

fine times were put up. The events were as follows:—

220Yds Australasian Championship: H. Baker (N.S.W.), 1; A. D. Hill (N.S.W.), 2; A. Harrower (Q.), 3. Time, 2min 38sec.

440Yds Australasian Championship: F. W. Springfield (Q.), 1; R. Healy (N.S.W.), 2; A. McMillan (N.Z.), 3. Time, 5min 56 1-5sec.

75Yds International Handicap: J. Harrower, 18sec, 1; H. S. Williams, 14sec, 2; H. Gibbons, 15sec, 3.

Australia beat N.Z. at water polo by 3 goals to nil.

The New Zealand rowing championships will take place on Lake Forsyth, near Christchurch, next Saturday. The clubs sending crews are the Lyttelton, Akaroa, Wellington, Union, Star, Avon, Otago, Blenheim, Christchurch Amateur, Picton, Wanganui, Canterbury, Waitemata, Invercargill, Port Chalmers, Oamaru, Civic and North End clubs. The regatta promises to be a great success.

I hear that Messrs. Bailey and Lowe are shortly to build a 7-metre boat for an Auckland yachtsman. The new rule encourages a healthy type of boat, and it will be good news to hear that the white-winged fleet is to be added to.

Mr. Thomas Fleming Day, editor of the American paper the "Rudder," has offered a cup to the Royal N.Z. Yacht Squadron. It is for competition by the power launches of the squadron over a course of not less than 100 miles. The committee have accepted Mr. Day's generous offer.

The Royal N.Z. Yacht Squadron intend adopting the new international metre rule, and a sub-committee has been set up to deal with the matter. In reality the old rule has ceased to exist as far as Home waters are concerned, and therefore it behoves us to fall into line. For the benefit of those who have not seen it, I will repeat the formula for the new rule, which is—

$$(L + B + \frac{1}{2}G + 3d + \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{V} - F) \div 2$$

In answer to "Racer," Rawhiti was designed and built by Logan Bros., of Auckland. Sayonara was designed by Fife and built in South Australia. In reality she is a much larger boat than Rawhiti but the rule under which they were measured brings them together, owing largely to Rawhiti's hollow section as against Sayonara's V section. Here Sayonara is debited with 3.2 as against Rawhiti's 7.58. This is the reason why Rawhiti received so small an allowance from her larger rival in the races for La Carabine Cup. The Logans could doubtless turn out a much faster boat than Rawhiti if built for the rule, which that boat was not.

Mr. J. M. Sanders, editor of the "Sunday Sun," and stakeholder for Messrs. Towns and Durnan in their match for the sculling championship of the world for £1000, informs me that the third deposit of £150 a-side, due on the 6th February, has been made good by the representatives of each man. The race takes place over the Nepean championship course on the 2nd March, and the final deposit of £200 a-side must be made good before noon on February 27.

ATHLETICS.

A NEW RUNNING GROUND.

A very considerable amount of interest is being taken in the series of professional handicaps which are to take place at the new ground, Khyber Pass, commencing on the 20th inst. A considerable sum of money has been expended in getting the ground into first-class order, and the executive have worked very hard, so that there will be no room for complaint on this score. The track will be brilliantly lighted by electricity, and the running will thus be very clearly seen. Entries close for the opening event, a Novice Handicap, on Saturday next, and handicaps will appear on Monday. As there appears to be a large number of men in training, the promoters expect that the entry list will be a very lengthy one. Mr. Buchanan will act as starter, and Messrs. Lackey and I. Hill as judges. If Wednesday evening proves fine there should be a large gathering at the new grounds, for the sport promises to be most interesting.

The main objection raised at the Athletic Union Conference to the proposed agreement with the New Zealand

Amateur Athletic Association was against the clause providing that an amateur should stand down for twelve months before being allowed a transfer to the cash ranks (writes "Sprinter"). Several members of the conference held that an amateur with a clean record should not have to undergo a term of probation, and they were prepared with reasons. They quoted the case of boys who go to school and college and compete as amateurs, but subsequently go to districts where they can obtain little or no amateur racing, and if they want sport must join the cash ranks. Or again, there are young men who begin to compete as amateurs and find the game too expensive and travelling prohibitive. Either they must be content with very little sport or they must make their sport pay their expenses, and the Union delegates are satisfied that there should be no restriction of their choice. The conference was emphatic in rejecting the clause, and it seems altogether unlikely that any such provision will find a place in an agreement between the Association and the Union. Actually the amateurs will not have to concede a great deal in the matter, for under the second clause anyone they disqualify for corrupt practices will be debarred by the Union.

The next Australasian Amateur Championship Meeting is to be held in Tasmania, but up to the present the T.A.A.A. has not fixed any date.

At the Port Nicholson A.A. and C.S. sports at Wellington on Saturday, Kerr is reported to have walked a mile in 6min 27 1-5sec, and two miles in 13min 55 4-5sec. It is somewhat significant that in a later telegram from Wellington it is reported that at a meeting of the N.Z.A.A.A. the members were strongly of opinion that the time was not opportune for seceding from the Australasian Amateur Athletic Union, and also expressed the opinion that, owing to frequent unsatisfactory decisions regarding the fairness of walking in walking contests, a photograph should be taken at a period of the race, as being the only effective means of coming to a satisfactory decision. The centre will also recommend that each centre appoint a judge of walking events held by the clubs under its jurisdiction.

Evidently the Americans are determined to be as well represented in the Olympic Games of 1910 at Athens as they were at the games held last spring. Of the 15,000 dollars raised to send out the 1906 team there is a balance remaining of 2889 dollars, and this sum has been placed in a savings bank to form the nucleus of a fund to defray the expenses of the next team. It is the intention of the United States to have particularly strong representation in the lawn tennis, fencing, and rowing competitions. President Roosevelt, who has expressed his strong approval of the Olympic Games movement, has accepted the honorary presidency of the American Committee.

Commenting on the question of the likelihood of the withdrawal from the Australasian Union of the New Zealand A.A.A., "Harrier," in the "Australasian" says:—"It is exceedingly questionable whether New Zealand would derive benefit from the right to form separate rules. The compulsory Union rules only relate to competing and to reinstatements; in all other respects each body has full powers of internal management. To alter competition rules is not sought, and it all appears to boil down to a few alleged cases of hardship in particular applications for reinstatement. Laxity in reinstatements occasioned unpleasant talk between the Associations before the Unions existed, and will do again unless the practice is kept uniform. The present demand from New Zealand for easier reinstatements is absolutely at variance with the uncompromising attitude of New Zealand's own delegates to the Union. These gentlemen were the strictest of the strict, and wished to make it absolutely impossible for an amateur who broke his status ever to be reinstated. What a whirligig, to be sure. Truth to tell, I think some one or other in New Zealand is pulling the strings to get out of the Union, for reasons far other than appear on the surface, and any gag is good enough to work the purpose if the centres can be gulled by it. After all, the Union is a purely voluntary one, and unless New Zealand considers its advantages outweigh the disadvantages, no other State would expect them to remain in."

In its review of English athletics in 1906, the "I.S. and D. News" says:—"Eventful, indeed, for the foot-racing fraternity, has been the year, which, at the time of writing, is all but closed. Bests on record in the walking way have been removed; and although rather fewer championships have changed hands than have been retained, the fact that these titles are no longer monopolised to the extent which once they were is shown by seven fresh holders having been found.

Of these the most wonderful man in the walking way was A. T. Yeomans, a Leicestershire man who took up his residence in Wales. Yeomans, according to the most expert judges, fairly walked a mile in 6min 19 4-5sec, and two miles at a relatively faster rate. The figures have yet to be accepted by the A.A.A., but it is worthy of note that the only people who have demurred to their adoption were people who were not there to see.

The most sterling champion of the year in the track-running way was Lieut. Wyndham Halswell. He gave a taste of his quality by winning the 100 metres and 250yds races at the spring meeting of the South London Harriers at Kennington Oval; then hied him way to Athens, and had the Stadion been less crowded by American competitors, whose method differed from those of the British athletes, would undoubtedly have won, instead of just losing, the events in which he there played a prominent part.

Another English athlete who did well both at the Oval and at Athens was Lieut. H. C. Hawtrey. He won the three miles race at the first-named, and the five miles race at the last-mentioned meeting.

As regards athletic performances of more than average merit on the path, the splendid running of K. Cornwallis, the Oxonian, and of the Cantabs, A. R. Welsh and R. P. Crabbe (who ran a mile in 4min 21sec, and a half-mile in 1min 55 4-5sec, at Cambridge), are worth remembering. The way in which Welsh won the mile for Cambridge against Oxford in 4min 21 1-5sec, on a heavy path, and in dismal weather, went far to alleviate his side's sorrow over the beating which Oxford administered by seven events to three. It was also a noteworthy double first which Cornwallis secured by winning the quarter in 51sec, and the half in 1min 56 2-5sec, on one and the same day. Since then, and, indeed, quite recently, Cambridge had its revenge by again defeating Oxford in the cross-country race, and supplying, in F. M. Edwards, the first man home.

CRICKET.

There was splendid weather for the continuation of the district matches on Saturday, and the wickets were in fine order. The match between North Shore and Eden attracted a large crowd across the water. The Shoremen were lucky to win the toss, for at the close of time they had the useful total on the slate of 286 for seven wickets. Haddon was caught when he was within three of the coveted century, while others to do well with the bat were Philson (51), Howden (28), Wallace (27), and Hussey (26).

Parnell started very badly against City, losing five wickets for 28, but the others came to the rescue, the fair score of 150 being the result, towards while Sale contributed 39 and Marcroft 20 (not out). City began wretchedly, the two star batsmen, Hemus and MacCormick, making 2 and 3 respectively. Dr. Neill showed good form, and when the bell rang the score read 56 for four wickets (Dr. Neill, 30 not out). It should be a close finish, but Parnell look like winning.

Ponsonby shaped very badly against the weak Grafton bowling, being all out for 90 (Robinson 24, Woods 22). Hay took seven wickets for 37. Grafton have virtually won the match, as they have 130 on the slate for four wickets. Mason came out of his shell again with a nicely put together 63 (not out), while Hay got 30.

The unbeaten Grafton II. played North Shore II. and made 222 (W. H. Graham 107 not out). North Shore have lost two wickets for 45.

For the great match between N.S.W. and the Rest of Australia for S. E. Gregory's benefit, the teams have been selected, and are as follows:—

N.S. Wales: M. A. Noble, V. Trumper, R. A. Duff, A. Diamond, A. J. Hopkins, E. L. Waddy, C. G. Macartney, M. H. Blaxland, A. Cotter, G. L. Garnsey, H. Carter.

Rest of Australia: H. Trumble (V.), C. Hill (S.A.), P. McAlister (V.), D. R. A. Gehrs (S.A.), W. W. Armstrong (V.), S. E. Gregory (N.S.W.), G. Hazlitt (V.), J. H. Pellow (S.A.), C. J. Eady (Tas.), H. Wright (S.A.), J. J. Kelly (N.S.W.).

I do not think that Gregory or Kelly should have been selected to represent the rest of Australia, as both are N.S.W. batsmen. Their in-

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