

it was as good as it was seven or eight years ago. It had been suggested that the stumps should be wider, but he found them quite wide enough already. (Laughter.) Five years ago he had asked the Lancashire committee to curtail the number of matches. At present too many were played. Cricketers were looked upon as machines, and it was impossible they could be always at their best. Despite his suggestions for fewer matches he saw that Lancashire were to be engaged next season from May 9 to August 30. He did not see how the team was to get through such an ambitious programme. Warwickshire did not play so many matches, and in this he thought they exercised sound judgment. It was the same with Kent, who were playing the most attractive and aggressive cricket of the day, simply because they were not over-worked. There were three men he would walk a hundred miles to see play cricket, and they were Dick Lilley, the wicket-keeper, Charlie Turner, as a bowler, and William Gunn. As a batsman Lilley had proved of the greatest assistance to him in Australia, making the captaincy of the side much easier than it would otherwise have been. Lilley had never let England down, and on many occasions had helped materially to secure a victory. Referring to English fielding generally, MacLaren described it as very bad, and said that while all the Australians could return well, there were few English players who could in this connection. He mentioned that one of the best things he had ever seen on the cricket field was the way in which, at Leeds, Lilley gathered, with one hand, a return at least a couple of yards wide, and put down Clem Hill's wicket.

Very few men who excel in any branch of athletics have suffered more from ill-health than Ranjitsinhji. At present the famous batsman seems to be undergoing a particularly painful experience. "Thanks to asthma and the liver complaint, I have been living on milk for over a month now," is the way he describes his condition in a recent letter to an English friend. "Ranji" was then staying with his mother and half-brothers at Carodar, in Kathiawar awaiting the final decision of the India Office with regard to his claim.

In sending a cheque for £3105 to J. T. Tyldesley as a result of his benefit match, the committee of the Lancashire County Club forwarded a framed letter in graceful terms, as follows:—"This is a striking tribute by the cricketing public to the splen-

did services you have rendered to Lancashire cricket. They hope it will be regarded as an indication of the general desire that those services may be continued for many years to come. In forwarding the cheque to reach you on this, the thirty-third anniversary of your birthday, the committee desire to wish you 'Many happy returns of the day.'"

The return match between the M.C.C. Eleven and Canterbury resulted in the decisive defeat of the latter by 237 runs. The Englishmen batted first, and put together the useful score of 305, Canterbury replied with 221, Orchard making 68 and H. B. Lusk 49. Going in a second time most of the visitors got into two figures, Page top scoring with 78, while Branston made 46 and Burns 43. With the total at 260 for nine wickets the innings was declared closed. This gave Canterbury 345 to get to win the match, and as the wicket was good it seemed probable that a draw would be the result. Thanks to good bowling by Douglas, Simpson-Hayward, and May, all were out for 108. Patrick did best with 32, while Bennett was not out with 32.

The result of the return match between Canterbury and the M.C.C. Eleven rather bears out the statement of the Englishmen that the Auckland team was the strongest they had met during the tour. On the play seen so far the Northern city is entitled to at least three representatives in the New Zealand match. These should be Hemus, Haddon, and Hussey or Sale.

The conference of delegates to the New Zealand Athletic Union extended over two days and two nights (says a Southern exchange). A good deal of routine business was gone through, and a number of additions and improvements to the rules were effected. A deputation from the council of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association waited on the conference with a view of entering into a reciprocal agreement with the union. The deputation, which consisted of Messrs. Atack (president), Aschman and Green (secretary), laid their views before the conference, and expressed the opinion that some agreement should be come to between the union and the association. They suggested that the terms as thrown aside by the union should be reconsidered. The only term which might appear rather hard was the one which provided that an amateur should stand down 12 months before being allowed to run for cash. Mr. Atack explained that a cash runner had to stand down two years before he could be admitted to the amateur ranks, except on certain conditions. He also explained that amateur bodies were allowed to place cash events on their programmes if they so wished. After having answered several questions, the deputation withdrew, and it was eventually decided to agree to the proposed reciprocal agreement, with slight alterations. The union will not agree to an amateur having a clean record being debarred from running for cash, without having to stand down 12 months. They further insist on the amateur governing council making it clear to all affiliated clubs that they may put on cash events on their programmes if they so wish. Also that, excepting having their own handicapper, and a consul present to watch the amateur interests, the races set aside for amateur runners must be under the direct control of the officials of the society holding the sports. The terms of the altered agreement will be sent to the New Zealand Amateur Association, and there is every reason to believe that it will be accepted by them. The next conference and championship gathering will be held in Napier early next year.

Jack Johnson, the champion American boxer, who arrived in Sydney recently, and who is accompanied by A. A. MacLean, is a fine specimen of manhood, being tall and built in proportion, while his features are more regular than those of the average American negro. His manager has a great opinion of him, and will not hear of his defeat (says "Town and Country Journal"). As Jeffries has repeatedly refused to meet Johnson, he claims the title of champion of the world. Speaking of Jeffries' refusal to meet Johnson, Maclean said it had only lately come to the white champion's turn to draw

the colour line. The fact was that Jeffries was afraid of being beaten. Three years ago Johnson boxed Jack Jeffries, a brother of the champion, at Los Angeles, California, Jim being in the corner. Johnson won in five rounds, and his style so impressed Jim that when Johnson challenged him, he declined to make a match on the ground of colour.

Johnson is particularly anxious to meet Squires; but the latter when spoken to said he could not agree to a match, as he was off to America. The announcement caused Johnson to say that Squires was side-stepping. Squires, who is in Melbourne, however, denied he was doing what the American reckoned, and to show his bona fides, he was prepared to box the coloured man if a substantial wager could be put up. On this point Johnson said there would be no difficulty. As much money would be put up as Squires' backers would care to cover, and Squires could make his

PATEA RACING CLUB.
ANNUAL MEETING.

(For Hacks Only).

EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 1st, 1907.

Judge: Mr. E. Derrett. Starter: Mr. C. H. Chavannes. Handicapper: Mr. J. E. Henrys. Stewards: Messrs. W. Gower, Jas. Paterson, J. R. Paterson, G. W. Booth, T. Jones, W. Jackson, L. G. Bremer, S. Gilligan, A. Pearce, Thos. Campbell, and G. Williams.

PROGRAMME:

- 11.30 a.m.—HANDICAP HURDLES of 70sovs; second horse to receive 15sovs out of the stakes. Distance, 1 1/4 miles, over six flights of hurdles, 3ft 6in high. The winner of any hurdle race after the declaration of weights to carry a penalty of 10lb. Nomination 20s, acceptance 30s.
- 12.10 p.m.—FLYING HANDICAP of 80sovs; second horse to receive 15 sovs out of the stakes. Distance, three-quarters of a mile. Nomination 20s, acceptance 40s.
- 12.40 p.m.—FARMERS' PLATE of 50 sovs; second horse to receive 10sovs out of the stakes. Distance, one mile. Entrance 40s on general entry night. For all horses that have never started for any other race (Farmers' Plates excepted), and the winner of those barred; and welter weight for age; open to all horses trained in, and the bona-fide property of residents within the boundaries of Patea, Hawera, Eltham, and Stratford counties for the three months prior to the date of starting.
- 1.40 p.m.—PATEA EASTER HANDICAP of 100sovs; second horse to receive 15sovs, and third horse 5sovs out of the stakes. Distance, 1 1/4 miles. Nomination 30s, acceptance 50s.
- 2.20 p.m.—KAKARAMEA STAKES of 55sovs; second horse to receive 10sovs, and third horse 5sovs out of the stakes. Distance, about 4 1/2 furlongs. Weight, 8st. Winner of any race to carry 14lb extra. Entrance 40s on general entry night.
- 3 p.m.—BOROUGH STAKES HANDICAP of 60sovs; second horse to receive 10sovs out of the stakes. Distance, 7 furlongs. Nomination 15s, acceptance 25s.
- 3.40 p.m.—ALTON HIGH WEIGHT HANDICAP of 80sovs; second horse to receive 15sovs, and third horse 5sovs out of the stakes. Distance, 1 mile. Minimum weight, 8st 7lb. Nomination 20s, acceptance 40s.
- 4.10 p.m.—FINAL STAKES of 55 sovs; second horse to receive 10sovs, and third horse to receive 5sovs out of the stakes. Distance, about 4 1/2 furlongs. Open to any hack not nominated for any race at this meeting (Kakaramea Stakes and Farmers' Plate excepted), and winners of these to carry 14lb extra. Weight, 9st. Entrance 40s on general entry night.

Dates of Nominations, Acceptances and General Entries:—Nominations up to 8 p.m. on Monday, 11th March, 1907; weights declared on or about 18th March, 1907; acceptances and general entries up to 8 p.m. on Monday, 25th March, 1907.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Definition of a Hack.—A Hack is a horse that has not at any time prior to the time of entry, won a race of the value of £100 to the winner, or races of the aggregate value of £250 to the winner.
2. The winner of any flat race, after the declaration of weights to carry a penalty of 7lb, and of every additional race 5lb extra in all handicap flat events.
3. Entries by telegram must give full particulars of the horse, and must be confirmed in writing at the earliest possible opportunity.
4. Owners, trainers, and others entering and accepting horses for this meeting are notified that no entries or acceptances will be received unless accompanied by the necessary amount in cash.
5. The Stewards reserve the right to alter the time or date of nominations, weights or acceptances.
6. The name of the trainer must in all cases be supplied at the time of nomination.

NOTE.—The Post Office closes at 5 p.m., Telegraph Office at 7.30 p.m. The Secretary will receive money for investment on the totalisator.

R. W. HAMERTON,
Secretary.

Approved by the Taranaki Jockey Club this 25th day of January, 1907.
MUSSEL FLEETWOOD,
Secretary.

own terms—the winner to take a percentage or the lot.

After this it was expected there mawsoqlhae ttaoin shrdlu cmfwypxx would be no trouble about arranging a match, and Mr. Brennan, of Sydney, who brought Johnson from America, intended leaving for Melbourne to arrange matters with Mr. Wren, the principal supporter of Squires. A telegram from the southern capital on January 28, however, said that Mr. Wren states that he has taken legal opinion in connection with the agreement that exists between him and Squires, and finds that he will be unable to match his man against the American.

Johnson has been giving some exhibitions in Sydney, and judges regard him as one of the cleverest boxers they have seen.

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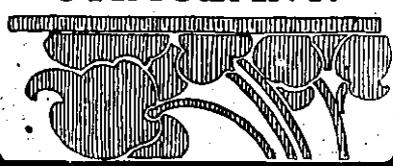
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