

ATHLETICS

N.Z. PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

BRANSON PERFORMS WELL.

WILLIAMS WINS SHEFFIELD

The New Zealand professional athletic championship meeting opened at Frankton Junction on Saturday, the weather being perfect for the gathering, which was attended by some 2000 persons. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Waikato Caledonian Society's carnival and was continued on Monday. Its great success exceeding the most sanguine expectations. The liberal prizes offered attracted runners from all parts of the Dominion, and the keen competition that ensued in many of the events caused much enthusiasm among the spectators.

FIRST DAY.

On Saturday four New Zealand championship events came up for decision, these being the 100yds, One Mile, High Jump, and Long Jump. The handicap events which figured on the first day's programme were characterised by large fields, while the close finishes were productive of the greatest excitement. In addition to the athletic contests, the Highland dancing and bag-pipe competitions contributed largely to the enjoyable nature of the programme, the entries including some of the very best Highland performers in the Dominion.

The 100yds New Zealand championship resulted in an exciting race between three of the five competitors, V. C. Branson, the well-known Auckland sprinter, breasting the tape a yard in front of J. D. Forbes, of Gore, who defeated G. Kinsey for second honours by half a yard. Branson's time was 10 1-5sec, and the brilliant manner in which he finished was decidedly praiseworthy.

The Mile championship attracted a quartette of starters, victory going to Alick Campbell, of Tikokino, Hawke's Bay, who won without much effort by a dozen yards from G. Hall, of Auckland, the time registered being 4m 40s. Campbell put in a well-sustained sprint over the last furlong, and never once appeared in danger of being defeated for the title.

In the High Jump championship, a keen contest for supremacy was witnessed between G. Campbell, of Timaru, and W. R. Nicholls, of Te Kuiti, the former, who cleared 5ft. 7½in., proving victorious by half an inch. Five contestants competed in the Long Jump championship, winning honours being carried off by S. J. Tully, of Temuka, with a jump of 21ft. 11in. T. Shannon occupying second position with a leap of 21ft 3½in to his credit.

Of the championship events, principal interest on the first day was centred in the Caledonian 75 yards, which was decided in five heats, two semi-finals and a final. The race in question was annexed by W. Edwards (8½yds) who won the final by inches amid great excitement in 7 1-5s.

The cycle events (half mile and mile) drew large fields, included among the riders being several of Auckland's crack cyclists. The half mile Rototuna Cycle Handicap was won by J. Adlam, who registered a good performance by winning from scratch, another Auckland rider in E. W. Burton (10yds.) filling second place. The One Mile Invitation Cycle Handicap witnessed a sterling finish between M. L. Hayes (40yds.) and J. Clarke (50yds.) who rode a dead-heat in a field of nine. In the ride-off Clarke gained a victory after another close race.

Particulars of the principal events decided on the first day are as follows:—

100yds. New Zealand Championship.—V. C. Branson 1, J. D. Forbes 2, G. Kinsey 3. Also started: C. J. Morris and W. Hogg. Morris held the advantage after three-quarters of the distance had been covered, but collapsed at this stage. Branson coming on strongly won by a yard from Forbes, who beat Kinsey by half-a-yard. Time, 10 1-5sec.

One Mile New Zealand Championship.—A. Campbell 1, G. Hall 2, D. Flynn 3. Also started: E. Hall. G. Hall led for the greater part of the journey, but Campbell mustered up a good sprint a furlong from home, and succeeded in winning easily by 10yds from Hall, who put in an ineffective challenge over the concluding 100yds. Time 4m 40s.

New Zealand Championship High Jump.—G. Campbell, 5ft 7½in, 1; Nicholls, 5ft 7in 2; E. Ticklepenny, 5ft 1in, 3.

New Zealand Championship Long Jump.—S. J. Tully, 21ft 11in, 1; T. Shannon, 21ft 3½in, 2; G. Bradley, 20ft 5in, 3. Also competed: G. Campbell, W. V. Quane.

Claudlands Amateur Handicap, 300yds.—J. Qualtrough, 16yds, 1; J. R. Simpson, scr., 2; L. C. Castleton, 15yds, 3. Eight starters. Won by a yard. Time, 34 1-5sec.

Caledonian Handicap, 75yds.—First Heat: W. Hogg, 7½yds, 1; H. Baxter, 8yds, 2. Time 7s. Second Heat: W. Edwards, 8½yds, 1; A. Williams, 8yds, 2. Time 7 1-5s. Third Heat: E. Bust, 8½yds, 1; V. C. Branson, 4½yds, 2. Time, 7 3-5s. Fourth Heat: R. McAlley, 9yds, 1; R. Johnson, 8½yds, 2. Time, 7 1-5s. Fifth Heat: T. McGeehan, 7yds, and J. W. Anderton, 8½yds (dead heat), 1. Time, 7 2-5s. First Semi-Final: E. Bust, 1; Edwards, 2. Time, 7 1-5s. Second Semi-Final: T. McGeehan, 1; A. Williams, 2. Time, 7 1-5s. Final: W. Edwards, 8½yds, 1; E. Bust, 8½yds, 2; T. M. McGeehan, 7yds, 3. Also started: A. Williams. Won by inches after a splendid race. Time, 7 1-5s.

Half-Mile Handicap.—H. Terry, 1; H. G. Haswell, 65yds, 2; S. Barnes, 20yds, 3. Thirteen starters. A close finish resulted. Time, 1m. 56 4-5s.

Tuhikaramea Amateur Handicap, one mile.—F. Jones, scr., 1; C. Reid, scr., 2; A. Gee, 70yds, 3. Six starters.

on the first day, the inclusion of several bicycle races adding to the general excellence of the sports provided. Three New Zealand professional championships—220yds, 440yds and Half-Mile—were decided, while the "Waikato Hundred" (120yds. Sheffield Handicap), and Waikato One Mile Bicycle Championship were also brought off, interest in these events running very high. Exciting finishes were the order of the day, the Sheffield Handicap, which was run in six heats, two semi-finals, and a final, being particularly noteworthy in this respect. A word in praise of the management of the sports is due to those who had charge of the arrangements, for the despatch with which the various events, and competitions were brought off would do credit to any sports officials.

The 220yds New Zealand championship resulted in another triumph for the Auckland runner, V. C. Branson, who won a good race by a couple of yards from the Gore sprinter, J. D. Forbes, in 23 3-5s.

The 440yds New Zealand championship saw five competitors face the starter, and the race resolved itself into a struggle between R. Johnson, of Auckland, and G. D. Doleman, of Gisborne, the former winning by a yard after a brilliant run up the straight. Only two contested the Half-Mile championship of New Zealand, in which the Hawke's Bay long

1; S. Barnes (Auckland) 2. The only starters. Campbell led throughout and won by 2yds. Time, 2m 7 1-5s.

Waikato "Hundred," 120yds Sheffield Handicap.—First prize, £60; second, £15; third, £5; fourth, £2 (the winners of preliminary heats received £2 each): First heat—W. J. Campney (12yds), 1; R. Johnson (13yds), 2. Won by half a yard. Time, 11 2-5. Second heat: T. M. McGeehan (10yds), 1 E. W. Sturm (12yds), 2. Won by a yard. Time, 12s. Third heat: A. Williams (13yds), 1; E. L. Donnelly (13yds), 2. Won by a foot. Time, 11 1-5s. Fourth heat: H. E. Stanton (14yds), 1; T. J. Randall (15½yds), 2. Won by 2yds. Time 11s. Fifth heat: H. J. Mills (14yds), 1; W. J. Burns (13½yds), 2. Won by inches. Time, 11 2-5s. Sixth heat: H. Baxter (13yds) and E. Bust (13yds), dead heat, 1. A great finish. Time, 11 3-5s. First semi-final: A. Williams (13yds), 1; H. J. Mills (14yds), 2. Time, 11 1-5s. Second semi-final: W. J. Burns (13½yds), 1; H. E. Stanton (14yds), 2. Won by inches. Time, 11 1-5s. Final heat: A. Williams (13yds), 1; H. J. Mills (14yds), 2; W. J. Burns (13½yds), 3. Won by a foot. Time 11s.

Governor's Cup (Lord Islington presented a cup to be won by the best all-round athlete at the meeting, the trophy to be given to the competitor gaining most points): Two runners, V. C. Branson and Alick Campbell, tied with two wins each, and ran off for the prize over a 440yds course, a neutral distance, Branson having won the 100yds and 220yds championships and Campbell the half-mile and mile championships. Campbell won a fine race by half a yard, in 56s.

One Mile Handicap.—E. C. Barnes (145yds), 1; H. Terry (57yds), 2; H. G. Haswell (scratch), 3. Fourteen starters. Won by 5yds. Time, 4 25s.

Three-Mile Amateur Handicap.—F. Jones (scratch), 1; C. Reid (scratch), 2. Six starters. Won a good race by 10yds.

Two-mile Waikato Wheel Race.—J. Clarke (100yds), 1; W. A. Mason (125yds), 2; J. Adlam (scratch), 3. Ten starters. Won easily.

One-Mile Bicycle Waikato Championship.—J. Adlam, 1; E. W. Burton, 2; M. V. Hayes, 3. Five starters.

The three placed men finished within half a-length of each other, Adlam gaining the verdict by a wheel.

BOXING.

On Tuesday night of last week Bill Lang, the Melbourne heavyweight, whose ring career at one time gave promise of being one triumphal climb on the pugilistic ladder of fame, made his reappearance within the hempen square, with Jim Barry, the young American boxer, as his opponent. Defeat apparently has not disheartened the big Victorian footballer and boxer, for he expressed confidence in himself to whip Jim Barry, but though the contest went the full twenty rounds, the decision was cast in favour of the American. Lang's latest ring engagements clearly point to the fact that he is on the down grade, and he would do well to quit the game before he is stripped of what few laurels that remain after a plucky endeavour to win the world's championship crown for the white race. It was with a joyful heart that Bill Lang departed from Australia over a year ago intent upon making his boxing prowess known in other countries but the Commonwealth, and in this he was by no means disappointed, for his contest in London with Sam Langford brought him that fame which many another equally skilled boxer has longed for in vain. Lang's much discussed showing against the Boston Tar Baby is now a matter of history to ring enthusiasts, but there is little doubt that the Melbourne fighter's hot-headedness on that occasion was brought about more by his determination to oust the negro than by any fear he is unfairly blamed for having of the coloured man. The seriousness of the position no doubt had a somewhat unnerving effect upon the high-strung white man, who would naturally be excited, since the issue meant so much to him. While there can be no question that in Langford's case the better man won, Lang may well take credit for entering the ring against so doughty an opponent and putting up a remarkably game display, for which much praise that was due was withheld owing to the Australian in his excitement unfortunately fouling his opponent.



Messrs. Jordan and Harvey, the clever comedians with Brennan's Vaudeville Company, opening at His Majesty's on the 16th inst.

An exciting finish was witnessed between the scratch men. Time, 4m. 56 2-5s.

Koromatua Hurdle Handicap, 120yds.—First Heat: W. R. Nicholls, owes 4yds, 1; K. Gibbons, owes 8yds, 2. Four starters. Time, 18s. Second Heat: B. T. Murray, owes 4yds, 1; R. M. Alley, owes 5yds, 2. Time 20s. Final: K. Gibbons, owes 8yds, 1; W. R. Nicholls, owes 4yds, 2; B. T. Murray, owes 4yds, 3. Won by a yard. Time, 17 4-5s.

Half-Mile Rototuna Cycle Handicap.—First Heat: W. A. Mason, 50yds, 1; J. Adlam, scr., 2. Time, 1m 15s. Second Heat: J. Clark, 30yds, 1; E. W. Burton, 10yds, 2. Time 1m 17s. Final: J. Adlam, 1; E. W. Burton, 2; W. A. Mason, 3. Time 1m. 16 4-5s.

Invitation Cycle Handicap, one mile.—M. L. Hayes (40yds), and J. Clarke (50yds), (dead heat), 1; W. A. Mason, 85yds, 3. Nine starters. Time, 2m. 44s. The ride-off resulted in favour of Clarke after a great set-to up the straight.

SECOND DAY.

Fine weather again prevailed on the concluding day of the New Zealand professional athletic championships, and the attendance at Frankton Junction was estimated at 4000, included among whom was a large percentage of visitors. The sports programme offered was even more attractive than

distance runner, Aick Campbell gained further laurels by winning fairly easily from S. Barnes, of Auckland in 2m 7 1-5s.

The chief event of the meeting, the "Waikato Hundred," which was decided over 120yds, created the greatest enthusiasm, runners being present from all parts of New Zealand to fulfil their engagements in this important race. The event was won by A. Williams, of Auckland, who ran consistently, winning his heat, a semi-final, and the final in good style. In the final Williams won a magnificent race by a foot, his sterling finishing powers alone enabling him to secure the verdict from the other three competitors who were on even terms with him a dozen yards from the tape.

The leading events on the second day resulted as follows:—

220yds New Zealand Championship.—V. C. Branson (Auckland), 1; J. D. Forbes (Gore), 2; G. S. Doleman (Gisborne), 3. Also started: G. Kinsey (Auckland), T. Shannon (South Canterbury), and W. Hogg (Hamilton). Won by 2yds, Doleman being 4yds away hird. Time, 23 3-5s.

440yds New Zealand Championship.—R. Johnson (Auckland), 1; G. S. Doleman (Gisborne), 2; A. H. Gyllies (Auckland), 3. Also started: V. C. Branson and A. Campbell. Won by a yard. Time, 54s.

Half-Mile New Zealand Championship.—Alick Campbell (Hawke's Bay),