

WITH THE RAROTONGANS IN EGYPT.

NATIVES' PROWESS AT FOOTBALL AND BOXING.

HARDY SOLDIERS EXCEL IN ATHLETICS.

OFFICER'S INTERESTING LETTER.

Captain G. A. Bush, Officer Commanding the Rarotongan Company, New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade, sends an interesting letter from Palestine, describing the activities of the men under his charge, who have taken to New Zealand Rugby football and boxing as a duck to water. Captain Bush is a brother to Mr. H. R. Bush, of the South Auckland Rugby Union, who is well known in racing circles as judge of the Ohinemuri Jockey Club, and being a keen football enthusiast, his impressions of Rugby football in Egypt and more particularly the activities of the Rarotongans in their latest field of athletics, afford interest reading. A series of photographs taken of the Rarotongans on active service are reproduced on another page. Captain Bush writes as follows:—

"Kiaorana kotou e te au temariki" (which is "Love and luck to all you children" in Rarotongan). I am in command of a little band of New Zealand Infantry in Egypt, and we are not far from the firing line in Palestine. I left the Dominion first in September, 1915, as a "sub." in the Second Maori Contingent—the pioneers of Narrow Neck—going well through the Imperial School of Instruction at Zeitoun. I was sent back on duty to assist in the training of Maori reinforcements, and was in Narrow Neck Camp from June to November, 1916, eventually getting away in charge of a half company of

and day for three days without a murmur except for a sing-song in between times. They are very like the Maoris in nature, and happy to think they are doing something for the cause.

They have an Association Football team and their record to date is:—
V. Wellington M.R., drawn, no score.
V. British West Indians, drawn, one goal all.

V. British West Indians, won, two goals to one.

V. British West Indians, won, three goals to nil.

V. British West Indians, won, four goals to one.

V. 52nd D.A.C., drawn, one goal all.
V. East Force Ammunition Unit, won, two goals to one.

Now I have a rather pleasing piece of news for New Zealand footballers. We started Rugby football here a short time ago, and, being attached to an Imperial Unit, there was a great go as to the merits of the three-two-three pack against the New Zealand two-three-two. We had some good stuff to work on, and had a game. My team, packing two-three-two, had control of all the scrums, and the argument was all in our favour, resulting in a win by nine points to nil. Recently we played a team of Welshmen (all Rugby exponents), and, packing the New Zealand style against their three-two-three, we beat them by five points to three, although their backs were far superior to ours.

Chuckie, Estland, Colonel Soult and Adjutant all claim an engagement in this year's event. Notwithstanding the appearance of Desert Gold in the field, the horses engaged possess the necessary qualifications to provide a most exciting race, in which sportsman in all parts of the Dominion will be intensely interested.

Of the first day's events the Wellington Handicap, of 500sovs (one mile and a-quarter) has induced the liberal nomination of 35, a number of these also claiming engagements in the New Zealand Cup, so that a great race is assured. The two-year-old race on both days has attracted wide attention from owners of juveniles, and the sprinting powers of this division will be given a good test in the two four furlong races in question. The big handicap race on the second day, the Pearce Handicap, of 400sovs (one mile) claims 50 entrants, including the best milers in the Dominion, and the prospects of a sterling contest are especially bright. The other events which go to make up the attractive two days' programme have received generous attention, and everything augurs for one of the most successful and enjoyable spring carnivals ever held at Trentham. The list of nominations is as follows:—

FIRST DAY.

FIRST HACK AND HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE, two miles and a-half.—Tauria, Portland Lady, Ormesby, Paremata, Black Heart, Kurapai, Korero, Coalition, Fashion Plate, Torch, Sir Solo, Gaekwar.

RIMUTAKA HANDICAP, seven furlongs.—Billy Wiggs, Kukri, Nottata, Sunny Climes, Amity, Rosiam, Midnight Star, The Golfer, Johnny Walker, Mystic Light, Thoughtful, Bloomine, b f by Patronus—Zaida, Kohiku, Quinn's Post, Rylstone, Arihia, Impediment, Marker, Bagdad, Bonnie Maid, Arrowfield, Endure, Black Heath, Polynesian, Claverhouse, Robur, Paddington Green, Sardinia, Kilkee, Hastie, Blackall, Lord Laddo, Thames, Association, Perrier, Sartoline.

TAIATA HANDICAP, four furlongs.—Lisp, Stirrup Cup, Gipsy Gold, Bonville, Pontoon, Persez, Courtfield, Rene Rose, Lady Penza, Demagogue, Preface, ch f by Rokeby—Miss Dalrymple, War March, Starglow, Tigritiya, Marula, Torfrida, Demosthenes—Kautuka filly, Sir Frisco—Thetis filly, Gunbarrow, Pitch Dark, Rebekah, Sweet Smile, Oratress, Amberine, Grecian Girl, Cotillon, Merry Margaret, Philomela.

SPRING TRIAL STAKES, six furlongs.—Billy Wiggs, Rocksalt, Mill Queen, Noir, Sunny Climes, Exclusive, Matilda, Advanceful, b f by Patronus—Zaida, Pervolo, Woodlark, Puncha, Bonnie Maid, Christopher Sly, Livland, Galore, Paddington Green, Robur, Battle Array, Arihia, Moutoa Camp.

PEARCE HANDICAP, one mile.—Gold Soult, Goldstream, Hendra, Nystad, Bairnsdale, Menelaus, Mascot, Battle Eve, Dribble, Sir Agnes, Black Ada, Trials, Elocution, Sweet Tipperary, Red Ribbon, Form Up, Multiply, Rose Pink, Tressida, Chortle, Chuckie, Vagabond, Hyllus, Hymestra, Centre, Colonel Soult, Tekka, Lady General, Detroit, Bronk Delaval, Gang Awa, Heeltap, Miss de Val, Adjutant, Brambletye, Multaine, Paraoa, Croesus, Sleight of Hand, Kilkee, Orleans, Botanist, Multicipal, Egypt, Estland, Cleft, Blackall, Borsil, Devotion, Probation.

JUVENILE HANDICAP, four furlongs.—Lisp, Stirrup Cup, Gipsy Gold, Zia, Risingham, Bonville, Pontoon, Persez, Cherry Mart, Courtfield, Rene Rose, ch f by Rokeby—Miss Dalrymple, Demagogue, Piriaus, Lady Penza, Preface, War March, Star Glow, Tigritiya, Waiwata, Marula, Torfrida, Informal, Demosthenes—Kautuka filly, Talahena, Sir Frisco—Thetis filly, Canamana, Pitch Dark, Rebekah, Sweet Smile, Onslaught, Oratress, Amberine, Pinmark, Eleus, Indus, Grecian Girl, Merry Margaret, Bo Peep.

CHAMPION PLATE, one mile and a-quarter.—Menelaus, Red Ribbon, Colonel Soult, Chuckie, Hymestra, Tekka, Bonnie Maid, Adjutant, Estland, Egypt, Desert Gold.

RUAHINE HANDICAP, six furlongs.—Billy Wiggs, Justification, Noir, Exclusive, Matilda, Blue Gown, Tinkler, Bloomine, Trickery, Acre, b f by Patronus—Zaida, King's Armour, Quinn's Post, Rylstone, Pall Mall, Occasion, Mulletto, Marker, Bellairs, Endure, Tremena, Pinioni, Black Heath, Holyhead, Polynesian, Claverhouse, Livland, Whakatina, Robur, Comment, Sardinia, Kilkee, Royal Battery, War Storm, Thames, Subduer, Street Singer, Association, Perrier, Humorist.

NAINAI HANDICAP, five furlongs.—Rajput, Birkenvale, Seadown, Bloomine, Battle Eve, Glorify, Sweet Tipperary, Silver Tongue, Trentham Rose, Sheila, Vagabond, Hymeona, Hyginas, Lady General, Kahumanga, Moutoa Queen, Tremena, Holyhead, Lady Black, Merrie Poto, Christopher Sly, Comment, Croesus, Lingerie, Waimatao, Humorist.

Perform, Ample and Redrock were scratched for the Kensington Handicap, and Plymouth for the First Steeple and Hurdle Handicaps at the Australian J.C. meeting. Evidently the weights did not please their owners.

ASHHURST-POHANGINA RACING CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1917.

Judge: W. H. Hartgill. Handicapper: J. E. Henrys. Starter: C. O'Connor.

PROGRAMME.

To start at 12 noon.

- HACK HURDLES HANDICAP** of 120 sovs; second horse to receive 20 sovs, and the third horse 10sovs from the stake. Over six flights of hurdles, 3ft. 6in. high. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 30s. One mile and a-half.
- POHANGINA HANDICAP** (Open) of 140sovs; second horse to receive 25 sovs, and the third horse 10sovs from the stake. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 2sovs. Six furlongs.
- FLYING HACK HANDICAP** of 100 sovs; second horse to receive 15 sovs, and the third horse 5sovs from the stake. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. Five furlongs.
- ASHHURST CUP** (Open), a handicap of 200sovs; second horse to receive 35sovs, and the third horse 15sovs from the stake. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 3sovs. One mile and a-quarter.
- KOMAKO WELTER HACK HANDICAP** of 100sovs; second horse to receive 15sovs, and the third horse 5sovs from the stake. Minimum weight, 7.7. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. Seven furlongs.
- MAIDEN STAKES** of 80sovs; second horse to receive 10sovs, and the third horse 5sovs from the stake. For three-year-olds and upwards that have never won a race at time of starting. Weight, 8.7. Entrance 30s. Five furlongs.
- RAUMAI WELTER HANDICAP** (Open) of 110sovs; second horse to receive 20sovs, and the third horse 10sovs from the stake. Minimum weight, 7.7. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 30s. Seven furlongs.
- MANAWATU GORGE HACK HANDICAP** of 100sovs; second horse to receive 15sovs, and the third horse 5sovs from the stake. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. Six furlongs.

NOMINATIONS, WEIGHTS AND ACCEPTANCES.

NOMINATIONS for all events and ENTRIES for the Maiden Stakes close with the Secretary, Ashhurst, on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, at 9 p.m.

WEIGHTS will be declared on or about NOVEMBER 6.

ACCEPTANCES close on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, at 9 p.m.

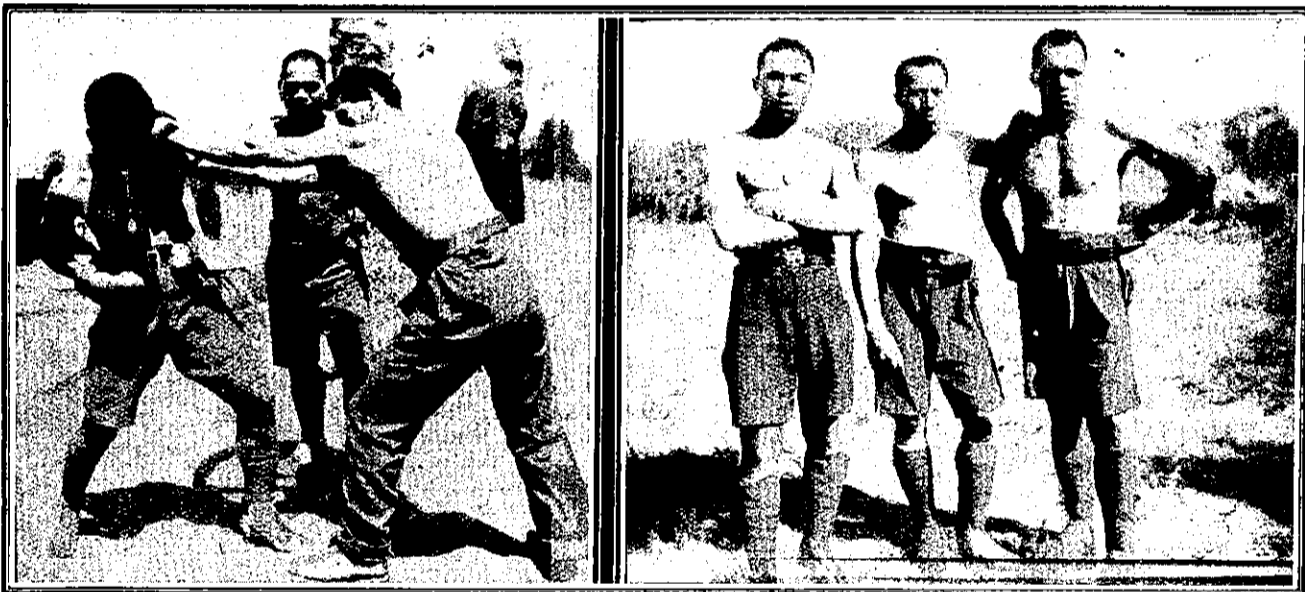
Note.—Telegraph Office closes at 8 p.m.

PENALTIES.

The winner of any race after declaration of weights to carry a further 10lb for one win and 7lb for every additional win.

A. W. TRASS,
Secretary.

Approved in accordance with the Rules of Racing—September 7, 1917.—W. HALL, Secretary Wanganui J.C.



RAROTONGAN SOLDIER BOXERS IN EGYPT. The trio on right are Q.M.-Sergt. Carl, Sergt. Pa and Corp. Ma, who were prominent contestants in a recent boxing tourney. The illustration on left shows a spar between Sergt. Iorangi (on left), who was defeated in the semi-final of the tournament by an Australian after a clever display, and Private Pepe (on right), another promising fistic exponent.

Rarotongans. We left without ceremony—no band, parade or other frills—from Auckland on November 15, and dropped into Egypt in December, 1916. In January of this year we joined the Mounted Brigade at El Arish and were used by the Naval authorities as surf-boatmen. Our brigade moving on the Sheikh Zowaid we trekked the 25 miles in two short days' march, and joined them. No men fell out on this trek, and I attribute this to the fact that we had a football which was worked fully four hours a day in heavy sand. While at El Arish I saw some splendid Rugby between different New Zealand regiments, and the Rarotongans met the Wellington Mounted Rifle soccer team and played a draw with them.

While at Mossar Sergeant Iorangi, one of our Cook Islanders, made his first appearance in a boxing ring in a welter tourney, and did very well, going through four contests to the semi-final, in which he was just beaten on points by the eventual winner of the class, who is an Australian boxer.

Since April we have been up here, and are attached to the Eastern Force Ammunition Unit, and our task consists chiefly of receiving and forwarding all classes of ammunition to the firing line from small arms to 8in. howitzers. These men have been complimented many times on their quickness in getting the stuff away and the apparent ease with which they handle heavy shells. One man tackles an 8in., which weighs 200lb. and lifts it on to a waggon. I have a couple who occasionally carry six 60lb.—three on each arm—some load you'll admit. During the big April stunt the Rarotongans worked night

Captain Darbyshire, of the East Force Ammunition Unit, was "pivot" for us and the best forward on the ground. With a season in Auckland I think he would produce "Bill" Cunningham's best, and that's a tall order. Lieutenant George Fromm (Gisborne, Poverty Bay and North Island country team) gave a fine exposition as five-eighths in one spell and full-back in another. He was easily our best back.

We picked a Rugby team from the Rarotongans, and after a practice or two and coaching by Fromm and myself we met and defeated the other day the 42nd D.A.C. by 14 points to nil, Fromm scoring three nice tries, and Lance-Corporal Kopu, a Rarotongan three-quarter, notching a remarkably pretty try from very neat work. One try I converted. These boys are fairly fast, can stay all day, and with a little coaching will play the game well and keep New Zealand's end up at Rugby.

NOMINATIONS.

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB.

SPRING MEETING.

The Wellington Racing Club have good reason to feel gratified with the first-class nominations received on Friday evening last for their spring meeting, to be held on October 20 and 22. In every case the entries for the 16 events to be run at Trentham this month are of ample dimensions to ensure particularly good fields, and a pleasing feature is the large number of horses from outside the province that have been nominated for the fixture. The Champion Plate, of 800sovs (one mile and a-quarter), to be decided on the concluding day, has attracted 11 entrants, including last year's winner (Desert Gold) and her worthy full brother (Egypt), while Hymestra,

WELLINGTON HANDICAP, one mile and a-quarter.—Midnight Star, Mascot, Menelaus, Battle Eve, Trials, Sweet Tipperary, Red Ribbon, Silver Tongue, Multiply, Rose Pink, Tressida, Chortle, Chuckie, Vagabond, Hymestra, Centre, Colonel Soult, Tekka, Detroit, Bronk Delaval, Heeltap, Adjutant, Multaine, Paraoa, Sleight of Hand, Borsil, Blackall, Cleft, Estland, Egypt, Multicipal, Botanist, Orleans, Master Moutoa, Devotion.

OCTOBER HANDICAP, five furlongs.—Billy Wiggs, Rajput, Mill Queen, Justification, Noir, Birkenvale, Exclusive, Matilda, Bluegown, Tinkler, Bloomine, Trickery, b f by Patronus—Zaida, Pervolo, Chimers, Pall Mall, Occasion, Mulletto, Hymeona, Bellairs, Kahumanga, Acre, Tremena, Tiriora, Black Heath, Holyhead, King's Armour, Christopher Sly, Livland, Galore, Whakatina, Robur, Comment, Lingerie, Royal Battery, War Storm, Waiotara, Subduer, Battle Array, Moutoa Camp, Humorist.

WAINUI HANDICAP, one mile.—Gold Soult, Hendra, Bairnsdale, Mascot, Battle Eve, Dribble, Sir Agnes, Mystic Light, Black Ada, Sir Solo, Rose Pink, Hyllus, Tekka, Gang Awa, Client, Heeltap, Multaine, Paraoa, Croesus, Kilkee, Blackall, Cleft, Egypt, Multicipal, Botanist, Orleans, Devotion, Probation.

SHORTS HANDICAP, six furlongs.—Goldstream, Nystad, Birkenvale, Seadown, Blairfinde, Glorify, Sweet Tipperary, Form Up, Elocution, Tressida, Vagabond, Sheila, Hyginas, Centre, Lady General, Moutoa Queen, Client, Miss de Val, Brambletye, Lady Black, Merrie Poto, Comment, Lingerie, Waimatao, Probation.

SECOND DAY.

SECOND HACK AND HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE, two miles and a-half.—Tauria, Portland Lady, Ormesby, Paremata, Black Heart, Kurapai, Korero, Coalition, Fashion Plate, Torch, Sir Solo, Gaekwar.

TARARUA HANDICAP, one mile.—Billy Wiggs, Kukri, Nottata, Amity, Rosiam, Midnight Star, The Golfer, Johnny Walker, Thoughtful, Bloomine, Mystic Light, Kohiku, Chimera, Quinn's Post, Arihia, Impediment, Bagdad, Arrowfield, Paddington Green, Sardinia, Kilkee, Hastie, Blackall, Lord Laddo, Thames, Pall Mall, Association, Perrier, Sartoline.