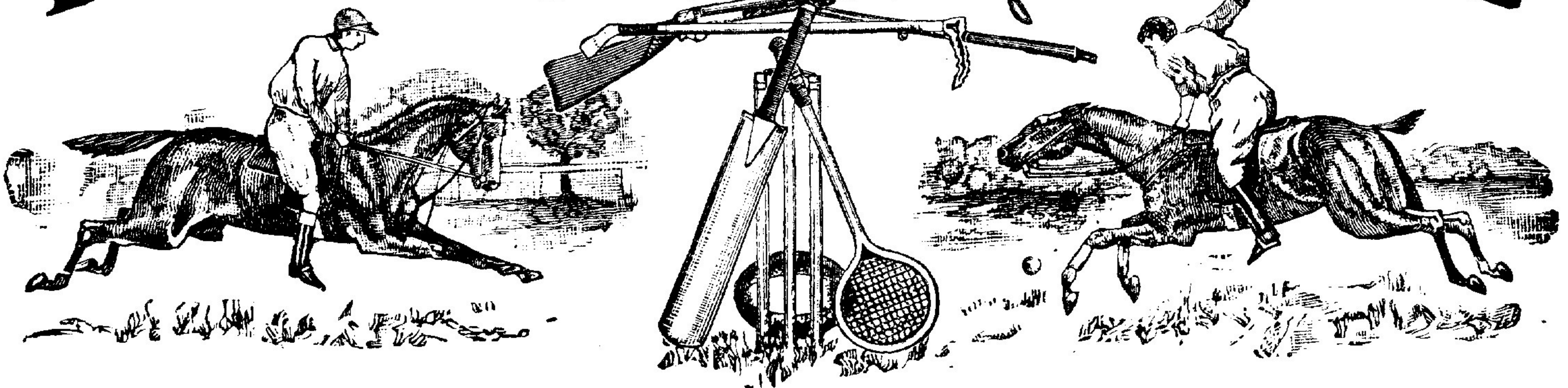


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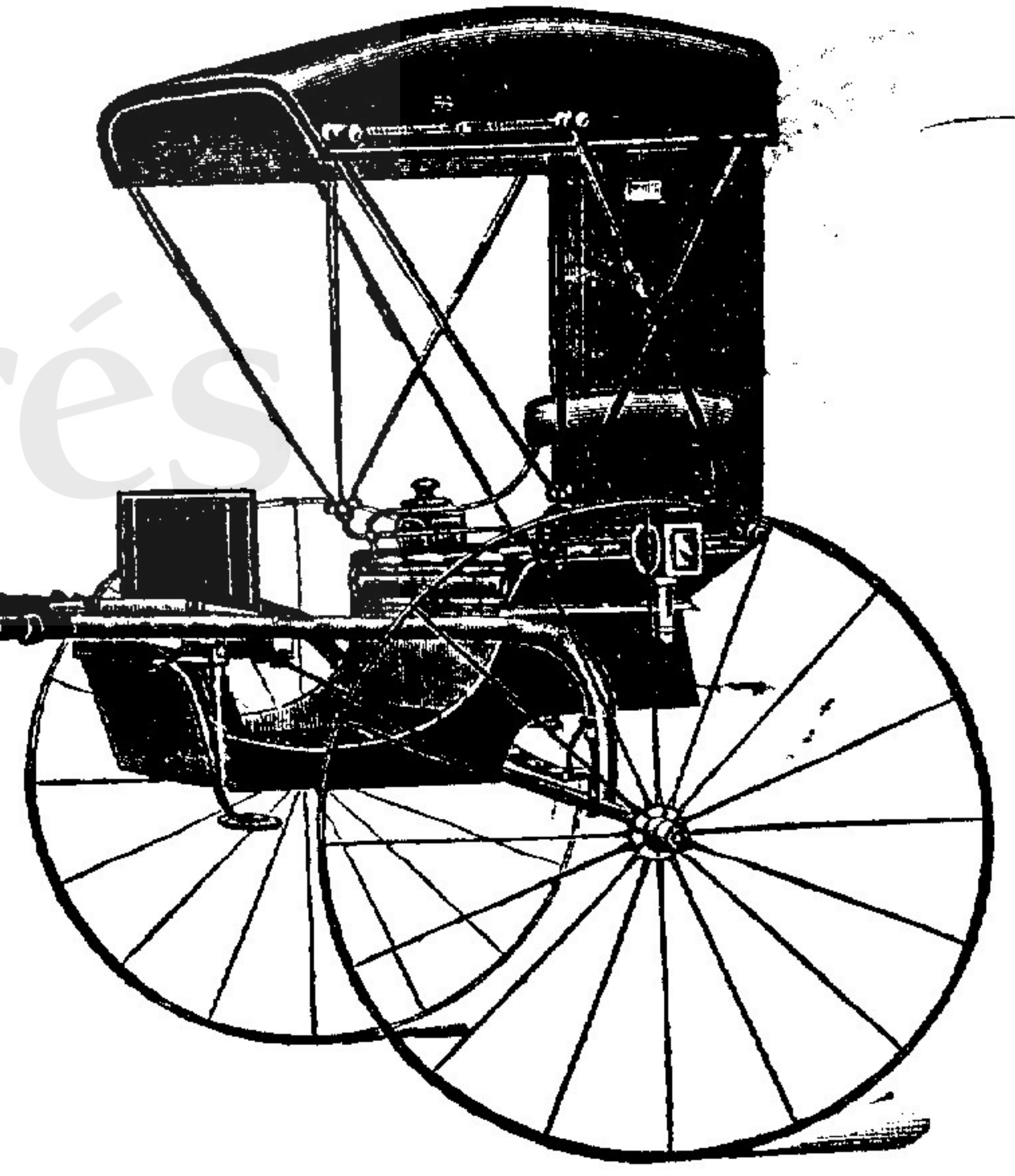
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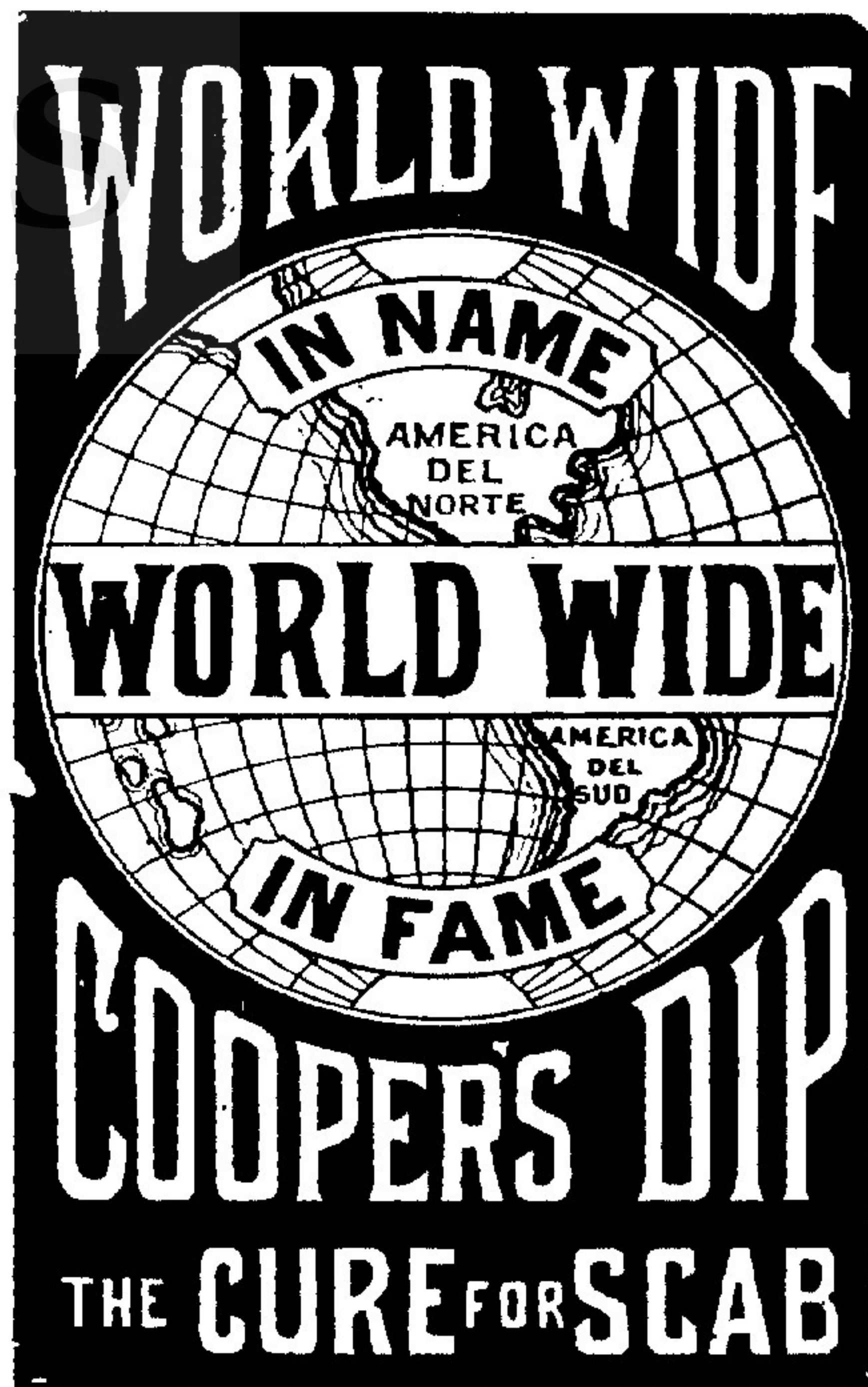
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River Plate Sport and Pastime

BUENOS AIRES, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1900.

RACING.

BELGRANO—FEBRUARY 2.

Our obligatory topic, the weather, is becoming rather threadbare, as the one word to describe it latterly is tropical, with a stronger emphasis each time we use it, and the north wind helped to make the atmosphere more like a furnace than ever. As usual, however, the attendance was up to the mark, and the races were good enough, and really those who put in an appearance were quite as well off as they would have been at home, as they had something to look at, and distract their attention. The starting was a decided improvement, and the general hope is that it may so continue.

Fourteen constant losers turned up for the maiden, Cecilia following the lead of Leopardo and at last emerging from the ranks.

Esparta, who made a good attempt last Sunday, repeated the try with better success, and ran down her field in good style.

In the mile, the black slipped his field as he has done hundreds of times before, and when the other jockeys realised that the danger was in front it was too late to catch Ligera.

The 1300 metres was a fine race, Royal proving unable to concede four kilos to the game Cyrano.

Casuarina earned an oft threatened victory in the mile handicap.

The young one's mile was won unexpectedly by Judea, the great favourite, Picquart, being unable or unwilling to keep going at the paddock.

That good mare, Atalaya, who seems at last to have recovered her form, accounted for the final 2100 metres, in her classic style, the finish with Huapi, Rob Roy, and Calvino, being the best thing of the day.

The following are the details:—

PREMIO LINIERS, for three-year-olds that have not won. Weight 57 and 55 kilos. \$1400 to first, 100 to second. 1300 metres.
Ecurie Royal's Cecilia, by Camors—Immortelle, 55 k.....R. Saavedra 1
Ecurie Radamé's Condesa, 55 k.....J. Gomez 2
Ecurie Nuevo's Caracol, 57 k.....P. Aguilera 3
Also ran—Longfellow, Triunfo, Nicolini, Masaniello, P. Aguilera, Regalia, Gracieuse, Modista, Thebaida, Arica, and Gacela.
Dividends—Cecilia \$18.55 win and 4.45 place, Condesa 3.40 place, Caracol 3.30 place.

PREMIO REMATE, for horses that have been a year in the country, have not won more than one Selling Plate, and have not won more than \$5000 in 1899 and 1900. The winner to be sold for \$3000. Those entered to be sold for less to be allowed 3 kilos for each \$500 reduction. Weight, three years 58 kilos, four years and more 60 kilos, 3 kilos extra to winners of a Selling Plate. \$1400 to first, 100 to second. 1900 metres.
Ecurie Lomas' Esparta, by Gloriation—Sensible, 4 y, 46 k.....H. Trejo 1
Stud Las Piedras' Julia, 4 y, 46 k.....J. Feliú 2
Ecurie Guerrillero's Victoriosa, 4 y, 49 k.....I. Diaz 3
Also ran—Punilla, Anona, and Lady Ortiga.
Dividends—Esparta \$11.30 win and 4.80 place, Julia 4.45 place.

PREMIO RAMOS MEJIA, for horses that have not won more than \$5000 in 1899 and 1900. Weight, three years 51 kilos, four years and more 53 kilos, 3 kilos extra to winners of one race, and 5 kilos to those of two and more. \$1600 to first, 100 to second. 1600 metres.
Ecurie Guerrillero's Ligera, by Hervidero—Vanda, 4 y, 56 k.....I. Diaz 1
Stud La Confianza's Tántalo, 5 y, 56 k.....J. Olmos 2
Ecurie Ben d'Or's Ovacion, 5 y, 56 k.....G. Palacios 3
Also ran—Union, Gauchito, and Cosa Cerá.
Dividends—Ligera \$10.25 win and 4.10 place, Tántalo 2.90 place.

PREMIO HAEDO, handicap for all horses, limited between 62 and 48 kilos. \$1800 to first, 100 to second. 1300 metres.
Stud Los Andes' Cyrano, by Saumur-Satinette, 3 y, 58 k.....P. Aguirre 1
Ecurie Royal's Royal, 4 y, 62 k.....C. Cardoso 2
Stud Revolucion's Emir, 5 y, 54 k.....P. Aguilera 3
Also ran—Friolera, Chingolo, and Bebé.
Dividends—Cyrano \$14.95 win and 5.85 place Royal 4.15 place.

PREMIO MORON, handicap for all horses. \$1700 to first, 100 to second. 1600 metres.
Stud Floresta's Casuarina, by St. Honorat—Muchacha, 4 y, 43 k.....F. Gomez 1
Ecurie Royal's Calvino, 4 y, 53 k.....P. Aguirre 2
Ecurie Júpiter's Abrojo, 5 y, 56 k.....G. Morales 3
Also ran—Coquimbo, Ameliana, Doblete, Querandie, and Africano.
Dividends—Casuarina \$16.25 win and 3.95 place, Calvino 2.90 place, Abrojo 3.35 place.

PREMIO MERLO, for three-year-olds. Weight 52 and 50 kilos, 3 kilos extra for every ordinary win, and 5 kilos for every win in a Classic. \$1700 to first, 100 to second, 1600 metres.

Ecurie Belgrano's Judea, by Soukaras—Javeline, 53 k.....J. Rivero 4
Stud Don Gonzalo's Picquart, 58 k.....J. Olmos 2
M. J. Carabajal's Corinto, 58 k.....P. Aguirre 3
Also ran—Infierno, and Cepeda.
Dividends—Judea \$14.90 win and 3.50 place, Picquart 2.45 place.

PREMIO MORENO, handicap for horses that have won more than \$8000. \$2000 to first, 100 to second, 2100 metres.

Stud La Alianza's Atalaya, by Exmoor—Donnina, 4 y, 58 k.....H. Esteves 1
Stud Carhué's Huapi, 5 y, 52 k.....I. Diaz 2
Ecurie Lomas' Rob Roy, 5 y, 50 k.....H. Trejo 3
Also ran—Calvino, Lanza Seca, Regalada, and Abeto.
Dividends—Atalaya \$17.45 win and 9.65 place, Huapi 5.70 place.

BELGRANO—FEBRUARY 4.

The dreary series of intensely hot days at last had effect even on the races, and the attendance on this day dwindled down to the proportions of a week day meeting. Desertions were very numerous for this course and the fields in general smaller than have been seen for many a day. The starts were a bit better, though not up to the mark yet, and strange to say the best was in the Selling Plate where fourteen faced the flag. The heat was so great that the horses were allowed to return to the paddock after parade, and only came out when the bell rang. Our neighbours came off well, and took three out of the seven events.

In the opening mile, the hopeless sort were again pitted against a good animal in Lidiador, who had too easy a task to be pushed.

The Selling Plate brought out the only big field of the day and was a good race, Terpsicore, who was in for a big day, just finding one too much for her in Casa Blanca.

Only four turned out for the 1900 metres, which Uropo won by six lengths from Vesper, who was more still in front of the third.

The young one's mile was a duel between Congo and Picquart, but when they came to the straight the brother of Yerba Amarga ran right away from the brother of Ecarté. The last named tried to revenge this in the 1200 metres, but partly on account of a disadvantage at the start was unable with a difference of 23 kilos to get up to Terpsicore, who brought it off this time.

The sixth race was also a mile for youngsters, and was rather unexpectedly taken by Egipcia, who was not supposed to be good enough for Hortensia at the distance.

Only three appeared for the final 2000 metres which was cleverly won by Graco, and the Irongrey does not seem yet to have given his measure.

The following are the details:—

PREMIO PORTUGAL, for horses that have been a year in the country and have not won more than one race. Weight, three years 52 kilos, four years and more 54 kilos, 3 kilos extra to winners, 3 kilos allowed to those that have never been placed. \$1200 to first, 100 to second. 1600 metres.

Ecurie Pacifico's Lidiador, by Stiletto—Rhea, 3 y, 55 k.....G. Morales 1
Stud Jefferson's Cosa Cerá, 4 y, 52 k.....J. Feliú 2
Stud La Alianza's 4 y, 55 k.....H. Esteves 3
Also ran—Kosir, Clavito, Vesubio, Tesoro, Triunfo, and Quenotte.
Dividends—Lidiador \$3.75 win and 2.40 place, Cosa Cerá 5.60 place, Alianza 2.85 place.

PREMIO REMATE, for horses that have been a year in the country and have not won a Selling Plate, and not more than \$4000 in 1899 and 1900. The winner to be sold for \$3000. Those entered to be allowed 3 kilos for each \$500 reduction. Weight, three years 58 kilos, four years and more 60 kilos. \$1400 to first, 100 to second. 1900 metres.

Ecurie Orange's Casa Blanca, by Hervidero—Shooting Star, 3 y, 47 k.....C. Suarez 1
Stud Colón's Terpsicore, 3 y, 47 k.....L. Cova 2
Ecurie Belgrano's Judea, 3 y, 44 k.....F. Gomez 3
Also ran—Arrodets, Libertador, Ventura, La Negra, Anona, Leopardo, Calandria, Lavinia, Falstaff, Coracero, and Guerrilla.
Dividends—Casa Blanca \$16.75 win and 5.80 place, Terpsicore 10.60 place, Judea 3.70 place.

PREMIO CALVINO, for horses that have not won more than \$15,000. Weight, three years 50 kilos, four years and more 52 kilos, 3 kilos extra to winners of \$5 to 10,000, and 5 kilos of more than \$10,000. \$1500 to first, 100 to second. 1900 metres.

Stud Junin's Uropo, by Stiletto—Mariposa, aged, 55 k.....I. Diaz 1
Stud Los Paraisos' Vesper, 4 y, 53 k.....M. Peñalosa 2
J. Quaini's 9 de Julio, 5 y, 55 k.....P. Aguilera 3
Also ran—Florida.
Dividend—Uropo \$4.85 win.

PREMIO LEOPARDO, for three-year-olds that have not won more than \$5000. Weight 50 and 48 kilos, 3 kilos extra to winners of more than \$2000, and 5 kilos of more than \$4000, 3 kilos allowed to losers. \$1500 to first, 100 to second, 1600 metres.

Stud La Alianza's Congo, by Exmoor—Nellie II., 53 k.....H. Estevez 1
Stud Don Gonzalo's Picquart, 53 k.....F. Perez 2
Ecurie Wright's Longfellow, 47 k.....J. Olmos 3
Also ran—Oro, and Modista.
Dividends—Congo \$4.30 win and 2.35 place, Picquart 2.25 place.

PREMIO RIVERA, handicap for all horses. \$1600 to first, 100 to second. 1200 metres.

Stud Colon's Terpsicore, by Progreso—Venus, 3 y, 40 k.....L. Cova 1
Stud Don Gonzalo's Ecarte, 4 y, 63 k.....F. Perez 2
Stud Lancero's Amambay, 5 y, 50 k.....J. Olmos 3
Also ran—Emir, Tula, Siria, Lidiador, Indiscretion, and Quiroga.
Dividends—Terpsicore \$24.95 win and 6.05 place, Ecarte 4.60 place, Amambay 6 place.

PREMIO MARAVILLA, handicap for three-year-olds that have run. \$1800 to first, 100 to second, 1600 metres.

Ecurie Pacifico's Egipcia, by Acheron—Etoile, 56 k.....G. Morales 1
Ecurie Royal's Cepeda, 18 k.....F. Gomez 2
Stud Floresta's Hortensia, 56 k.....J. Olmos 3
Also ran—Gacela, Seida, Selim, La Corarde, Condesa, and Caracol.
Dividends—Egipcia \$11.95 win and 6.65 place, Cepeda 12.25 place, Hortensia 3.45 place.

PREMIO ATALAYA, handicap for horses that have won more than \$6000. \$2000 to first, 100 to second, 2000 metres.

Stud El Plata's Graco, by Tissaphernes—Cinisca, 3 y, 52 k.....J. Sarthou 1
Stud San José's Guttemberg, 5 y, 56 k.....P. Aguirre 2
Stud America's Chacabuco, 4 y, 49 k.....C. Gomez 3
Dividend—Graco \$1.65 win.

LAWN TENNIS.

B.A.L.T.C. v. BELGRANO A.C.

The above match was played last Friday at Cinco Esquinas, when after a pleasant day's tennis the home club won by six matches to three. The heat was terrible, and the players were naturally considerably overcome by it at times.

The following are the details of the score:

B.A.L.T.C.

H. H. Woodgate and E. S. Knight beat
Bell and Macdonald, 6-2, 6-2.
Barton and Mackinnon, 6-1, 6-1.
Nelson and Garrick, 6-3, 6-1.

C. Menzies and R. Colville Jones beat
Nelson and Garrick, 6-2, 6-2.
Bell and Macdonald, 6-4, 6-5.

Condor and H. L. Knight beat
Nelson and Garrick, 6-3, 6-1.

Belgrano A.C.

Barton and Mackinnon beat
Menzies and Colville Jones, 6-5, 6-5.
Condor and H. L. Knight, 6-1, 5-6, 6-2.

Bell and Macdonald beat
Condor and H. L. Knight, 6-5, 4-6, 6-3.

B.A.L.T.C. . . . 6 matches, 14 setts, 105 games.

Belgrano A.C. 3 " 6 " 72 "

SANTA LUCIA L.T.C. v. LOMAS A.C.

Although only two pairs turned up on either side to dispute this Championship fixture it was mutually agreed to play the match off and abide by the result, which resulted in favour of Lomas by four matches to none. The game was played at Lomas, where the heat was terrific. The following are the scores:

Lomas A.C.

A. Mohr-Bell and S. Mohr-Bell beat
A. B. P. Boyd and Carrick, 6-1, 6-3.
C. S. Nixon and J. A. Page, 6-0, 5-6, 6-2.

A. McMorran and H. P. Wright beat
C. S. Nixon and J. A. Page, 6-0, 6-5.
A. B. P. Boyd and Carrick, 6-1, 5-6, 6-4.

Total result—
Lomas A.C. . . . 4 matches, 8 setts, 58 games
Sta. Lucia L.T.C. 0 " 2 " 28 "

FIXTURES FOR 1899-1900.

FEBRUARY.

Sun. 11—Flores v. Belgrano, at Flores.
Sun. 18—Quilmes v. Buenos Aires, at Quilmes.
Sun. 25—Santa Lucia v. Quilmes, at Santa Lucia.

MARCH.

Sun. 4—Santa Lucia v. Buenos Aires, at Santa Lucia.
Sun. 11—Lomas v. Buenos Aires, at Lomas.
Sun. 18—Quilmes v. Lomas, at Quilmes.

APRIL.

Sun. 1—Santa Lucia v. Flores, at Santa Lucia.
Sun. 8—Flores v. Lomas, at Flores.
Sun. 15—Belgrano v. Santa Lucia, at Belgrano.
Sun. 22—Lomas v. Belgrano, at Lomas.
Sun. 29—Santa Lucia v. Lomas, at Santa Lucia.

MAY.

Sun. 6—Flores v. Quilmes, at Flores.

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

ENGLAND v. WALES.

Gloucester, the place selected for this match, is as conveniently situated as any considerable English centre for the Welsh players, a fact which may have influenced the Rugby Union Committee in granting the honour of entertaining them to the Gloucester F.C. at its own request. But as there was reason to expect that Welsh spectators in large numbers from such populous towns as Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport would also avail themselves of the opportunity, the club was compelled to provide for the accommodation of a large crowd, and for that purpose to erect new stands, at an expense, it was stated, of about £1600. In spite of excursion trains and cheap fares, the expected numbers did not arrive, and the enterprise of the club can hardly have been financially rewarded, since, as far as could be estimated, the visitors numbered from 10,000 to 12,000. As the weather was bright this disappointingly small attendance may perhaps be attributed to the fact that the result of the game was looked upon as a foregone conclusion. With Welsh football at its present pitch the fifteen put into the field as representative of England could hardly be expected to have a chance of success. Only two of the players had any experience of international football, and from the exhibition given in the North v. South match it was clear that the skill of the rest was but mediocre; while little combination could be hoped for when the players were drawn from so many different clubs and districts. Even some of the chosen players could not appear, and Nicholson, F. Bell, and Jarman only came in as substitutes for G. C. Robinson, J. Daniell, and C. Allen, the last-named after playing for the North, remembering that he possessed an Irish birth qualification.

As the team went into the field it was probably decidedly weaker than that which could be mustered by more than one first-rate club. Its performance, however, did not fall short of its promise. It cannot be said to have shown any combination but the players severally worked with desperate energy and thereby put a respectable appearance on the game. If their exertions had left them cool enough to take the chances of scoring that fell to them they might even have averted defeat. The forwards, though not often masters of the scrummage, made several threatening rushes in the style that has superseded the old-fashioned dribble, and the backs, except once or twice when their ardour led them to leave their places, tacked brilliantly. But the play in attack was hopelessly unpolished. The half backs had a difficult task, and made little of it, while the inside three-quarters, with all their smartness in defence, not only threw the ball about wildly, but even passed to men who were stationary, or themselves stopped short before getting rid of the ball. It is doubtful if such ignorance of the game has ever been seen in an international contest. Of the wing men Cooper was quite out of form and out of luck, being probably disconcerted by this state of things; but Nicholson performed respectably. Gamlin kicked and tackled satisfactorily on the whole.

The Welsh forwards, in spite of Hellings soon receiving a painful injury to the left arm, were superior in the scrummages, being quick on their feet and packing or breaking up simultaneously in admirable concert. Their attempts at wheeling, however, were generally futile, and might have proved dangerous. They were of very even quality, and if Brice was conspicuous it was mainly because of his dash in the open. Lloyd seemed the better of two good half backs, and the three-quarters showed a perfect knowledge of the game, taking up correct positions for attack and defence, and seldom missing their passes, but displaying little *finesse*, while occasionally losing chances by hesitation. Bancroft's kicking was little short of marvellous, and, profiting by the poor following up of the English forwards, he was able to per-

form a number of fancy feats while giving valuable support to his side. Altogether the Welsh team seemed to be neat and well disciplined rather than exceptionally powerful.

The game was fast and exciting out of all proportion to the skill displayed. It began with a fine rush of the English forwards, who had the wind obliquely in their favour. Before the Welshmen could rally their twenty-five was invaded, and Cattell gave the ball to Gordon Smith, who passed out to Cooper, but so badly that there was much excuse for his losing what would otherwise have been an easy chance of running in. After Blake had kicked the ball away the first of a most unsatisfactorily large number of penalty kicks was awarded to England, who had by far the larger proportion of them. These were taken with bad judgment, and poorly followed up, so that they were of no benefit. Bancroft turned the game in favour of Wales, and Llewellyn, with a run and a cross drop, effected a lodgment in the English twenty-line. After an interruption caused by an injury to Hellings, the Welsh backs secured the ball, but hesitation on the part of Trew frustrated their efforts. Within a few minutes Bancroft tried to kick a goal against the wind from the middle line, and the ball being badly returned, the Welsh forwards were able to continue the assault, Hellings, who had returned to the field with a bandaged left arm, securing a try after a throw in and a brief scrummage near the line. From this Bancroft easily kicked a goal. This occurred early in the game, but the rest of the first half is not worthy of detailed description. For some time the ball was kept in or near the English twenty-five mainly through the kicking of Davies, Llewellyn, and Bancroft, the forward play being indecisive; while the Welsh three-quarters continued to make little of their attacks, though their quickness enabled them to recover themselves again and again when they had made mistakes in passing. Then for a time the Englishmen held a slight advantage, which would have been greater but for an error by Marsden. Several penalty kicks and a couple of fair catches by Cooper kept the game even, but, though the Welsh forwards seemed rather the stronger set, the various interruptions caused by free kicks and slight injuries sustained by Brettargh and Rees prevented the play from being very interesting.

The second half opened with much scrambling play, in which England took the aggressive. A fine piece of following up by Reynolds prevented Bancroft from returning the ball, and runs by Marsden and Brettargh kept the game at the Welsh end, where Gordon Smith made ground, and might have presented Cooper with a good opening had he exercised better judgment. However, in the open play that ensued Marsden passed to Brettargh, who handed on to Nicholson, and thus a try was gained in the corner, the last receiver breaking through by main force. Gamlin's kick was nearly, but not quite straight enough to make the scores level. Up to this point there had been little in the play to promise victory to Wales, and the Englishmen were obviously encouraged by their success; but the passing of Gordon Smith suffered from the elation thus caused, and only served to allow Llewellyn to break away.

The Welsh forwards forthwith utilised their superiority in the scrummages to bring their backs into action, and Llewellyn made a threatening run down the touch line which was only frustrated by a most workmanlike tackle on the part of Gamlin. Incessant attempts, however, served to throw the defence into confusion, and when the ball next came out some neat but simple passing along the whole line put Davies in possession, with Trew in reserve, and only one opponent in position. The pass being well delivered and taken, Trew was able to trot round behind the posts, Davies running so hard into his tackler as to sustain a severe shaking. On Bancroft kicking a goal the game was virtually over. Very soon a long kick by Bancroft laid the foundation of a new attack, and Lloyd as nearly as possible ran in, being well held up by Gamlin. Trew also had another chance, but only kicked over the dead ball line. A single fine rush by the English forwards diversified the game, but the Welsh forwards, backed by Brice, were irresistible, and their backs supported them capitally, until another series of passes ended in Davies being with difficulty kept out. At this point a penalty kick was awarded to Wales, and Bancroft kicked a goal from the very touch line. The ball had hardly been put into play again when the game came to an end, Wales being left victorious by thirteen points (three goals) to three points (one try).

England—H. T. Gamlin (Somerset, back), S. F. Cooper

(Devon), G. Gordon Smith (Blackheath), A. Brettargh (Lancashire), E. T. Nicholson (Liverpool) (three-quarter backs), R. H. Cattell (Midland Counties), G. Marsden (Yorkshire) (half backs), F. J. Bell (Northumberland), R. W. Bell (Cambridge University), W. Cobby (Yorkshire), A. Cockerham (Yorkshire), J. W. Jarman (Gloucestershire), S. Reynolds (Richmond), C. T. Scott (Cambridge University), J. Baxter (Cheshire) (forwards).

Wales—W. J. Bancroft (Swansea) (back), W. Llewellyn (Llwynypia), D. Rees (Swansea), G. Davies (Swansea), W. Trew (Swansea) (three-quarter backs), G. Ll. Lloyd (Newport and Old Leysians), L. A. Phillips (Newport) (half backs), R. Hellings (Llwynypia), A. Brice (Aberavon), F. Millar (Mountain Ash), G. Boots (Newport), J. I. Hodges (Newport), J. Blake (Cardiff), W. H. Williams (Pontymister), R. Thomas (Swansea) (forwards).

Referee—Mr A. Turnbull (Scottish R.F.U.)

We publish below a table showing the position and other details of the various clubs in the first division of the English Association Football League, up to the beginning of this year:—

	Matches				
	Played	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Sheffield United	21	14	0	7	35
Aston Villa	20	13	4	3	29
Wolverhampton Wanderers	18	9	4	5	23
Sunderland	18	10	6	2	22
Stoke	21	9	8	4	22
Bury	18	9	6	3	21
Nottingham Forest	19	8	6	5	21
Derby County	18	7	7	4	18
Newcastle United	17	6	6	5	17
Manchester City	19	7	9	3	17
West Bromwich Albion	19	6	8	5	17
Everton	19	6	9	4	16
Burnley	19	6	9	4	16
Notts County	19	5	10	4	14
Liverpool	20	4	11	5	13
Blackburn Rovers	16	6	9	1	13
Preston North End	18	4	10	4	12
Glossop	17	3	10	4	10

The Sunderland v. Derby County match which was unfinished on Nov. 18 has been ordered to be replayed and is not therefore included in this table. Nor is the match between Preston North End and Bury, which was abandoned.

CYCLING IN ENGLAND

January 5th, 1900.

The New Year has been ushered in with gloomy and unseasonable weather, owing to extreme mildness. Not many cyclists have been seen out on the well-known roads within an easy distance of the Metropolis, and those who have braved the sodden sloppy and humid atmosphere have not appeared too happy. Whatever enthusiasts may say as to the virtues of combating the adverse meteorological and atmospheric conditions, it is difficult to become enthusiastic about cycling under depressing surroundings. Even the best roads have broken up rapidly under the thaw and moisture, and a degree of stickiness of surface and sloppiness in the towns has been reached which calls up all one's reserve of equanimity to face, without rebelling against the forces of nature.

A croaking and dispiriting chorus is, just now, in full song in the cycling press. The burden of the dolorous theme is the gloomy outlook of the cycle trade. There is little doubt that the cheap cycle has come to stay, and firms are committed to the almost suicidal policy of attempting to undersell each other. After the fat years have come the lean years, in very truth, and now those who pay more than twelve or fourteen guineas for a "single" are very hard to find. Like angels' visits, are "few and far between." To make matters worse, the cost of rubber and metal is going up and, meanwhile prices are coming down. The latest to fall into line and to build a cheap machine, is the lordly Elswick firm. Time was when thirty guineas was the minimum price for these ornate mounts, dearly loved of the *haut-ton*. How are the mighty fallen!

In soliciting the "vote and interest" of the cycling world the Cyclists' Touring Club seems to have the luck on its side, a fact which tends to relegate the rival body

"The National Cyclists' Union" to the cold shade of opposition, and even neglect. No doubt, the chief function of the N.C.U. is to exercise a salutary authority over racing and, in this regard, it has met with no opposition. Unfortunately, drastic measures have often become necessary and recalcitrant cycling bodies, who promoted race meetings, have sometimes felt the weight of its chastening hand. Under the ban of this all powerful body (that is in its particular sphere of usefulness) fell the London County Club, of which G. Lacy Hillier was the presiding genius, and later, the Surrey Bicycle Club, who however, have now, at last, purged their contempt and have been again received into the fold.

Of course, a governing body compelled to adopt punitive measures to enforce its decrees is sure to meet with a certain measure of hostility. It is not all who can endure with christian resignation, and kiss the chastening hand. So it came about that the turbulent Hillier raised the fiery cross of rebellion and, in season and out of season, scares the governing body with the arrows and scorpions of his caustic wit. Nor is he without powerful allies, whose biting sarcasms are levelled at the devoted heads of the gentlemen who compose the N.C.U. Of course, the latter retort, in the spirit of Hamlet, that they "must be cruel only to be kind," and that the sacred banner of pure amateurism must be borne aloft unsullied, even as an implicit trust and obedience must be enforced by strictest discipline.

The Cyclists' Touring Club have followed up their success as to the application of Greenwich meantime, by scoring heavily in what will be known in cycling annals as "The Falmouth Harbour Case." This action arose out of the vexatious and, as the C.T.C. asserted, wholly illegal practice of charging a toll of two-pence on all cycles landed on Falmouth pier. The C.T.C., having, at the instance of their Rights and Privileges Committee, taken the opinion of course that the imposition was distinctly *ultra vires*, very sensibly appealed to those most nearly interested, viz., the Falmouth cyclists, to contribute towards a test case, but, as often happens, the most nearly concerned were slothful and negligent, and waxed faint and feeble of heart, so that the C.T.C. decided to test the question at the expense of the club. A local vicar, representative of the C.T.C. militant, declined to pay the exaction and had his machine impounded. But the C.T.C. won the case all along the line, and henceforward the exaction will not be imposed.

Some little time ago, attention was drawn to what was apparently a miscarriage of justice. It was the case of Herbert Maxwell, of the labouring class, who was convicted and sent to gaol, for riding to the common danger. The facts were that he was an unskilled rider, who lost control of his machine, and, besides sustaining serious injuries himself, injured thereby, a young woman, who happened to be at the bottom of the hill. It was so obvious that the poor fellow on his hired machine was the victim of circumstances, that the harsh sentence caused quite an outburst of sympathy. Not so much for him but for the young wife left with a newly-born child to face the inhospitable winter, the bread-winner absent. So a fund has been raised which, one is glad to say, will suffice to keep the helpless ones from the poor-house until the mainstay of the household is restored to his family. It only proves how charitable your average cyclist is that the tale of the wrongs of this obscure labourer should have elicited so much compassion.

Advocates of the cycle as an indispensable adjunct to troops equipped for modern warfare, will view with pleasure, the offers that have been made by the Inns of Court rifles, ("The Devil's own," so called because the volunteers are chiefly lawyers), to equip an efficient cycling corps for service in the Transvaal War. It must, however, be borne in mind that cycles are only of value so long as there are roads available for cycling. Over a brough roken line of country a horse is immeasurably superior to a cycle. Nevertheless for scouting purposes, where there are rideable roads, an efficient cyclist is a better man than an efficient horseman, for he can not only travel faster, and farther, but his mount requires no fodder, save a drain of oil occasionally. Among Continental armies the cycle has been more extensively adopted, and much interest will be excited in the next European war, as to the manner in which military cyclists acquit themselves. At present, they have never had a fair trial.

ROUND THE TOWN.

We understand that Mr F. Bradbury, of the Royal Insurance Co., has been appointed Manager to the new branch office of the Lancashire Insurance Co., and we beg to offer him our sincere congratulations. The appointment will be a very popular one in our insurance circles.

It is really amusing to note the excited way in which some of the American Senators will insist on suggesting that the Yewnited States should mediate in the Transvaal War, most of them finishing their remarks with the platitude that America should help the Boers as they are fighting for their independence, and this should appeal to the American Soul. We should like some of these loud-mouthed ill-bred interferers to answer the question "What are the Philippinos fighting for?" If the Philippinos are not fighting for their independence, what are they fighting for? One thing is certain, the Philippinos have not being arming themselves with the latest and most expensive and scientific machinery in the way of guns, etc., as have the Boers, nor is there a wide spread conspiracy against the American rule, such as has now been proved to have existed for some years in South Africa against the British. Of course no one for a moment takes the vapourings of some of these cranks to be the feeling of the Americans of the better class who are, we believe, firmly on the side of Great Britain in this matter, as both nations are marching on the same line, Progress and Prosperity by means of Civilization and Contentment.

What must the feelings have been of the family in Callao when they discovered that the *algibe* from which the drinking water of the house had been taken, was the receptacle for the dismembered body of a small child. In the old days when *aguas corrientes* were unknown the *algibe* was a necessity, but with advance of science in the city, the preservation of these antiquated methods cannot but help the spread of diseases like diphtheria, typhoid fever, etc.

There may be some doubt as to the date when the Twentieth Century commences but there is none about the intensity and duration of the heat wave which has been passing over us lately. Friday last was an absolutely blasting day and with a temperature high up in the region of the hundred, there was not a breath of air stirring to mitigate the awful deadly effects of the deadly drawing heat. On that day there were six sudden deaths which were all attributed to the drinking of iced water in large quantities and when the body was intensely heated. The man who drinks least during the heat undoubtedly feels the effects of it least but it is more than human nature can endure to be terribly hot and pass a tempting looking lemon squash or whisky and appollinaris despite the danger which is supposed to lurk therein. Since 1885 there has not been a spell of hot days as long as the present and we trust it may be fifteen years longer before we suffer the same torture again. Despite the heat several cricket matches were played off on Sunday, giving further reason for the Argentines to call us "locos ingleses."

To many people the unpleasantness of the heat is added to by an attack of prickly heat, as irritating a complaint as can be conceived, and many questions are asked how to treat it. The first thing is not to irritate it further by scratching and as soon as opportunity offers bathe in fresh rain water. This cure we have had from a sojourner in prickly heaty lands, and he says he has never known the bathing in fresh rain water to fail. As many of our readers may be suffering from this affliction we give them this tip.

There is little or nothing being done in the entertainment line just at present. Although an Ice Carnival ought to pay well—as the weather is too awful. The rumour for the coming season is that the Buenos Aires Choral Union will reproduce "The Geisha," which seems a wise move and which should we fancy be a paying one. Somewhere during April is spoken of as the likely date.

Invitations have been issued for the marriage of Mr. R. W. Anderson and Miss Beatrice Burr, for the 12th inst., the ceremony to take place at St. John's Church at 4.30 in the afternoon, with a reception at the house of the bride's

parents to follow. Both Miss Burr and Mr. Anderson count hundreds of friends in the Republic, and no doubt St. John's will be put to its utmost holding capacity on Monday to accommodate the number of people anxious to be present.

Never in the history of this paper has such a fearful time been known as that we have suffered from atmospherically during the past days. The temperature rose steadily for four or five days reaching an unprecedented height on Saturday and Sunday, both days being almost unupportable. All through the city men were dropping as if shot from the blasting effects of the sun, and the deaths during these two days of oven-like heat were nearly two hundred, a fearful record, worse than any plague or Bubonic Pest. Despite the terrible heat the races went on at Belgrano and cricket matches were played, although it was like a direct tempting of Providence to be so foolish. One of the chief causes of the sudden deaths was excessive drinking of iced drinks, the freezing fluid being suddenly poured into a system already far beyond the normal condition. With care there is not much fear of sunstroke, but then it is usually this care which is laughed at and lacking.

Lord Kitchener is getting his work in in South Africa and the cables inform us that the Government will not give any news to the public concerning the advance and operations of General Buller's force until Ladysmith has been freed. There appears to be a steady forward movement now and the number of men sent forward is beginning to tell its tale. The Boers have—according to Paris cables, which by-the-way are usually lies—already made up their plan of retreat and in a thoroughly Christian, forbearing and noble spirit have announced their determination to lay waste and destroy. Well, there are few games at which two cannot play, and although the Boers may carry out their threats in Natal there is plenty of opportunity for a similar campaign in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal itself, for the British appearances looks healthier.

FIXTURES.

RACING.

Feb. 11—Hipódromo Nacional, Belgrano.

CRICKET.

Feb. 11—Quilmes 2nd XI. v. Belgrano 2nd XI., at Belgrano.

Feb. 11—B.A.C.C. v. Flores, at Palermo.

Feb. 11—Lanús v. Banfield, at Banfield.

Feb. 11—Hurlingham "A" v. Palermo, at Hurlingham.

LAWN TENNIS.

Feb. 11—Flores v. Belgrano, at Flores.

YACHTING.

Feb. 11—Y. C. A. Regatta for Ehllert and Mallet Cup.

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ESTANCIA AND COLONY.

Messrs Roman Bravo and Co. sold last week at auction 1289 hectares of camp in the partido of Zárate, close alongside the station of Lima, F.C.B.A. y Rosario, and adjoining the properties of the Señora Justa Atucha de Lima, E. de la Torre, J. Arenaya y Hnos, Oruro and Castro. The camp was put up in four fractions and made from \$135 to 176 per hectarea, or an average price per hectarea of \$146.23, which gives \$246.21 per square, and \$394.821 per square league. The buyers were Carmelo Arenaya, 917 hectares, José M. Arenaya, 209 hectares, Florencio Atucha, 124 hectares, and José Artigue, 39 hectares.

At Messrs Funes, Lagos and Co.'s 5th remate-féria held at Muñiz, F.C.P., last week, the following prices ruled:—

Novillos, from \$27 to 57; cows de vientre, from 20 to 35; cows al corte, from 13 to 20.50; calves, from 15 to 20; heifers, at 23; Durham bulls, at 150; sheep, al corte, from 3.15 to 3.25; potros, from 30 to 32; mares, at 13.50; horses, from 13 to 42.

A fact that many people seem to ignore, is that it is quite as necessary, in the case of crops to renew the seed, or more correctly to sow seed derived from new sources, as it is in the case of live stock, of vital importance to change from time to time the strain of blood of the breeding stock.

There are scores of farmers who go on sowing year after year, seed which they have grown themselves, and wonder why it is that they get neither the weight nor bulk, obtained in former years. The same rule holds good with regard to vegetables, indeed in all cases where plants of the same class are grown year after year, it is most essential that the seed should be changed every now and again.

Advices from Fray Bentos are to the effect that Messrs Liebig's buyers have purchased some 1400 novillos round about Paysandú, at from \$12 to 12.50 gold per head.

We understand that the Western Railway is about to start work on the extension of that line from the town of Villegas to the 5th meridian. The extension is some forty kilometres in length and as there is no heavy work to be done, should be completed in the course of a few months.

Messrs Roman Bravo and Co, will put up at auction this afternoon the La Lonja camps in the South of Córdoba and situate between La Cautiva and Mackenna stations, on the Pacific Railway. The camps will be offered in six lots, and should be a good investment as on account of its proximity to the railway an existing stations, it should be easily colonised. Of course, the chief thing to be ascertained in purchasing these camps is the quality of the water. Given good water, and a good sandy soil, and the camps can be worked either as chacras or estancias.

It is said that burning sugar in the bedrooms at night will keep mosquitoes away. We have not tried the experiment so cannot say whether it is correct or not.

The sale is reported of 620 novillos, export quality, three years and upwards, from an estancia in the partido of Ajo, at \$52 each.

The demand for export stock, both novillos and capones, has slackened off considerably during the past fortnight, due to the unfavourable advices from the English markets, and also to the scarcity of freights. Exporters are offering much lower prices, and even at that, will only look at special lots. The freezing companies are buying but little, and also are short of freights.

Messrs W. and S. Armstrong, Enniscorthy, have sold to Mr Bruce the young Shorthorn bull with which they won first prize at the Wexford Show in September last. This bull was got by Sign of Riches, and was bred by the Rev. James Wilson, Tullyholland Rectory, Co. Monaghan; his dam was Red Diadem by Rufus. Mr Bruce also purchased at the same time from the Messrs Armstrong a Shorthorn cow. Both are intended for exportation to the Argentine.

We call the attention of those of camp friends in the west of the province who need stock to the remate announced by Messrs Collet and Llambi for the 16th inst., of all the live stock on Mr Hamilton W. Langley's estancia San Emilio, in the partido of Bragado. Mr Langley is well-known as a successful breeder, and the stock which is to be auctioned is all of good class.

It is a curious fact that whilst importers of Shropshire rams have experienced considerable trouble in getting rid of their animals at any figure this season, the demand for Shropshire rams, bred in the country, has been and still is very keen, and those breeders who have this breed of sheep have sold out everything and could easily have sold double the numbers. And yet the exporters can hardly get more for imported pedigree animals than the estanciero has been getting for camp bred rams. There does not appear to be any reasonable explanation for this state of affairs.

Advices from Deptford are to the effect that prices for Argentine live stock have stiffened a little and there is a tendency to a further rise. Stocks, however, are heavy and the heavy arrivals expected, will not allow of the rise being very marked.

As the season approaches when the *lombriz* attacks the lambs, that is after weaning, it may not be amiss to give here a recipe for a home-made cure for the disease; in any case it has the advantages of being cheap and safe, as no particular harm can be done by overdosing. There is an old adage that "prevention is better than cure," and it especially holds good with regard to *lombriz*, for we believe that when once the animal is badly affected there is no *known cure*. The recipe is as follows:—25 heads of garlic, 20 litres of vinegar, 4 litres of water, and 6 kilos of salt. Bruise well the garlic, mix all together, and leave to stand for 24 hours at least. Dose two table-spoonfuls to each lamb on an empty stomach.

Messrs Funes, Lagos and Co. held their show and sale of Lincoln and blackfaced sheep on the last three days of last month. The exhibitors were practically the same as those who had sent sheep to Messrs Bullrich and Co.'s show last week. Sales were effected to the value of \$23,751.

Sr. Manuel Castellar gave last Sunday week his 40th remate-féria in Azul. The sales amounted to \$201,691 which will give some idea of the importance of these remates. Prices were as follows:—

Novillos mestizos and criollos, from \$27.70 to 59; cows mestizas and criollas, from 17 to 30; capones for invernada and fat, from 3.10 to 7.10; sheep al corte, from 1.80 to 4.20; Lincoln rams á galpon y campo, from 35 to 300; 30 vaquillonas Durham, from 76 to 120; Durham bulls, from 180 to 600.

The lime and sulphur dip question goes merrily on in the native press, and many are the opinions ventilated by those who do know, and those who don't, something about it.

We for our part feel convinced that the subject will soon die a natural death, like the Tigre Boas, and some few estancieros will to their cost have gained experience, if nothing else.

Carbuncle, or "grano malo," has broken out in the partidos of Navarro and Pilar, and several estancieros in each of these partidos are said to be affected. Some disease, but up to the present without a name, is said to have made its appearance on an estancia in the partido of Lincoln and a lot of cattle have died of it. The authorities of La Plata have sent Dr. Davel to look into the matter.

There is little to be said on the state of the wool market, what we wrote last week will answer for this week's report, the absence of buyers if possible being still more marked, and it is practically impossible to sell at any figures. "Complete stagnation" therefore is the report on the market, and with little prospect of improvement.

The rain which fell on Sunday night means millions of dollars to the province, as things were getting serious, as it is the maize has suffered considerably in several places, and camps were getting very dry, and the danger of camp fires every day more imminent.

The River Plate Trust Loan and Agency, has sold 2 3/4 leagues of camp in the department of Concordia, Entre Rios, in the Yerua district, the price paid being \$23,000 gold per league. Buyer, Sr. David Lujan.

According to the monthly report of the Puleston Agency, in La Plata, the exports of live stock from that port for the month of January past were 1000 novillos, 332 horses, and 2999 wethers.

As a good many people seem to be under the impression that the first cuota of the "contribucion directa" of the province of Buenos Aires, is payable as in other years, up to the end of March, it may be as well to call attention to the fact that this year the plazo for payment expires at the end of February, and that there will be no days of grace allowed. The second cuota is payable by end of August.

The weekly figures show that during the fifty-two weeks ended December 30th the number of cattle imported into England was 504,221, as compared with 565,851 in the corresponding period last year, a decrease of 61,630. On the other hand, the quantity of fresh beef imported was 3,783,623 cwt. in 1899 and 3,068,713 cwt. in 1898, an increase last year of 714,910 cwt.

Additional testimony as to the great value of life in the fresh air as a preventive to tuberculosis comes from the United States. Dr Law, of the Department of Agriculture, in giving evidence before the Commission of Investigation now sitting, said that fat cattle from the plains which had never been under cover showed the disease to the extent of only .002 per cent.

Many horses contract the habit of keeping the tongue over the bit, and periodical appeals for advice concerning means to prevent are made. One gentleman cured a horse of the trick by tying a piece of rough serge round the port of the bit; the serge tickled the sensitive underside of the "unruly member," and it was observed that when the horse got his tongue over the port in accordance with his habit, he was prompt to put it back again in the right place. The same owner cured another horse which did not yield to the serge treatment by twisting a piece of wire round the port with the points sticking up; this proved an effectual cure. A high port will often stop a horse from putting his tongue over the bit, and if this fail, a piece of stiff sole leather secured to project a full inch beyond the port, will answer. The bit so arranged should of course be allowed to lie still in the horse's mouth, another being used to ride or drive him on.

An interesting article on South Africa appears in the current number of *Cornhill*, in which Lady Broome gives a hint to our cavalry from her own experience. Her ladyship observes that when she dwelt in Natal some years ago she heard constantly of native cattle being decimated by strange diseases, and "horses, especially imported horses, certainly require the greatest care. They must never be turned out whilst the dew is on the grass, unless with a sort of muzzling nosebag on, as the snakes are a perpetual danger to them, though the bite is not always fatal. Still, a native horse is always on the look-out for snakes, and dreads them exceedingly." She mentions that on one occasion she was riding a quiet old pony, which suddenly leaped off the ground like an antelope. The panic arose from his having stepped on a thin strip of zinc cut from a packing-case, which must have risen up and struck him, recalling former encounters with snakes.

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Proprietor and Editor ... J. O. ANDERSON.

RIVER PLATE SPORT AND PASTIME

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1900.

NOTES.

We must claim the indulgence of our readers this week for our late appearance. Unfortunately the terrible heat of the last few days claimed among its victims, on Tuesday, our principal machinery hand, at an hour when it was too late for us to make other arrangements, so we had no other course open but to bring the paper out a day late.

The first competition for our missing word has only produced one successful candidate, Mr A. Rici, Pueyrredon 217, Lomas de Zamora, to whom a gold chain was forwarded yesterday. The word was "British," so that the whole sentence read:—"When Buller reaches Pretoria the Transvaal will be British." This week again the word is by no means a difficult one to guess, in fact is easy, and as the chains are really well worth trying for we shall expect to see an increase in the number of competitors.

It is with the deepest feeling of regret that we have to chronicle this week the death of our old friend and right good sportsman Mr David Bankier, who died at his Quinta in San Isidro on Sunday afternoon last. Mr Bankier has taken the keenest interest in every branch of sport here for years past, and his well-known figure was constantly to be seen at either the Tigre or the Palermo cricket ground. A kinder-hearted soul never breathed, and his loss will be deeply felt by a wide circle of sorrowing friends.

The meeting between the Lomas and Buenos Aires cricket teams last Friday, resulted in the present leaders of the Championship sustaining their second defeat of the season. Curiously enough, too, the visitors were not a very strong combination, but one of those strange collapses ensued when Lomas went in to bat which makes the game so gloriously uncertain. To Mr W. B. Spray the credit of the victory for the B.A.C.C. is mainly due, for he bowled really well and eventually secured five wickets for twenty-eight runs. In addition to this performance he rattled up a most useful score of forty.

Mr E. L. Rumboll also batted well for his runs, and with Mr Macdonald put on forty-one runs for the second wicket. It was a peculiar partnership, for when the Flores bowler was dismissed it was found that his share consisted of a single run! The fielding all-round was fairly brisk, but the throwing in was very weak and our cricketers should pay more attention to this branch of the

game. The contrast in last year's North and South match between the returns of the Northern and Southern players was remarked by all who were present, we shall hope to see a change for the better this year.

Only one Championship match was decided on Friday, and that was between the Quilmes and Belgrano clubs. This game afforded the Quilmes captain a further opportunity of showing what good form he is in at present with the bat, and his seventy-four not out was a capital innings. The Belgrano players all appear to be a little off colour just now, and the Quilmeros were able to return easily victorious.

Sunday was a very busy day for our cricketers, and in spite of the tremendous heat four matches were actually played. Quite the best match was that played at Hurlingham, between that club and the Lomas "A" team. The latter were strengthened by the presence of Mr P. M. Rath, whom we heartily welcome once again on our cricket fields. The idea of a player like Mr Rath playing for one of our second elevens strikes one as somewhat strange, and we would again recommend the gentlemen who framed that particular law in the Championship to alter it as soon as possible.

Under ordinary circumstances the match was considered a fairly safe thing for Hurlingham, for they have certainly the strongest all-round team in the Championship, and on this occasion they put together the useful total of a hundred and ninety-five. Apparently, however, they overlooked the fact that they had not given themselves time to dismiss their opponents, or they may have under-rated their batting capabilities, which ever it was the task was found beyond them and the game resulted in a draw, much in favour of the home team.

For this result the Lomasites have principally to thank Mr T. M. Greene, a player new to us this season, who batted extremely well, and who, although his side was playing an uphill game all through, was not dismissed until he had compiled fifty-one, or exactly half the runs made by the visitors. The latter returned full of praises for their hosts, whose hospitality is proverbial, and the day's play was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The match at Belgrano was not very exciting, the intense heat no doubt accounting for the general slackness that characterised the play. The home team, who batted first, made a most sensational commencement, as three of their wickets were down before a single run had been scored. Messrs Brown, Dickinson, and A. V. Sly tried hard to stem the tide of misfortune, but the side could not recover from the bad start and eventually suffered defeat by six wickets. The two captains were very wise in agreeing to stop directly the winning hit had been made, for the heat was sufficient to upset anybody.

At Banfield the match was curiously enough almost identical with that of Belgrano. Flores were the visitors and the home team batted first compiling eighty-one runs. These were hit off for the loss of four wickets so that Banfield like Belgrano retired defeated by six wickets. Our previous remarks concerning the pitch were fully borne out, indeed one of the Flores players with plenty of height was hit on the head by a good length ball, while neither wicket-keeper could possibly stand up to the wickets, even to slow bowling.

One may well ask "Is this cricket?" Surely the idea of playing the glorious old game at all is solely for the purpose of deriving as much pleasure as possible from it,

but what pleasure can there be in playing under such circumstances as those quoted above? A prominent member of the Banfield team informed us recently that any criticism of their pitch was a reflection on the club. It is certainly a reflection on those responsible for seeing that a proper pitch is prepared, and the only thing that puzzles us is that the Championship authorities have so far taken no steps in the matter.

The flag of the Quilmes Club on Sunday was at half mast in consequence of the sudden death of one of its members, Mr H. O'Brien Stevens, who arrived in the country some four months since as manager of the Anglo-Argentine Milling Company. The wife of another of its most respected members also died on Saturday evening. For this reason, and with the consent of the Lanús Club this Championship match was not played on Sunday. The 1st of April is mentioned as the date for it now to be played.

When Prince Henry, he of the mailed fist, arrived at Hong Kong with his fleet, he found the English officers laying out a cricket pitch. When poor Egerton had his legs blown off he said, "no more cricket for me," and quietly lighted a cigarette. So it is that cricket on the battle field is ever present, undying. Among those of local cricket who have gone to the front is Mr. Reginald Yorke, a member of the Quilmes Club. A splendid rider, an excellent shot, and athlete. Though not successful in his army exam, he will make a model horse soldier for which he has volunteered.

We are now within less than three weeks of the great annual match, and so far no steps have been taken, we understand, regarding the South team. In the North the utmost enthusiasm prevails, and their supporters are very confident of another victory, and we may take it that the Northern players will do their best to justify the confidence so felt. So that something may be done at once, a meeting of all the club captains has been called for tomorrow (Thursday) evening at five o'clock at the Criterion restaurant.

Last year, it will be remembered, at a meeting of club secretaries, it was decided to ask the committee of the B.A.C.C. to appoint a Selection Committee, but apparently this did not give general satisfaction. This year, therefore, it has been suggested that the various captains should appoint a Selection Committee, and we must confess to thinking the idea a just and proper one. Only one thing, once the Selection Committee is chosen, let it have the full confidence of all our cricketers, and let us have no snarling and backbiting, which a certain section of the community always seems to consider the right way to receive the Selection Committee's actions.

We have received a communication from Mr J. McC. Reid, who is busily at work getting together the Southern Camps eleven. Strong as the Northern Camps team will undoubtedly be, should Mr Reid be successful in getting together the eleven he hopes to, our Northern friends will have all their work cut out to keep up their high reputation. In short, the match should be a very fine one, and well worth journeying to Hurlingham to see on the 21st and 22nd inst. We hope to publish both teams next week.

Our last mails to hand bring us news of the death of the erstwhile well-known professional cricketer, W. Bates. Although he had been lost to first class cricket for about twelve years he was only in his forty-fifth year, his sight having been impaired by a blow received while practising at the nets in Australia during the tour of Mr. Vernon's

team in 1887-8. He had previously taken part in the tours of Shaw's 1881 team, the Hon. Ivo Bligh's eleven, and the two later teams of 1884 and 1886, and had been very successful on Australian wickets, besides gaining a similar popularity to that which he enjoyed in his native country; such was his cheerful and generous disposition.

For his county Bates first played in 1876, doing very good service in 1878, when, besides many good bowling performances, his batting obtained such recognition that he was sometimes sent first to the wickets. He was a free and lively hitter, but in this respect somewhat overshadowed by one of his contemporaries, G. Ulyett. His bowling was slow, and he was able to get an immense amount of break on the ball on any but the best of wickets. As a fieldsman, though a hard and willing worker, he was not very trustworthy, as he was unaccountably liable to miss easy catches. One of his failures has become famous because it contributed to the failure of the Players to beat the Gentlemen at the Oval in 1883, but it is only fair to add that though this was the last catch missed in the contest, it was by no means the only piece of luck which fell to the Gentlemen, who, after this escape, when eight runs were wanted for the last wicket, ultimately made a tie. Bates had a bowling average of 11.71 for the first class matches in 1878. He made his thousand runs in 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886, and was only four short of the number in 1887.

From the course of the Rugby football match between England and Wales, a full account of which may be found in another column, it would seem as though the Englishmen have made but little progress in technical skill. Apparently it was the old story again, the Englishmen attempting to initiate the perfect mechanical discipline of the four Welsh three-quarters and the result, as it has been before, was a failure. The English team, relying on their old style of play, at first did fairly well and at all events held their own, and might have done better had not some of their backs endeavoured to play the game they do not understand in emulation of the Welsh passing.

Many of our readers will remember Mr G. L. Wilson, the well-known cricketer and Association football player, who is now residing in Australia. In his last "Notes and Notions" to hand, Mr N. L. Jackson relates a good story of "Billy" Wilson. "I remember," he writes, "when some years ago the Corinthians were playing Preston North End and Southport Central on the same day, 'Billy' was asked to captain the team at Southport. He was then a very good player, and might well have felt aggrieved at not being chosen for the Preston game. Not so, however, for he cheerfully encouraged his team to 'down' the Centrals which they did by six goals to love. Then he had a quiet dig at the others, for he wired 'Won 6-0, how did the second team get on!' As the North End had won by two goals to one, the joke was not appreciated by the men who played at Preston.

We have been requested, by more than one of our regular readers lately, to publish occasionally a table showing the position of the clubs in the first division of the English Association Football League. This we shall be very pleased to do in the future, and commence this week. Had we known that any of our readers were sufficiently interested, we would, of course, have done so before, in the meanwhile we beg to thank those of our readers mentioned above for the suggestion.

Never, probably, was race run under more curious circumstances than did a trooper of a native cavalry re-

giment attached to the Karam Valley Field Force in 1878. While on the march to Kohat, where the force assembled, the officers of this regiment amused themselves by getting up a race meeting, and included on the card a steeplechase for their sowars—troopers. This brought out a good field, and the lot were despatched to a good start. At the first jump, however, one sowar pulled up, declining altogether to face the fence. He had not been in the habit of jumping, and did not mean to begin. Sufficient pressure being brought to bear, he took the jump, and the officers who had hunted him over it went to the winning post.

To their utter amazement, the man who had "funked" was seen coming along in a splendid style, riding like a demon, and never turning from a fence, though he often looked fearfully behind him. He won; and then his sudden enthusiasm for 'chasing was explained. After jumping that first fence he passed a riderless horse, which had unshipped its rider. This horse was a savage, and no sooner did the sowar pass it, than it laid back its ears, and with open mouth pursued him. It hunted him remorselessly over the course, taking fence after fence close in his rear, while the sowar rode for dear life, expecting every moment to feel its teeth in his thigh. In such terror was he, that even when he caught up the rest of the field and gave the savage the slip in forging through he went on riding for all he was worth till to his own utter astonishment he got home first.

CRICKET.

CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP.

The following table shows the position of clubs in the Cricket Championship:

Club	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Lomas	9	8	0	1	8
Hurlingham	11	7	1	3	6
Flores	10	7	2	1	5
Quilmes	9	4	5	0	-1
Lomas "A"	11	4	5	2	-1
Belgrano	11	4	6	1	-2
Lanus	9	2	7	0	-5
Banfield	10	0	10	0	-10

Points are scored as follows: Plus one for a win, minus one for a loss, and drawn games are ignored.

BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES.
SEASON 1899-1900.

We have to record a great many changes in the average lists this week, most players having been busy on either the Friday or Sunday. Bedford still keeps the lead with a slightly improved average. Symons goes up seven places and now takes the second position. Rumboll rises five places, Syer two, Spray eleven, and H. B. Anderson thirteen, while A. V. Sly, R. H. Bartlett, T. Flint, T. M. Greene and B. G. Henderson all come into the list. A. Anderson falls a place, Rudd two places, Lacey four, Halstead three, Wibberley four, Macdonald five, Cowes six, Prescott five, Miller six, Huxtable seven, Shepard eight, J. S. Campbell six, Lomas nine, and many others one or two places.

In the bowling, Lacey falls two places, H. Elliot two, Lucas three, Rumboll and Bartlett four, H. Anderson five, while Brooking rises three, R. Kingsland three, Torre six, and J. O. Anderson three.

BATTING.					
	No. of Innings	Times not out	Highest score	Total runs	Average
B. F. R. Bedford	6	0	137	249	41.50
A. J. Symons	11	2	74*	314	34.88
A. Anderson	16	2	97*	449	32.07
J. O. Anderson	19	2	90	511	30.05
R. W. Rudd	13	1	93	342	28.50
G. F. Elliot	12	1	63	294	26.72
E. D. Drabble	10	0	100	261	26.10
E. L. Duggan	6	1	49	130	26.00
Lacey	10	2	69	205	25.62

	No. of Innings	Times not out	Highest score	Total runs	Average
R. L. Halstead	12	3	120*	219	24.33
E. L. Rumboll	21	1	42	434	21.70
D. Leighton	14	2	70	250	20.83
J. B. Campbell	10	2	51	163	20.37
F. C. Wibberley	15	1	59	285	20.35
B. B. Syer	20	4	53*	314	19.62
W. B. Spray	11	0	98	212	19.27
H. B. Anderson	7	2	28*	96	19.20
A. Macdonald	21	3	60*	336	18.66
W. Flint	5	1	25	74	18.50
H. A. Cowes	10	2	43	147	18.37
T. Flint	5	1	39	71	17.75
F. H. Jacobs	12	2	50*	174	17.40
J. S. Prescott	12	1	49	188	17.09
B. G. Henderson	5	2	34	51	17.00
R. A. Brooking	7	2	31*	84	16.80
A. A. Miller	5	1	33*	66	16.50
D. Gibson	13	1	58	190	15.83
J. T. Huxtable	6	0	33	91	15.16
J. H. Elliot	12	1	56	166	15.09
J. S. Campbell	12	0	50	178	14.83
J. D. Shepard	17	1	45	234	14.62
J. V. Holtum	7	1	25	87	14.50
C. C. Alexander	14	1	41	184	14.15
T. M. Greene	7	0	51	98	14.00
C. H. Lomas	12	1	58*	152	13.81
C. H. Benson	7	1	15	79	13.16
T. Benson	9	1	52	117	13.00
G. Henshaw	11	2	36*	113	12.55
A. B. P. Boyd	6	1	32*	62	12.40
E. O. Morgan	7	1	31*	74	12.33
S. U. Leonard	10	1	39	108	12.00
T. C. E. Fowler	8	1	31*	81	11.57
R. E. Draper	9	0	48	103	11.44
H. Torre	8	4	15*	45	11.25
H. Lucas	18	1	41	186	10.94
R. H. Bartlett	10	0	27	108	10.80
P. C. Sly	16	1	35	162	10.80
C. Gibson	13	1	46	126	10.50
W. A. Campbell	14	6	32*	83	10.37
A. V. Sly	8	1	22	71	10.14
E. Luck	9	0	29	91	10.11
P. L. G. Bridger	10	1	27	90	10.00

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Average
G. F. Elliot	107.4	30	211	29	7.27
W. A. Campbell	181.1	32	410	48	8.54
R. A. Brooking	209.4	88	412	47	8.76
W. B. Spray	167	64	327	37	8.83
Lacey	83.2	29	173	19	9.10
H. B. Elliot	132.2	27	362	38	9.52
T. V. M. Knox	253	63	567	58	9.77
H. A. Cowes	166.3	52	356	36	9.88
J. S. Prescott	144.2	44	390	39	10.00
R. Kingsland	132.2	27	364	31	11.74
H. Torre	152.3	47	306	26	11.76
G. L. Miles	87	17	248	20	12.40
H. Lucas	197.1	41	529	42	12.59
P. L. G. Bridger	77	22	191	15	12.73
E. L. Rumboll	159	42	436	34	12.82
R. H. Bartlett	122.1	33	318	25	13.12
J. O. Anderson	95.1	12	351	26	13.50
A. Macdonald	139.3	41	345	25	13.80
H. B. Anderson	81.3	24	210	15	14.00
J. S. Campbell	142.2	31	394	28	14.07
H. J. Fraser	60	11	173	12	14.41
C. Knaut	42.2	11	104	7	14.85
A. J. Symons	57.3	16	174	11	15.81
R. E. Draper	59.2	11	200	12	16.66
W. G. Brown	87	24	221	13	17.00
C. R. Tupholme	106	17	347	19	18.26
W. Stirling	40	5	140	7	20.00
A. Campbell	112.2	20	343	17	20.17
T. Benson	159.2	32	450	22	20.45
J. H. Williams	55.3	11	167	7	23.85
S. U. Leonard	67	15	194	8	24.25

QUILMES v. BELGRANO.

The first championship match of the season between these clubs was played on Friday on the Belgrano ground and resulted in a comparatively easy win for the visitors. Belgrano batted first, the bowling being entrusted to the junior bowlers, Prescott being far too unwell to trundle. The opening was disastrous for Belgrano, Harvey being

bowled in Earle's first over, indeed the bowling was so good that at the end of five overs the score stood four maidens, two wickets for four runs. Meantime Belton was batting with great care and patience, singles predominating. Unfortunately he got no one to remain with him. Malm, Shepard and Wibberley each falling with small totals. Lucas, after making a dozen, paid the penalty of a splendid return from Earle. P. C. Sly and Brown made things a little brighter with 18 and 10, but the attack was too strong for high scores and the innings closed for one over the century, Belton having played exceedingly well for 32.

Quilmes commenced batting with Hooton and Cunningham and it seemed as if they were to have a long partnership for which the latter was at once at work hitting hard and clear all round. Hooton was batting with great caution until by some stupid misunderstanding he was run out, and set an example which was actually followed by two other batsmen. Symons followed Hooton and at once commenced an innings which for judgment, clear cutting, hard drives and hits to leg could scarcely be improved upon. Every bowler appeared alike to him. An over with 12 runs off Lucas was followed by 11 off Harvey, bringing on every available bowler which Belgrano possessed, but all to no purpose for after the match had been won he continued hitting and carried out his bat for 74 runs in which there did not appear to be a single chance. Prescott, who really should have been at home in bed, ran himself out most unsatisfactorily and W. W. Morgan, after playing a capital innings of 22, followed suit, a sharp return by Williams (substitute for Sly who had been severely hurt) sending his stump down. In a word the Belgrano men were over-matched all round. No less than 39 overs were bowled for one wicket only—the remaining three being run out. The innings closed for 144 runs for the loss of four wickets.

Full score and analysis:—

<p>BELGRANO A.C.</p> <p>C. M. Belton c Symons b Morgan 32 W. H. Harvey b Earle..... 0 W. Malm b Torre..... 3 F. C. Wibberley b Earle..... 9 J. D. Shepard b Torre..... 1 H. Lucas run out..... 12 A. Brodie b Morgan..... 3 P. C. Sly b Torre..... 18 W. Brown not out..... 10 C. E. Dickinson b Torre..... 5 A. V. Sly b Morgan..... 6 Extras..... 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total.....101</p>	<p>QUILMES C.C.</p> <p>P. Hooton run out..... 3 E. Cunningham b Brown..... 30 A. J. Symons not out..... 74 J. S. Prescott run out..... 0 W. W. Morgan run out..... 22 R. Levy did not bat G. F. Earle not out..... 2 H. Torre E. Jeffries } did not bat W. J. Williams } F. Pott Extras..... 13</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total.....144</p>
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BOWLING ANALYSIS.							
Belgrano A.C.				Quilmes C.C.			
O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
H. Torre.....17	6	22	4	H. Lucas.....14	1	54	0
G. F. Earle..... 8	1	24	2	W. G. Brown.....14	2	35	1
W. W. Morgan.....14.3	4	30	3	W. H. Harvey..... 3	0	16	0
A. J. Symons..... 6	3	17	0	W. Malm..... 3	0	14	0
				C. M. Belton..... 2	0	7	0
				C. E. Dickinson..... 1	0	5	0

B.A.C.C. v. LOMAS A.C.

This return match was played last Friday at Lomas in stifling heat, and again resulted in favour of the visitors. In spite of the heat a very fair number of spectators were present, including a sprinkling of the fair sex, and one or two old supporters of the senior club. At the last moment Croll found himself unable to play and Greene took his place, while on the other side Rath played in place of R. E. H. Anderson, otherwise the teams turned out as advertised.

Strange to relate, the Lomas captain failed to win the toss and Anderson elected to bat, Syer and Rumboll being the first pair deputed to face the deliveries of Rath and Cowes, the former from the Banfield end. Runs came at a good pace from the start, the first seven overs producing 30 runs, but a run later Syer was bowled hitting at a ball from Cowes. Macdonald followed in and the score rose rapidly, Rumboll doing nearly all the scoring, and extras off the fast bowler also helping considerably. With the total raised to 72, W. Campbell, who had relieved Rath, bowled Macdonald. The partnership had realised 41 runs, the outgoing batsman's share being one! J. O. Anderson next joined Rumboll, but three runs later the latter was bowled by Campbell for a nicely played innings of 41. With Spray in runs came very fast and several changes were made in the attack. The last comer was missed at the wicket off Campbell and he might have been taken at short slip, but he hit out well and played just the game required at the moment. Rath and Campbell took the Banfield end turn about, and H. Anderson gave Cowes a rest, later handing the ball to Brooking. This change had the desired effect as Spray was beautifully caught low down at

cover-point for a dashing 40. Stokes came next and the score was carried to 157 when the luncheon interval was taken, Anderson being not out 29, and Stokes not out 8.

On resuming, W. Campbell and Brooking continued bowling. With six runs added Campbell "yorked" Stokes. Knox filled the vacancy, and with no addition to the score saw Anderson given out caught at the wicket off his body. As the ball got up very fast and whipped back quickly from the off there was every excuse for the umpire's mistake. After this the end soon came, Brooking proving very deadly. Grant hit up a dozen and the innings closed for 185. Brooking was most successful after lunch and altogether secured six wickets for only 13 runs.

Lomas opened with Rudd and A. Anderson to the bowling of Spray and Macdonald. In the former's first over (from the Banfield end) Rudd was clean bowled by a beauty. Jacobs took his place and 16 runs were scored mostly off Macdonald before Anderson made a feeble stroke on the leg side and was easily caught. Cowes came next and also fell a victim to Spray at 21. J. Campbell together with Jacobs brought about the first change, Knox for Macdonald. At 46 Spray again did the needful bowling Jacobs for a useful 21, in making which he received a nasty blow on the head, but quickly recovered. With the score unaltered Knox bowled Campbell, and Halstead only made a single before he was caught at square leg off Knox, so that six wickets were down for 53. Rath helped Anderson to put on 23 before being bowled by Spray. Brooking saw 10 added before Anderson was bowled by Knox and the last two giving no trouble the innings closed for 101 or 84 runs less than their opponents' total. Spray and Knox both bowled well, especially the former, who kept his pace and length up wonderfully, when the excessive heat is taken into consideration.

There being still time left for play, Lomas went in again Rath and Cowes facing Rumboll and Spray, the latter now bowling slow medium. Rumboll came in for terrific punishment and 30 was up before Spray bowled Rath. Halstead came next and J. O. Anderson relieved Rumboll. At 48, Halstead called Cowes for an impossible run and paid the penalty, doing a similar thing himself immediately after. Jacobs and Rudd played out time, the score at the finish being 55 for three wickets.

Full score and analysis:—

<p>B.A.C.C.</p> <p>B. B. Syer b Cowes..... 11 E. L. Rumboll b W. A. Campbell..... 41 A. Macdonald b W. A. Campbell..... 1 J. O. Anderson c Halstead b Brooking..... 34 W. B. Spray c Bridger b Brooking..... 40 D. J. Stokes b W. A. Campbell..... 8 T. V. M. Knox c H. Anderson b Brooking..... 8 T. M. Greene b Brooking..... 0 A. im Thura c J. B. Campbell b Brooking..... 2 F. Grant b Brooking..... 12 J. J. Dowson not out..... 0 Extras..... 28</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total.....185</p>	<p>LOMAS A.C.</p> <p>R. W. Rudd b Spray..... 0 A. Anderson c Knox b Macdonald..... 10 F. H. Jacobs b Spray..... 21 H. A. Cowes b Spray..... 0 J. B. Campbell b Knox..... 12 H. B. Anderson b Knox..... 22 R. L. Halstead c im Thura b Knox..... 1 P. M. Rath b Spray..... 12 R. A. Brooking not out..... 11 W. A. Campbell b Knox..... 2 P. L. G. Bridger st Syer b Spray..... 2 Extras..... 8</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total.....101</p>
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BOWLING ANALYSIS.							
B.A.C.C.				LOMAS A.C.			
O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
P. M. Rath.....12	2	53	0	W. B. Spray.....15.2	7	28	5
H. A. Cowes.....14	3	28	1	A. Macdonald..... 6	0	25	1
W. A. Campbell.....18	4	44	3	T. V. M. Knox..... 9	0	40	4
H. B. Anderson..... 4	1	19	0				
R. A. Brooking.....11.2	5	13	6				

BOWLING ANALYSIS.							
LOMAS A.C.				B.A.C.C.			
O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
E. L. Rumboll..... 3	0	25	0	P. M. Rath.....12	2	53	0
W. B. Spray..... 4	1	19	1	H. A. Cowes.....14	3	28	1
J. O. Anderson..... 2	0	10	0	W. A. Campbell.....18	4	44	3

LOMAS A.C. v. BELGRANO A.C.

The above Championship match was played on Sunday last at Belgrano. Owing, probably, to the intense heat very few spectators were present and the two captains very wisely agreed to stop directly the winning hit was made. This was done, and Lomas returned victorious by six wickets.

Bridger was again successful with the toss, and the Belgrano captain decided to bat, Belton and W. G. Brown

FIXTURES FOR 1899-1900.

FEBRUARY.

Sun. 11—Quilmes 2nd XI. v. Belgrano 2nd XI., at Belgrano
 Sun. 11—B.A.C.C. v. Flores, at Palermo.
 Sun. 11—Lanús v. Banfield, at Banfield.*
 Sun. 11—Hurlingham "A" v. Palermo, at Hurlingham.
 Sun. 18—Quilmes v. Lomas, at Lomas.*
 Sun. 18—Hurlingham v. Belgrano, at Belgrano.*
 Sun. 18—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Flores 2nd XI., at Palermo.
 Sun. 25, Mon. 26, Tues. 27—North v. South, at Palermo.

MARCH.

Sun. 4—Flores v. Lomas "A," at Lomas.*
 Sun. 4—Hurlingham v. Lanús, at Lanús.*
 Sun. 4—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Banfield 2nd XI., at Palermo.
 Sun. 4—Quilmes 2nd XI. v. London Bank, at Quilmes.
 Sun. 11—Belgrano v. Quilmes, at Quilmes.*
 Sun. 11—B.A.C.C. v. Hurlingham, at Palermo.
 Sun. 11—Lomas "A" v. Banfield, at Banfield.*
 Sun. 11—Lanús v. Flores, at Flores.*
 Sun. 18—Belgrano 2nd XI. v. Lanús 2nd XI., at Belgrano
 Sun. 18—Lomas v. Banfield, at Banfield.*
 Sun. 18—Quilmes v. Flores, at Flores.*
 Sun. 18—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Hurlingham 2nd XI., at Hurlingham.
 Sun. 25—Quilmes 2nd XI. v. Banfield 2nd XI., at Banfield.
 Sun. 25—B.A.C.C. v. Belgrano, at Belgrano.

APRIL.

Sun. 1—Hurlingham 2nd XI. v. Flores 2nd XI., at Flores.
 Sun. 1—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Banfield 2nd XI., at Banfield.
 Sun. 8—Hurlingham v. Lomas "A," at Lomas.*
 Thur. 12, Fri. 13—Lomas v. Flores, at Flores.*

*Championship Matches.

LIKE TWO PEAS.

"Well," said old Dave, as we were chatting together one evening lately, "the glorious game will soon be at an end for this year."

"Yes, unfortunately," I rejoined; "but it promises to be an exceptionally good jumping season."

"Bah!" returned Dave, with a snap of his fingers; "I don't give that for the jumpers!" The old tout regarded the sport across country or over the sticks as beneath the consideration of any genuine turfite.

"You don't think much of the illegitimate business, then?" I asked.

"Well, no; not much. I'm a good deal of the same opinion as the late Fred Swindells, who said he didn't like to see his money flying in the air. No, sir; flat-racing's good enough for me, and when the Manchester November is over and done with I shall be glad to take an easy for a few months. Mind you, I really hadn't ought to say a word against the winter sport, for I once had an uncommonly good win over a steeplechase, and that, too, at a time when I was pretty nigh on the rocks."

I always liked to hear the veteran talk in this way, as in nine cases out of ten it was the certain indication of a yarn; and, by the aid of a little judicious diplomacy, I succeeded in eliciting the narrative. The task was not really a difficult one, for the old chap was a born storyteller, and delighted in the exercise of his art.

"I fancy you've heard me mention the name of Jem Crook once or twice," he began.

"Jem Crook?" I repeated, with a fine assumption of forgetfulness. "Well, yes; I almost think you have." It is only your copper-bottomed fool who spoils a story by remembering too much.

"Well, at the time the little business I'm going to tell you about took place, Jem hadn't been long started as a trainer—it was his first season, in fact—and when it came to an end one of his employers made him a present of a horse called Bittern. There couldn't have been a fitter name, for all connected with the beast found him most truly a bitter 'un. He was a big, good-looking four-year-old colt; a chestnut, with a narrow blaze, and two white stockings behind. To look at him you would think he ought to win plenty of races, but that's just what the gay deceiver wouldn't do. Jem had tried him over and over again to be an absolute certainty, and he must have cost his owner a little fortune before it was discovered that he was one horse at home and another upon a racecourse—there's plenty of 'em worse luck! So, at the end of the year, when owner and trainer were squaring accounts, Jem asked what was to be done with Bittern.

"Oh! Bittern be d—d," says the gentleman in a tower-

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ing rage; "I never want to hear the brute's name again. Shoot him; he's only fit for cat's-meat!"

"Oh! that would be a pity," said Jem; "I think you might give him another chance."

"Not for me, thank you," returned the owner, "I've had enough of him. But I'll give him to you, if you like, and much good may he do you!"

Of course, Jem thanked the gentleman, and said he would try the colt at the jumping game.

"Well, Bittern took to the business wonderful, and Jem was on the best of terms with himself, thinking he should be able to pull off a nice succession of maiden hurdles and maiden steeples with his present. The first event of the kind in which Bittern took part was at a little jumping fixture in the Midlands, and as the company was anything but classy, Jem put his money down like a man. And what do you think the wretched animal did? Why, he bolted out of the course at the very first hurdle.

Jem was a very patient sort of chap, and he wouldn't allow himself to be discouraged. He reasoned it out that Bittern was a nervous, excitable animal, and that he must, sooner or later, gain confidence. So he practised him constantly at home, where he jumped beautiful, and gave him an occasional flutter on a racecourse, where he wouldn't jump at all. Never was seen such a pig of a horse. As a rule, he stuck at the very first obstacle; and it by any extraordinary chance he succeeded in scrambling over that, no power on earth could get him beyond the second.

"Before long, Jem and his horse became a regular laughing-stock. When he took him into the paddock at any of the meetings there was no end of laughing and chaffing among the trainers and jockeys. 'Here comes Jem Crook and his drop of bitter!' they would cry. And the fielders, joining in the fun, would try to tempt him by offering the most extravagant odds against his horse. But my old pal took it all in good part.

"You've got the best of me now," he would say; 'but they laugh best who laugh last.'

"And, by Jingo, Jem had all the fun on his side before he'd done.

"It was in December that Bittern made his first appearance as a jumper and in the following March, as I was looking over the entries for the Stewards' Steeplechase at Wickhurst, what name should I come across but Bittern's. 'Well,' thinks I, 'this here's a rum go. Poor old Jem! he must have gone clean off his chump.' And really it seemed little short of madness to enter such a heart-breaking animal in a race that generally brought out a field of the very best chasers in training. However, Jem hadn't quite qualified for Bedlam just yet.

"Having nothing particular to do, I went to Wickhurst, and, of course, was on the look-out for Jem. He didn't turn up till close on the time of his race, and I found him putting Bittern to rights in a quiet corner. The horse looked in splendid trim—clear in the eye, glossy in the coat, legs clean and sound, with plenty of good, hard muscle in the right places. But what was the good of all that when the blained fraud wouldn't jump?

"Well, Jem, old boy, sorry you've gone dotty at the finish,' was my greeting.

"He looked at me with eyes as expressionless as those of a wooden doll, and grunted out: 'Eh?'

"Why,' I says 'whatever do you mean by running your old bamboozler in this company?'

"My old bamboozler, as you call him, will as near win as dammit,' he said.

"Well, I laughed fit to split; I thought I'd never heard of a better joke.

"When you've done making a sanguinary exhibition of yourself,' says Jem, with a frown, 'I'll tell you something—may be to your advantage.'

"I was all attention in a minute, for I may as well confess that my bank was in a deplorable condition at the time, and there seemed very little prospect of adding to it.

"He drew me aside, and he says, very solemn: 'Dave, you and me have been pals for a long time—did I ever yet put you in the cart?'

"No, Jem,' I answers, 'that you never did, but the other way about.'

"Very well, then,' he says; 'go and back Bittern for all you're worth, and ask no questions.'

"Do you really mean it Jem?' I said.

"Straight!' he answered, and off I went into the ring.

"A solitary tenner was all I had in the world, and I took 400 to 10. It was a splendid price, though I believe Jem got 50's and 66's. The ring thought they were finding something when Jem backed his horse at last. But the minute I'd parted with my money I called myself a blamed

fool. After all, didn't it look too ridiculous to expect Bittern to win such a race?

"I went up on the stand to see, as I told myself, my ten quid going flop at the first fence. The distance was three miles—twice round the course—so the starting-post was near at hand, and I had a good view of the proceedings without having to use a glass. The starter got the eleven runners in line, and sent them off without a moment's delay. As they raced for the first obstacle, an ordinary fence of the regulation pattern, my heart came right up into my mouth.

"Now for it!" says I to myself, as I caught sight of Bittern well in front and going for the jump at a rattling pace. Well, sir, you never saw such a thing in all your born days. The horse as I had many and many a time seen refuse a paltry hurdle took that obstacle in his stride like a born jumper, never dwelling even for the fraction of a second, and away again like a good 'un! I was too much astonished to be able to think or reason about this extraordinary transformation; I could only stare, and stare with my mouth open, as Bittern galloped on to the water-jump.

"Oh! hang it all!' I thought, 'what's the use of deceiving myself? It's a thousand to one against him facing the water.'

"But didn't he, though? He simply flew it like a bird, and by the time I had convinced myself that I was wide awake, and not in the middle of a silly dream, he was leading his field by half a dozen lengths.

"Well, to cut the story short, Bittern made the most of his light weight, led from start to finish, and won without ever having been fairly extended.

And didn't the boys cheer, and yell, and laugh when Jem led the winner into the paddock! Even the fielders, though some of them were heavy hit, cheered him again and again. Of course, they naturally came to the conclusion that Jem had been running a barney with Bittern all the time, so that he could land a big pile at the finish; and, although it cost some of them dear, they couldn't help giving him credit for his cleverness and patience. That was my opinion, too, though I ought to have known better, for I was used to Jem's little ways, and well aware that the obvious course was just the one he would never follow. In all he did, whether straight or crooked, he was beyond all things original; but in the case of Bittern I think he surpassed himself.

"He took all the rumpus with the coolness of an ice-house, raised his hat in acknowledgment of the applause, and when 'All right!' was called, went round collecting his winnings. He never let out how much it amounted to, though it must have run into thousands. I drew my four hundred, as happy as a king. The sum mightn't seem a great deal to many people, but just then it was a little fortune to me.

"We had a gorgeous tuck-in that evening, with plenty of fizz to wash it down, and when we were by ourselves I opened upon Jem. 'Now old chap,' I says, 'tell us how you managed to make a jumper of Bittern, and why you've kept him dark so long?'

"I give you my word when I heard the truth of the matter, it fairly took my breath away. No man on earth except Jem Crook would have dared to attempt such a thing. As a matter of fact, Bittern never would do any good away from home, and Jem soon lost all hopes of his doing so. He had just made up his mind to give him up as a bad job when a very strange thing happened. Jem had been attending a little hunt meeting in Downshire, some time in January, just to see if he could pick up a likely jumper or two for one of his employers. He was standing near the door of the weighing-room when the winner of a selling steeplechase was brought in, and when he had run his eyes over the animal he fairly gasped. For he was the living, breathing image of Bittern? Alike in age, colour—markings—even to the narrow blaze and two white stockings—there never was such a resemblance.

"I tell you, Dave,' said Jem to me, 'if I hadn't known that the horse was at home in his stable, I could have sworn it was Bittern. They were as much alike as two peas.

"Jem had watched the race and seen that the colt was a quick and clever jumper, with a nice turn of speed, and he brought him—dirt cheap, as it turned out—for a hundred and fifty. Well, now, of course you know what happened. Jem got rid of the real Bittern without a moment's loss of time—sold him to a farmer in a remote part of the country—and the other took his place and identity. In order to keep up the deception, Jem gave the new Bittern an outing or two during the next few weeks, but as

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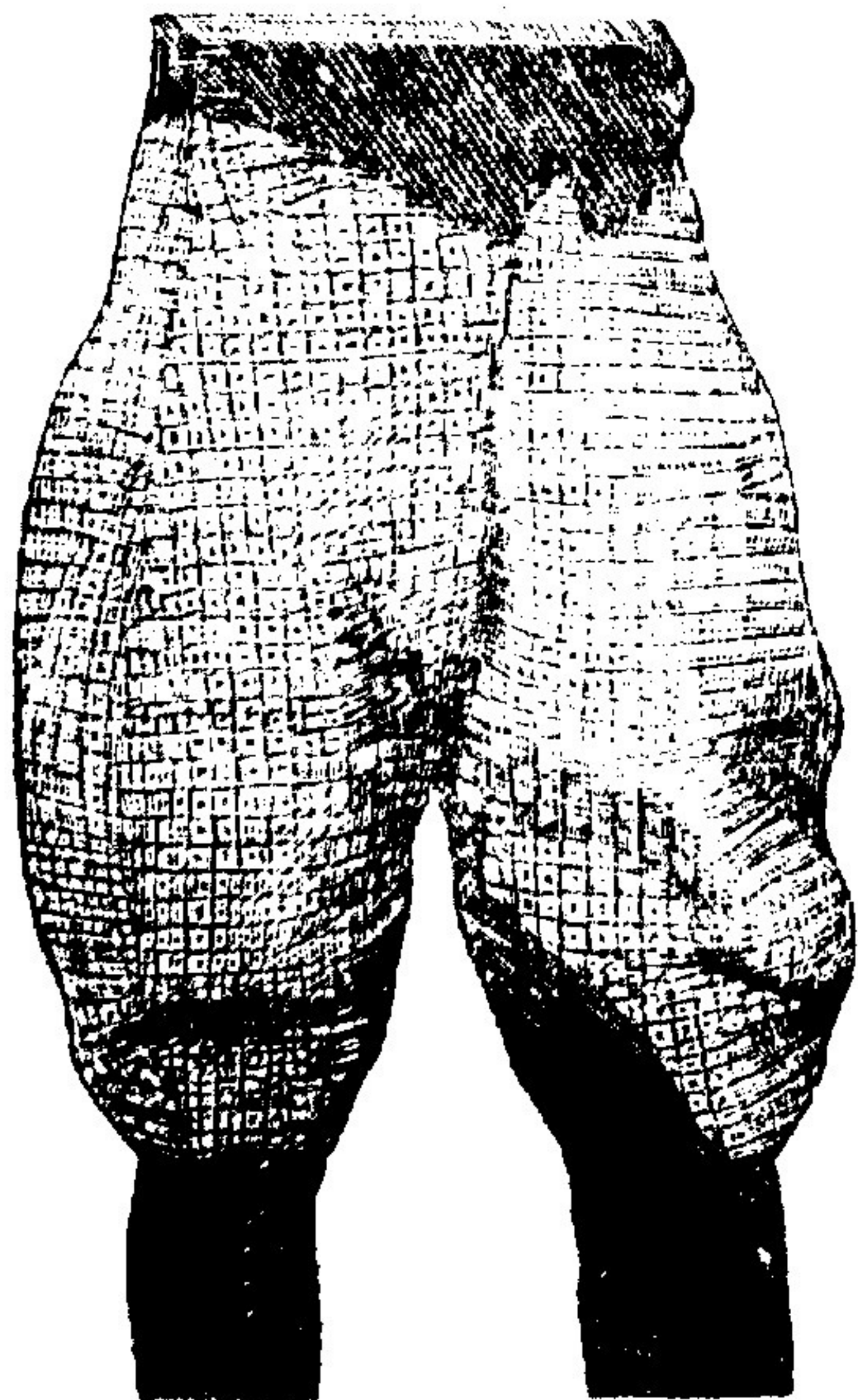
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he was in the saddle himself you may be sure there was no startling alteration in the form. However, he found out enough to know that he had got hold of a real good 'un, and a subsequent trial with a fairish chaser made the Wickhurst affair look a bit of real jam. Oh! he was a wonder, was Jem."

HOW HE HEARD THE NEWS.

A FACT.

(By "Ballyhooly," in the *Sporting Times*).

Men in the club have gathered around
The telegram board: there's scarce a sound.

"Have we managed once more to win?"
"Our lads once more have come out all right;
The day is ours—we have won the fight."
That's the news from the front just in.

Into the hall comes the old V.C.—
No one so light or so gay as he,
Though grey—with the step of a boy,
To hear good tidings. We soon can trace:
The news, as he reads, lights up his face
With the sunshine of youthful joy.

"Of course 'tis right, as I said 'twould be—
You bet on our lads, you trust to me;
And it's splendid this news, sublime—
Why my son was in it, bless his heart,
I'm sure full well he has played his part
As the boys did in my young time.

You know of the boy I think a lot,
Of course he's the only lad I've got,
And I know that his ways are mine;
I know he's done well too, my boy Jack,
For cart-ropes never would hold him back
From the front of the fighting line."

More news up on the telegram board—
A different tale the lines record;
For the news is old England's cost,
And victory's there midst those who died—
Two messages placed there side by side
Of what Britain has won and lost.

Who'll read the list? Ere the news they scan,
They seem to turn to the old grey man.

"I will give it, my friends, to you;
I will read it out—my sight is good—
The list of killed as a soldier should:
Aye, I'll read it, my lads, right through."

He reads the names, and we hear around
Of some dead friends by the list'ners found—
There is many a weary sigh;
To mark the name of some dear old pal
Who'll never come back from far Natal
To his home in the days gone by.

There comes a word in death's long roll-call
A little louder, maybe, that's all—

One which tells of a hero gone—
A word which the hearers seems to stun.
The name is that of his only son—
Aye, but still the old man reads on.

Reads on, without a tremble or sigh,
Hope seems to bid him a long good-bye,
But to grief he'll no homage pay.
Reads till he says, "Thus the long list ends—
I've read it straight through to you, my friends;
So (he lifts off his hat) good-day."

Then firm, erect, through their midst he passed.
And the men stand silent, dumb, aghast.

At the pluck which all must admit.
No sign to tell of the wound that's there:
Like wounded quarry that seeks its lair,
He goes straight to his home—hard hit.

Back to his partner—old, true and tried—
To tell her how her young hero died,
And to tell what the war has cost;
To talk of a young life finished—done,
The Queen has, bless her, a vict'ry won,
And this old childless pair have lost,

Cover brave deeds with your highest gloss,
Tell how he won the Victoria Cross;
But still never a place refuse
To this small story of courage great—
Of how he stood up to desp'rate fate
On the day that he heard the news.

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- BARKER MEMORIAL SCHOOL—*Blue and Gold*—H. S. Chappell, Las Golondrinas, Lomas de Zamora, F.C.S.
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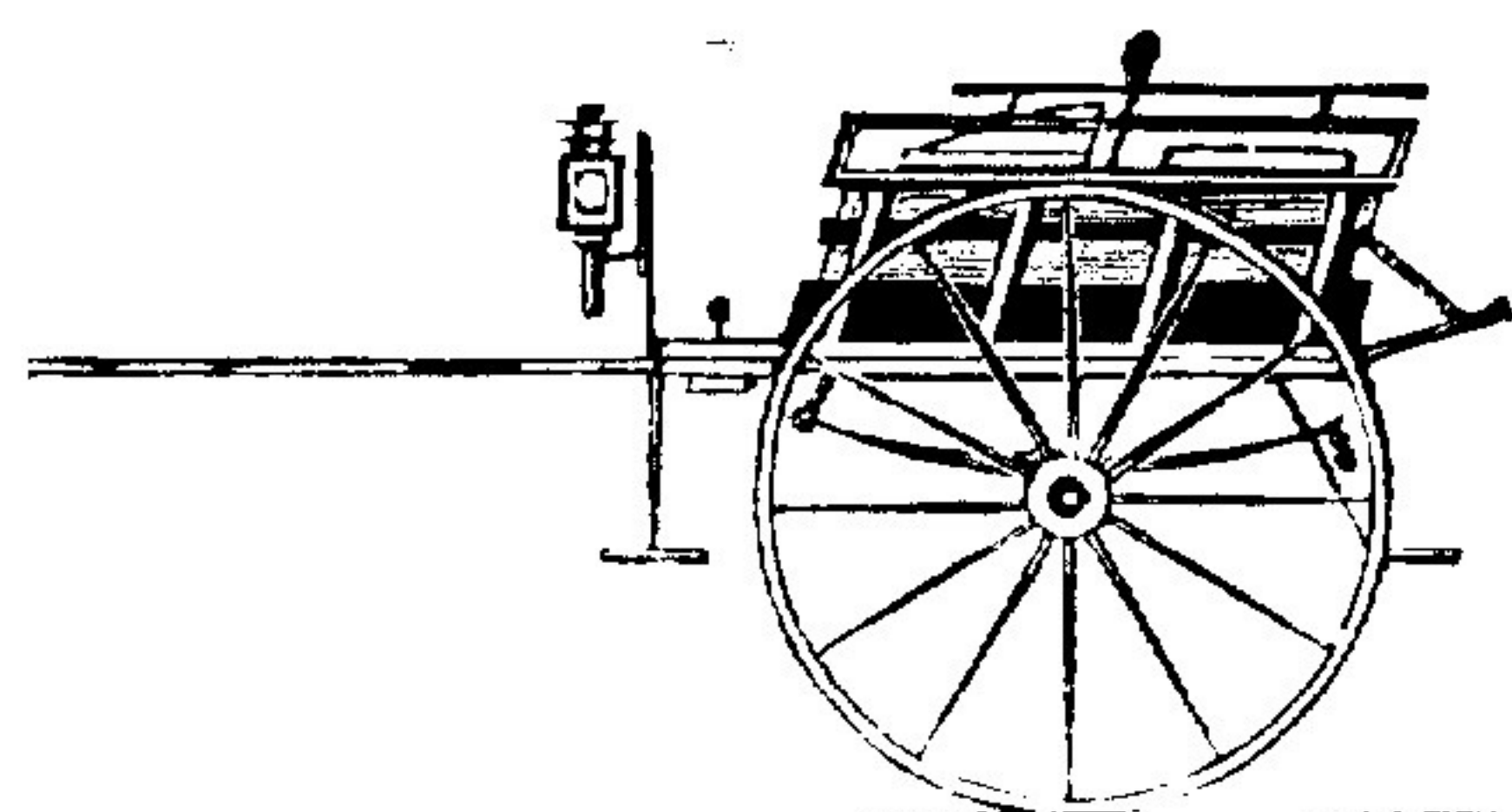
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Con 90 días de aviso ..	5 %		3½ %
A 2 meses fijo ..	3½ %		3 %
A 3 meses fijo ..	4½ %		3½ %
A 6 meses fijo ..	5 %		4 %
Otros plazos ..		conventional	
		Se Cobra	
Por adelanto en Cuenta Corriente ..	10 %		9 %
Octubre 1º, 1899.			

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First-Class English Restaurant
 The only real English cooking in town.
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 Banquets attended to.
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BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS

PRINCIPALS .. { R. L. GOODFELLOW.
 R. W. RUDD.

New School Building .. II de Setiembre esq. Colombes.
 Boarding-House .. Quinta "Las Golondrinas."

NEW TERM COMMENCES JANUARY 22, AT 9 A.M.

Applications may be addressed either to the School or to the Boarding-House.

For the convenience of Parents the Head Master will be at the School every day from January 8th to January 19th, between the hours of 9 and 12, to enrol Pupils.