

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

ACQUATIS.

(By "The Reeler.")

The Ponsonby Regatta will be held on Saturday, December 19. Mr G. S. Mitchell is hon. secretary.

It is expected that the tiny "gipsy of the Horn" which Bailey and Lowe are building for Mr C. H. Buckeridge will be launched on the 14th. Should such be the case the adventurous voyage to England will be commenced a few days later.

The safe arrival of the canoe Tilikum is reported from Thursday Island. She left Auckland on August 19, and called at Tanna Island on September 10. Very bad weather was experienced during the early part of the voyage.

The following have been elected as officers of the Home Bay Sailing Club:—Commodore, Mr C. H. Palmer; vice-commodore, Mr C. Harbutt; rear-commodore, Mr J. P. Maguire; hon. treasurer, Mr H. F. Holden; hon. secretary, Mr C. H. Palmer; assistant hon. secretary, Mr E. Whaley.

The schooner yacht La Carabine, which Mr C. Bailey, jun., is building for Sir Rupert Clarke, of Melbourne, is now all planked up, the decks laid, the bulwarks and rails on, and the outside caulking finished. She will be launched about the first week in November.

Mr A. G. Busby having retired from the captaincy of the St. George's Rowing Club, Mr T. Richards has been appointed to the position. Mr Busby was presented with a very handsome tea and coffee service by the members.

The following have been elected officers of the New Zealand Amateur Rowing Association for the ensuing year:—President, Mr J. White (Dunedin); vice-president, Mr J. James (Dunedin); secretary and treasurer, Mr N. Galbraith; auditor, Mr G. Fache; council, Messrs A. Bayfield, G. F. Campbell, R. M. Isaacs, G. Lauchlan, R. McVilly, S. Partridge, R. F. Smith.

The committee of Lloyd's Register of Shipping have issued their new rules for the building and classification of steel, wood and composite yachts. Rules for yachts were first issued by the committee of this society in the year 1878, when the society's Yacht Register was first published. Since that time the form and construction of yachts, more especially those used for racing purposes, have undergone many changes, and, in consequence, it was necessary that the rules of these pleasure craft should be so modified and amended as to render them better suited for the types of such vessels as are now commonly being built. To aid them in revising these rules, the committee of Lloyd's Register and their staff invited the opinions of the leading yacht builders and designers, not only of the United Kingdom, but of the United States of America, and their suggestions were adopted as far as considered practicable. The rules now published are, therefore, the result of careful consideration both of the committee of Lloyd's Register and of prominent experts in yacht-construction. A new scantling basis has been adopted for all types of yachts, in which the length of the "bilge diagonal" has been introduced in order to ensure that the finer yachts shall have a smaller scantling than those of fuller form. Not only has the basis of the yacht rules been modified, but considerable additions and extensions have been made, both in regard to the details of requirements, as well as in the tables for the various descriptions of scantlings.

The famous swimmer and diver, "Professor" William Finney, has met with a shocking accident at a display at Walsall. While diving from a height of thirty-five feet into a tank containing seven feet of water his head struck the bottom, injuring his spine so seriously that he is paralysed from just below the shoulders, and a fatal result is feared. Finney is well known as having dived from all the highest Thames bridges, including the Tower Bridge.

At the annual meeting of the New Zealand Rowing Association, held at Wellington, on Saturday, it was decided to hold the next championship regatta at Lake Waiholo. The sub-committee appointed to consider the question of a suitable boat for the use of maiden scullers reported that the length should not exceed 24ft 6in. It could not recommend that the weights should be reduced below 50lb. The following were re-elected amateurs:—J. Beer, H. S. Beer, F. Bernston, H. Roderique, M. Cussen, C. Bradley, and H. Phillips.

The new speed oil launch Standard, built to the order of Mr P. A. Hadley, was launched from the yards of Messrs Bailey and Lowe, Custom-street West, on Saturday afternoon. The Standard is a handsome little vessel, and is built on the diagonal principle, the hull timbers being of the best heart of kauri and the stem and floor timbers of pohutakawa. She is 36ft in length overall, 6.3ft broad, with a draught of 2.9ft. She has a 15-h.p. Standard engine which is expected to drive her at a nearly 12-knot speed. Little Miss Hadley performed the christening ceremony, which was attended by a large number of spectators who were hospitably entertained to a champagne luncheon.

The Canada International Cup has again changed hands after some of the most exciting races ever held on Lake Ontario. The challenging yacht was Irondequoit, of the Rochester Yacht Club, the defending cutter being Strathcona, a vessel designed by A. E. Payne, of Southampton. In the first race Strathcona won by 22secs after a great race. The second heat also fell to the Royal Canadian Yacht Club representative by 10min 5sec. In the third contest Irondequoit proved the victor by over 5 minutes. She evened up matters by taking the next by 68sec, owing, however, to getting a great fluke in the wind, the Canadian cutter being a certain winner otherwise. The last and decisive event was very keenly fought out, Irondequoit winning the race and the Cup by 82 seconds.

The ninth series of races for the Seawanhaka International Cup has resulted in yet another victory for the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club. Mr A. H. Higginson, of the Manchester Yacht Club, Mass., challenged with Kolutoo, a yacht designed by Starling Burgess. To meet her F. P. Shearwood designed Thorella II. for Mr Finley, Vice-Commodore of the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club. In the first race a 20-knot breeze was blowing, and Thorella showing much better windward work won easily. In the second attempt the wind was even stronger, the Canadian defender beating the challenger by 19min 36sec. The concluding race, in another hard blow, was also easily taken by Thorella, which defeated the United States yacht by 12min 16sec, and thus retained the Cup. Challenges for it have been received from the Manchester Yacht Club, the White Bear Yacht Club, and the Royal Portsmouth Corinthian Yacht Club.

FOOTBALL.

(By "Scrutator.")

Owing to the drearily wet afternoon the football match between the Upper Thames and Auckland branches of the M.V.I.O.O.F. on Saturday, was completely spoilt, while the spectators were very few in numbers. The teams were as follows:—Auckland, Pillenger, Smith, Foster, Fearnley, Stone, Polson, J. Clark, W. Hunter, Brewin (?), Haddleston, Mackrell, La Roche, Shaw, and Tremain. Upper Thames: Stephenson, Bromwich, Bain, Bainbridge, Jolly, Brennan, J. Silcock, Corbett, S. Silcock, Hamilton, Collins, Clarke, Forrest, Jones, and Bramble. The Auckland captain won the toss and elected to play down hill for the first spell. The state of the ground made a forward game the only one playable, and as the home team were decidedly superior in that division, the opposing defence was very severely tested. The Aucklanders failed to register any score, however, until within some five minutes of half-time. Stephenson, the full-back, made a bad mistake. Hunter, at wing, by fast following up, registered an easy try. The kick at goal proved a failure. Before many minutes had passed Foster potted a nice goal from the 25 mark. The home team set up another onslaught, but the visitors rallied and carried play to the other end. Their advantage was not sustained, however. La Roche, who headed a capital forward rush, succeeded in placing the oval behind the posts. Foster's kick lacked elevation. Smith, some five or six minutes later, made a pretty run and scored in good style. The kick at goal failed to improve the score, which, when the whistle blew, stood: Auckland, 13 points; Upper Thames, nil. Mr Angus Campbell acted as referee.

The representative match, Wanganui v. Manawatu, was played at Palmerston North, and resulted in a win for Manawatu by 8 points (two tries, one converted) to 3 (a try). The game was to a large extent marred by the roughness displayed, resulting in two of the visitors and one local man being ordered off. Several cautions were administered. Galloway, of Manawatu, dislocated his shoulder.

The eleventh interprovincial football match between Canterbury and Southland was played last week, at Invercargill, and was won by Southland by 16 points to 6. Southland won the toss and played with a fresh south breeze behind them. The Southern team's scores were the result of combined passing rushes, from which Reid scored three tries and Jenkins one, from which Manson kicked a goal. For Canterbury Mellraith scored a clever try from an opening made by himself, and Deana got over as the result of a good passing rush. In the second spell the Canterbury players, taking full advantage of the wind, were continually in Southland's territory, and had their passing been well directed at least two more tries could have been added to their score. Mr Harris, of Dunedin, acted as referee. This was the last interprovincial match of the season.

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WOLFE'S SCHNAPPS

CRICKET.

F. Barclay is to act as coach for the Parnell District Club this season.

Owing to the heavy rain on Saturday no practice could take place on Saturday last, but with any luck in the matter of weather the Domain should be soon alive with wielders of the willow.

Entries for the various championship competitions under the auspices of the Auckland Cricket Association are to be made with the hon. secretary of the Association (Mr H. B. Lusk) not later than to-morrow (Friday). A start will be made with the season's fixtures on Saturday, 17th inst.

At the annual meeting of the New Zealand Cricket Association, held during the week it was decided to reimburse the Auckland, Taranaki, Wanganui, Wairarapa, South Canterbury and Southland Associations to the extent of one-half the amount lost in connection with the visit of Lord Hawke's English team to the centres mentioned. The report stated that it would be premature to send a team outside the colony at present, and that negotiations for a visit of an Australian team has fallen through. The balance-sheet showed a profit of £1074 on the English team's tour.

With regard to the team Warner is bringing, it is regarded by impartial critics as being a very good one (says "The Town and Country Journal"). It certainly lacks a "star" such as Stoddart had in 1897-8 in Ranjitsinhji, or MacLaren in 1901-2 had in Jessop. Had Fry consented to come he would have been a great draw, but he could not spare the time. Without him and two or three others, Warner's team cannot be said to be the combination will prove a hard one to be representative of English cricket. Still defeat, as Australia may probably find out in the test matches. Almost all the players are capable of recording good scores, and it will be a case of getting eleven out, and not merely five or six, and then regarding the team as practically disposed of. Or, in other words, there will not be much of a tail. The combination will also be very strong in bowling, no less than eight members being recognised bowlers. They are Hirst, Hirst, Rhodes, Fielder, Relf, Gunn, Bosanquet, and Arnold. Of these Rhodes and Fielder will, doubtless, attract most attention, the former on account of his very many brilliant deeds in the old country, and Fielder owing to his being "an experiment," the same as Barnes was in MacLaren's team.

To my mind the loss of MacLaren will simply be disastrous. I have seen him so often go first to the wickets and knock up a century, thereby taking the sting out of the bowling, and yet have his side defeated, that I am inclined to think without him the Australian bowlers will prove altogether too strong for the Britishers. There is simply no comparison between the former and present skippers.

Ask for

Wolfe's Schnapps

And Take Nothing Else.