

(By "The Recker.")

A very large amount of work is going forward at the Auckland yards. While having a look round during the week I noticed that Logan Bros. have a number of oil launches under construction. There is an open pleasure launch for Mr W. Whitley. She has the new torpedo stern, which is now becoming so popular, and will be fitted with a 10 h.p. Union engine. A 30-foot cabin launch of 5 h.p. for Mr Harris, of Picton, is nearly completed, and will soon be ready for launching. The 26-foot launch for Mr Newton King, of New Plymouth, which will have a 4 h.p. Union engine, is also well advanced. A 25-foot fast cruiser for Mr Kirker, of Ponsonby, will be put in hand immediately.

Charles Bailey, junr., is steadily pushing on with Sir Rupert Clarke's new schooner. The planking and decking has been finished, and the fittings are now being placed in position. She will be ready for launching early in November. Bailey has also a lot of work in hand for the Tyser liner Niwaru.

Bailey and Lowe's yard presents a very busy spectacle, a lot of work going on. Mr S. Milne's 23-foot launch, 1 1/2 h.p. oil launch, Patete, has just been completed. A fast launch for Mr Hadley is being pushed on with. She will have an engine of 15 h.p. which should make her one of the speediest in the Waitemata. The firm are well forward with the 22-foot ocean cruiser in which Mr Buckeridge proposes to round the Horn. She is being built at North Shore. Two 26-foot fast cruisers are on order.

The annual meeting of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, on Tuesday evening, was very largely attended by members, the contest for seats on the committee no doubt accounting in part for the great interest displayed by members.

The balance-sheet, which was adopted, showed that the receipts for the year had been (including balance from last year of £44 0s 4d) £418 14s 10d, and the expenditure £406 13s 1d, the balance carried forward being £12 1s 9d. The assets were £285 12s 4d, and liabilities £5 19s.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Commodore, Mr C. P. Murdoch; vice-commodore, Mr J. R. Gray, junr.; rear-commodore, Mr H. R. Bloomfield; hon. secretary, Mr P. H. Cole; hon. treasurer, Mr R. S. Reynolds; hon. auditors, Messrs T. F. Wallace and Malcolm Wiseman; committee, Messrs A. Alison, J. Alexander, A. W. Chatfield, E. V. Miller, R. R. Masfield, P. F. Battley, F. W. Coombes, H. Haines, J. C. Hardie and F. M. Jervis.

Recipients of a presentation generally glean beforehand when anything of the kind is toward, but I fancy Commodore Murdoch got a genuine surprise when Mr P. F. Battley, on behalf of the technical classes inaugurated by the club during the past season, presented to him a spirit compass, with a suitable inscription, as a token of the esteem of the members and a slight recognition of the interest Mr Murdoch had taken in the class, and the time he had expended in imparting to the members the necessary instruction. Mrs Murdoch also received a diamond brooch from the same donors.

The question as to whether a boat builder should sail a boat in a club race again cropped up, and was very warmly discussed. To my mind the logical position is that if the club admits builders as members they should be entitled to the privileges of members, but if the club do not desire the builders to handle boats then they should not be admitted as members. However, a two to one majority thought otherwise, so there is evidently a flaw in my line of argument which at present I am unable to see.

The executive of the Auckland Rowing Association are not unnaturally indignant at the Anniversary Regatta Committee not putting any event on the programme for amateur oarsmen. They think that instead of wasting £100 on a whale-boat race the money would have been better expended on a number of rowing events. It is possible that a rowing regatta may take place at Mercer in lieu of the usual one at the Anniversary Regatta.

At the annual meeting of the Ponsonby Cruising Club the following officers were elected:—Commodore, Mr S. Levy; vice-commodore, Mr W. Wilson; rear-commodore, Mr E. Message; treasurer, Mr F. Blomfield; secretary, Mr A. Thompson; committee, Messrs T. Thompson, F. Murrell, F. Kunst, J. Hawkins, B. Cooke, H. Johnson, T. Dickson, W. Bettany, A. Hewson, S. W. Buck, D. Paterson. The hon. secretary was presented with a handsome gold chain and pendant for his past services. The retiring Commodore was elected a life member.

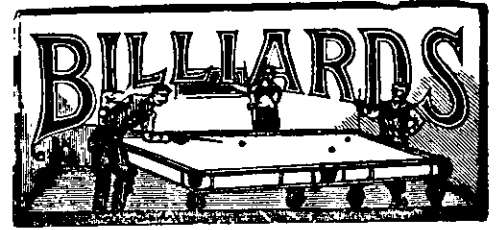
Miscellaneous Items.

Count de Nieva won the New South Wales Pigeon Shooting Championship last week with 21 kills. The New Zealanders, Chevannes and Eccles, gave a good display of shooting; but both had the bad luck to break down on very difficult birds.

A cable from Hobart gives very tragic particulars of the result of a walking contest. Somewhat foolishly, the attempt was made to tackle the climb to the top of Mount Wellington during the bad weather. The walkers encountered a snowstorm, and some became rigid with cold, and others fainted. Only two reached the Pinnacle. On the return, two were missing, and search parties found a man named Richards dead on the track. The body of one, Radford, was also found some distance off. His foot had caught in the cleft of a sapling. The winner, Cocksbutt, suffered severely.

Stan. Wickham, the popular three-quarter, scored all the 12 points for New South Wales in the match against Queensland at Brisbane on Saturday. Two tries and two penalty goals made up the total.

At the Auckland Golf Club's links on Saturday afternoon, two matches (senior and junior classes) were played for the prizes presented by the club's captain, Mr J. R. Sykes. Both matches were medal play, 18 holes. In the senior division Mr E. Turner annexed the prize with a net score of 87, and in the junior class Mr E. A. Dargaville was the winner with a score of 85.



H. W. Stevenson, the famous English cueist, will play an exhibition match at the Waitemata Club Billiard Room, in Custom-street West, on Friday evening, October 2. Lovers of the game will thus have an opportunity of seeing the world's ex-champion perform. He is said to be one of the most graceful and finished artists that ever handled a cue, and his advent will be eagerly awaited by local amateurs.

At the Wellington Club, on Saturday, Stevenson won a match against a well-known amateur, to whom he conceded 650 points in a game of 1000 up. Stevenson began with a break of 181, and followed this up with a break of 155. When his opponent had reached 801 Stevenson ran out with an unfinished break of 165, in which a series of "nursery cannons" was the main feature. The professional was in fine form, and played brilliantly.

W. Lyons will probably play a match against Stevenson during the latter's visit to Auckland. The veteran tells me that he hardly feels like doing himself justice, but as the English ex-champion is a personal friend he will do his best to oblige. As he naively put it, "now the weather is warmer it won't be so bad having to sit and watch the other man rattling up his hundreds."

The billiard tournament organised by the Royal N.Z. Yacht Squadron is virtually completed. The B Class contest ended in a victory for C. Conolly, who was on the scratch mark. In the final he conceded J. Endean 50 points, and won after a grand game. Holden is a red-hot favourite for the A Class competition, in which the final has yet to be played.

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