

Kanufacturers, is reported as having said:—"As an old racing amateur, and as a rider of considerable experience in the 'B' section, he felt sure that amateur sport would outdo all other, and he thought that in two years the amateur ranks would be twice as strong as the cash section."

Mr J. Barker collected over £20 towards the purse of sovereigns which the Christchurch Cycling Club presented to George Sutherland.

The free wheel cycle is not catching on so fast in the colonies as was anticipated. There is too much additional weight to be pushed for the small amount of ease gained in coasting down hills.

The Australian flyer "Newhaven" Jackson has taken to football during the winter months in order to keep in form for next season's racing.

The clever family of trick cyclists, the Valdars, are playing in Westport to good houses.

E. Nordon, the Auckland Cycling Club's secretary, returns from the South in a fortnight's time. Nordon has been endeavouring to persuade the League to give Teddy Reynolds some extra money towards his Paris expenses.

Just after we went to press last week we received the startling news that the French Union has decided to withdraw from the International Cyclists' Association, and to form a new body, "L'Union Cycliste Internationale" (says "Wheeling"). It is expected that the American, Italian, and German bodies will follow the French lead, and with this the I.C.A. is left without even an excuse for existence. If the English Union cares to remain affiliated to a body which includes none of the other unions of importance, it is welcome to its bargain. The situation, however, is interesting. At present it seems as if, since the N.C.U. won't leave the I.C.A., the I.C.A. will leave the N.C.U. In plain language, the English Union is offering itself to be kicked.

A salutary lesson to careless riders was given, says "Tangent" in the Melbourne Leader, in the District Court the other day, when John Reid was charged with having negligently ridden a bicycle along Flinders-street on May 2. It was stated that defendant rode over an elderly man, who was knocked down, but fortunately escaped serious injury. A fine of £2 was imposed in default ten days' imprisonment.

The recent disqualification of G. Sutherland by the League of New Zealand Wheelmen, after he had wrested from Reynolds the honour of representing that body at Paris, caused great surprise here when it was ascertained that his offence was the common practice of claiming "appearance money" for riding. Says "Tangent" in the Melbourne Leader:—"Our leading professional riders have long looked upon it as a special and recognised source of revenue, and personally I must confess that I can see no harm in a professional, who rides for his living, saying to the promoters of a sports meeting:—"I will ride at your meeting at such and such a date if you choose to pay me such and such a sum." It would be well indeed for professional cycle racing all over the world if its exponents never did anything worse than that. In Sutherland's case the gravity of the offence was minimised by the facts that he first only asked for £5 to cover his expenses, and secondly he agreed that if he won that amount in prize money he would refund the £5. Sutherland's disqualification in these circumstances has certainly gained for him general sympathy in this colony, where the following comments by the New Zealand Wheelmen will be read with interest:—"The League Council, in its frantic efforts to persecute George Sutherland, and make a dead certainty for their protege, Reynolds, going to Paris, have gone completely mad. Were the issues at stake not so serious, both to the future government of the sport and to Sutherland himself, the whole thing would certainly be ludicrous in the extreme. The Council, in taking away Sutherland's livelihood for eight months, in order that he may not stand in the way of Reynolds going to Paris, have dragged the dignity and good name of the League of New Zealand Wheelmen to the lowest depths of shame and degradation. In order to gratify a personal whim, and vent their deadly spleen upon Sutherland, they have driven a coach and six clean through the rules, laws, and regulations under which they hold office

They have shattered the constitution of the League to its very foundations, and proved themselves a standing menace to the welfare of cycling racing in the colony." The New Zealand riders, Reynolds, Tierney, and Draffin left Auckland for San Francisco, en route for Paris.



[BY VIGILANT.]

"Harrier," in the Australasian writes:—"The A.A.U. of A. have accepted H. G. Whiting's four miles in 21min as 'the best Australasian amateur record for four miles on the roads,' but decline at present to recognise it for what it is—namely, the best for four miles either track or road, because they understand that the English and American bodies do not accept, except perhaps as road records, records not made on a perfectly level track. Neither, it is said, do the English Association recognise records made on grass. On both points the Union officials have decided to confer with the English and American bodies, and they add very reasonably:—"I think it is best that all three governing bodies should be in accord if possible. However, there is no reason why we should be bound by the decisions of both or either bodies." Quite so. Nearly all Australasian records have been made on grass, and the practice of the English body certainly fails to appeal to one's common sense. Seeing that grass tracks are reputedly appreciably slower than cinders, a grass record deserves double recognition, if that were possible, instead of being ignominiously thrust into the outer darkness. And if the 'perfectly level' rule is to be rigidly enforced, what track in Australasia is available to record-makers in events of a quarter-mile upwards? Certainly not the Melbourne Cricket Ground, with a rise of over 8ft; nor the Exhibition, which is a banked cycle track. And have the authoritative levels of the Sydney Cricket Ground and Auckland Domain been ascertained, or the American or English grounds themselves? Such grounds require to be drained and that, I take it, means some divergence from the 'perfectly level,' either from the centre outwards or from top to bottom. Care in granting records is most desirable, and so is common sense. I venture to say a slight wind is of more assistance to a runner than a drop of a few inches in a hundred yards, and that races out and home or over an exact circle not only answer, but best answer the requirements as to track and wind affecting record performances."

I can only answer for the Sydney Cricket Ground. There is a fall of perhaps, a foot from north to south—from the cricket pitch to the fence—thus it is not "perfectly level," but is considered to be level, to all intents and purposes. Nearly all races are run from south to north, and consequently slightly up hill over a portion of the course. Perhaps "Harrier," who, I think, was present, will remember an eventful afternoon in August, '94, when, in a 120yds scratch race between the Melbourne and Sydney Harriers, S. J. Hill put up 12 1-5sec (a record at the time), over a course what we call "the reverse way" here, and had his figures disallowed on account of the fall in the ground.

The 10-mile Scottish championship, which virtually opened the Scottish athletic season, was decided on April 6 at Powderhall, Edinburgh. Eight competed, including the holder, W. M. Badenoch (Edinburgh H.), J. Paterson (Watson's College, the cross-country champion), D. W. Mill (Clydesdale H.), and A. Forrester (Coatbridge H., the junior cross-country champion). Paterson was a strong favourite, but he was not at his best, and Mill and McCafferty, another Western man, pushed him hard, Paterson only winning after a rattling finish by four yards from Mill, who had a foot advantage from McCafferty. The weather was highly favourable, but the time was in excess of the standard time of 57 minutes. Result: J. Paterson, 1; W. D. Mill, 2; J. J. McCafferty (West of Scotland H.), 3; A. Forrester, 4. Won by four yards; a foot between the second and third. Six finished. Time, 57 minutes 32 1-5seconds.

All hope of an international meeting between the English and American University teams this English summer has been practically abandoned.

An extraordinary performance for a lad of 13 was accomplished at the South-Eastern College sports. S. Lloyd won the mile from scratch in 5 minutes 3 2-5 seconds. The course had been carefully measured by the committee, and the time was taken by the Rev T. F. H. Berwick, B.A., St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and late captain of the games at Aldenham School. Another good performance at the same sports by a 13-year old was the high jump of 4ft 5 1/2in by A. H. Wheatley.

THE ENGLISH AND WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP SHIPS.

We are in a position to state that the Pennsylvania team will leave New York on June 20 for London as at present arranged (says Land and Water). Failing new and unexpected developments at the Collegiate meeting, Kraenzlein, Tewkesbury, W. P. Remington, A. Grant, and McCracken will be included in the team, and the first two alone should prove revelations at their respective distances. After the English championships they will visit Paris.

The Princeton University athletic team will leave New York on June 13 for Paris, but they intend to enter some of their representatives for the London games. The intentions of Harvard, Yale, and the New York Athletic Club have not at present been announced, but if all the leading colleges send to Europe, the Mercury foot executive will find some difficulty in finding suitable athletes to try for championship honours. In America the athlete's life on the path is a short one, and there are very few men across the water who do not retire after about three or four seasons at the outside. Wefers, Owen, Crum, Chase, etc., are instances in point. Myers was one of the few exceptions. Hence, after the American athlete leaves his University the New York Athletic Club cannot very long rely upon his actively representing them upon the path.

The path for the Paris Exhibition sports is not yet begun. Strange to say, it is the first cinder running track ever seen in France. M. Richiel, of the racing club, is superintending the making of this important item of the fixtures. The English representative, Mr Herbert, of the A.A.A.,

has pointed out to the Paris executive that, as at Athens in 1896, some expert like C. Perry should be engaged to lay down the foundation of the track and see that the surface is properly constituted. Failing some such arrangement, the path will be a failure, and in any case world's records are not at all likely to be broken in Paris this year. The question as to whether the A.A.A. shall or shall not send an official team to Paris is likely to be hotly debated at the general meeting of that body on April 21. Unless this country is represented the Paris championships will be a walk-over for the Americans.

It will be a great disappointment to Australians if Stanley Rowley does not meet all the cracks of the world at Paris. His trip has been undertaken to a large extent, at his own expense, and, having been prepared to do so, it would be a misfortune if anything should happen to deprive him of any credit should he be successful. However, he will meet them in English championships, though possibly he might not then be quite fit.

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