempting enough to coax out several of the small centreboard boats, but the warning that was written in the sky was amply justified by a stiff nor-west breeze and a massing of heavy cloud banks in the afternoon. There is plenty of time yet before making a start for the season.

Buckridge's boat, the Kia-Ora, still lies high and dry under the cliff at Stanley Bay. This little craft, in which the ill-fated voyage round the Horn was attempted, looks staunch enough to meet any weather. Her chief fault, however, seems to lie in the fact that she is too short, and no doubt to meet a good Cape Horn breeze in a boat of her size would be to experience something in the hair-raising line.

In the old Matangi, lying near her, there is a good sample of the old school of yacht. She looms up above one like a three-decker, and in her day has carried many a rollicking crew on voyages full of keen, sportsmanlike adventure.

# CYCLING.

The last of this season's big road races, viz., from Warrnambool to Melbourne, took place on Saturday. There has been very bad weather in Victoria recently, and the roads were in a bad state. The fine field of 154 started, and the winner turned up in W. Hawley, who was pitchforked into the race with a 25 minutes' handicap, considering that on the previous Saturday he had won the 25-mile championship of Australia. He finished ten minutes ahead of R. Finlay and E. J. Turner, both Victorian riders, on the 50 minutes' mark. The time was 7hr 52min 26sec, which is 31sec shorter than J. Wright's time last year, but is a good deal slower than J. Arnst's record.

Of the competitors from this colony, Neilson did best, but he could get no nearer than eighth. R. Arnst fell and injured his arm, and there were a good many other casualties.

The Australasian 25 miles' cycling road championship was decided at Campbellfield, Melbourne, on Saturday week, and the result was a win for W. F. Hawley, of Victoria, who just defeated R. W. Morgan, also of Victoria, and J. Arnst,

of New Zealand. The time was 1hr 12min 58sec. In describing the race the "Sydney Mail" says that on turning for home Arnst's chain snapped. He availed himself of an offer made by a bystander, but he lost 100 yards. Hagney also met with an accident. After about 300 yards of the race had been run, a cart was met with three horses tethered to the tail-board, and, as the racing men swept past, the horses became frightened, and spread over the road. In endeavouring to avert a collision the competitors rode in all directions, and as one of the men turned sharply to the side of the road, his back wheel touched Hagney's machine, throwing him heavily to the metalled roadway. At first it appeared he was seriously injured, but Mr. M. McGillicuddy, honorary medical officer of the League of Victorian Wheelmen, who was standing at the spot where the fall occurred, found no bones broken, or serious injuries sustained. Hagney, however, was covered with dust, and bled profusely from a number of superficial cuts about the face and arms. At a later stage, O'Connor broke his pedal, and was thrown with great violence on his head. His face and scalp were severely cut about, but no alarming injuries were sustained.

The phenomenal sales of the present season's cycles in the Old Country have prompted curiosity as to the total output for the year. This has been computed by one statistician at 300,000; according to the financial editor of the "Daily Mirror," the estimate is under the mark. Coventry alone accounts for 180,000, and, accepting the figures previously quoted for other towns mentioned, making the 300,000 allowed for, there still remain other centres, where, in the aggregate, from 40,000 to 50,000 other machines have been produced.

Major Taylor has, according to American papers, renounced riding. He was suspended for alleged breach of contract. The French authorities offered to have the sentence removed if he would pay them 1000 dollars, which they stated was one-fifth of what they had lost through Taylor's non-appearance. Taylor refused, and says he will race no more.

The Grand Prix de Hanover, which attracts riders from all parts of Europe, was won by Dickentmann, who, it will be remembered, toured Australia with Robt a couple of years ago.

The ten miles' championship of Australia took place at Sydney on Monday evening, and gave rise to a fine finish. Pye and R. Arnst dashed home together, but the New Zealander had to be content with second place, Pye winning by a yard in 23min 28 3-5sec.



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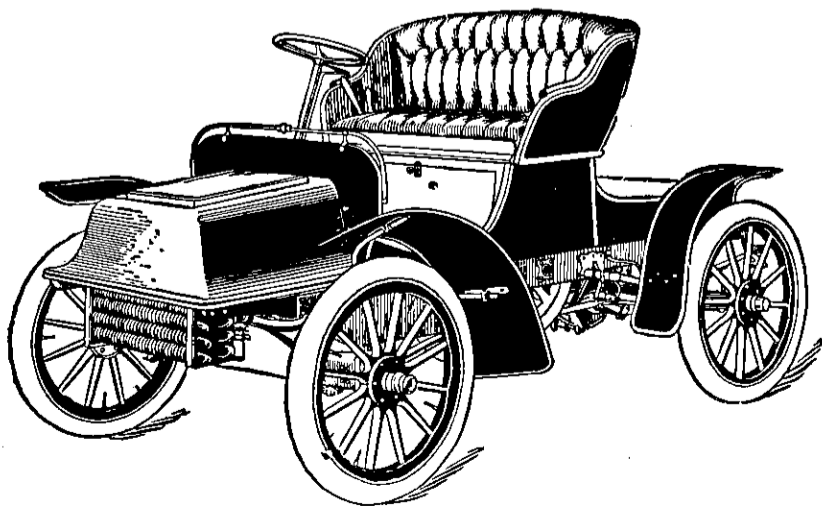
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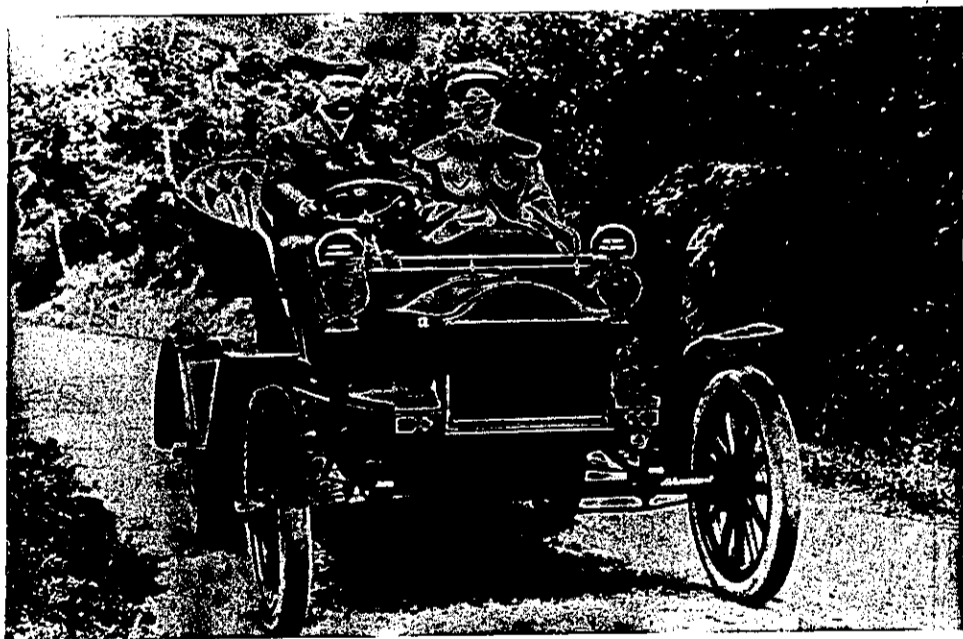
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