

BILLIARDS.

A cable states that the billiard tournament at Sydney Tattersall's Club (250 up) was concluded on Monday, when Mr. W. Lyons, of Auckland, defeated Mr. F. Hill, of New South Wales, and won the tournament. As Mr Lyons was handicapped 75 points behind scratch, and had in addition to concede Mr Hill 130 points, his win was a most meritorious one, and when the Aucklanders ran out there was quite an outburst of enthusiasm.

The Yacht Squadron have got another tournament in full blast at their rooms, and very keen interest is being taken in the various games. In the A Class Competition the final is considered to rest between Messrs A. Holden, S. A. Smith, S. J. Clark and A. Witham. The B Tournament is regarded as very open, but I am told that C. Connolly is considered the most dangerous.

Here's a choice item from the "Bromyard Times":—"Billiards.—Two capital exhibition games of billiards were given at the Hop Pole Hotel, Bromyard, on Thursday last, by Mr. E. F. Baker, of London. The games were watched with great interest by the company present, several of which expressed their belief that the exhibition had been one of the best they had ever witnessed. Among the notable features was a break of 123, in less than three minutes, by what is known as nursery cannons." A break of 123 in less than three minutes! Great Scott!! This is the sort of cueist to make Dawson, Stevenson, Weiss and Co. hide their heads in very shame at their own snail-like rate of scoring, yet Mr Baker continues to remain in obscurity. Strange indeed.

A round played by our old friend William Lyons, in Sydney Tattersall's tournament is thus described by "The Referee":—"Old Bill" in the early stages of his bout was dead to the world, and took a long time to get going. Certainly he had to take on a new cue through losing the tip of his own second stroke, but he gave his friends a trying half-hour indeed. His opponent was a quiet, mild-looking young fellow—dead sure on the pot, but weak all round—and reached 178 to Bill's 48. Then the old 'un got into touch with 17, 33, then 46, and went out 25 unfinished next cue. Although playing a lot below form, the winner averaged almost 7 per innings.

The game between the Englishman Stevenson and Memmott at Tattersall's Club was the best contested 500 up I have ever seen (writes "Snooker"). Memmott, in the early stages, did not get a ghost of a chance to score, and looked hopelessly beaten, when he came with a superb run of 237—his highest to date against Stevenson. In finish, ease of execution, and dexterity, the break was of a superb description. It is away ahead of anything he has ever done before on a table in Sydney.

H. W. Stevenson, the great English cueist, passed through Auckland during the week on his way South, where he will play matches at the various large towns. He will then return to Auckland and play a couple of matches against J. R. Hooper, our billiard, tennis, golf, and bowling champion. After that he will leave for Honolulu, and from there to England, via Vancouver. He opens in England on November 30, under engagement to Messrs Riley, Limited, the firm on whose table the late match for the championship was played.

AQUATICS.

(By "The Reefer.")

The Home Bay Sailing Club held a very enjoyable social on Friday evening, at the Ponsonby Hall, which was nicely decorated for the occasion. The affair proved a great success.

In answer to a correspondent, who writes to know if in any previous race for the America Cup an English yacht won, in the race in 1871 the schooner Livonia led the American schooner Columbia all day in one of the matches, and won by exactly twenty minutes. The wind was fresh, both schooners carrying jib-headers. Livonia rounded the south-west Spit buoy six minutes ahead, and had increased her lead by two minutes at the Sandy Hook Lightship. The English challenger continued to gain, Columbia carrying away her steering gear. Livonia arrived off the mark boat at 5.18 p.m. and Columbia at 5.38 p.m. From this it will be seen that the race was won by the English schooner fairly enough, despite the accident to her opponent.

A remarkably quick bit of cabling was put up by the Pacific Cable Company in connection with a message from the editor of the New York paper "The Rudder," to the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, giving the result of the first of the series of races between Reliance and Shamrock for the America Cup. The message was flashed from Sandy Hook to Montreal, and from the Canadian city to Auckland, it occupying just two minutes in transmission. This is a record that will take some beating indeed, and one of which the Pacific Company may well be proud, for it must not be forgotten that there are seven repeating stations on the line.

After sailing last week from Auckland, the little cruiser Tilikum was obliged to shelter for the night from the strong nor'easter under the lee of the Rangitoto reef. Somebody on one of the steamers to Waiwera seeing her there wired to town that Captain Voss' little ship was on the reef, a sufficiently absurd yarn, if the sender had given the matter a moment's consideration. The wind backing round to the sou'-west gave a lead up the coast, and the Tilikum's skipper was quick to take advantage of it. When last heard of the canoe was making good time of it under all sail.

In arranging to have the particulars of the America Cup races cabled to them, the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron has shown the most commendable enterprise. No less than eighteen messages came to hand describing the first race as it was in progress.

The Sydney folk are going in for a new style of yacht, these being 25ft. cruisers. The first was launched a few days ago, this being the Gadfly built to the order of Mr Arthur Marks by Golding, and three others are in course of construction. They have plenty of beam, with a movable coach-roof, and have a galvanised steel dagger fin. The type should be very useful in the enclosed waters of Port Jackson.

This evening the present committee of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron meet for the last time, the Annual Meeting taking place in September. It is probable that two or three new members will replace those at present on the committee. Mr F. W. Coombes, the hon. secretary, is resigning his position owing to the fact that he is unable to devote sufficient time to carrying out the very onerous duties connected with the office.

CYCLING.

The Lord Advocate of Scotland, who is a well-known and enthusiastic wheelman, has offered (says the "Cyclist") to ride a cycle seven miles in less time than Mr Hunter Craig, M.P. for Govan, can walk a mile. If the latter gentleman can get his mile inside fifteen minutes the Lord Advocate will have to do better than 28 miles per hour to beat him.

J. F. Crundall, on a Humber motor bicycle, last week obtained world's records from two to ten miles inclusive, accomplishing the wonderful distance of 26 miles in two seconds under the half-hour, which works out slightly better than 52 min per hour. At the same time the flying mile world's record was also obtained in the 25th mile, the time for this distance being 1min 6 1-5sec, which cuts record by 2-5sec. Crundall's time for two to ten miles was 2min 24sec—11min 31 2-5sec. The time for 14 to 32 miles was 16min 17sec—35min 36sec.

W. Reynolds, ex-amateur champion, has just returned to New Zealand from a trip to the Old Country, whither he had gone to acquire English experience in the cycle trade. During an eight months absence he spent some time in the principal depots of the Rudge-Whitworth Company in England, Scotland and Ireland, thus gaining an admirable insight into the methods of this enterprising firm. He came back looking all the better for his trip, which he states was most enjoyable, and he will now re-enter the business of Messrs E. Reynolds and Co., who have the New Zealand agency for the Rudge-Whitworth.

The new Sydney sports ground is to be officially opened next October, when the League of New South Wales will hold a two-days' meeting, for prizes amounting to £170. It is stated that the new track will be the fastest and most up-to-date in Australasia, being banked to take motor cycles travelling at fifty miles an hour.

The series of big race meetings which was conducted in Sydney last season by the Summer Nights' Amusement Company will be continued this year, the first meeting being advertised for a date to be fixed in November, and immediately prior to the Austral. The second programme will be offered in January, when the "Sydney Thousand Mile" will be contested, besides other important races, and the series will end by a meeting in March. The total prize money will amount to £2,500, and it is expected that a number of foreign cracks, irrespective of those being engaged by Mr T. Scott, the secretary, now in Europe, will be attracted to our shores.

The road race for the purpose of selecting a Tasmanian representative for the Warrnambool to Melbourne Road Race, was held on Saturday, August 1. It started from King's Meadows, near Launceston, and finished at Cooley's Hotel, Moonah, near Hobart, about 116 miles. Twenty-five riders started, and about fifteen completed the distance, the result being:—C. Hay, 25min, 1; E. Hardman, 10min, 2; A. Hardman, 5min, 3. The last named secured the fastest time, completing the journey in 7hr 33min 21sec. A. Hardman was, therefore, selected.

N. C. Hopper, who won the "Sydney Thousand" (£750 first prize), and divided most of it up, is riding in good form in America. He recently beat Chapman, who was in Australia a couple of seasons ago, in a ten miles paced race by over three laps. The time—18min 17 2-5sec—was very slow.

J. Arnst, the colony's representative in the great road race from Warrnambool to Melbourne, put up a great performance in that event. Starting from scratch he rode the distance in 7hrs 43min, winning by three minutes from Skehan. The New Zealander beat the previous record by an hour, and it is therefore small wonder to learn that he received a great ovation from the twenty thousand people who viewed the finish of the contest.

CRICKET.

The sides that met at Lord's to represent the Gentlemen and the Players of England were not so representative as the cricket enthusiasts could have desired. The absence of those "boundary" cricketers, Hirst, Jessop and Jackson, was remarked upon with regret. On the opening day the Players knocked up 387 runs for seven wickets, and although the amateurs' bowling was not very dangerous, the batting was not brilliant. Next day the Players carried their score to 478, Knight remaining in until he had made 139, and they then put the Gentlemen out for the trumpy total of 185. All the luck in the Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's was on the side of the pros, during the two first innings. C. B. Fry (5) was outed by a ball of Hargreaves that would have beaten any living batsman, Ranjitsinhji was dismissed by a marvellous catch by Tyldesley, who ran some fifty yards to bring it off, and Burnup never got fairly settled. Wanting 293 to save the innings' defeat, the Gentlemen began their second innings in much better style. Fry started hitting, and when he found himself getting runs he soon played his true game. Warner made 27 in nice style, and at the close of play they had scored 74 runs for the loss of one wicket. The third day an extraordinary change came over the game. The Gentlemen not only saved a hopelessly lost game, but at the finish were in so advantageous a position that it is possible they would have won if the match had been played out. Ranjitsinhji was caught out when he had made 60, and then Fry and MacLaren coming together at 191, with 102 still required to save the innings defeat, put on 309 at the rate of 100 an hour, until half-past five, when the Gentlemen declared, the scoring board recorded:—"Total 500. Wickets 2. Fry (not out) 232. MacLaren (not out) 168." The Players started in on the impossible task of making 208 runs in an hour, and of course failed, the match ending in a draw.

The latest addition to the English team which Warner is bringing out is Knight, the Leicestershire professional, who is in great form this season. He top-scored in the match against the Gentlemen of England with 139, and later on totalled 229 not out against Worcestershire. His batting average to date this season is 46½ runs, and he is also a fair change bowler.

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