

James Godfrey, the clever feather-weight boxer, has been earning golden opinions lately for his brilliant exhibition. His record should be of general interest. He started boxing in 1901, his first performance being in an 8st 4lb competition, when he had to beat four men for a gold watch in November, 1901. In the same month he won the gold medal for a contest of six rounds. Next he won 8st 6lb competition, gold watch, December, 1901; won four-round contest, silver medal gold centre, January, 1902; won 9st competition, gold watch, February, 1902; won 9st competition, silver cup, February, 1902; won 8st 8lb competition, gold watch, March, 1902; won six-round contest, gold medal, April, 1902; won 9st competition, marble clock, November, 1902; won 9st competition, Pair Vases, December, 1902; won six-round contest, silver cruet, January, 1903; won 8st 12lb competition, silver cup; won six-round contest, gold medal, February, 1903; won 9st competition, liquor stand, March, 1903; and 9st Polytechnic championship, silver flower bowl, March, 1903 (in one week); won four-round contest, silver medal gold centre, April, 1903; won feather-weight championship of England, April, 1903. Godfrey came to New Zealand on December 20, 1905—Won six-round contest, silver cup, April, 1906; won Auckland championship, gold medal, July, 1906; won feather-weight championship of New Zealand, gold medal, August, 1906. Godfrey has also won several prizes at rowing and skating (ice), including the championship of Walthamstow, London, January, 1904.

There is to be a boxing carnival at the Federal Hall on Friday and Saturday next. On Friday the chief item will be between Gault and McGovern. This is to be a six-round go for the featherweight championship of New Zealand. Both are clever boxers, McGovern being Murphy's star pupil. On Saturday there will be a ten rounds contest between Fred Batchelor, of New South Wales, and J. Cripps, of America. Batchelor, whose portrait appears in this issue, last year won the amateur championship of Otago and Canterbury. On turning professional he beat Jim Goode in five rounds in Sydney, following this up with a victory over Mick Ryan in four rounds, and then defeated Ike Stewart in four rounds and Doyle in four rounds. Cripps has put up some very clever exhibitions in America, and is a clever boxer, so that the contest should be a very even one.

### AQUATICS.

(By "The Reefer.")

The social given by the Royal N.Z. Yacht Squadron on Friday was perhaps the most successful function of the kind yet held in the Squadron rooms. These were very tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the attendance was a very large one. A good musical programme was gone through, while Mr. Winklemann's yachting pictures were much admired.

Mr. W. Coleman has been re-elected president of the Auckland Rowing Club.

It is rumoured there is a possibility of Auckland being represented after all at the intercolonial race for the La Carabine Cup in Melbourne. It is to be hoped that this may prove to be the case, for an intercolonial championship yacht race without an Auckland in it suggest Hamlet without the ghost.

The social evening given by the N.Z. Power Boat Association on Thursday evening proved a very successful function. Some two hundred members and friends were present, the evening being devoted to progressive euchre and dancing. The Albert Hall was most lavishly decorated, especial attention in this respect having been devoted to the supper room. The disciples of Terpsichore kept the fun going until an early hour in the morning, and appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

The English swimmer Burgess put up a great performance in his seventh attempt to swim the English Channel. After being in the water for 18 hours and swimming 40 miles, or nearly double the distance between Dover and Calais, he had to abandon the attempt owing to cramp. He was then within four miles of Calais.

An international maritime exhibition, in celebration of a century of

steam navigation is to be opened at Bordeaux, France, on May 1, 1907, under the auspices of the League Maritime Francaise. It is proposed to keep the exhibition open for six months. Exhibits of all industrial, agricultural, or artistic products pertaining to maritime affairs will be received from any part of the world, and pavilions will be specially devoted to ocean geography, nautical motors, and aerial navigation. Congresses, competitions, and lectures on nautical subjects are to be organised.

### CYCLING AND MOTOR NOTES.

#### THE TIMARU-TO-CHRISTCHURCH ROAD RACE.

This big annual contest took place on Saturday under very fine weather conditions, the roads being very dry and rather dusty. No less than 181 riders faced the starter, this being a record for the race. There was an immense crowd on the Riccarton racecourse to witness the finish, and spectators encroached so much that the work of accurately placing the men became almost impossible, and there is a prospect of some of the placings being altered, as numerous protests were lodged. The first rider to complete the long journey was the Hokitika rider, G. W. A. McHarry, who, with a 38min handicap, arrived at 6hr 13min 18sec. The others followed him as follows:—A. Birch (Fendalton) (34min), 6hr 19min 37sec, 2; B. Pointon (Temuka), 35min, 6hr 20min 41sec, 3; P. M. O'Connor (Cricklewood, 5min), 6hr 19min 41sec, 4; L. A. Curtis (New Brighton, 50 min), 6hr 35min 41sec, 5; W. J. Stevens (Dunsandel, 45min), 6hr 30min 49sec, 6; T. Birch (Fendalton, 42min), 6hr 31min 18sec, 7; S. Watson (Papanui, 35min), 6hr 24min 19sec, 8.

The fastest times were made by H. E. Mehotens (Spreydon, 25min), 6hr 15min 17sec; J. Arnst (Geraldine, scratch), 6hr 17min 4sec; H. Henderson (Palmerston North, scratch), 6hr 17min 13sec; A. Birch (Fendalton, 34min), 6hr 19min 37sec.

In a five miles tandem-paced (human) match race between Macfarland and Samuelson, the former won handsomely. The contest took place at Salt Lake, where Samuelson is well known, and a general favourite, and a huge crowd was present. In winning the match Macfarland added another record to his already long string, having covered the five miles in 9min 53sec. It has been accomplished in faster time behind motor pace.

Another record was made by Iver Lawson at the same meeting, the event being a threequarter-mile handicap, which distance he covered in 1min 21 2-5sec. This was in a heat. In the final, N. C. Hopper, who is also known in Australia, crossed the line first, from a handicap of 60 yards, in exactly the same time, Lawson running a very close second—a fine indication of his form and consistent riding. In a half-mile open handicap Lawson and Macfarland came first and second in that order.

Subsequently, at Ogden, E. A. Pye, the Victorian, put up a record ride on a "saucer" track, at Glenwood Park. It was in a scratch race, of five miles, in which were Macfarland, Downing, Fogler (a six days' champion), and other good riders competing. After going about 10 laps, Pye sprinted, and had half a lap lead before the others realised what was happening, and riding strongly, increased his advantage, and was soon hanging on behind the bunch with a lap to the good.

Notwithstanding some hard pacing by Macfarland, and one or two others, Pye could not be shaken off, and he won by almost a lap, in the splendid time of 9min 48 1-5sec. The former record of the same class was 10min 32sec, made by W. E. Samuelson. In addition to winning the first prize, Pye also secured 28 lap prizes.

An example of how not to lay the dust is furnished by an occurrence which is reported from Walla Walla, Wash., U.S.A. Heavy coarse straw had been placed on the road to keep down the dust, and in passing over this a Franklin car caught up some of the straw, which, becoming entangled in the rear axle, locked the wheels, and caused them to heat so badly that they set fire to the straw, and the car itself was destroyed.

One of the best-known motorists in Auckland is Mr. Arthur Myers, our worthy Mayor. He drove his fine car out to Alexandra Park on Saturday, and after the match brought the rival captains, Kiernan and Wallace, home in it.

### BILLIARDS.

(By "Pyramid.")

[The writer of this column will be glad to answer any questions on the game.]

#### WHERE TO PLAY BILLIARDS.

**B. FORD'S** Waitemata Billiard Club. Custom-street, Auckland. Open to play all-comers on 100 Break.

**ROYAL HOTEL BILLIARD SALOON,** VICTORIA-STREET, AUCKLAND.

For a quiet game of Billiards, Snooker Italian Pool, Muff Pool, Japanese Pool, Cork Pool, etc.

W. O. MORRISON, Proprietor.

**BARTON, MCGILL AND CO.** Billiard Table Manufacturers (Gold Medalists), 422 Queen-street, Auckland. Requisites always in stock.

**WELLESLEY-STREET BILLIARD SALOON,** oldest and finest Saloon in Auckland. Has been thoroughly renovated; three First-class Billiard Tables, where you can enjoy a game.—Segedin and Ostojka, Proprietors.


**BILLIARD SALOON AND BATHS,** Pitt-street, are now open under new management.—ALF. SMITH, Proprietor.

**VULCAN LANE BILLIARD SALOON.** Proprietor: F. WILLIAMS. Billiards, Pyramids, Snooker, or Pool.

**METROPOLITAN HOTEL BILLIARD SALOON,** Queen-street, Auckland. Billiards, Snooker, etc.—A. J. WOODLEY, Manager.

The point has arisen and been seriously argued by counsel, that billiards is a game of chance. Now, without wishing to argue one way or the other, I would like to have a small wager that Mr. Ford could give Mr. Toie 25 out of 100 and beat him ten games straight. Now, if billiards is a game of chance, the barrister should be able to hold his own with the professional on even terms in five games out of ten. Truly a great deal of ardent nonsense is often talked in the law courts.

There is every probability of the Australasian Amateur Championship contests being inaugurated this year (says the Sydney "Referee.") Mr. James Davis, hon. secretary of the Victorian Amateur Billiard Associa-



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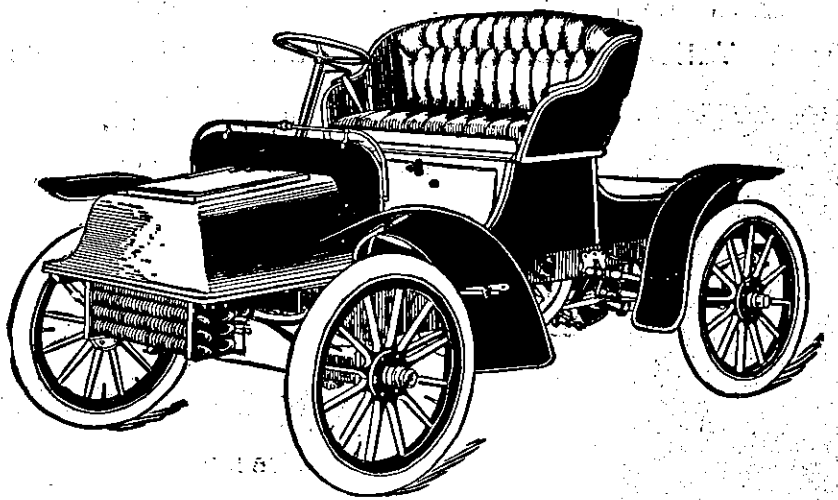
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