

meeting with an injury which may mean a postponement of the date fixed for the encounter. It was while making adjustments to his motor car—the same machine which, according to McVea's manager, cost him the fight, owing to his neglect of training operations to fiddle around with his "buzz waggon"—that McVea caught the top of his forefinger in the mechanism and received a painful injury which is likely to keep him from donning a glove for several weeks. However, Langford will meet him, even if the contest has to be put forward a few weeks, before sailing for America, and as each of the coloured fighters has one victory to his credit in Australia, the third combat will be accepted as a final gauge of their respective merits.

In quoting a number of instances where boxers of small stature have succeeded in vanquishing giant pugilists a writer in the New York "World" mentions the following thrilling contest in which John L. Sullivan was one of the participants. Away back in 1888, John L. Sullivan was champion of the world, and a genuine champion. He was always ready to fight anything that walked on two feet—except that he drew the colour line. He took part in scores of des-

FOOTBALL.

The Auckland Rugby Union's club competitions will be commenced on May 4, entries for all grades closing on May 1 at 7.30 p.m. at the Amateur Sports Club. It is anticipated that the same number of teams as last year will be engaged in the senior competition, the only defection being Grafton, which club has decided not to be represented in the senior grade, while College Rifles, who annexed the second grade championship last season, will make their debut in senior football. The other clubs that will place senior teams in the field as in past seasons are City, Ponsonby, Parnell, Marist Bros., University, and Newton. Thus seven teams will again contest the Auckland club championship, which means that there will be a bye each Saturday.

It is too early yet to form any definite idea of the relative strength of the different clubs, but City are regarded as the team most likely to annex the senior grade championship. The Cityites figure on placing a very strong combination in the field this season, and as included in

have the assistance of the ex-Graftonites, E. Harper and Glenn, should make their presence felt in the forthcoming matches. J. Martin, a former member of the club, who represented Hawke's Bay last season, will be seen out for Parnell this season, and his valuable services should be of great assistance to the maroon forwards. Muir, Hansch and Butterworth, three of last year's forwards, will again be available for the Parnell pack, which should be the strongest that has represented that club for a number of years.

Owing to the loss of two of their best backs, in Twinn and Thomas, the Parnell senior fifteen may experience some difficulty in obtaining worthy substitutes to fill their positions. However, the Club will benefit to a large extent by the addition to their ranks of the crack ex-Graftonite full-back, D. Miller, while Dowe, formerly half-back for Grafton, will in all probability fill a similar position in this year's Parnell team. Another good defensive back in T. Marshall, should he decide to play this season, will be a further acquisition to the maroon rearguard. A prominent member of last year's Grafton rear division in Candy has given no indica-

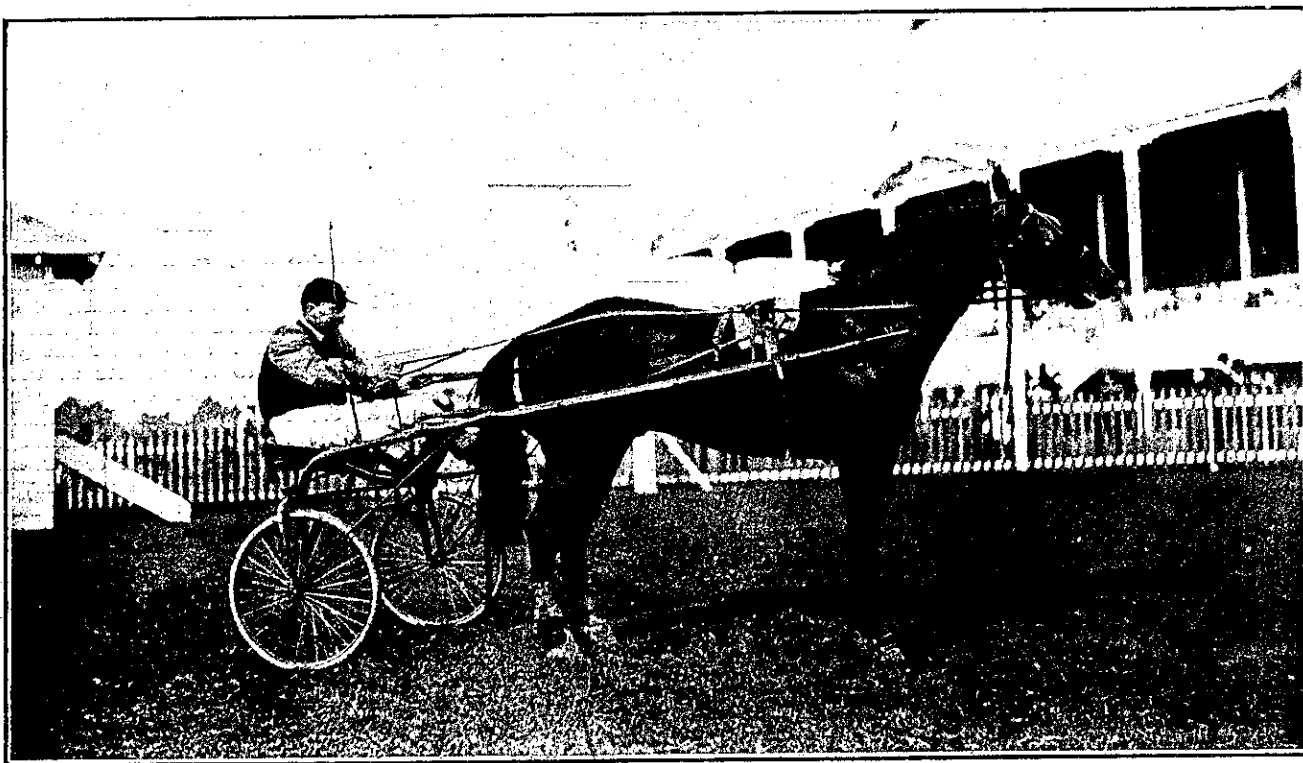
At a meeting of the Management Committee of the Auckland Rugby Union on Monday evening a letter of resignation was received from Mr C. V. Langsford (secretary and treasurer), who for a period of 16 years has been connected with the union in various capacities. Mr Langsford's able services have been keenly appreciated by the members of the A.R.U., and at Monday's meeting he was urged to withdraw his resignation, the various committeemen pointing out the severe loss the club would sustain in the event of his relinquishing his position. Mr Langsford explained to the meeting that he had not come to his decision without having first fully considered the matter, and he had definitely decided to retire from office. He would, however, be only too willing to give his successor any assistance he may require, while further, he would consent to act until someone else was appointed. The question of his proposed retirement was considered at some length, the members of the Management Committee unanimously resolving to make a final appeal to Mr Langsford to resume his duties until the end of the present year. The popular secretary of the A.R.U. then stated that he could not at that moment consent to the withdrawal of his resignation, but he promised the meeting that he would again carefully consider the question and acquaint them with his decision at a early date. The matter was therefore deferred, and meanwhile the members of the Auckland Rugby Union are sincerely hoping that Mr Langsford will see his way clear to undertake the duties of secretary and treasurer for another term.

Mr F. T. Evans, the well-known Christchurch referee, has recently had to undergo a serious operation, which it is feared will prevent him from officiating in Rugby matches in the Cathedral City this season.

From what can so far be ascertained, there will not be any great galaxy of star footballers performing in Dunedin this year (says the "Otago Witness"). Inquiries elicit the fact that not one of the clubs has so far any new brilliant exponent of the game coming along, while several of the old-timers—notably S. Casey—have intimated their intention of taking a long farewell to an active part in the great game of Rugby.

J. N. Miller, for many years a prominent Otago footballer, has left Dunedin for Sydney, where he intends to take his place with the Benedicts and enter business. He started playing football with the Pirates in 1899, represented Otago in 1903, was picked to play in 1906 and 1908, but on both occasions had to stand down through accidents. He retired from active participation in the game after that date, but since 1909 was one of the most competent referees in Dunedin, and controlled several representative matches. He was entertained prior to his departure by the Pirates Club, who presented him with a travelling rug in token of their esteem.

Referring to the transfer of A. H. Francis, the Auckland Northern Union forward who returned from his English tour by the Sydney steamer on Sunday, the "Athletic News" of February 19, says:—"The tall New Zealander has fixed up with a Lancashire club, who, I should say, are more in want of backs than forwards. And had the negotiations matured satisfactorily, Francis would probably have played with his new club next Saturday. A cable was sent to Auckland for the transfer, but the reply of the New South Wales League was that £200 must be paid before Francis obtained his release. And as the New Zealander was to receive a signing-on fee of £250, with a playing fee of £80 for the season, to say nothing of a prospective bonus, the aggregate amount was so large that Francis had perforce to return to Auckland and endeavour to secure his own transfer. He contemplates a stay of two seasons with the Lancashire Club. Savoury, the other New Zealand forward, will also, I think, be lost to Auckland football. He intends to join the Glebe Club for the coming season. As yet there are no transfer agreements between Australia and New Zealand, so that Savoury is a free agent."



A TREBLE WINNER AT THE AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.—Mr J. Fitzgerald's b g AIRANA, aged, by Bellman—Roseleaf which accounted for the Hobson Handicap (1½ miles), the April Handicap (two miles) and the Barn Handicap (1½ miles). J. F. Butler, driving.

perate fights—and most of them were finish fights. He was as savage a man as ever fought in a ring. This was in the days of the London prize ring rules, when men fought with bare fists, and wrestled and caught chancery holds and did various other things now considered foul. The 1888 date that I refer to was the year in which Sullivan met Charlie Mitchell. Mitchell was a welterweight, but he was always fighting heavyweights. He was known simply as the "boxing champion of England." He boxed a four-round go (stopped by the police) with Sullivan in Madison Square Garden in New York, and on that occasion knocked Sullivan flat on his back—the first knock-down he had ever experienced. This fight in 1888 was at Chantilly, France, to a finish. The fighters met in a private park, on the wet and soggy turf, for it was raining hard. They fought for three hours and eleven minutes, thirty-nine rounds, London prize ring rules. Mitchell, being only about half as big as Sullivan, had to depend upon his cleverness. He jumped in and out and jabbed and hooked and got clear away, while John L. fanned the air with his swings, until Sullivan was winded and disgusted. The heavy mud made it hard fighting. At last when darkness came the battle was declared a "draw," with the consent of both fighters. But the honours really belonged to little Charlie Mitchell, who had faced the greatest heavyweight in the world and had fought him to a standstill. Mitchell proved that a man need not be a giant to be in the heavyweight championship class.

The boxing season in Auckland will shortly be opened, and the Northern Boxing Association are now engaged making active preparations.

their number is a big percentage of last year's players, there is every reason to anticipate the wearers of the red and black jersey taking a prominent part in the decision of the 1912 Auckland Rugby championship. The Ponsonby Club, which has always of late years proved a formidable combination in senior football, are hopeful of getting a worthy team together to represent the western suburb, and can be relied upon to put up a good tussle for championship honours. Since their entry into senior football, the Marist Bros. Old Boys' Club have done remarkably well, and it was left to this new club to fight out the final match for the championship with City last season, the latter proving victorious after a hard-fought contest. Last season the Marist Bros. senior fifteen was one of the most evenly balanced teams in the competition, the Club possessing a useful set of backs to support a willing pack of forwards. Marist Bros. have made such rapid improvement that it is only reasonable to expect that this year's team will be well up to the average strength, if not stronger, and the light and dark blues are certain to make a bold bid for the Rugby premiership of Auckland.

The Parnell Club, which had more than their share of bad luck last season, will be extremely well off for senior players this season, a number of prominent Graftonites having thrown in their lot with the maroons. The Parnell forwards in particular should have no difficulty in holding their own against any of the other vanguards, as they will have several Auckland representatives to do battle for them. With the sterling lock man, A. C. Wilson, to lead them, the Parnell forwards, who will

tion yet as to whom he will play for this season, but it is probable that he will throw in his lot with his club mates and assist Parnell.

University, though a light team, are always found equal to holding their own with the other senior clubs, and present indications point to the 'Varsity senior fifteen being quite as strong as of yore. College Rifles will for the first time compete as a senior team, and though they will find the big matches a decidedly more strenuous undertaking than opposing inferior second grade teams they should give a fairly good account of themselves, since one or two of last year's senior players are mentioned as having gone over to the College Rifles Club. The Newton Club, whose action in placing a senior team in the field last season, was a matter for congratulation, are doing their utmost to again be represented in the first grade. Mr S. Hinton, the popular secretary, is making every effort to organise a team that will worthily uphold the Rugby reputation of one of the oldest and at one time most successful clubs in Auckland.

At the annual general meeting of the Auckland Rugby Union held on Friday night the election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr A. E. Devore (re-elected for the 25th time); vice-presidents, Messrs J. Arneil, J. Clayton, and Professor Segar; secretary and treasurer, Mr C. V. Langsford (re-elected); committee of management, Messrs F. J. Ohlson, M. J. Sheahan, C. P. Stichbury, S. W. Somerfield, T. Buxton; auditors, Messrs P. R. Fraser and T. Macky.