

by 18 points to nil. Mataura II. proved victors over Waihi by 11 points to 5.  
At Paeroa West defeated East by 3 points to nil.

**THE GAME IN THE SOUTH.**

At Dunedin on Saturday Alhambra (11) beat University (3), Port Chalmers (3) beat Kaikorai (nil), Dunedin (8) beat Pirates (3), Southern (23) beat Union (5). Zingari and Taieri drew, each scoring three points.

Saturday's senior games at Wellington resulted as follows:—Petone (13) beat Victoria College (nil), Oriental (14) beat Southern (nil), Ponetic (3) drew with Wellington (3), Athlete (21) beat Old Boys (6), and Melrose (9), beat St. James' (nil).

The Christchurch matches resulted as follows:—Old Boys (26) beat Canterbury College (3), Merivale (24) beat Christchurch (6), Albion (12) beat Linwood (nil), Sydenham a bye.

At Napier in the senior football championship matches Ahuriri defeated Kia Ora by 8 to nil, and Marist Brothers beat Te Aute by 13 to 3.

**THE NEW ZEALANDERS CRITICISED.**

After the first match against New South Wales, in which the New Zealand professional team was beaten, the "Referee" wrote of them as follows:—Measured by the standard of New South Wales representative play in the Rugby Union game of the present day, the Light Blue professional team is far from being a great side, though in parts it is first-class. Yet, despite the New Zealanders scoring first with a dropped goal, the local team never looked like losing the match. They were faster all round and better conditioned, and a good deal superior in the three-quarter line.

The New Zealand forwards in this match were physically immense, being tall, muscular, and heavy. They dribbled neatly, and tackled very soundly and very hard. But we have become accustomed to seeing New Zealand forwards as fast as the nippiest of backs, and as clean and clever in short-passing movements, as Wallace, Hunter and Co. And therein these forwards badly failed by comparison. Their play was strenuous and intensely solid, but, with the exception of perhaps W. Johnston, it was the solidity of the cart-horse rather than of the sound thoroughbred. And when they realised that the opposition players were faster, tacklers of might and certainty, and not in any degree depressed by the old-time fear of the New Zealander, the clevernesses in Rugby football frequently became supplanted by rough bullocking, at times degenerating into foul play.

It has been said that the referee is entirely to blame, and the players blameless for this. The referee, of course, failed in an important part of his duty, but that cannot excuse the players. If professional football is not promptly stripped of this sort of thing, it will very quickly kill the game. If a referee makes a mistake, the players are to respect him and his decisions. It is a sorry spectacle when a half-back angrily kicks a stationary ball far away out of the field of play because the referee has seen fit to penalise him, and, moreover, to do so quite correctly. It is even worse for a player similarly disappointed to throw the ball hard at the referee. Actions of this kind, if repeated, must bring the game into disrepute. The roughness in its closing stages has, I fancy, not done the New Zealand team any good in public opinion.

**THE NEW ZEALANDERS NARROWLY DEFEAT AUSTRALIA.**

After two victories by New South Wales over the New Zealand professional team now in Australia, it was thought that combined Australia would have no difficulty in defeating the visitors, but the result proved that football is an uncertain game. There were 20,000 people present at the Sydney Agricultural Ground when the teams filed out to do battle, these latter being made up as follows:—

New Zealand: Fullback, Turtill; threequarters, Baskerville, Wrigley, and Kelly; five-eighths, Tyler and Barber; half, R. Wynyard; forwards, Mackrell, Pearce, Trevarthen, Cross, Johnston, and Byrne.

Australia: Fullback, Headley; threequarters, McLean (Queensland), Messenger, Devereux, and Cheadles; halves, Rosenfeld and Dore (Queensland); forwards, Graves, Hennessy, Rosewell, McCabe, Hudge, and Tubmann (Queensland).  
Turtill captained the New Zealanders, and Hennessy the Australians.

Playing a much improved game the Blacks led off with a great dash, and time after time came within an ace of scoring. Eventually Wynyard got over, but no goal resulted. Then Baskerville made a good run and tucked down behind the posts, Wrigley adding the extra points. Next a good passing run by Wrigley, Pearce and Wynyard gave the latter an opportunity, which he was prompt to take advantage of, but Wrigley's kick was abortive. With eleven points to nothing against them the position looked bad for Australia, but a change then set in. From a mark Messenger kicked a goal, and he had several shots at goal from different angles without success. Messenger then put in a good run, and Hudge taking the pass scored near the corner, but the angle was too great to convert. The Australians continued to attack, Rosenfeld getting a rather lucky try which the ubiquitous Messenger converted. With only a point between them the game to the close was fast and furious, but no further scoring was done, the New Zealanders winning by 11 points to 10. During the match a New Zealander was ordered off the field for striking Hennessy, who retired, while McCabe was also incapacitated.

**STILL DISQUALIFIED.**

Mr. Sheahan presided at a special meeting of the Management Committee of the Auckland Rugby Union on Friday, the following delegates being in attendance:—Messrs. C. P. Stichbury, F. S. Murray, F. J. Ohlson, S. R. Somerfield, R. H. Froude, and V. Langsford (secretary).

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing a requisition from the Newton District Club, praying for the removal of the balance of the term of disqualification imposed on P. Long. The requisition was supported by a petition containing a large number of names of club officials, players, and supporters of the game. The disqualification for 10 years was imposed on Long four years ago, and the persons supporting the requisition are of the opinion that he has been sufficiently punished. The request for the removal of the balance of the term was discussed very fully, the discussion lasting about two hours. The committee were unable to agree to the request.

**NO JURISDICTION.**

Subsequent to the annual meeting of the A.R.U., Mr. D. W. McLean appealed to the N.Z.R.U. against the ruling of the president of the A.R.U., that a delegate must be a resident of the district which he is chosen to represent. Mr. McLean was not re-elected this season as a delegate for North Shore, where he resides, but was appointed the following week by the Ponsonby District Club as one of their delegates. At the annual meeting of the A.R.U. the president (Mr. A. E. Devore) ruled that Mr. McLean could not take his seat as a Ponsonby delegate. The appeal was considered by the Management Committee of the N.Z. Rugby Union, when it was decided that the committee inform the union that it has no jurisdiction. By-law No 8 in the Auckland Union's by-laws gives the right of appeal to the New Zealand Union only on such matters as are provided for in the by-laws of the New Zealand Union, and the matter in question is not provided for.

At the annual general meeting of the New Zealand Lacrosse Association, the following gentlemen were elected to the various offices:—Patron, His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket; president, Mr. A. M. Myers; vice-presidents, Dr. W. Drummond Ferguson, Messrs. Thos. Peacock, Alfred Kidd, M.P., E. C. Bloomfield, W. D. McLean, R. Noton, and E. W. Millar; hon. secretary, Mr. Lestock Stewart (pro tem.); hon. treasurer, Mr. W. J. Nolan (pro tem.); committee of management, Messrs. H. C. McCoy, W. H. Graham, and F. Brown; hon. auditors, Messrs. F. Carpenter and Joseph Millar. It is probable a team will be sent South to tackle the Wellington Association, which will pay a return visit and, if possible, the combined teams will be matched against a team from the American fleet.

The sweet girl strolled along the block. The cheeky dude remarked "Ahem!" Not dreaming of the sudden shock That would reward his stratagem! The maid remarked, with humour grim: "Your cough seems bad to-day! I'm sure You'd best take this!" and handed him A bottle of Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

**BILLIARDS.**

F. Weiss, the ex-champion of England, is coming out to the colonies this season, when he will give exhibitions on the oval table.

W. Mitchell, who has been playing with great success in South Africa, is due in Sydney within a few days.

H. W. Stevenson has arrived in England after his thirteen months' tour round the world.

In a recent match at Southampton Harverson (receives 750) beat Diggle (scratch) by 7000 to 5310.

Inman was due to arrive in Perth (W.A.) on May 6.

**A GOOD GAME AT THE NEWTON SALOON.**

There was a good attendance at the match last week between Mr. W. E. Hackett, the Auckland amateur, and the Victorian expert, J. C. Bragge, the latter conceding 250 in 750. The match was played on a standard table at the Newton Billiard Saloon. Neither player did anything very remarkable, finding the table rather difficult. The finish was fairly close, the professional running the game when Mr. Hackett's score stood at 699. Bragge's best runs were 87, 51, 46, 42 and 40, while the amateur could not do better than 53, 37 and 30.

**CLOSING TIME EXTENDED IN WELLINGTON.**

Some weeks ago the billiard saloon proprietors of Wellington waited upon the City Council, asking that the hour of closing should be extended from 10 to 11 p.m. Against this it was alleged by another deputation that the saloons were not well kept, and that they were mediums of gambling.

The City Council considered reports from Inspector Doyle, the City Council's inspector, and the Inspector of Police, in which it is said the saloons are properly conducted. The By-laws Committee, which had gone fully into these reports, however, recommended that the hour of closing be not extended. After considerable discussion a motion extending the closing hour to 10.30 p.m. was agreed to by seven votes to six.

**WHO IS THE CHAMPION?**

Who is champion of English billiards? (asks the editor of the "World of Billiards.") The recent phenomenal form displayed by Reece in a succession of games prompts me to enter the field of discussion on this score. To my mind, the Oldham professional has placed himself right in the running for the title. There is a world of significance in the fact that he has issued a challenge—for a stake of £250 a-side and upon level terms—to play Dawson, an invitation which the last-named has studiously ignored. This is tantamount to admitting fear of the rising star, an impression, doubtless, founded upon the ready manner with which Reece has beaten, not to say toyed with, the scratch man of the Soho Square tournament in London and in Liverpool. On present form Dawson has no pretensions to concede one single point to the rising star. No decline on his part has brought about such an upheaval in the hitherto existing and set status of the professional group, which Dawson and Stevenson have, conjointly, led for the past five or six years. It is simply the inexorable march of Time, which inevitably brings the younger blood to the fore. Dawson had his turn when John Roberts vacated the field with the coming of the new century. Then Ste-

venson overhauled the leader to set up a new era and provide many stirring struggles for supremacy. Now, the swing of the pendulum has brought Reece to the fore, and with him must come another young and good player in Melbourne Inman, who has served Stevenson with the same ready defeats that Reece has extended to Dawson. We are on the eve of great developments as regards the professional championship, which distinction this time twelve months hence may, with the needful opportunity accorded him, be the proud privilege of the clever young cueist who has just won the big Soho Square tournament.

**WHERE TO PLAY BILLIARDS.**

**FORD'S** Waitemata Billiard Club, Custom-street, Auckland. Open to play all-comers on 100 Break. Ford's Unequaled Billiard Pockets, all colours. Post free to any part of New Zealand, 10s 6d.

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

**VICTORIA BILLIARD SALOON.** Peel-street, Gisborne.—Five First-class Billiard Tables. Everything New and Up-to-date.—Segedin and Ostoja, Proprietors.

**RODGERS' BILLIARD SALOONS, Invercargill.** Three Tables in Back-street and Two in Dee-street, Prince of Wales' Buildings. Visitors will receive best of attention combined with First-class Tables, etc.

**COFFEE PALACE BILLIARD SALOON** (close to McMahon's Hotel), Whangarei. Two Fine Tables; nicely-furnished room, where visitors can have a quiet game with best attention.—S. CALKIN, Proprietor.

**VICTORIA 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 Ostoja, Proprietors.

**POTIKI BILLIARD AND TOILET SALOON**—Well-kept Room, two First-class Tables. Quietness and order maintained. Note address, satisfaction guaranteed.—HARRY LAW-MER, Tobacconist and Hairdresser, Proprietor.

**RANFURLY BILLIARD SALOON**—Two First-class Tables. Visitors can rely on strict attention. Snooker, Pool, etc.—C. H. HUNT, Proprietor, 116 Ridgway-street, Wanganui.

**GEORGE-STREET BILLIARD SALOON**, Palmerston North. Three First-class Tables. Billiard, Pool, Snooker. Every attention to visitors.—T. BILLS, Proprietor.

**TAUTAKI BILLIARD HALL** (late Christchurch Cycling Club Rooms), 186, Gloucester-street, Christchurch. Fitted with 3 Alcock's Best Tables and Accessories. All Brand New, including Crystalate and Bonzoline Billiard and Snooker Balls. 50 up 6d. 100 up 1s. Cycle stand provided free to customers. Telephone 2251.—C. NUNN, Proprietor.

**TUTJOHANN AND CO.** Billiard Table Manufacturers, Victoria Square, Christchurch. Full-size Tables from 85 guineas upwards; Special Dining Billiard Tables, from £32 to £45. Winners of Gold Medal at International Exhibition. All makes of Balls and Cues to select from.

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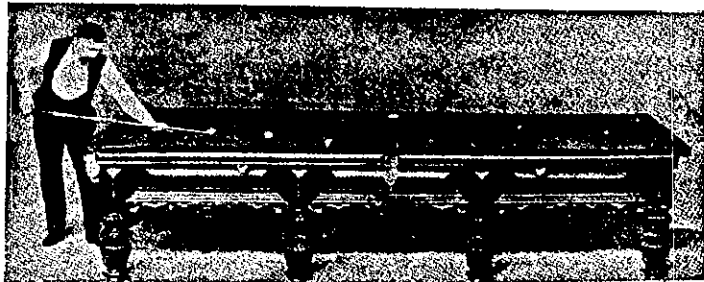
**WATSON'S BILLIARD SALOON**, High-street, DUNEDIN.—Five First-class Tables. Largest Room in the South Island. Snooker, etc. Visitors are welcomed from all arts.—W. Thomson, Proprietor.

**A. L. HOARE'S BILLIARD PARLOURS**, Exchange Buildings, Princes-street, DUNEDIN. Select, convenient, and thoroughly up-to-date. Every attention given to players, First-class Tables.

**BRENNAN'S BILLIARD SALOON**, Mersey-street, GORE (C. J. Pumper, Proprietor). First-class tables, Electric light. Most cosy saloon in Southland. Visitors cordially welcomed.

**THE NEWTON BILLIARD SALOON** (T. B. O'Connor and H. McNeill).—Two doors from Family and Naval Hotel; 6 new tables, including a new arc-oval, which is the first and only one erected in a public room in Auckland.

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