

**BUSINESS ITEMS.**

**BAKER'S PICTURES.**

**ART UNION.**

Owing to the Minister for Internal Affairs extending the time for the closing date of the Exhibition, Mr. J. M. Schapiro informs us that in order to permit our country readers to participate in one of the most attractive art unions held in the Dominion, he has decided to postpone the drawing of the art union until the closing date of the Exhibition, consequently those of our readers who have not yet purchased tickets for the same still have an opportunity for doing so. The pictures, which are on view in the main building Court 6D at the Exhibition, are worthy of inspection and of high merit, and we would point out that for the nominal cost of a ticket at one shilling, it entitles the owner to an opportunity of securing a most valuable picture.

A speed of 132 miles an hour was recently attained on a 300 h.p. Fiat motor car handled by M. Duray, the well-known French driver. This speed was established over a flying straightway kilometre (1093 yards) at Ostend. Duray's time was 16.9 seconds, and is the fastest yet attained on a motor car.

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**BILLIARDS.**

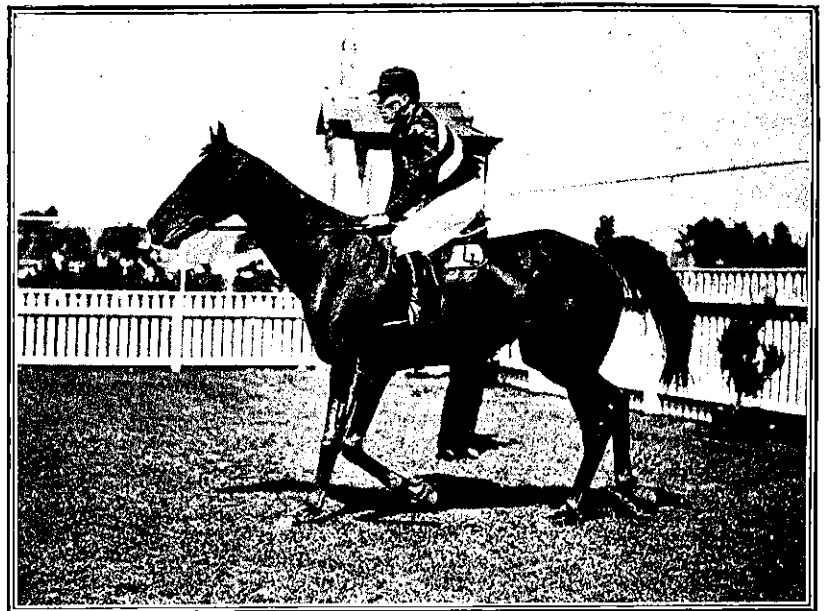
The lady champion, Miss Ruby Roberts concluded her Auckland season with a game at Mr. A. Calkin's room, Whangarei. On Thursday evening, at the room of Mr. Otto, Te Aroha, Miss Roberts conceded a local amateur 100 in 500 and won by the narrow margin of two points. On Tuesday evening Miss Roberts will give a display at Otorohanga in the room of Messrs. Cribb and Co., and then goes on to Wellington, where a large number of engagements have been arranged for her. Miss Roberts enjoyed her stay in the Queen City immensely, and a short trip to Rotorua impressed the visitor with the wonders of the thermal region.

On Friday the members of the Reform Club were regaled with a billiard display which proved interesting and enjoyable. The club crack Mr. Goodhew was opposed by W. E. Stephenson, the New Zealand champion, in a game of 500 up, the amateur receiving 200 start. Stephenson proved in good form, and won by 113 points, making best runs of 76 and 70, and gave an attractive exhibition of his skill. Mr. Goodhew was not seen at his best, though he made two nice breaks of 37 and 36. In some snooker games that followed Stephenson was again seen to advantage, while in this branch of the science Mr. Goodhew shaped splendidly.

It is highly probable Stephenson will settle permanently in Auckland, and his being in residence here will be a distinct advantage to the game. Stephenson has a thorough knowledge of the game and should make an ideal tutor.

During the visit of Miss Roberts a lady amateur from Hokianga tried conclusions with the lady champion. The local lady played very well indeed, and only requires tuition and practice to be quite in the front rank of lady cueists.

The first heat of the English Billiard Championship between George Gray and T. Reece proved the Englishman to be in splendid form. It reads strangely that Gray could only score comparatively few points while



ARUAKE (E. Murtagh) returning to scale after winning the Tayforth Hack Hurdle Race (1 3/4 miles) at the Wanganui Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting.

Reece strung together over a thousand, and the cable advises that Gray went all to pieces. The vagaries of the billiard spheres are admittedly wonderful and at times it is impossible to score, and Gray may have struck a bad period. But win or lose Gray is too brave a sportsman to show the white feather, even under severest pressure, and a modification of the cable report can be looked for when English files come to hand.

Gus Leffler, well known to New Zealand players, is still able to put up a decent game. In a match of 500 up with Will Abotomy at Hogand, Leffler won by 106 points with best break of 51. The loser, who is a very fine cueist, could not strike form, a run of 45 being his highest score.

"Snooker" of the "Referee," who has recently been on a visit to New Zealand, in an interview with the Christchurch "Sun," speaks about the amateurs in highly eulogistic fashion. The following is an extract from the interview:—

—I have seen no amateur who is Mr. Muir's equal. It is quite a common occurrence for him to run up a century at the top of the table, without going to hand-execution that no other amateur is capable of. Most of the successful amateurs on our side, like Smaller, Beauchamp, and Von der Luft, rely on what is known as the "all-red route" for their points. Not so with Muir. His billiards are of the classical order.

**AN ALL-ROUND SPORTSMAN.**

"Next to Muir, I should place Mr. Charley Chavannes, of Wanganui, as the next best player that New Zealand has produced, not even excepting the famous Billy Weston, who a quarter of a century back played John Roberts at Dunedin. Chavannes is getting up in years now, like many of us, and is a time pass with the cue; but in the days when the Wanganui sportsman had few equals with gun, whip, or bowls, he played an excellent stick.

**THE PRESENT NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION.**

"I have not yet seen the present New Zealand champion, Mr. Valentine, in action, but near that he possesses all the attributes of a great cueist. I hope to watch him at work next week in Dunedin.

"One of the very best amateurs in Australia is a New Zealander, Mr. J. R. Hooper, at one time an Auckland golfer, tennis, bowls, and billiards champion. He is stationed at Newcastle, but does not compete in the Australian championships. In Newcastle, however, he has defeated John Roberts, H. W. Stevenson, and other stars at half the game s.a.r.—which is excellent form for an amateur. John Roberts was so charmed and surprised at Hooper's exhibition that he publicly stated that Hooper was the finest amateur player in the world."

The opinion is generally expressed in Australia that we should send a representative over to the next Australasian Amateur Championship, which is to take place in August next. If it could be arranged for either Messrs. T. Muir, C. Chavannes or F. Valentine to make the trip the contest would be invested with much interest to Dominion amateurs. A movement having for its object sending the best amateur over should claim much support, and possibly the Amateur Sports Club in this city may interest itself in the matter during the coming season.

At a recent presentation made to a member of the Manawatu Motor Cycle Club, reference was made to the subject of silencers. Advantage was taken of the occasion to impress upon motor cyclists the determination of the club to do all in its power to suppress excessive speed, and insist that silencers should be kept closed within the Borough. It was pointed out that the club expected its rules to be rigidly observed. Silencers must be closed, and a reasonable speed maintained, and members were liable to expulsion for breaches of the regulations. It was stated that certain members had been appointed in various parts of the town to report cases which come under their notice, and the club would take the initiative and institute prosecutions upon the reports made.



A WELL-KNOWN WANGANUI SPORTSMAN—MR. C. CHAVANNES, handicapper and referee to the Wanganui Gun Club.

"Have you seen many of New Zealand's players?" asked the pressman. "Yes; I have seen most of the best New Zealand players during the past ten years, and unhesitatingly plump for Mr. Tom Muir, of Invercargill, as not only the most proficient amateur in the Dominion, but of the English-speaking world; or, at least, he was a few years back. I do not mean that he would defeat any other amateur player. His nervous temperament militated against success in public, perhaps. What I mean to convey is that in the higher flights of billiards—touch, technique, and position play

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