

NEW RULES FOR TENNIS.

The following are the most important of the additions which have been included in the amended laws, as received from the Council of the Lawn Tennis Association of England:

"In no case may the striker-out volley the service, not even if the ball is clearly outside the service court."

"A player who is struck by, or strikes a ball in play (unless he thereby makes a good return), loses the stroke, no matter whether he is standing within the limits of the court or outside them."

"If the service is delivered before the striker-out is ready, and he tries to return it but fails, he loses the stroke."

"If the striker-out cries 'not ready' after the service has been delivered, but before the ball touches the ground, he may not claim a fault because the ball ultimately drops outside the service court."

"If a ball, served or returned, drops into the proper court, and screws or is blown back over the net the player whose turn it is to strike may reach over the net and play the ball, provided that neither he nor any part of his clothes nor racquet touch the net. If he fails to play the ball, the stroke, of course, scores to his opponent, notwithstanding that the ball has gone back over the net."

"If a player's racquet passes over the net after he has returned the ball he does not lose the stroke, providing the ball has passed over the net before being played, and has been properly played."

"If a player or his racquet touches the posts or supports of the nets or posts while the ball is in play, he loses the stroke."

"If a player's racquet slips out of his hand, and touches the net while the ball is in play, he loses the stroke."

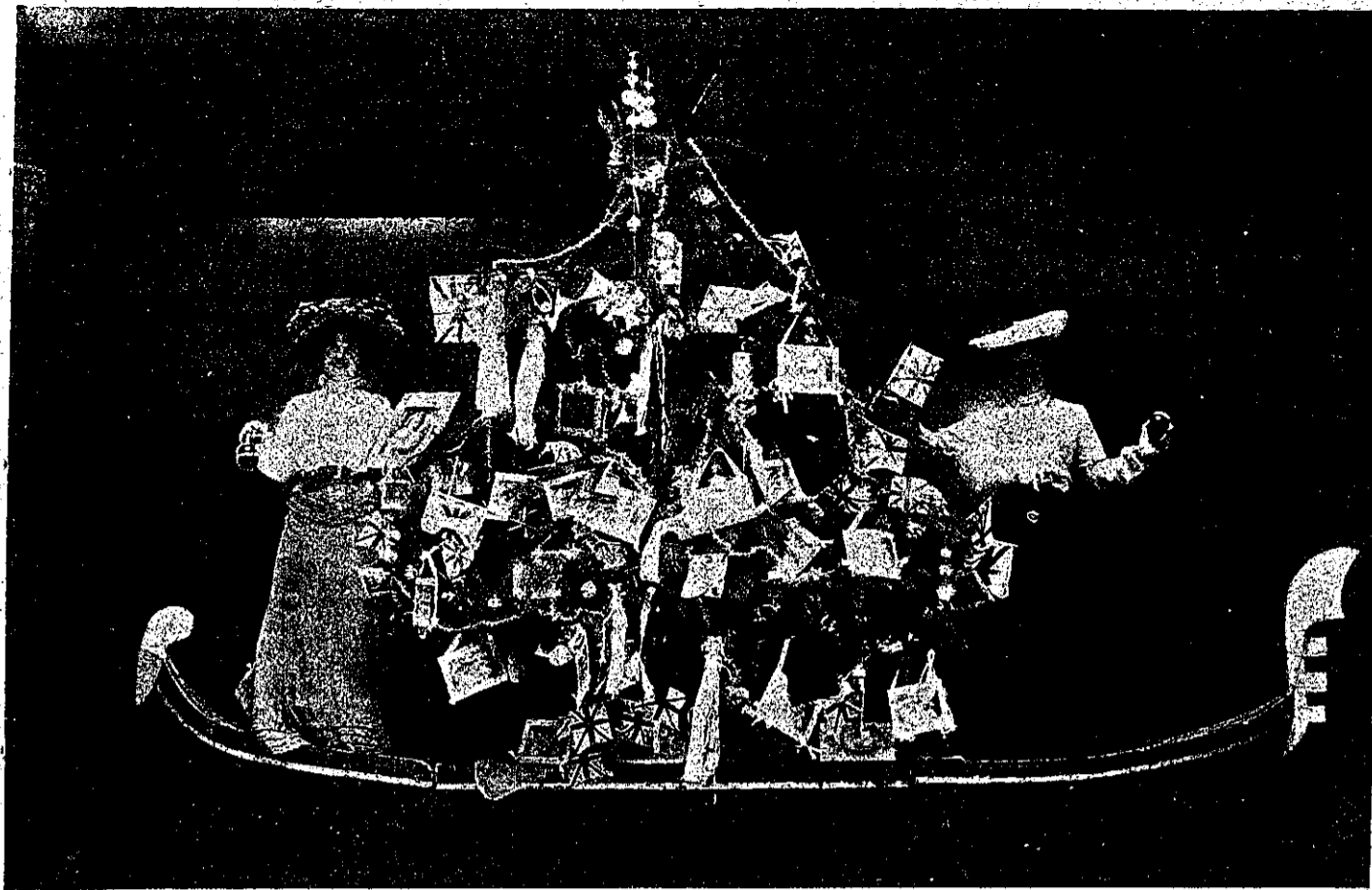
"If, in a double game, the server's service strikes either of his opponents, he wins the stroke."

"The service always commences from the right hand court, even though odds are given or owed, and the service always continues alternately from the right and left courts."

"A 'let' does not annul a previous fault."

"If a ball is returned outside the posts, either above or below the level of the top of the net, and drops into court, it is a good return."

The Lawn Tennis Association of England resolved that the amended laws should come into force on 1st January, 1903. The Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria is affiliated with and has a representative on the Council of the English body, but the above alterations in existing rules will not be adopted in Victoria till the second week in March, when the inaugural meeting of the 1903 season will be held, and when the new rules will be formally sanctioned and incorporated in the Victorian code.



Franklin and Valentine, photo.

Christmas Tree given by the Misses Blanche Wallace and Elsie Moore, at His Majesty's Theatre to the Members of the Williamson Opera Company.

Mr F. Good, son of "Robin Hood" of "The Australasian," still holds his own against all comers at table tennis. At the recent tournament for the championship of London he went through without losing a game, winning the first prize and challenge cup throughout, which now becomes his own property.



This is an age of trusts (writes the American correspondent of the "Reference"), and a Gotham newspaper is the first to proclaim the shadowing out of what it terms "a sporting trust." It says that Hempstead Plains, Long Island, is to be the scene of operations, and that permanent grounds are to be laid out looking to the promotion of horseracing, automobilism, cycling, baseball, and football, to say nothing of minor sports. Some railway people are interested in the scheme, and the names of one or two of

New York's millionaires are mentioned in the connection. H. B. Fullerton, passenger agent of the Long Island railroad, was interviewed on the matter. This is what he said: "It's coming. We will have the greatest coliseum, Olympian field and racing amphitheatre the world has ever dreamed about, and right out on the Hempstead Plains. A ten-mile track for automobiles, a running track for horses, with one mile straight away on each side, a bicycle track, a cinder path, football and baseball grounds, golf links, and all the rest of it. It's bound to come, and the money is ready to do it all. It is a question of only a few years when all the race tracks in New York will have to go—Gravesend, Brighton, Sheepshead, Morris Park, Aqueduct—every one of them. Out on the grounds I have mentioned there is room for them all. All the trotting tracks and other things could be absorbed in one big corporation. Trusts are the order of the day, and why not a sporting and athletic trust? Some may think the scheme too vast, but it is a petty thing for New York. Why, Rome never was in it with New York. It did not compare in point of wealth or opportunity, and we can do things here that will make the whole world blink its eyes. We will do it. We have got the capital, the brains, and the enterprise."



(By "Yorker.")

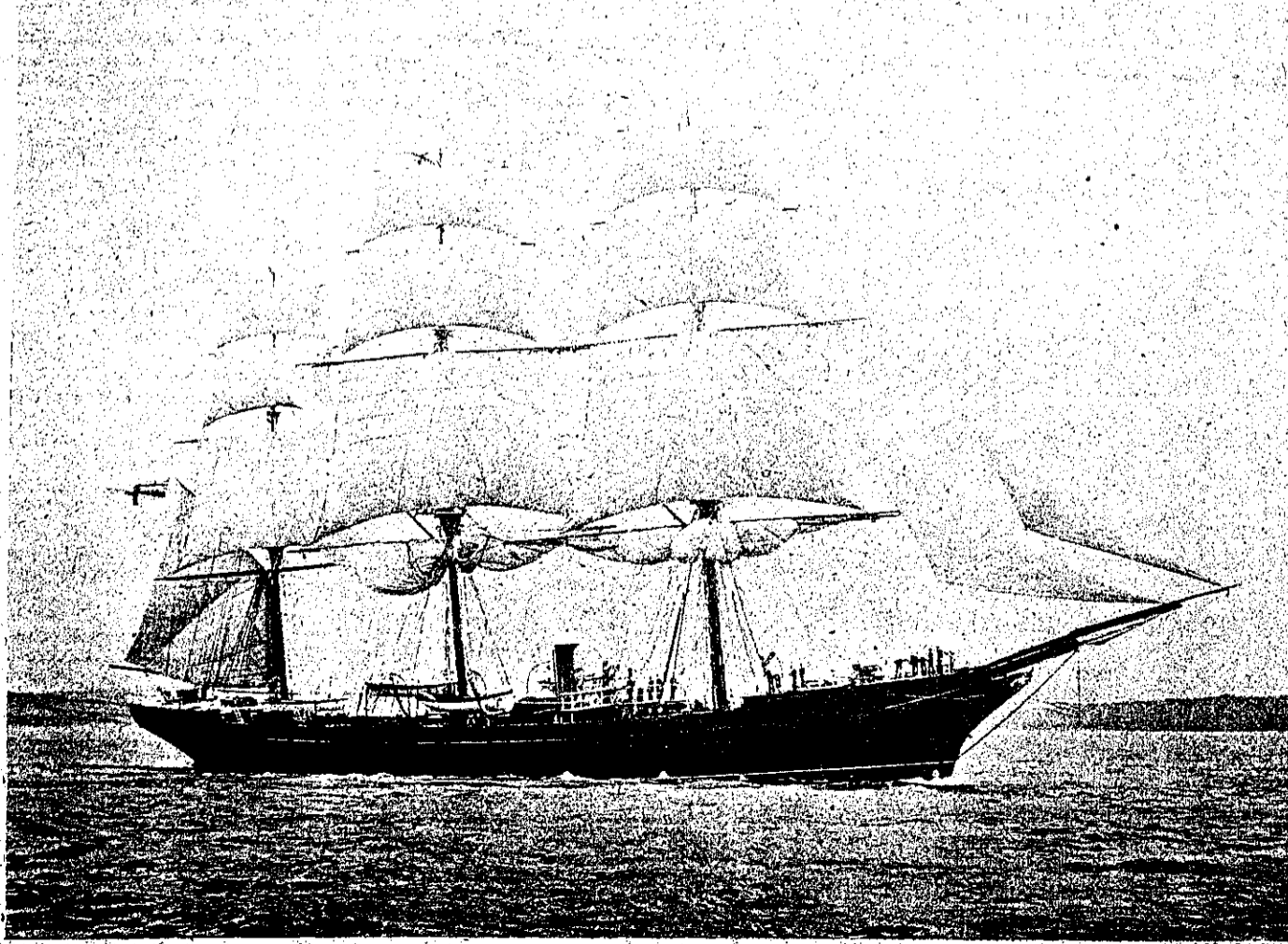
Playing against Parnell on Saturday Gordon made the good score of 237, the main factor in which was an innings of 123 contributed by R. Mason. He played well all round the wicket, his driving being especially good. Kallender hit up 28 very smartly, while Kyd put on 21, M. Hicke, R. B. Lusk and Barclay each contributed 14 to the score. Parnell in reply gave 23 on the slate for no wickets. Gavin and Elliott are the not outs with 12 and 10 respectively to their credit.

The fifth round of the championship matches was commenced on Saturday and everything was favourable to good play, the wicket proving excellent and the weather brilliantly fine. Auckland played United, but failed to show to advantage, the absence of the veteran skipper Neill being very much felt. The side was all out for 95, a very paltry total for such a batsman's wicket. Nicholson 26, St. Paul 20, Cossey (not out) 15, Hemus 14, MacCormick 13, were the two-figure scorers. United did very much better, totalling 167 for five wickets. Gleeson played an attractive innings for 63 not out, while Lusk did some good hitting in his quota of 45. Others to reach two figures were Stenson 17, Stoman 15 and Clayton 12.

Trumper and Duff, the two young Sydney players, did some heavy scoring on Saturday in the match New South Wales against South Australia. Trumper compiled 178, while Duff was responsible for 132.

The English Team had another very soft snap on in their match against Eighteen of Manawatu. They batted first, and knocked up 307 for eight wickets, the principal scorers being F. L. Fane (not out) 76, P. F. Warner 69, J. N. Williams 48, C. J. Burnup 38, and J. Stanning 35. The innings was then declared closed, and Manawatu going in could only put together 105 and 72. L. Skelley top scored in both innings with 31 and 24, playing with the utmost confidence. There was a fine nestful of duck's eggs, no less than fifteen returning to the pavilion without troubling the scorer.

Owing to having written somewhat foolishly to Phillips, the well-known umpire, concerning the questionable delivery of two bowlers in the late Australian Eleven, Jack Worrall, was practically boycotted by cricketers in Victoria, and has been virtually compelled to give up first-class cricket. Worrall has been a leading light in Victorian cricket for many years, having frequently represented the colony. If memory serves me right, it is eighteen years since I first saw Worrall acting for Victoria, and he has been a regular member of the eleven ever since, on several occasions acting as skipper. Twice he visited England as a member of Australian teams. He is a slow bowler with a dangerous break, and is also a most punishing batsman, shining especially on a bad wicket. The action of Phillips in showing a private letter appears indefensible, and one cannot help thinking that it is a case of making a mountain out of a molehill on the part of the returned Australians. It seems a thousand pities that one who has done so much for cricket in Victoria should



The Earl of Crawford's fine steam yacht VALHALLA, which will pay a visit to Auckland this summer.