

of esteem. The points "cup" for highest points in cruising races, presented by Watson's Whisky Company, was won by Merlin.

#### KARORO'S INTERESTING CRUISE.

On June 19 Messrs. Montgomery and Alexander's fine power yacht Karoro sailed for the North, the objective being a visit to Messrs. Cook Bros' whaling station at Whangamumu. The weather was very fine when the little vessel got away, and so it remained all night. After a twelve hours' run along the coast Whangamumu was reached and the anchor dropped. Sunday was spent quietly in port, but on Monday morning the news that whales were in sight created great excitement. The Wairiri and two whaleboats were manned by the whalers, the visitors being lucky enough to obtain seats in the launch. To those who had not seen it before, it was a moment of intense suspense when the first bomb was fired and the monster too late dived for safety. The excitement of the chase left nothing to be desired, the stricken whale spouting volumes of blood. Two whales were captured and towed into harbour. Next day another was brought to bay, and then the weather took a hand, a hard easterly gale blowing up, soon raising a bad sea. All operations were perforce suspended, but fortunately it did not last, and the following day, with more whales in sight, the boats were again manned. The wind then veered round and blew hard from the nor-west, and before long off Piercy Island a mountainous sea was running, huge breakers raising their towering crests. In the height of the bow a whale was struck, and for the next half-hour matters were lively indeed. With the utmost difficulty the leviathan was secured and got back to port. With a good haul of four whales, trying-out operations were soon in full blast, and a couple of days were spent by the visitors in watching this somewhat malodorous operation. All the time the Karoro had been lying snugly in Whangamumu, but the anchor was then weighed and a course shaped for Auckland. It was a very pleasant run down the coast. Something in the nature of a race was provided when the Northern Co.'s s.s. Paeroa was sighted five miles ahead, but the white-funnelled boat was gradually overhauled, and before Kawai was reached was a long way astern. Moorings were reached on Sunday evening last, all on board being agreed that the last voyage of the season had been the most enjoyable of them all.

Karoro was hauled up on Tuesday for the winter. This season she has cruised for over 3850 miles, the 20 h.p. Union engine having run without a hitch throughout, a very fine performance indeed for all concerned.

#### BOXING.

The Northern Boxing Association will have an evening at His Majesty's Theatre on the 13th inst., when Jim Ross, of Auckland, will have a fifteen rounds' go with Tim Tracey, of Wellington, for a purse of £50 and the professional light-weight championship of New Zealand. Ross has a good list of wins to his credit and he should give the present holder of the title a good go.

On the same date, Jim McCarthy, of Palmerston, and Blewden of Auckland, will box six rounds for a trophy. Both are clever amateurs. Two bantams, in Montague and Menzies, will have a go, while Fulton and Leslie will wrestle for the light-weight amateur championship. This is something like a programme and should pack the house.

#### BURNS' MATCHES IN AUSTRALIA.

Bill Squires has signed an agreement to fight Tommy Burns, the world's champion, in Sydney; and also Lang, if required. Squires sails for Australia on the Orient R.M. steamer Oruba, which left London on June 28.

The Australian champion says the fight in Paris convinces him that, if he is in slightly better condition, he has a great chance of beating Burns. Bill Squires has cabled the Sydney Syndicate to lodge £400 of the sum guaranteed him with the Sydney "Referee."

Lang is to receive £600 to meet Burns in an encounter of 20 rounds, one to win, and if the contest should take place in Sydney, Lang will receive £25 additional for expenses.

It is understood that Squires will receive £850 for his appearance against Burns in Australia, plus travelling expenses from England (says the "Referee"). Burns is to receive £2000 to come to Australia, and in addition £1000 for each of two contests—£4500 in all, and £500 for saloon passages for two. It has not yet been definitely settled which match will take place in Sydney and which in Melbourne, but there will be one contest in each city. Contracts have been signed by all three men, and it is understood that the syndicate's contract with Burns binds him to fight in Australia only, and wholly under the syndicate's management, and that when his series of matches is concluded he must leave Australia. Although there is no possibility of Johnson and Burns fighting here—owing to Burns drawing the colour line—Johnson will probably return to Australia on the off-chance of Burns being beaten, in order to challenge the winner.

#### HOCKEY.

In the ladies' matches Moana had a runaway victory on Saturday, winning from Rawhiti A. by 9 goals to nil.

Ladies' College defeated Rawhiti B by 2 goals to nil, after a very close game.

In the Thames matches, the Young Men's team is ahead with 6 points, Rifles having 5 and Hauraki 5.

Auckland A. is leading in the club competition with 12 points, United have 10, Varsity 8, St. George 7, Ponsonby 5, Auckland B. 3, College Rifles 3, North Shore 1.

It is anticipated that the match against Canterbury on July 11, will tax the powers of the Auckland players to the utmost as the Southerners are said to be a hot lot. The game will be played at Victoria Park. The Canterbury players are:—Goal-keeper, C. Bellamy; backs, P. Campbell and G. Ford; halves, N. Goldsbury, H. Oram, and H. Throp; forwards, D. Jones, W. Harrington, E. Halbert, H. Jacobs, and E. Green. Emergencies—Forward, G. Hulston; back, J. Mahar.

The Hockey Association's big dance at the Albert Hall takes place on July 30.

Senior players engaged in a trial match on Saturday with a view to selecting a team to play Taranaki next Saturday. Not a great deal of interest was shown and the sodden state of the ground prevented fast play. Ultimately the A. team won by 4 goals to nil.

More interest was taken in the junior match. In the second grade United A. defeated the hitherto unbeaten Training College, by 4 goals to 3.

Y.M.C.A. beat College Rifles by 7 goals to 1.

Ellerslie were too good for Epsom, winning by 4 goals to 1.

Ponsonby A. beat North Shore by 5 goals to 4.

'Varsity defeated Ponsonby B. by 8 goals to 2.

It looks as though North Shore and College Rifles will have to play off for the "booby" prize. Which will break their duck?

#### THE MATCH AGAINST TARANAKI.

The first of the long list of inter-provincial matches will come up for decision on Saturday when Taranaki will meet Auckland. The game should be fast and even, but I like the local men's chance best, as the team looks a very solid one. It is as follows:—

Goal: C. Howell (Auckland).  
Full-backs: F. S. Shirriffs (United), E. G. Whitley (Auckland).

Halves: Badham (St. George), D. K. Porter (United), V. C. Kavanagh (Auckland).

Forwards: O. Welham (United), R. W. Barry (United), F. R. Mason (Auckland), Jacobson ('Varsity), W. Brooke-Smith (Auckland).

Emergencies: Forwards, R. B. Young (Ponsonby) and Alderton ('Varsity); half, Spear (Auckland); full-back, H. Speight ('Varsity).

#### BILLIARDS.

When the Sydney mail left Inman and Smith were engaged in a match of 10,000 up, Smith receiving 3000 start. Inman was in great form, having strung together such breaks as 369 (in 29 minutes), 216, 203, and several centuries. The scores stood at Smith 4585, Inman 2986, so that the Englishman looked like winning comfortably.

Mr. B. Ford's big tournament at the Waitemata saloon is well under way. The prizes for this are as follows:—£15 for the winner and a silver cup presented by Mr. James Watson, of Scotland; second prize, £5; third prize, £2 10s. No less than 64 players have entered, and so far some fifteen heats have been disposed of. The first round terminates on July 21, when the players left in will be handicapped by Mr. Ford. The result looks very open.

The Royal N.Z. Yacht Squadron has a tournament under way at their rooms. This is the second of the season, and although two rounds have been played, the result looks as open as when it commenced.

Tournaments are all the go just now, being in full swing at nearly all the clubs. The Travelers' Club, the Sports Club, Smith and Caughey's, and others have arranged matches, and some good games have been shown.

#### A NOVEL MATCH.

T. Reece and C. Harverson were in the middle of a big match of 15,000 up when the mail left London on May 20. The novel feature of the match was the provision, instead of the stipulated stake, that the loser should pay one shilling for each point of his defeat, with a limit of £75. It may be remembered that the last time they met Reece made a runaway game of it, and this match looked like a "soft snap" for him. He would appear to have gone a bit stale, and at half-way Harverson had a very substantial lead, the scores being: Harverson 7303, Reece 6416. If Reece struck form in the second half the game must have had an exciting finish.

#### LINDRUM EASILY BEATS INMAN.

"Inman's attempt to concede Lindrum a third of the game in 9000 up resulted in failure, as most of those who have studied their previous meetings on the cloth of green anticipated (says the "Referee.") After the first day's play, when the table was new to him, Lindrum pegged the start-giver back, until on the final day he came out victorious by no less than 2308 points. During the second day's play, when Lindrum was behind his points, he scored 1309 points to his opponent's 1085, and ever after that period played in such solid fashion that Inman did not appear to have a look-in.

"The attendance was excellent throughout, on many occasions the public being turned away.

"In the matter of breaks Lindrum did well, breaks such as 248, 240, and 238 coming from his cue, while on two occasions he had an average greater than 36. Such figures speak eloquently of the powers of this youth, who will not be 21 until February next.

"During the week Inman issued a challenge, in which he said he was prepared to concede any Australian player 6000 in 18,000. Those conditions have been accepted by Lindrum, but how Inman can hope to come out successfully after last week's game is a poser."

#### A FINE PERFORMANCE BY YOUNG GRAY.

Master George Gray, who is still in his teens, was pitted last week against

Mr. Muir, of Dunedin, who is generally credited with being the best amateur in the Dominion. The game was played at Mr. Theomin's private residence, and was witnessed by a large number of enthusiastic billiard players. The boy led off with a 24 break, then in his next two cues made 23, which took his total up to 47. Following these preliminary skirmishes, the lad put up a magnificently-completed 224, and then completed the game of 300 with a nice run of 33 unfinished. The boy averaged 75 per innings, and the talented youngster got a great reception, which, of course, he thoroughly deserved. Mr. Muir, meanwhile, only succeeded in securing 11 points. While certainly Mr. Muir had few chances, he played streakily and without that finish he is popularly supposed to have.

The Gray billiard combination, of which the boy is the leading light, is expected to arrive in Auckland at an early date, and will give exhibitions at several of the leading local clubs. They are touring the Dominion under the auspices of Messrs. Alcock and Co., Wellington.

#### WHERE TO PLAY BILLIARDS.

**B 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.

**DARTON, 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.—Sergeant and Ostoja, Proprietors.

**RODGERS' BILLIARD SALOONS,** Invercargill. Three Tables in Esk-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.

**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.

**LUTJOHANN 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.

**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.

**ALF. 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** (H. McNeil).—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.

**J. R. JENSEN,** Hairdresser and Tobaccoist, Broadway, Stratford. Finest Bands of Tobacco, Cigars, etc. First-class Billiard Saloon, with all accessories. Next Railway Gates, Stratford.

HIGHEST AWARDS. LOWEST PRICES.  
**WRIGHT, RANISH & CO.,** 134, WILLIS-ST., WELLINGTON. The Oldest, Largest, and Most Up-to-date Establishment in the Colonies.



Full-sized Billiard Tables complete for 82 guineas, fitted with our patent leather Excelsior Cushions. BILLIARD DINING TABLES A SPECIALITY.