

Standard. Stock-in-trade and furniture and effects (J. H. Martin), £350 in the Commercial Union; private furniture, including piano (Mrs. Martin), £200 in the Commercial Union. Hall, damaged (Mrs. Watson), £250 in the Commercial Union.

Mr. Johnson, F.C.S., of London, who is visiting Christchurch, suggested, in the course of an interview the other day, what he described as a "middle way" for the solution of the liquor question. This is the substitution of the light beers of Europe for those generally consumed in English speaking countries. In Belgium, he said a light beer is manufactured that is excellent from every point of view. It conformed to the demand for a beverage with a very low alcohol content and a high percentage of malt extract. There was no reason why the same class of beer should not be brewed in New Zealand, which produced good malt, possessed a climate highly suitable for the operations of brewing—in short, all the essentials for making such a class of beer the drink of the people. That, he believed, would be to the common advantage because, as was generally admitted, excessive tea drinking was deleterious.

#### KING GEORGE PICTURES.

#### OPENING ON SATURDAY.

Patrons of picture shows will be interested to learn that another attractive pictorial entertainment is to be provided them in the opening of King George Theatre for this purpose. Situated in Durham-street (opposite His Majesty's), the building has been fitted up in an up-to-date manner, no expense being spared to ensure the comfort of patrons. The management intend to produce only the best, arrangements having been made for shipments of exclusive films. The initial programme on Saturday will be a noteworthy one, and includes the representation of a powerful drama, "A Father's Forgiveness." The vice-regal orchestra has been specially engaged for the musical portion.

When Elinor Glynn was refused a license by the censor for the production of a dramatisation of her novel, "Three Weeks," it was privately staged at the Adelphi Theatre, London, with an all-star cast, the

#### G. B. SHAW AND A CRITIC.

Stepping out between the acts of a first production of one of his plays, George Bernard Shaw said to the audience: "What do you think of it?" This startled everybody for the time being, but presently a man in the gallery assembled his scattered wits, and cried "Rotten!" Shaw made a curtsy and melted the house with one of his smiles. "My friend," he said, shrugging his shoulders, and indicating the crowd in front, "I quite agree with you, but what are we two against so many?"

#### TWENTIETH CENTURY DUELS.

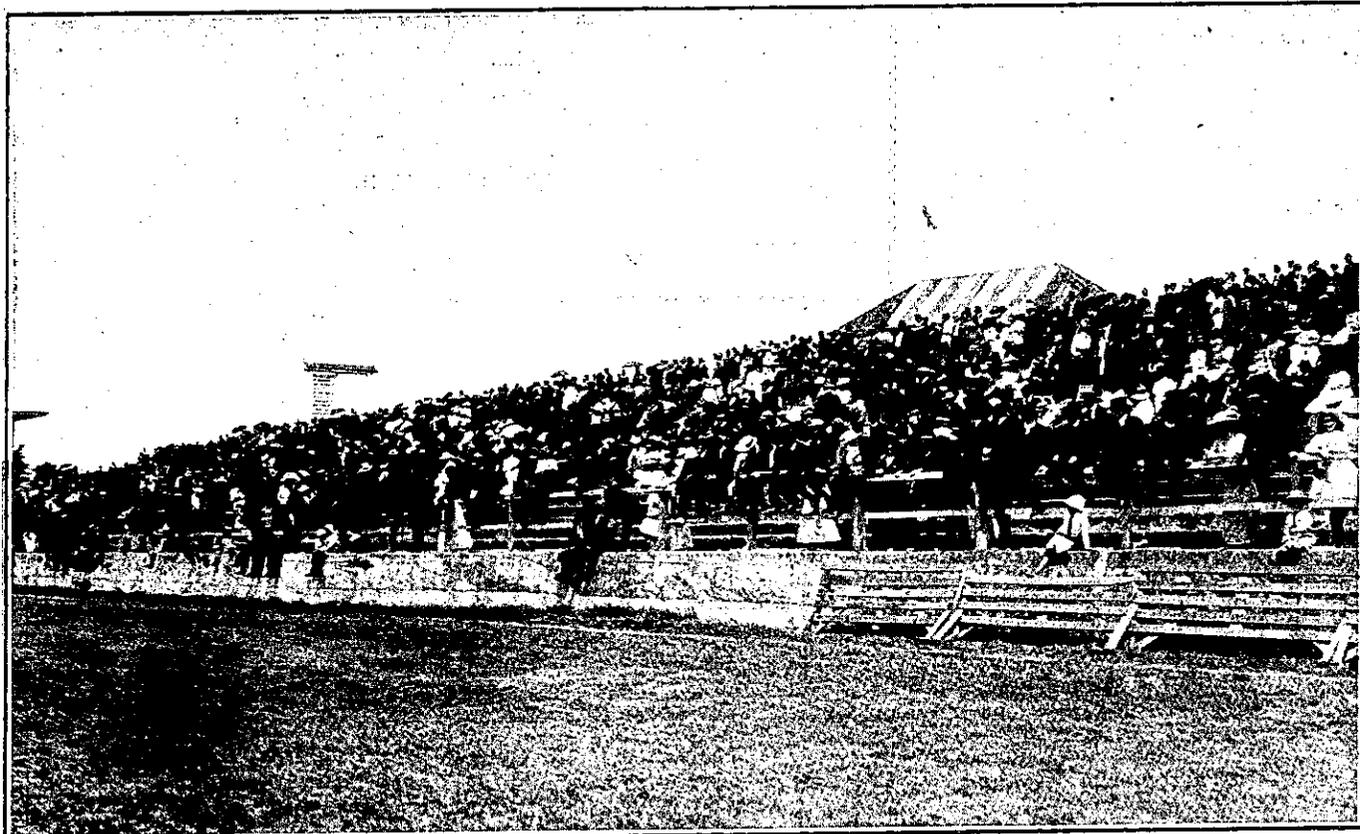
"I will be magnanimous," said the French duellist. "Rather than risk taking human life I will fire in the air." Don't do that," responded his second; "you'd be almost sure to hit an aviator."

From the winter edition of "Ruff's Guide to the Turf," now in the press, the London Sportsman learns that the total amount of stake-money won on the flat in Great Britain and Ireland during the just expired racing season

American law and justice is a thing to wonder at. The story is told by a returned wanderer that once he attended a sitting of the Police Court in a Western township. A prisoner was charged with picking pockets. He was found guilty, but as there was no more room in the gaol at the moment the magistrate fined him 10 dollars. "But he's only got 6 dollars y'r honor," a policeman pointed out. "Well, then," replied the magistrate, tightly buttoning up his coat, "turn him loose in the crowd till he can raise the other four!"

The W.C.T.U. of Adelaide is out after the scalp of the Gambling evil; also, it has a violent grievance against the tea and chocolate sellers who promise a cricket match or a trip to Mars to whoever collects the greatest number of their wrappers. Such customs, according to the temperance advocates, raise the worst passions in the infant breast. Wonder what they'd say to the writer's wife, who invariably collects useless totalisator tickets for the children to play with!

An American paper tells a story illustrative of courage in a horse. A jockey was recently riding a thoroughbred racehorse, when he was confronted by a black bear. A pistol shot only succeeded in wounding and enraging the animal, and the racehorse "jibbed" obstinately. The jockey dismounted, and got to safety in a neighbouring tree. The bear immediately attacked the thoroughbred, and a terrific conflict of hoofs and paws took place. In a short time the bear was kicked to death. It weighed 125lb. Horses, as a general rule, fear such formidable quadrupeds as bears and tigers, and almost collapse at the sight of a camel; but the writer can cite an instance of an old thoroughbred stallion, who ran out of the plains with his mares, killing a wild camel stallion in fair fight.



A POPULAR OUTING WITH AUCKLAND RACEGOERS.—VIEW OF THE TERRACES ON THE TAKAPUNA RACECOURSE, SHOWING A PORTION OF THE RECORD CROWD PRESENT TO WITNESS THE SECOND DAY'S RACING AT THE TAKAPUNA J.C.'S. SUMMER MEETING.

Two cases arising out of the death of a man named Klein at Port Awanui were heard at Gisborne on Monday before Mr. W. A. Barton, S.M., when F. G. Allen, licensee of the Sea View Hotel (near Port Awanui), was charged with manslaughter, in that he supplied excessive quantities of liquor to Klein, who was under his care in a helpless condition. The magistrate, considering that there was not sufficient evidence, the charge was dismissed; but for permitting drunkenness on his premises Allen was fined £15, and had his license endorsed.

Mr. Eric Maxon, of the H. B. Irving Company, has been engaged by J. C. Williamson, Ltd., to play the title role in their coming revival of "Ben Hur," which will be produced in New Zealand towards the end of the year.

Special train arrangements have been made to meet the convenience of patrons to the Taranaki Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting on February 14 and 15, for which holiday excursion tickets will be available for return until February 17. On the two race days the usual 4.20 p.m. train from New Plymouth to Hawera will be delayed to leave New Plymouth at 6.25 p.m. for Hawera and Waitara, and will connect at Stratford with train for Te Wera.

anthress herself appearing in the principal role. Mr. George Miller, who is Bluff, the theatrical manager in "Everywoman" at Melbourne Theatre Royal, was in the cast, appearing as Captain Grigsby. Mr. Charles Hawtreay was stage manager.

The colour harmonies in "Sinbad the Sailor" are said to be perfect. The scenery and the costumes, even the style of beauty of the girls and their relative sizes, have all been taken into account, and the delicate blending of colours is not easily forgotten. Mr. Coleman has given of his best to this pantomime, and has two scenes of Oriental beauty that might have been created from the Arabian Nights. The Port of Balsora, the Slave Market, and the Persian Garden present a feast of colours of delicately blended shades that is a delight to look at.

Peter Pan was the boy who did not want to grow up. There are many Peter Pans in Mr. Wm. Anderson's "Little Red Riding Hood" Pantomime Company, for they do not seem to get any older, though they have been before the public about five years. They are maturing, however, in skill and knowledge, and becoming artists who, when the time comes to leave the child stage, will be able to do sound work among the grown people of profession. Mr. W. Anderson has planned out an extensive Australian tour, which will probably last until next Christmas.

was £547,476 3s, which constitutes a record. The next highest total was £546,099 18s, in 1909.

Leo Fall, composer of "The Girl in the Train" and "The Dollar Princess," has written a miniature comic opera, which was to be produced at the London Hippodrome on December 18th. The title of the work is "The Eternal Waltz."

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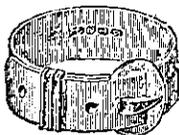
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