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SPORTS PASTIME

Vol. VI., No. 141.

Buenos Aires, Wednesday, March 14, 1894.

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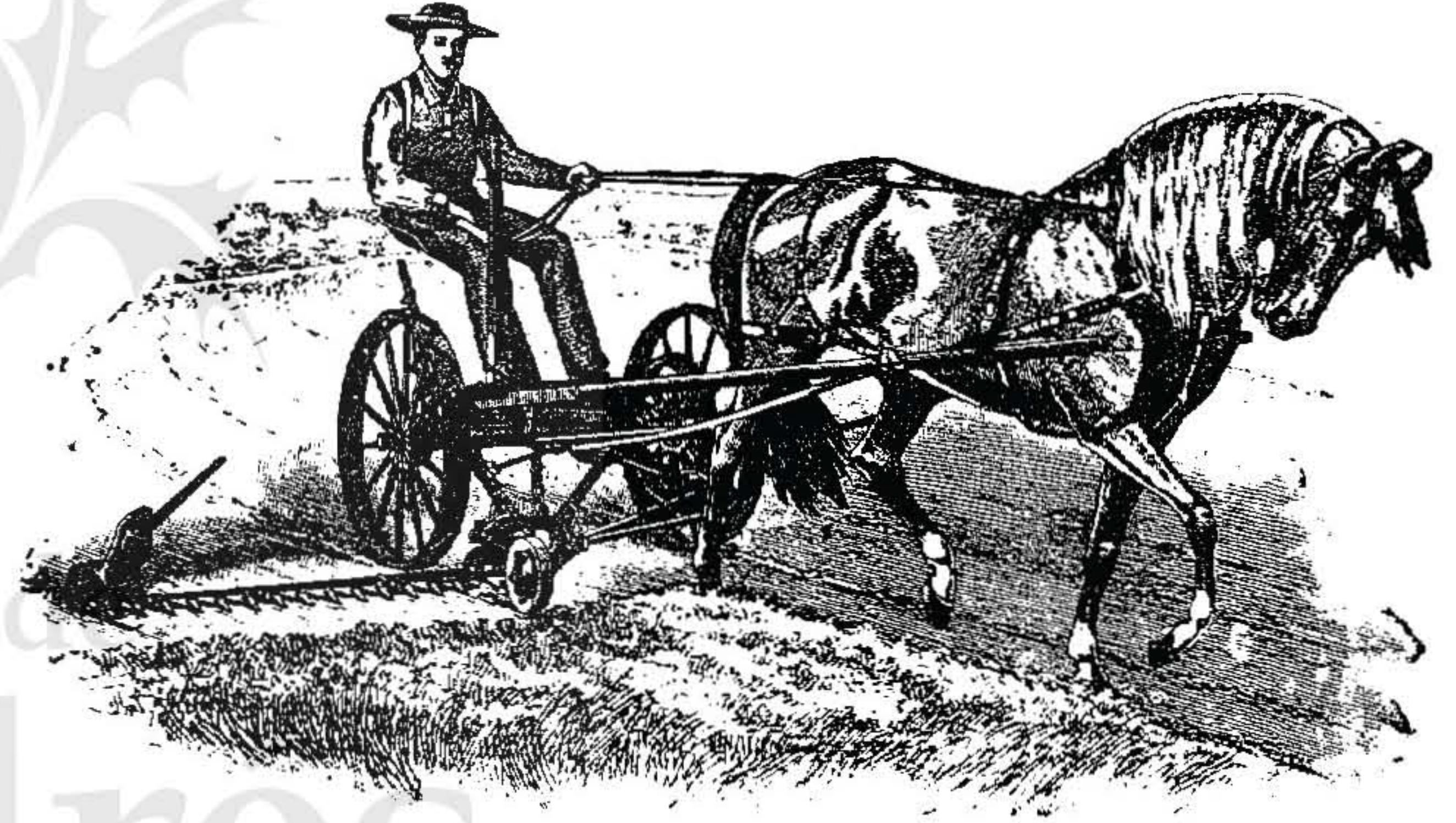
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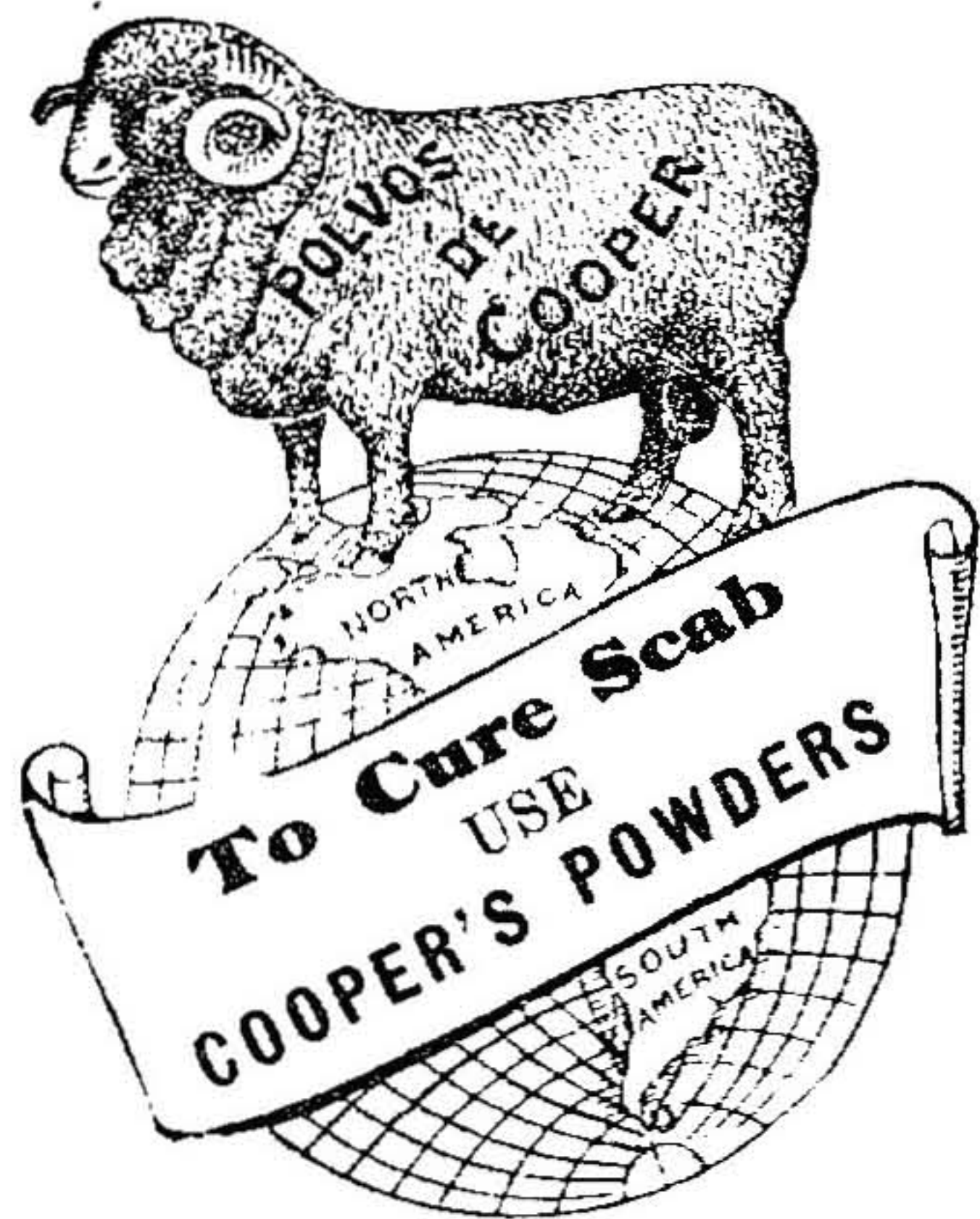
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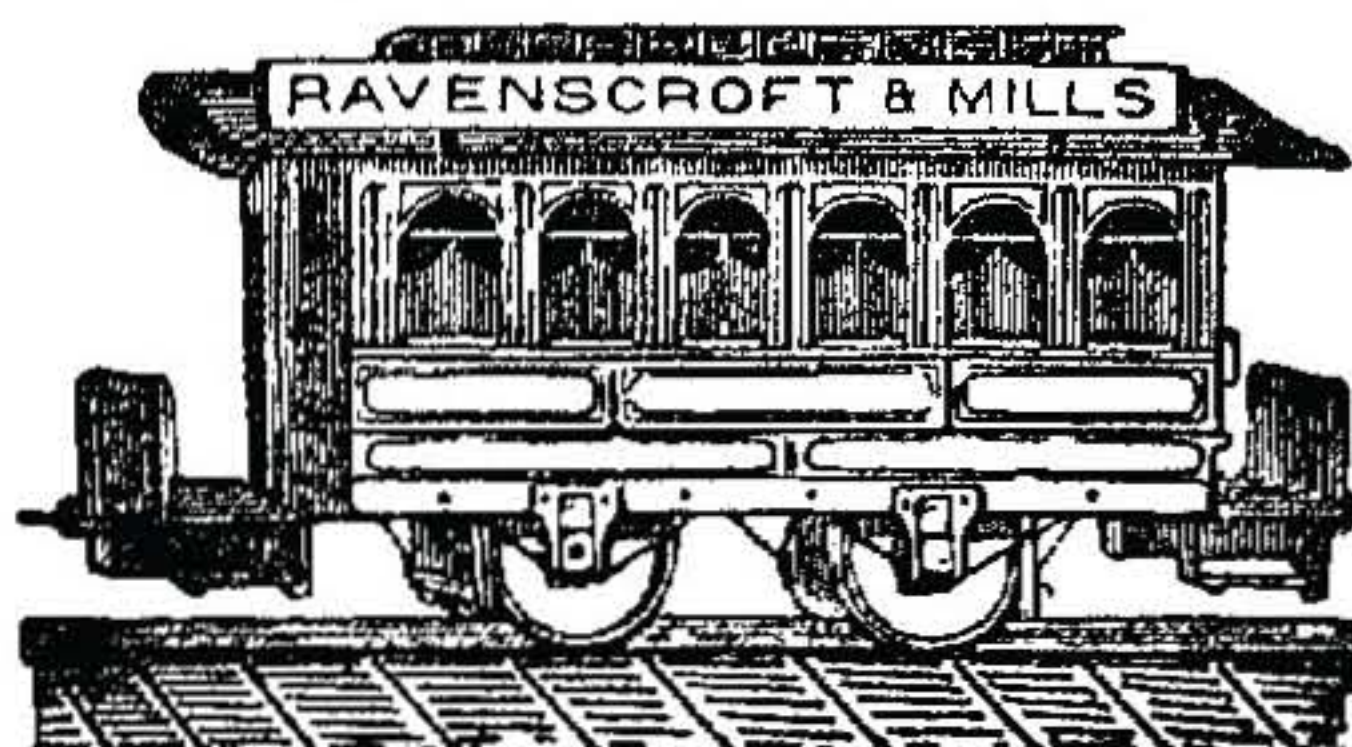
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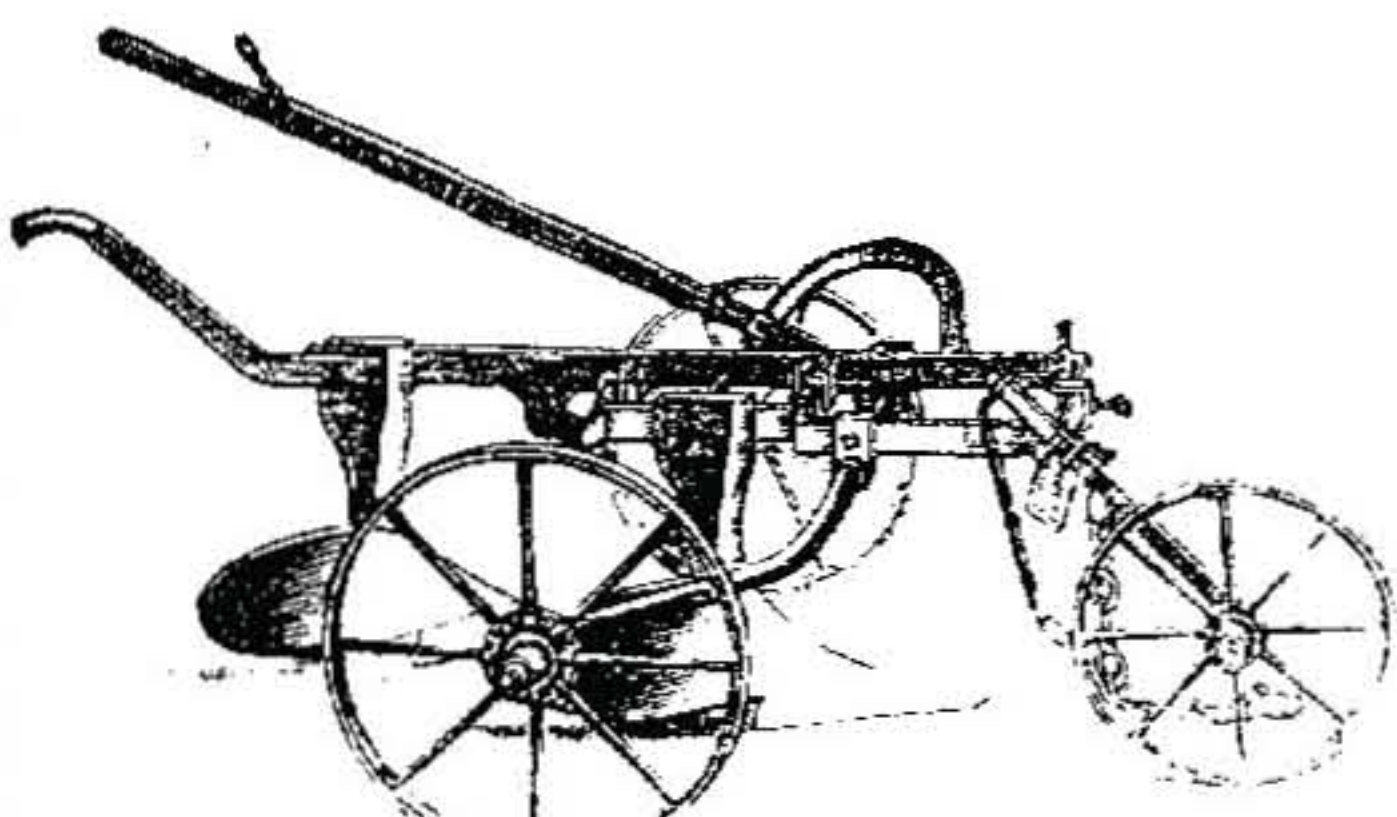
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE

- River Plate Sport and Pastime -

1891

No. 1—August 5: MR. M. G. FORTUNE, Hon. Sec. Hurlingham Club.

No. 2—September 9: ORMONDE.

No. 3—September 30: PHENIX.

No. 4—November 18: THE SANTA FE AND SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO POLO TEAMS.

No. 5*—December 9: THE NORTHERN CRICKET XI.

No. 6—December 23: THE SOUTHERN CRICKET XI.

* Only a few numbers left.

1892

No. 7—January 27: WINNING CREW IN THE INTERNATIONAL FOUR-OARED RACE (Buenos Aires Rowing Club), Tigre Regatta, 1891.

No. 8—March 23: WHIPPER-IN.

No. 9—April 13: THE CRUISE OF THE DART, No. 1

No. 10—May 11: THE CRUISE OF THE DART, No. 2

No. 11—June 1: THE CRUISE OF THE DART, No. 3

No. 12—June 22: THE CRUISE OF THE DART, No. 4

No. 13—July 6: HURLINGHAM CRICKET XI.

No. 14—July 20: UNITED RAILWAYS CRICKET XI.

No. 15—August 10: ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS.

No. 16—August 31: THE BUENOS AIRES RUGBY FOOTBALL TEAM.

No. 17—September 14: HURLINGHAM POLO TEAM.

No. 18—October 5: PRIZE CARICATURE.

No. 19—October 19: ROSARIO LAWN TENNIS TEAM.

No. 20—November 30: TIGRE REGATTA.

No. 21—December 21: THE SOUTHERN CRICKET TEAM.

1893

No. 22—January 18: THE NORTHERN CRICKET TEAM.

No. 23—February 1: CRICKET GROUNDS—PALERMO

No. 24—February 15: ST. HONORAT.

No. 25—March 22: HURLINGHAM.

No. 26—April 26: THE GAUCHOS IN LONDON.

No. 27—June 20: THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TEAMS.

No. 28—August 23: THE BUENOS AIRES FRONTON.

No. 29—November 1: ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS, 1893.

No. 30—December 6: LOMAS A.C. ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TEAM.

No. 31—December 13: THE VALPARAISO AND BUENOS AIRES CRICKET TEAMS.

No. 32—December 27: HURLINGHAM POLO TEAM.

1894

No. 33—January 10: THE NORTH & SOUTH CRICKET TEAMS OF 1893.

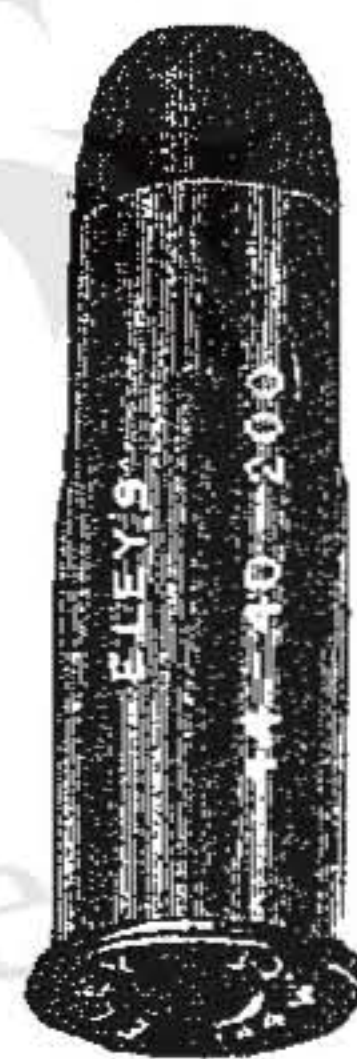
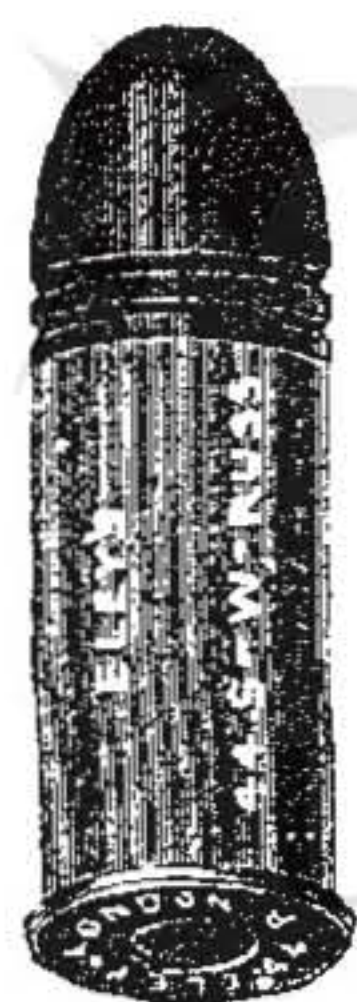
No. 34—January 31: ARGENTINE YACHTS.

The back numbers of the *River Plate Sport and Pastime* containing the above Photographs, price 50 cents each (other back numbers 80 cents), may be obtained from the Publishers,

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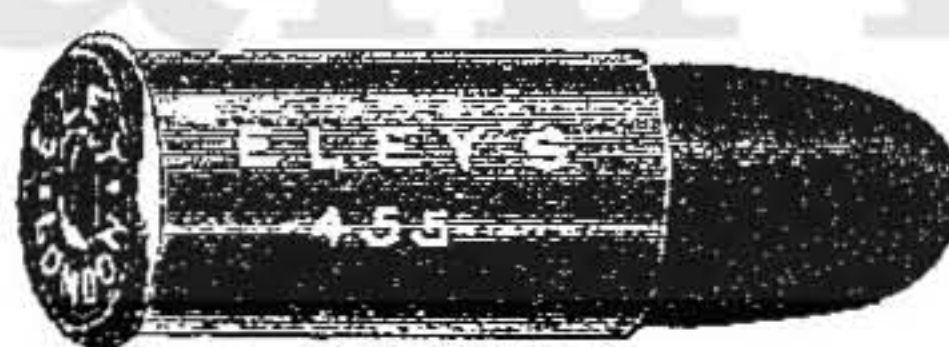
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HOME NEWS

CRICKET

These words of Vanderdecken in the "Graphic" are worth quoting:—

"A contemplation of the facts stated at the annual general meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club justifies one in pausing to consider to what extent cricket can be correctly called a really national game. I have always marvelled at the suggestion of distinction that is conveyed in the name of the banking corporation known as the National and Provincial—as if one could be the first without necessarily being the second. We in London are inclined to think that we set the fashion in all things national, but the provincials have very strong opinions of their own, and much harder heads than we possess. The success of Surrey, of course, depends very much upon the large support the Oval receives from London and, as a consequence the more or less raised class that is the real backbone of the game. Striking a balance on the year's working, Nottinghamshire County paid away more than £100 beyond what was received in the way of "gate" money. Now, it is not as if Notts were a struggling minor county. It is one that for years has been among the very best, and the contests between that county and Surrey are still regarded as being among the choicest matches of the season. So full of good cricketers has Notts been that many other counties have taken advantage of the overflow, and so obtained some valuable additions to their teams. One would think that in such a county it would be sufficient for the eleven to show its face to draw large crowds, but this is far from the case. Very striking is it that the sum of £571 that accrued to the club's coffers from the match with Surrey, represents nearly half the takings of the year. How very insignificant, then, must have been the average attendances at the other matches! The cricket of the county players was no worse in the matches, other than that with Surrey, so that the obvious inference is that in Nottinghamshire the love for cricket, as a game, is not an intense emotion. Turning to football we find a different state of things, thousands assembling in weather of various degrees of inclemency to witness an hour and a half's play. A traveller returned from Australia warned me against believing that cricket was the national favourite there, the love of the people being football, and such, also, seems to be the case in Nottinghamshire."

We read that the work of relaying the turf at Kennington Oval has now been practically completed. At various spots the surface has been raised fully a foot, and 3000 loads of loam were required as well as close on 50,000 turfs. The authorities now have little fear but what the pitches will be the finest in the kingdom. As may be remembered, football is not played at the Oval now, but it is thought that the veto will be reversed next winter.

EN PASSANT.

The "Review of the River Plate" hit on a very happy thought when it gave its readers a warning note to live less rapidly and sleep more, it rightly remarks that we all require more sleep here than in our own country, which is a truism no one who has experienced the exhaustion of a summer here will ever attempt to deny. It is remarkable how few people understand sleep, its uses and abuses, for over sleeping is apt to do as much harm as the want of sleep, it engenders a liver which clouds the brain which makes life miserable generally and does a heap of other things, besides being the outward and visible sign of a sluggard; want of sleep makes one useless, because the body gets into such an exhausted state and the brain wont work. The thing for each individual to know is exactly how much sleep is necessary for himself or herself, as every one is constitutionally different and requires a greater or less amount of sleep. We were all in our younger days inclined to laugh at the idea of one hour's sleep before twelve o'clock being worth two hours afterwards, but there is a hidden truth in the saying which is of great value to those in the secret, which is simple enough and means one ought to go to bed fairly fresh, at all events not in a very tired state; which is natural for anyone being over tired has lea-way to make up, and then the ordinary eight hours, which is considered a fair modicum, is not enough. Another reason why bed before twelve is good and perhaps the strongest of all is that after midnight a wonderful power of absorbing liquid generates, and pegs slip down at shorter intervals as the night wears on, these are the moments when schemes giving magnificent prospective fortunes are evolved and discussed, confidences of the most sacred kind are exchanged, tales of woe and prowess are told, steeplechases ridden, and foxes hunted; a general feeling of *bien être* pervades everything, the troubles of the day for the moment are forgotten. But the spell is only passing, for a man must go to bed some time, and be he the most sober of his kind at 2 a.m., his sleep, unless he is a teetotaler, in which case he has probably over smoked himself, must be alcoholised to a certain extent, so supposing he has eight hours to sleep, which no business man can have going to bed at two, it is not a perfectly natural sleep and therefore not calculated to do the most good in the shortest time. Anyone will see at a glance that it is not the fact of going to bed after midnight that makes sleep before that hour of double value, but that the way the time is spent after midnight is not likely to produce the best results. After this nice little moral lecture, for the benefit of those who can't sleep, I may tell you that a remedy I know to have been successful in many cases, is to eat a lightly boiled egg and drink a glass of stout, or milk, just before going to bed, I don't know that it need necessarily be an egg, anything light I should think would do, the idea is that the stomach should not be empty and the digestive organs without anything legitimate to work on. Sleep is a very powerful restorer, and while on the subject I may also tell you of a very good piece of advice given me by a doctor in the bush when I was feeling played out, just stop in your bunk, we had no beds there, for twenty-four hours, it will do you as much good as a whole chemist's shop, he said. I have often done it since and find it a most efficient remedy.

**

It must have been soothing to Hamlet to have been told to sprinkle a little cool patience on the heat of his distemper, I should think he must have felt very much like a housewife when you tell her the summer is over and still a dust storm covers everything in the house two inches deep in dust. Somebody, I can't remember who, has said that patience and resignation are the pillars of human peace on earth, this may be so, but if it be, I am afraid if rain is not sprinkled on us soon human peace stands a very good chance of being freely discounted round about here. It is not pleasing to see the garden the color of cocoon matting and know there is barely enough water in the well to provide the family with sufficient for the necessary ablutions, but it is

positively heartrending to hear the scream of one's wife as a cyclone tears her hat out by the roots and you can't see for dust which way it has gone. As a rule, we get rain about this time and have mud instead of dust, but all rules regarding the rainfall seem to have been suspended for the last three years. A religious zealot told me the other day that we are expiating the fault committed by the officers of the Rosales when their ship and their crew were lost, and that we shall not have normal weather until the officers now on trial take their places down in Davy Jones' locker. Let us hope the good fanatic is not a true prophet, as the trial, though begun and from appearances seeming likely to go against the survivors, is not likely to precipitate them into the place, where sulphur and brimstone mixed, make the place hotter than the summer we have passed through.

**

It was a stirring sight to see the arrival of Dr Alcm in Buenos Aires after his confinement in Rosario, the crowd round the Central Station was dense, and the air for several squares round redolent with the national flavour. It looks as if matters political were settling comfortably down, let us hope they are; perhaps business will improve if they do, at present it is at a very low ebb, and the shopkeepers are complaining bitterly of want of custom. Pratt, however, seems to be doing a thriving trade getting last year's clothes ready for next winter. Quite the trick of the day now is that when a man turns out in anything that looks like being new to turn up the lapel of the coat and look for the cleaner's mark.

**

The aeronaut, Storti, whom I mentioned as about to make a trip from here to Santiago in a balloon, now finds he cannot do so, as he is unable to have his balloon made suitable for the journey.

**

The "Gaulois" has discovered yet "another of those Englishmen how they are bizarre." This time it is "Sir William Draggs," who, it appears, hailed a cab at Brighton about a year ago, and told the driver to take him to the pier, off which "Sir Draggs" had his yacht.

"Sir Draggs" told the cabman to wait for him, meaning to cruise off Brighton for an hour or two; but, changing his mind, he determined to go round the world.

Cabby waited and waited for "Sir Draggs" until finally finding that his fare did not come back he obtained leave from the Municipality to erect a shelter for himself and his horse.

There cabby waited for more than a twelve-month, when the other day "Sir Draggs" returned with his yacht, and was not all surprised to find the cabman waiting for him. "How much do I owe you?" asked "Sir Draggs," and upon the cabman handing him a bill for £500, he tore a cheque out of his book, and filled it up for the amount, and told the man to drive him to his hotel.

To illustrate the extortionate character of the London cabman, the "Gaulois" adds that the man asked for his fare from the pier to the hotel.

**

£1 sterling per day is not bad to earn by grinding an organ. Seven shillings it was said in court somewhere at home was the least an Italian, who was plaintiff in a case, ever gained. He had a banking account, and took a holiday now and again to visit his relations in Naples. It would be interesting to know how much had been given to this provider of music to go away.

**

The wit of the barber at the expense of youth whose beard is still embryonic is proverbial, but the two following remarks are new to me and were played off on two who are now vigorous men in our midst. The first one, after sitting patiently under the lathering brush, nervously ventured to remark that he thought that was enough, and that he had better go on with the razor. "I don't think I shall need the razor, sir, I think it will all rub off." The other one, after receiving his baptism of lather, was kept waiting for some time. The barber came up with a resolute look on his face and said, "Now, sir, catch hard hold of the chair."

**

The reconciliation that has taken place between Prince Bismarck and his Emperor is a very diplomatic move on the part of the former, and at

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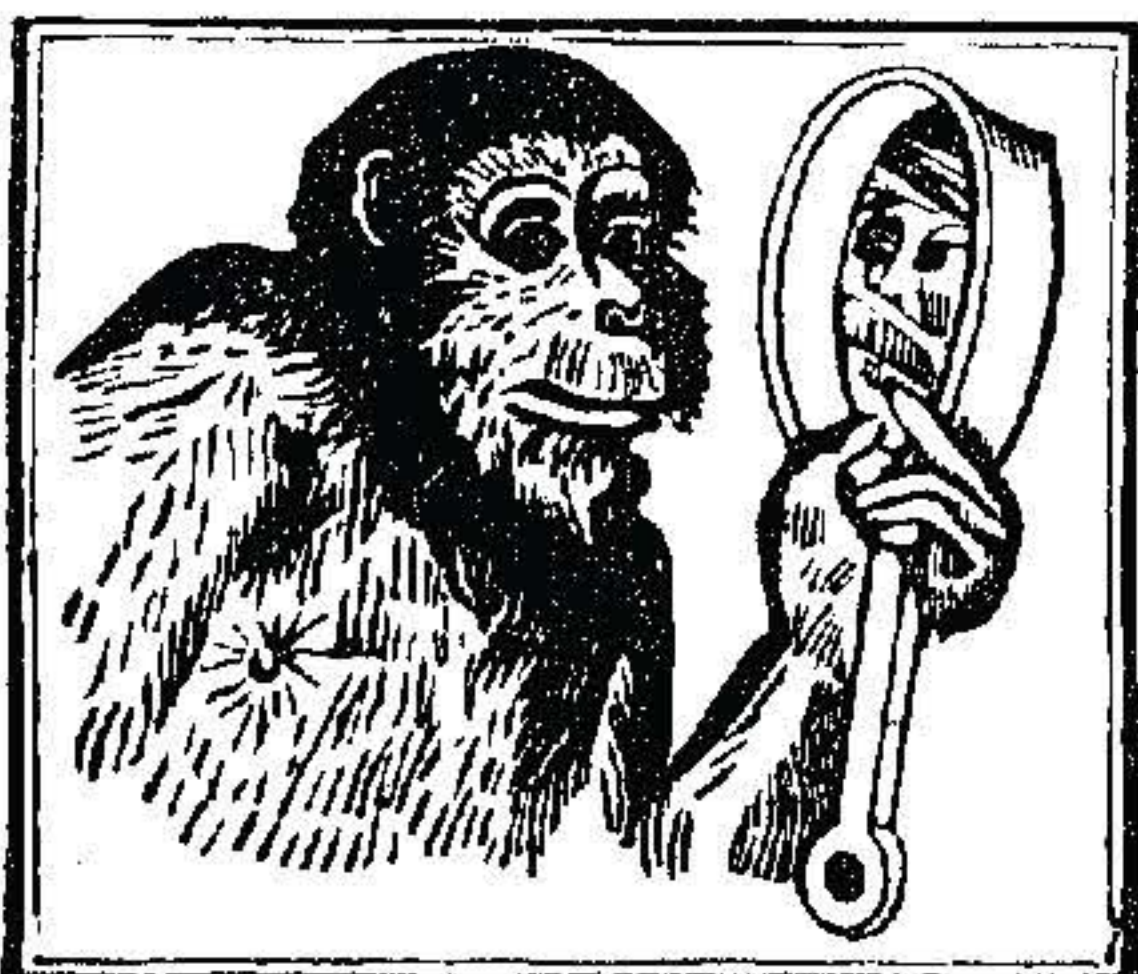
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the same time must be gratifying to the once Chancellor of Iron. He was splendidly received all along the route, from the moment he left Freidrichsruh to the time he landed in Berlin. Every time the train stopped he was greeted by a cheering crowd and presented with addresses and bouquets. Berlin was decked out with garlands and flags, as for a wedding, showing how fond the people are of the man who has done so much for Germany. Of all the known politicians Bismarck and Gladstone are the oldest living, and both will be remembered and spoken of as masters of their crafts as long as history lasts.

**

Those who believe in presentiments can find something to confirm their convictions in the fact of the explosion that has taken place outside the Houses of Parliament in Rome has fulfilled an expressed prediction of the Queen of Italy that something dreadful was going to happen in Rome. She is said to be very nervous about the state of Italy, and openly states she thinks her country is on the high road towards a republic, after passing through a revolution. Uneasy is the head that wears a crown, verily.

**

These who are interested in the doings of the late Fred. Leslie, whose real name was Frederick Hobson, can get a very good book of his memoirs called "Recollections of Fred. Leslie," written by his old friend W. T. Vincent. Now that Nellie Farren has retired the older generation, so to speak, of musical plays has ceased to exist.

**

There seems to be an epidemic amongst collectors in this city, two of those employed by the Municipality are in trouble for having omitted to account for certain serviceable sums. It is hardly to be wondered at that theft takes place by those entrusted with the handling of large sums of money, when the wages paid them is taken into consideration it is a premium on crime, and one of the worst offenders in this line is a large financial institution, which has had some rather smart lessons. Clerks, like other people, must have something to eat and somewhere to sleep, and they are expected to be decently dressed. The men who employ them know this, and they also know how much is required to do it with, but they wittingly offer about two-thirds of what is necessary; some fellows have to take it, of course they begin by getting into debt of which they have no chance of relieving themselves except by gambling, or using their employer's money. I do not wish to condone wrong-doing, but I am of opinion that the punishment reserved for the man who knowingly tempts another to sin is greater than that of him who falls.

**

Some Chilians made up a party to explore and take scientific observations in the Cordilleras. They seemed to be getting on very well until they got into the Argentine territory. After having spent three days in a place called 16 de Octubre, where there are about fifty Argentine inhabitants, a comisario and his usual myrmidons, they parted as friends, but a few days afterwards half the exploring party were arrested, and all the observations and photographic plates sequestrated. I suppose the comisario had an idea the visitors were playing with the boundaries. It is rather hard on the explorers that the crass ignorance of a stupid official should spoil all their valuable work and deprive posterity of the results of their labours.

**

By this time next week we shall have the town full of camp men in for the Championship Polo Tournament. Those who can will most likely want to put up in the new club house in Hurlingham, which is going very strong for a new place, and bids fair to give a good return for the money spent on it. The entries for the races there on the 22nd are, they tell me, the biggest on record, a great many new ponies being entered, which is very satisfactory and shows how sportsmen appreciate these meetings. Where the prize amounts to only \$50, plus a certain amount from the entries, a man must be really keen to pay heavy stable bills for the amusement of seeing his ponies carry his colours.

**

Any man wanting to know how to dress correctly need no longer look to the pictures in "Punch" for the length of his coat, or the curl of the brim of his hat. He will find it all written in

the columns of Jerome K. Jerome's paper, called "To-day," where a special page is set apart to men's clothing. Can it be as women get masculinised men are becoming more particular about their dress, or is it simply a new idea of "To-day's" to fill three or four columns by telling us a pearl pin looks well in a black tie. It is somewhat alarming to learn that the new fabrics for dress coats are to be seen, and consist of shades of different colours to the number of sixteen or more, comprising "sky" blue, dark cardinal, tobacco, and other hues to suit the fancy of the wearer. We have been living under a threat of something of this sort happening to our clothes for some years past. I suppose I shall be accused of Ultra-Toryism if I say the black coat has been worn ever since I can remember, and always seems to have fulfilled its object, and therefore I fail to see the need of a coloured coat to take its place, unless it be to give scope to the bouncer to make his presence more pronounced.

**

All the nonsense we heard about the insult to the British flag in Rio was, as we imagined, a joke played upon a credulous contemporary. It is regrettable that such hoaxes should be perpetrated, but a small amount of perspicuity mixed with common sense would cause a good many practical jokes of this nature to fall flat.

RAISING THE WIND

A COLONIAL STORY.

As we drove along towards our shooting ground, in the crisp morning air, my friend Tom Provis—who is home on leave from his bank-managership in one of our colonies—amused me by relating the following incident. Though the yarn tells somewhat against himself, he seemed thoroughly to enjoy the remembrance.

"Among my many cronies 'out there,' was one, Jack Waymark by name, a really capital fellow, and brimful of jest and amusing anecdote. He was a lawyer, and a smart one, at the same time he was always hard up. What most prejudiced me in his favour was the wonderful love of sport that pervaded every fibre of his body. Never a coursing match but Waymark was at the head and front of it, and as an organiser of shooting-parties he was 'facile princeps.' We were great friends, and though perhaps I ought not to mention the fact, my position as manager in the Omnia Vincit Banking Corporation enabled me to temper occasional gusts of the wind of impecuniosity that visited the coffers of my friend. Over-drafts are very convenient institutions, but even the claims of personal friendship (a bad blend at all times, in matter of business) reach their limits.

"There came a time when an impending crisis made it insistent that those in the control of banking transactions should be careful, and I found it imperative to order that all over-drafts be closed up, without any exception.

"The branch of the 'Omnia Vincit' that I managed, was at a newly sprung up mining camp, and our premises were but of a temporary description, corrugated iron largely appearing among the materials of their construction. Thin match-boarding being used in dividing the office from the private department.

"That very morning, as I sat in my room, I was amused by hearing Waymark expressing his disappointment on being told that 'for the present no over-drafts could be granted.' He talked suavely to the cashier, but of course that gentleman turned a deaf ear to his blandishments.

"With a remark, the import of which was regret at having 'arranged for the last one,' my friend Jack withdrew.

"The next morning, my ears were greeted by the sound of Jack's voice, in a more than usually jocund strain, asking if Mr Provis was in his room, and if so would he grant an interview—'only for a moment, I'm in a deuce of a hurry.'

"One of the clerks came to me, asking if I would see Mr Waymark.

"Of course I would. And then in came Jack, garbed, not in habiliments suited to a legal man, but in the familiar smasher and gaiters of a sportsman.

"Good morning, Provis. I've just arranged with old Viljoen for a couple of days' shooting on his farm. You can come, I hope."

"No, Jack, I replied, 'I cannot leave the shop at these critical times, so don't attempt to persuade me.'

"He then rattled on for a time about what good shooting there was on Viljoen's farm, and how difficult it was to get the old man in a consenting humour, and finally wound up by asking me to lend him my cart and horses—'just for this once.'

"It was a concession I very rarely made, but knowing they were as safe in his hands as my own, I felt it would be very disobliging to refuse.

"It struck me subsequently that his appeal 'just this once!' was made in rather louder tones than he usually spoke in, but at the time I did not heed the fact.

"Well then, I'll say good morning,' said Jack. By this time he was at the door, which he opened and passed through. Then turning, with the door half open, he said:

"Let us have no mistake about it, I may have it."

"Yes,' I replied, thinking he referred to my cart and horses, 'just this once.'

"He went away, and I went on with the work his entrance had interrupted.

"I saw no more of Waymark for nearly a week. On the next occasion that I did see him, I had to talk to him 'like a Dutch uncle,' as the saying goes. What do you think he had done?"

"When he left my room on the morning he borrowed my cart, he caught sight of the clerk smiling, and the notion entered his head that the clerk thought he had persuaded me into consenting to an over-draft. At any rate he tried it on. Presenting his cheque, he remarked:

"You heard Mr Provis say it was all right 'for this once.'

"The clerk, if it had been any one else, would have applied to me to ascertain if it was all right, but fortunately for Waymark he took too much for granted, and handed Waymark his fifty sovereigns. Jack came into some property shortly after and made all square, but he was smart. Don't you think so?"—*S. and D. News.*

ESTANCIA AND COLONY.

A correspondent to one of our contemporaries has calculated the profit made by a colonist in Santa Fé, who had a concession of land which yielded three hundred quintales of wheat at \$130. This colonist obtained \$5 the hundred kilos for his grain, or \$1500 in all. To thresh the grain cost one dollar twenty cents the quintal, or \$360 in all: peones and machines to reap and stack the corn \$100, a very low estimate; to sow and plough, \$40; the keep of his work horses and bullocks, \$60; tax on the cart, \$10; carriage of grain to station and mills, \$50; grain tax, \$30; Contribucion Directa tax, \$20; living expenses of the colonist's family of four, \$700.

**

This gives a total of \$1370 for what may be called working expenses, so that the colonist could only count on \$130 to clothe himself and his family and cover any extraordinary expenses. In this case, of course, the wheat grower spent his time and capital merely for the benefit of the threshing machine owners, his peons, and the nation, and not for his own benefit. Though no doubt there are many colonists who do remarkably well with wheat, there are still many who, through no fault of their own, can hardly keep body and soul together.

**

Shipments of produce from the port of Bahia Blanca:

		Bales		
		Wool.	Skins.	Hair.
Feb. 19—s.s. Toro, for Buenos Aires	Already advised	11,662	686	33
" 27—s.s. Vaca, for Buenos Aires		430	—	—
Mar. 6—s.s. Eskdale, for Antwerp		4,002	185	—
Total		16,094	871	33
Same time, 1893		19,547	898	12

The s.s. Eskdale also took 566 tons wheat, 6000 salted ox hides, 1194 live sheep and 58 head of cattle.

**

The Chamber of Commerce has collected the following statistics in connection with the exports of wheat, maize, and linseed from 1887 to 1893 (the amounts are in tons):

	Maize.	Wheat.	Linseed.
1887	361,844	237,866	81,200
1888	162,308	178,929	40,223
1889	432,591	22,806	28,196
1890	707,282	327,894	30,721
1891	64,909	395,555	12,213
1892	445,935	470,110	42,987
1893	85,507	1,008,137	72,199

The wheat exports for 1894 are expected to reach one and a half million tons.

**

The Rural Society of Ayacucho has received already very many applications for space at their fair, which will be held on the last two days of this month and the first of April. There is no doubt that the rural fairs held periodically in the province of Buenos Aires are yearly becoming more popular and of more value to estancieros and their clients.



An epidemic has broken out amongst the cattle and horses in the Zárate district, and is assuming alarming proportions. The Interventor has been communicated with and he will probably send a government veterinary surgeon to study the disease and report upon it.

**

Messrs Collet and Llambi obtained the following prices for the fine stock on the estancia, La Figure, the property of Señor Uribelarrea:—Three stallions of racing blood \$460, 400, and 150 each, three mares \$350, \$500 and \$180, two fillies \$190 and 150. A Suffolk stallion \$400, and a Hunter stallion \$70. Two Hereford bulls sold at \$360 and 120, two cows at \$120 and \$55, a heifer at \$55, and a calf at \$120. A Durham bull fetched \$300, a young bull \$150, the twelve cows sold at \$150 each, and six heifers at \$70. Two hundred and ninety mestizo Lincoln sheep sold at \$3.60 each, 135 mestiza cows at \$11.70, and 178 novillos at \$16.10.

**

Forty-eight three-quarter bred Durham cows sold for \$13 each, sixty-one mestizo, Cleveland, Suffolk and thoroughbred colts for \$10.50 each, forty-eight others at \$4.50, and eight others at \$10. A pair of draught mares fetched \$100, and a "manada" of mares with foals by a thoroughbred horse, in all twenty-four mares and fifteen colts, sold at \$12 each. Altogether prices were very small, though considering the class and condition of the animals perhaps no lower than could have been expected.

**

From Pergamino, where the drought has perhaps done as much damage as it has in any part of the Republic, comes the welcome news that the late rains which have fallen there with great regularity have quite saved the situation. The camps are now covered with grass, and the live stock on them are recovering fast. In one week nearly ninety millimetres of water have fallen in the district.

**

On next Sunday, the 18th, Sr F. Semllosa, at El Venado, Chascomus, will sell some valuable stock, including ten Rambouillet rams, ten pure-bred Lincoln rams, forty mestizo rams, a hundred pure Lincoln ewes, two hundred pure ewes by cross, two hundred and fifty mestiza ewes, and a flock served by pure rams. Six Durham bulls registered in the Argentine Herd Book, nine bulls pure by cross, twenty-five heifers and twenty cows, and three hundred cows which give novillos of from \$70 to \$100 value; twenty Durham cows with calves, a pair of donkeys, nine seven-eighths bred Clydesdale stallions, and some forty other stallions, and young mares.

**

The manager of the Rural Tramway, Sr. Lacroze, has informed the Government that his line between Harly and Carmen de Areco is ready for public service. The station only requires to be built, its construction having been delayed by the exorbitant demands of the proprietors of its proposed site. The amount of produce now carried into Buenos Aires by this Rural Tramway is very considerable and much larger than is generally supposed.

**

A correspondent writes from Armstrong under date March 11th:—

"Messrs. C. Hay, of North Santa Fé polo fame, and Foster have taken over Monte Cristo from Mr Edward Wasey on a six years lease, with the obligation to leave the whole at the expiry of their term in alfalfa. The rent to be paid is, taking everything into consideration, a fair one all round. The advent of these two sportsmen with that of Mr L. Bury, from Las Limpias, who is to join them, will be a great acquisition to Cañada de Gomez polo, which just now wants a fillip, as they will play whenever possible for that club, and probably in all matches. It would perhaps be wise to add that I have Mr Hay's authority for this statement, and his permission to send it to you for publication.

"If Armstrong is ever to be relieved of wheat, more wagons must speedily arrive. I vouch now that growers will be speculating on their next crop before this yard is empty. In front of the galpon, what was a continuation of large stacks is now a mammoth one of at least 300 feet by 35 by 25, and there are many others great and small. Messrs. Bantle's galpon contains 70,000 bags, that of the Company 60,000; then there is the galpon of the Molino Carcaraña, and wheat on wagons. There must be at least 300,000 bags stored thus alone. The greater part of this is in the hands of Messrs. Otto, Bantle and Co., but Don Santiago Basso and Don Guillermo Heiland hold a lot.

"The weather is windy, dusty and uncomfortable, but the rain holds off. The rain storm which visited Rosario recently did not touch this; except for a passing shower we knew nothing of it."

**

The cow-catcher which clears obstructions from the front of railway engines and steam tram cars has been improved upon by a new device, which has been tried on the electric and cable street cars in Brooklyn. It is called a life-guard and safety fender. This man-catcher consists of a wire netting on an iron frame which hangs in front of the car, within a couple of inches of the rails. When a pedestrian is struck he is thrown backward into the wire netting and carried safely along. To lessen the shock the front of the netting frame has a heavy indiarubber pneumatic cushion strung on spiral

springs. In the experiments made it was shown that persons could be picked up by the cars while going at full speed, without their having experienced anything worse than a sensation of being violently thrown from their feet.

**

The foreign trade of the Province of Entre Rios during the past year, amounted to 5¼ million dollars gold. The imports and exports were as follow:

Port	Imports	Exports
Colon	\$79,992	\$968,948
Concordia	235,586	1,992,974
Gualedguaychú	46,575	922,267
La Paz	10,692	200,683
Paraná	302,976	264,441
Total	\$675,731	\$4,349,313

**

Milking cows by machinery, there is every reason to believe, will in large dairies become as common as the cutting of corn and grass is on large farms. During the last few years two or three inventions have been brought into practice, with results so profitable in the saving of labour as to encourage mechanicians to further efforts towards perfection.

**

Sr. Bernardo de Irigoyen, of the Cabaña San Fermin, sold some rams last week at Messrs Bullrich's at the following prices:—One ram to Sr. Fermin Ortiz at \$140, one to Sr. M. Garcia at \$150, another to Sr. F. Ortiz at \$150, one to Sr. Ibarat at \$140, and another at \$170, one to Sr. F. Ortiz at \$180, one to Sr. F. Garcia at \$180, one to Sr. Ibarat at \$140, one to Sr. F. Ortiz at \$135, one to Sr. Ibarat at \$150, another at \$150, and another at \$150.

**

The sale of 1000 hectares of land near Puan at \$20 per hectare, which comes out at \$54,000 per league, is reported, Messrs Mackinlay Bros. being the brokers. This land is a portion of the estancia put up for auction a couple of months ago at a basis of \$16 per hectare and not sold. The best portion of the land, which adjoins the Curumalan fence, is not sold, and the proprietor asks a higher price, for wheat lands there are none better in the province: Sr José Jordá was the buyer.

**

It is calculated that in the present year the tobacco plantations in the Province of Tucuman will occupy about 4600 hectares, with an average of 14,000 plants to each hectare, making a total of over 64 million plants. The crop from each hectare will be about 1500 kilos, equivalent to a total crop of 6,900,000 kilos, deducting from this amount 30% for loss by rain, hail, wind, etc., the crop should yield close upon 4,830,000 kilos of tobacco.

**

Mails from Chile have brought full particulars of a great fire in the woods near Punta Arenas: the flames reached the farms of the Swiss and Chiloe colonies, also two large saw mills belonging to Juan Bitsch and the Brothers Davet. The loss to the colonists was so severe that the Chilean Minister has asked for full details in order to cover their losses. The whole town, with the police and troops turned out to combat the fire which held for several days, four men were burnt to death and all the woods destroyed.

**

The Departamento Ejecutivo of the Partido of Lincoln has ordered the sale of a hundred and four chacras, the property of the Municipality of Lincoln, for Sunday, the 1st of April. The conditions of sale are the same as those issued by the Intendencia Municipal of Lincoln on the 15th of January, 1892.

**

From all parts, from Santa Fé especially, come complaints of the scarcity of wagons for the carriage of wheat which thereby makes the fulfilment of many contracts an impossibility. No doubt the enormous yearly increase in the wheat crops has been more than the railway companies, who have not increased the amount of their rolling stock proportionately, have been able to cope with, and colonists and buyers have to suffer in consequence.

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POLO PONIES.—Just arrived from the South, a special lot of good ponies. Inspection invited, at Quilmes.

The Swiss Consul in Rosario, M. Chiesa, has just been the means of publishing a work on Santa Fé, which has the object of making known in Europe the importance and progress of the Swiss colonies in Santa Fé.

**

The "Review" states in its last issue that it has heard on the best authority that Mr Kemmis' cattle, which were supposed to have been lost in transit between Las Rosas and La Plata port, were safe on board the steamer several hours previous to the time that the owner stated that he had lost all trace of them. We hope that the rumour will be found to be correct, though it seems strange that the Buenos Aires agent could have had no knowledge of the shipment of the animals.

**

As a sample of prices obtained for very thin animals in some parts of this province we may quote those paid the other day for some stock on the San José estancia, Loberia: 500 cows, \$4 each; 500 novillos, \$13 each; 1700 sheep, \$1.95 each, 1700 others at \$1.90 each, and a third lot of 1700 at \$2.50 each; 1000 wethers, \$2.90. The total sale of the 7,200 animals only realised \$21,270, or a little under three dollars each all round.

**

The growth of the wool business in the United States during four years may be judged from the following figures:

	No. of Runs	Capital Invested	Production
1860	2,106	39,556	76,146
1870	3,456	132,452	247,948
1880	2,689	159,091	267,252
1890	2,480	286,494	337,768

**

On the first three days of this week a rural fair was held at Rauch in a spacious building erected for the purpose. Sheep, cattle, horses and implements were on show and for sale.

**

The engineers and Manager of the Southern Railway left on Saturday last for Lobos with the object of approving the plans for the branch line about to be constructed to 25 de Mayo. In order to satisfy the demands of one of the proprietors of the camps over which the line was first intended to cross, it has now been planned to form a curve which will reach within a league and a half of Navarro.

**

Merced, by this, will be benefitted, and Navarro will have at a short distance the railway communication it has, by its undoubted importance, deserved for so many years. The inhabitants of both 25 de Mayo and Navarro are to be congratulated on the making of this line and on their finding themselves well placed on the network of railways which is gradually becoming closer all over the country.

**

Business in produce during the past week has been almost at a standstill, and there is little to report from the markets. Wheat is fetching from \$6.30 to \$6.65 and \$6.70 according to quality. In the Central Market on Saturday a lot of 42,000 bags was sold at \$6.50. On board, in Rosario, \$6 is offered. Yellow maize is selling at from \$6.80 to \$6.90 in the markets, and white maize from \$7 to \$7.10. Flour fetches from \$1 to \$1.30. Linseed is little sought after, superior classes sell at \$1.30 to \$1.32 the ten kilos.

**

The stock on El Refango, Mr J. W. Nash's estancia in Santa Fé, is in the market for private sale, Messrs Bullrich and Co., having the matter in hand, will sell either in small or big lots to suit the purchaser. As Mr Nash, who has of late been far from well, intends leaving for England we hear that he will either sell or let his camp.

**

Frost has already visited some parts of the country, and we hear from Juarez that the glass has fallen below freezing point several times during the past few days. We are afraid that the coming winter will be a hard one for most of our live stock, which are not in condition after the long drought to stand severe weather

**

At Spalding Corn Exchange, England, last month fine quality wheat was sold at 25s per quarter, and medium 24s and 24 6d. Farmers and merchants stated that such low prices had never been known at home in the present century. There was a large show, and the samples were of splendid quality.

**

A deputation, introduced by the president of the Master Tanners' Association, representing the tanners, harness-makers, saddlers, and boot manufacturers, recently waited upon the Under-Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, New South Wales, to urge upon him the desirability of altering the existing Branding Act. It was stated that, under the present system, hides are considerably reduced in value owing to the immense amount of branding, the total loss representing £200,000

per annum. No other country brands to such an extent. In America and England only one letter is used, and that on the least valuable portion of the hide, such as the shoulder or the head. The same practice, it was urged, should be followed there, especially as the runs were now fenced, and there was no cattle duffing. Therefore, there was no need for large brands and many letters. It was pointed out that the colony should request the co-operation of Queensland, as 60 per cent. of the cattle sold at Homebush came from there. The Under-Secretary for Mines, in reply, said that it would be of very little use to introduce legislation unless the concurrence of the other colonies could be obtained, because 60 per cent. of the hides came from Queensland. He would place the facts before the Minister, and see if a conference could not be arranged between some of the officers of the Stock Departments in other colonies, and the officers of this department for some uniform legislation to reduce the evil.

WHALE AND CALF.

An old whaler says that he once saw a whale calf killed, and has no desire to repeat the experience. It was off the coast of Lower California. A whale had been killed, and the boats were towing it towards the ship, when the men caught sight of a large cow whale with her calf, at the windward. The fourth officer cast off from the tow and went in pursuit. The boat soon came up with the whale, but when the harpooner was just ready to strike, she became alarmed, and taking her calf between her fins, started with the speed of a race-horse in the direction of the dead whale.

As she neared it she slackened speed, and the calf swam in her wake. Presently the young one seemed to get bewildered, rushing from one whale to the other, and soon it broke water right beside the second mate's boat.

All hands had been cautioned on no account to injure it, as such a proceeding would make the mother furious; but an Indian, seeing the creature so near, could not withstand the temptation. He seized a lance, and the next minute the calf's life-blood spurted all over the boat. A few minutes more, and the youngster rolled over and died.

The officer was still chiding the Indian, when the mother whale was seen approaching her offspring. Slower and slower she swam. Then she lay still, while quiver after quiver was seen running through her body. In vain she tried to make the little one suckle. At last, in her despair, she placed her flukes under it and tossed it into the air. It sank and was seen no more.

All this time the men had sat motionless, watching the affecting scene. Now they begin to pull. It was too late. After shooting out of the water for her full length, and falling back again with a tremendous splash, the mother made straight for the second mate's boat. The officer shouted to his men to jump for their lives. They obeyed, but the mate and the Indian stood at their posts.

The next instant the whale leaped out of the water, and threw herself straight across the boat. It was shivered into pieces, and the two men were instantly killed.

By this time the crews of the other boats were leaping into the sea, in spite of the officers' commands. When the enraged creature broke water again, however, a lance thrown by the bomb-gun transfixed her.

As she swam round and round in her death flurry, she tried in vain to reach the dead whale. Then she rolled fin upward, and lay still. The men clambered into the boats again, and no doubt all felt that one such spectacle was enough for a lifetime.

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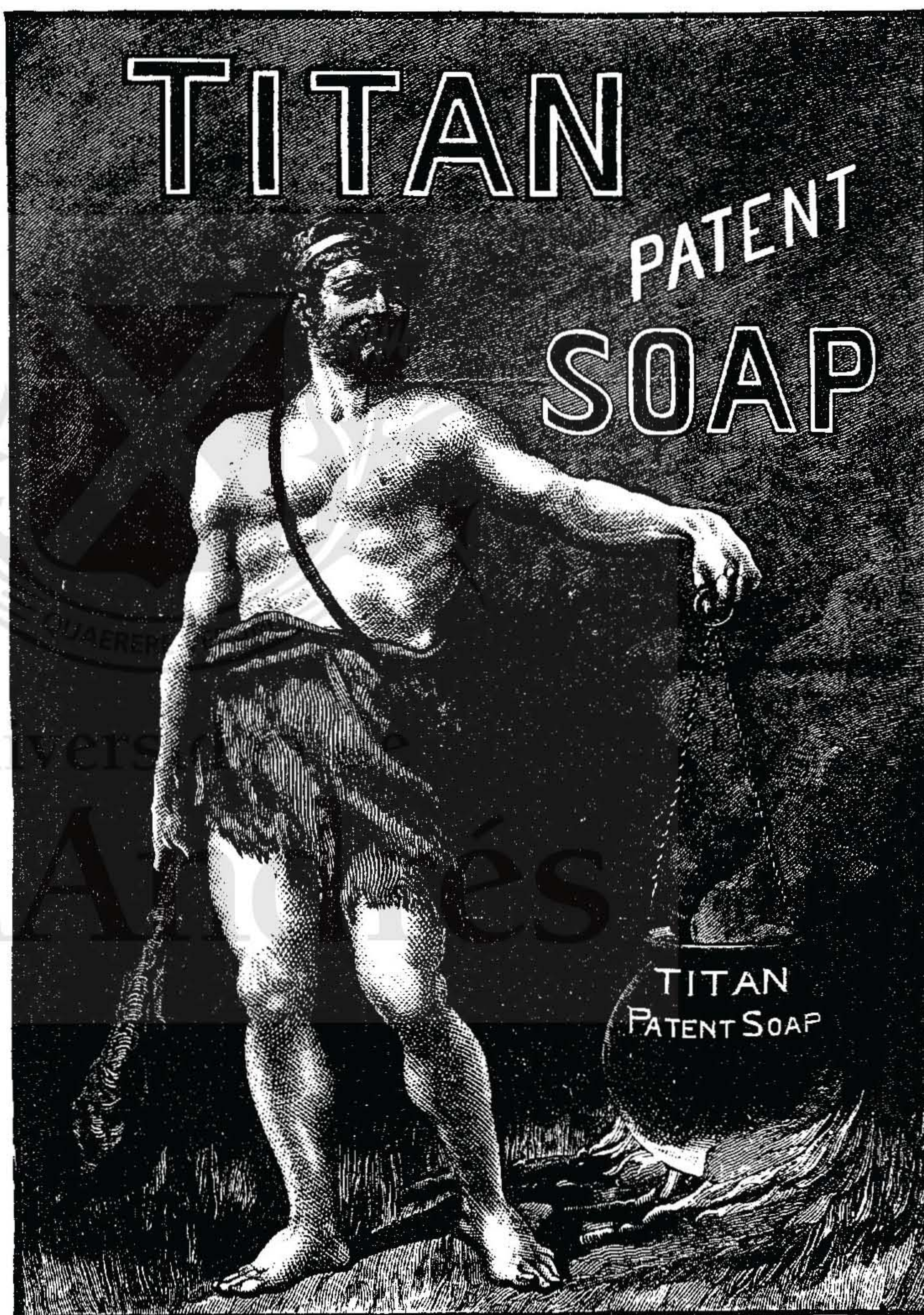
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The writer's name and address are required with all letters but not for publication, unless desired. Letters and enquiries from anonymous correspondents will not receive attention.

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River Plate Sport and Pastime

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1894.

SPORTING NOTES

The Handicapping Committee of the Hipodromo Nacional Club for the season 1894 have been elected as follows:—Messrs Charles Tomkinson, H. Cibils, S. Allerie, R. Paz, E. Fairna, and E. Garcia.

**

The Committee of the Hipodromo Nacional Club have decided to admit into their club until the end of April, and without payment of entrance fee, those members of the Jockey Club who may apply for admittance in writing.

**

The high wind at the Tigre on the 11th to a great extent spoilt the regattas there, though the crowds present were spared the horrible dust that blinded and choked those who chose cricket, polo, and racing as their amusement for the day. The wind hindered the rowing considerably.

**

The entries for the Championship Polo Tournament at Hurlingham have closed with ten entries, the same number as obtained for the last tournament at Cañada de Gomez, though then only nine teams competed. The draw will be made to-day at Piedad 559, at 12 o'clock, when anyone interested is invited to attend.

**

All who saw and heard of North Santa Fé's brilliant play at Cañada de Gomez last October will regret to find the names of this team absent from the list of entries, especially as I hear that the team which played so well on that occasion is likely to be broken up.

**

Sixto Martinez, too, the Petacas "back," and perhaps the best of the now historical team, has strained his right wrist, and may have to be substituted by another in the tournament. It is to be hoped that Sixto will be able to take his usual place, as I fancy the Petacas men have the best chance of winning the cup at Hurlingham that they have yet had.

**

By the way the Championship Cup won by Hurlingham last year has been on view for the

last few days at Messrs Black and Co's in Calle Cuyo. The cup is of a very pretty design and is nicely engraved, inscribed, and has a very neat design of a mounted polo player on the top of the lid.

**

Mr C. J. Tetley's numerous friends were glad to see him back again in Buenos Aires by the Nile, but we are all sorry that pressure of business will prevent him from bringing a polo team down for the tournament next week.

**

The entries and weights for the Hurlingham meeting on Thursday the 22nd, will be found in another column. They are the best entries the club has obtained for a meeting during the past two years or more, and I think I am right in saying that, as regards numbers, they have only been passed on one occasion.

**

With so many new ponies running and carrying weight for inches, it is impossible to hazard an opinion as to the probable winners. The Association Cup is, of course, the most interesting race on the card, and the one most worth winning. Daiman, I expect, will not have so easy a task to win as he had last year, if reports be true regarding the ponies coming from camp.

**

The first polo match of the season on Sunday last at Belgrano was played under conditions which made it unfair to criticise the play too closely. It was, however, apparent that the summer's rest has not improved some of the old hands, and we doubt whether the practice they will get between now and the tournament will bring them back to old form again.

**

The alterations in the Rules of the Amateur Athletic Association of the River Plate are published elsewhere. The alterations and additions have been made by a sub-committee elected for the purpose and will be finally approved by a general meeting to be held on Monday the 26th. Should anyone have any suggestion to make regarding these rules they would do well to send them in before the meeting takes place.

**

That trotting has never become popular here has often surprised me, though as a sport I think it comes a very long way behind flat racing and still further behind steeplechasing. Messrs Bullrich advertise the sale of two of the remaining trotters imported here when trotting races always had their place on the programme at Palermo. These horses are from the Ecurie Sans Souci, and are Prince Wilkes, by Red Wilkes—Rose Chief, and Caprichosa, by Prince.

**

The big race of the day next Sunday at Palermo is the Premio Ensayo, for which mares are excluded. The race is over twelve hundred metres, weight for age, and is worth \$3500 to the first, \$500 to the second, the third saving his stake. The Penalties for the Premio Ensayo are the same as those in the Premio Criadores, in fact last Sunday's race and the Premio Criadores are precisely the same, only one is for mares and the other for horses or geldings.

**

At the general meeting of the Jockey Club, held on Saturday last, the following gentlemen were elected on the directing committee of the club: D. Miguel Cané (73 votes), D. Carlos Estrada (72), D. Francisco Beazley (72), D. Santiago Luro (71), Sr Salvador Mesquita (71), Sr Ricardo Lanus (71), Sr Horacio Varela (71), Sr Bernardino Acosta (70), Sr Alberto Casares (70), Sr Santiago Duhalde (70), Sr Ramon Biais (64), D. Pedro Bénédit (62), D. Benito Villanueva (61), Sr Ignacio Correas, junr. (57), and Sr A. Mendez Casariego (50).

**

At a meeting of the Committee of the Kennel Club last week it was decided to hold the annual general meeting of the members of the club on Thursday, the 15th, at half-past four, at the offices of the club, Piedad 559, when it is hoped a large number of members will turn up. The principal business to be done is to receive the report for last year, and to elect members for the vacant places on the committee.

The past year's working of the club is very satisfactory. A great many purchases had to be made for their first show, which will not be necessary in future; yet, with these and the initial expenses necessary for starting the club, a balance on the right side can be shown. An early date for holding the next show will be arranged at the meeting.

**

Fewer clubs have joined the Association League this year than I thought would be the case, and unless the Quilmes Club and Rosario A. C. enter the competition the number of clubs competing for the cup will not be over six. The idea of subscribing for a challenge cup is a good one, and already the scheme has met with enough support to ensure the purchase of a valuable piece of plate.

**

The fixtures for the League competition will not be finally arranged till the meeting on the 21st, as on Thursday last there were yet the two clubs I have just mentioned undecided whether they would join the League or not. As will be seen, a new match has been arranged which should prove interesting, and several alterations and additions have been made to the rules and by-laws.

**

I hear of cricket so far north as Asuncion in Paraguay, where the New Australians have challenged, or have been challenged by, the representatives of Asuncion. The difficulty is, however, that the game cannot be played till the arrival of the necessary implements from Buenos Aires, where they have been ordered.

Boots.

CRICKET

CRICKET FIXTURES.

MARCH

Sun. 18—London Bank v. Rosario Ry., at Palermo.
Sun. 18—Lomas v. Flores, at Flores.
Thurs. 22 (Holy Week)—B. A. C. C. v. Montevideo, at Montevideo.
Fri. 23, Sat. 24 (Holy Week)—Rosario v. Lomas, at Rosario
Sun. 25—Flores v. Lanus, at Lanus.

APRIL

Sun. 1—Flores v. Hurlingham, at Hurlingham.
Sun. 1—London Bank v. Lanus, at Palermo.
Sun. 8—Rosario Ry. v. Lomas, at Belgrano.

MONTEVIDEO CRICKET CLUB—FIXTURES

Sunday, March 18—Eleven v. Twenty-two.
Sunday, April 1—North (U. K.) v. South (U. K.)
Sunday, April 15—Secretary's v. Captain's Team.

HURLINGHAM C. v. QUILMES C.

This match was played at Quilmes on Sunday the 11th, in weather which made playing cricket a very doubtful pleasure.

The wicket at Quilmes is a cocoanut one, and the matting on the 11th had a patch across its middle which made the ball, at times, jump in a most extraordinary manner. We may also mention that no match ball was supplied, but an old one-seamed practice ball was used so that altogether the game took place under anything but agreeable circumstances.

Mr H. Anderson was very successful with the ball and captured six Hurlingham wickets for only ten runs, Mr L. J. Hutton being the only batsman to score more than five. The whole side were eventually out for 31 runs.

Quilmes were fortunate in having several catches dropped by their opponents. They scored a total of 67 runs and so won the match with 36 runs to spare. Lacey secured four wickets for 20 runs. The scores were as follow:

Hurlingham	1st inn	Quilmes	1st inn
A. Anderson, c Bailey,		H. Anderson, c Cald-	
b H. Anderson.....	0	well, b W. Moscrop .	8
E. L. Rumboll, c Dore,		H. B. Dolphin, c Ander-	
b H. Anderson.....	1	son, b W. Moscrop .	1
K. Moscrop, c Dolphin,		F. C. Rooke, b Lacey .	7
b H. Anderson.....	5	W. D. Bailey, b Lacey .	0
W. Moscrop, b J. Ben-		F. Dore, c and b Rum-	
nett.....	0	boll.....	4
L. J. Hutton, b H. An-		F. Bennett, c Caldwell, b	
derson.....	10	Lacey.....	8
Lacey (pro), b H. An-		J. Bennett, b Lacey .	0
derson.....	2	H. T. Howson, st Lacey,	
M. G. Fortune, run out.		b Fortune.....	7
D. Gibson, b H. Ander-		F. W. Fothergill, c W.	
son.....	0	Moscrop, b K. Moscrop	15
C. O'Ryan, not out....	4	F. Bocquet, not out....	5
M. Caldwell, b J. Ben-		E. O. Morgan, b For-	
nett.....	0	tune.....	0
Pembroke Jones, c How-			
son, b J. Bennett....	0		
Extras.....	8	Extras.....	12
Total....	31	Total....	67

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Hurlingham		Quilmes C.	
O	M	R	W
H. Anderson	10	6	10
J. Bennett	9.1	4	15
E. L. Rumboll	3	—	13
Lacey	9	2	20
K. Moscrop	2	—	7
M. G. Fortune	4	—	1
W. Moscrop	5	—	13

BUENOS AIRES C. C. v. B. A. & R. RY. A. C.

A cricket match was played at Palermo on Sunday, March 11th, between the B. A. C. C. and the B. A. and Rosario Railway A. C. which resulted, as will be seen from the scores, in a win for the B. A. C. C. by 25 runs. Buenos Aires won the toss, and Garrod and Dillon put on 82 before Dillon was caught in the slips by Brown for 15, Garrod having done most of the scoring. With the score at 88 Garrod was mostly caught at the wicket by Darch, after having scored the large majority of 71 out of a total of 88 (including two 6's and nine 4's). He gave a hard chance in the out field, when he had only scored eight, and also should have been caught in the slips, but otherwise his innings was a fine display of clean hard hitting. Knox was the only other man to get into double figures, and the innings closed for a total of 124. The Railway fielded well all through, and great credit is due to Mr Darch for his wicket keeping, not one extra being scored during the innings. Mr Lucas bowled well, getting five wickets for 19 runs. Rosario Railway were all out for 99. Messrs. Bardrick and Rudd showed good form for 33 and 18 respectively. E. R. Gifford and Garrod were most successful with the ball, the former getting five wickets for 30, and the latter four for 27 runs. The scores were as follow:—

B. A. C. C.		1st Inn		B. A. & R. Ry. A. C.		1st Inn	
J. R. Garrod, c Darch, b Brown	71	J. D. Shepard, c Dillon, b Knox	5	B. J. Dillon, c Brown, b Lucas	15	R. W. Rudd, c Garrod, b E. R. Gifford	18
E. R. Gifford, c Bardrick, b Brown	4	F. Bardrick, b J. R. Garrod	33	A. Lucas, c Darch, b Lucas	5	B. B. Syer, b E. R. Gifford	4
P. L. Bridger, b Lucas	6	G. W. Pettinger, b J. R. Garrod	0	J. H. Levy, run out	4	W. Brown, c Bridger, b J. R. Garrod	16
H. Webster, c Bardrick, b Lucas	0	L. Justican, b Garrod	0	T. V. Knox, b Brown	11	J. T. Darch, c Dillon, b E. R. Gifford	1
A. M. Barton, not out	2	A. Lucas, not out	13	A. R. Thompson, b Lucas	0	A. Nicholson, b Gifford	0
Extras	0	M. Fitzgerald, b Gifford	0	Extras	0	Extras	9
Total	124	Total	99				

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Buenos Aires C. C.		Buenos Aires and Rosario Railway	
O	M	R	W
W. Brown	14	2	38
R. W. Rudd	11	2	33
L. Justican	3	—	17
A. Nicholson	3	—	17
H. Lucas	8.1	1	19
J. D. Gifford	4	1	10
T. V. Knox	4	—	13
P. L. Bridger	4	1	10
E. R. Gifford	14.3	7	30
J. R. Garrod	12	2	27

FOOTBALL

ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

A meeting of the Argentine Association Football League was held on Thursday evening at the English High School, Mr Hutton in the chair.

Various additions and alterations were made to the present bye-laws, and it was decided at the meeting to provide a Challenge Cup for 1894, and subsequent seasons, the subscription list for which was opened at once.

A new match was put on the fixture cards for the 1894 season, viz., Anglo-Portefios v. British, and the Montevideo v. the League match was fixed for July 9th, to be played in Buenos Aires.

† Scotland and Ireland v. England and Wales is to be played one Sunday in May, the 27th if possible.

The fixtures for each club are to be settled at the next meeting.

The following clubs have joined for next season: Lomas A.C., Flores A.C., B. A. and R. Rly. A.C., Lobos A.C., St Andrew's F.C., and Retiro A.C.

The Quilmes Club have not yet decided whether they will join the League, and Rosario will decide at once.

The English High School A.C. have resigned their position in the League.

The first meeting of the 1894 representatives will be held on Wednesday, the 21st inst., at the English High School, at 8.15 p.m., and representatives are specially requested to turn up punctually, as the following business has to be got through: The Report of 1893, Election of Office-bearers for 1894, Fixtures for 1894, and Additions and Alterations to the present Laws where necessary.

VALPARAISO

From what the "Chilian Times" can hear the Valparaiso Football Club intends to make the coming season a busy one. It has had a considerable increase of membership and everything promises well, and our contemporary feels sure that the great English winter game will at last be on a good footing there. The Fixture List is not yet completed.

It is the intention of the club to inaugurate the season with a big Invitation Smoking Concert. The 1st Company of Bomberos have generously placed their fine hall in Plaza Independencia at the club's disposal, and as many well-known musical amateurs have volunteered their services, it only needs a good audience to ensure a signal success. The date fixed is Tuesday, March 20.

POLO.

HURLINGHAM v. BELGRANO.

The first polo match of the season was played at Belgrano on the 11th, in a dust storm. The hard, dry ground produced quite enough dust without the storm, so the two combined made it impossible to watch the ball, and to see, except at intervals, what was going on.

Each club put two teams on the field, more or less the teams they have entered for the approaching tournament. With both matches to be played on the same afternoon, an early start had to be made, so at two o'clock the following sides formed up:—

Belgrano.	Hurlingham.
1. J. McMorrán	1. F. Clunie
2. T. Hubbard	2. H. Wright Poore
3. C. R. Thursby	3. G. Anderson
T. E. Preston (back)	E. Robson (back)

Hurlingham from the first had matters nearly all their own day, and scoring three goals in each of the first two periods, and two in each of the last, eventually won by ten goals to nothing.

Although the numbers we give above were the places assigned the Belgrano team, to an onlooker the players did not at all agree with them. Preston certainly played back, but McMorrán was seldom in his place forward, and Thursby was more often playing No. 1 than No. 3. However, after the team have had a few practice games together, they will doubtless shake down better into their places.

It was difficult to always note who scored the goals, but we saw Robson have a hand in quite half the number scored by his side. He was playing at times too far forward, but was hitting brilliantly all through the match. Allowing for the weather, the Hurlingham team played well, and were better, both individually and as a combination than their opponents.

For the following account of the next match we are indebted to an onlooker. We had written a description of it ourselves, but did not criticise the play quite so severely. The "sating," however, is well merited, so we have torn ours up and publish the following.

The teams were:—	
Hurlingham.	Belgrano.
1. E. J. Balfour	1. R. W. Anderson
2. J. Ravenscroft	2. F. M. Still
3. F. Furber	3. E. Richards
H. S. Robson (back)	M. de C. Findlay (back)

This match was played on the Belgrano ground, after the second teams had finished their game. As it was the first match of the season, this may account for the play being more individual than it ought to have been on the Belgrano side, and also for a number of green ponies in the Hurlingham string. The match ended in Hurlingham's favour by seven goals to four, and it ought to have been more, had Balfour, who was otherwise playing well, shot at all straight at goal. Robson at back was not in his best form by any means, but Furber shows more improvement since last season than any of the Hurlingham team. Ravenscroft was trying new ponies, and did not seem pleased with some of them, to judge by his play.

For Belgrano Findlay has come on wonderfully; he is very sure on the ball, and has secured one or two ponies which carry him well. Still, if he would keep his place, would be a useful man, but we must enter a mild protest against so dangerous a pony as Rojas. Richards put in some very useful work for his side, and a small white pony he was riding seemed very handy and fast for his size. R. W. Anderson was good individually, but polo is not a one man's game. In fact, the whole of the Belgrano team, except Findlay, have to take this to heart if they wish to get near the championship cup. They have splendid material to work with, and with practice ought to make an excellent team. But now to the game itself.

In the first quarter, almost as soon as the ball was thrown in, Hurlingham got a goal with the wind in their favour; for some time after this Belgrano pressed them. Still being very much in evidence with Anderson playing a good second to him. From a free hit given for an off-side Robson sent the ball to Balfour, who put it through, and so made the score two goals for Hurlingham. Belgrano now looked, when playing with the wind, to have the best of it several times but did not score, so the quarter ended: Hurlingham two goals, Belgrano none.

In the second quarter Ravenscroft came out on a new gray, which ought to make a good pony, but wants playing a bit before his owner can do himself justice on him. Balfour, Furber and Ravenscroft each hit a goal for Hurlingham. In the meantime, after some sticky play, Anderson scored one for his side, and so made the

score at the beginning of the third quarter: Hurlingham five goals, Belgrano one.

Play now became loose, Balfour missing more than one chance of scoring by erratic shooting. Belgrano had a chance of scoring when Robson missed the ball in front of goal, but they did not take the chance and Furber saved the point.

In the fourth quarter Belgrano played up well. Findlay got the ball cleverly down the ground, and placed it for Still to put through, after which Still had a good run on his own account and scored again. Findlay, by a pretty piece of dribbling, added another point, so the game finished as already stated: Hurlingham seven goals, Belgrano four.

A worse day on which to play polo or any other game can hardly be conceived. A gale of wind was blowing right down the ground, and the dust was something too dreadful to describe. It is to be hoped we shall have some rain before the tournament on the 22nd, as otherwise the Hurlingham ground will be very dusty.

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT AT HURLINGHAM

The entries for the Polo Championship Tournament at Hurlingham closed on Saturday last with a total of ten teams. The following are the entries:

- Quilmes Club—J. Bennett (1), F. J. Bennett (2), C. Hope (3), T. Murray (back).
- Quilmes Club—F. Houlder (1), J. Lean, junr. (2), A. M. Hudson (3), W. D. Bailey (back).
- Belgrano Polo Club—J. L. McMorrán (1), T. Hubbard (2), C. R. Thursby (3), T. E. Preston (back).
- Belgrano Polo Club—R. Anderson (1), F. M. Still (2), E. Richards (3), M. de C. Findlay (back).
- Hurlingham Club—F. J. Balfour (1), J. Ravenscroft (2), F. Furber (3), H. S. Robson (back).
- Hurlingham Club—F. W. Clunie (1), M. Finlayson (2), G. Anderson (3), E. Robson (back).
- Santa Fé Polo Club—C. B. Wilson (1), M. Wish (2), M. Fea (3), A. J. Dickinson (back).
- Las Petacas—F. Benitez (1), F. Kinchant (2), J. Martinez (3), S. Martinez (back).
- The Casuals—Newman Smith (1), F. Robinson (2), P. Talbot (3), Follett Holt (back).
- Venado Tuerto—G. Peers (1), H. E. R. Bedford (2), E. R. Dormer (3), C. F. T. Hinchliffe (back).

The draw will take place to-day at Piedad 559, at 12 o'clock.

TIGRE REGATTA.

The Autumn Regatta, or rather aquatic festival of the United Boat Clubs took place under the auspices of the Union de Regatas on Sunday last, 11th inst. The meeting was favored with beautiful weather up till 3.30 p.m. when the wind rose, and although the rain kindly held off till the conclusion of the sports, the more timorous of the spectators left for home at an early hour.

At about 2 p.m. the Lujan presented a most lively aspect, as every species of craft had been requisitioned to transport the large concourse of spectators, and the "Salon de Fiestas" of the Tigre Hotel, and the bank facing the river was reserved by the Union de Regatas for the accomodation, at \$1 m/n per head, of such as preferred not to trust themselves to the treacherous waters of the old Lujan.

The large majority of those present were of the fair sex, whose presence rendered the pretty scene yet more brilliant and no doubt lent an additional strength to the strong arms of the competitors.

The races were well disputed throughout, and close finishes the order of the day, the intervals between the various events affording the spectators time to look about them and visit their friends. Much interest and not a little merriment was afforded by the perilous balancing feats of a well-known member of the Buenos Aires Rowing Club, who standing up barefoot in his sailing canoe, tacked backwards and forwards across the river at the imminent risk of going over the whole time, speculation being rife as to whether he would get home dry or not.

The arrangements for the races were well carried out, and show an improvement on former years, and the Union de Regatas is be congratulated on the efficiency of the management of the meeting.

I would, however, suggest to the committee that a band of music to play between the races would be an additional attraction, and also propose to them that some arrangement be made with the Hotel authorities to supply refreshments to the spectators in the Salon de Fiestas or on the river bank.

With regard to the races themselves, the Buenos Aires Rowing Club (local Riachuelo) won the majority of the events owing to the fine performance of Mr G. E. J. de Boer, who won no less than five out of the six races he competed in.

The following is the full programme of the day's proceedings:

- Open Fours—1000 metres—
- 1. Tigre Boat Club—S. Kay (bow), C. Manifold (2), M. F. Gilderdale (3), P. H. Vargas (stroke), A. C. W. Lawrence (cox).
- 2. Ruderverein Teutonia—C. Hartbrodt (bow), Thos. Spott (2), H. Van Houten (3), J. T. Van Houten (stroke), J. Reese (cox).
- 3. Buenos Aires Rowing Club—W. S. Johnson (bow), Andres del Pino (2), B. Brice (3), G. E. J. de Boer (stroke), J. Van Houten (cox).

- Swimming under Water—
- 1. W. Bland (T.B.C.); 2. B. Meyer; 3. W. H. Krabbe; 4. H. de B. Stafford.

THE GALLOWAY HANDICAP, for Ponies and Gallows of 58 in. and under; a Sweepstakes of \$20 each with \$50 added; 1000 metres.

Mr W. H. Pott's chestnut, Lavalle, 58 in, 85 k.
Mr L. Rousse's grey, Aly, 58 in, 66 k.
Mr T. Weil's bay, Cirio, 58 in, 66 k, w. i.
Mr H. C. Thompson's brown, Folie, 58 in, 66 k, w. i.
Mr J. L. Moser's grey, Pardo, 57 in, 65 k.
Mr F. Goeters' chestnut, Glangarry, 58 in, 61 k.
Mr F. E. Kinchant's brown, Cumbreira, 56 in, 60 k, w. i.

OPEN HANDICAP SWEEPSTAKES, for all Ponies of 56 in. and under, \$20 each with \$50 added; 800 metres.

Mr E. Hicks' brown Whitelegs, 56 in, 75 k.
Mr J. L. McMorrans' bay Whitelash, 56 in, 75 k, w. i.
Mr H. E. Bedford's roan Christmas Gift, 56 in, 75 k, w. i.
Mr W. Paats' roan Flora, 66 in, 75 k, w. i.
Mr F. E. Kinchant's bay Jué Pucha, 56 in, 75 k, w. i.
Mr L. Rousse's brown Chimango, 56 in, 75 k, w. i.
Baron Peers' black Ramadan, 56 in, 74 k
Stud Temeraire's brown Salsifi, 56 in, 75 k.
Mr F. Franks' chestnut Cigarette, 55 in, 73 k.
Mr C. H. Jefferies' black Garryowen, 52 in, 63 k, w. i.
Mr W. Paats' white Flecha, 54 in, 69 k.

THE MIDGET STAKES, a Handicap for Ponies of 53 in. and under; a Sweepstakes of \$10 each with \$50 added; 500 metres.

In this Handicap the top weight will not exceed 67 kilos.

Mr M. G. Fortune's brown East Neuk, 53 in, 67 k.
Mr E. Lambruschini's roan Inquieto, 53 in, 64 k.
Mr J. Mandia's bay Popsy Wopsy, 53 in, 60 k.
Mr H. B. Buxton's brown Bombulo, 53 in, 58 k.
Mr J. Ravenscroft's dun Bayo, 53 in, 62 k, w. i.
Mr F. E. Kinchant's piebald Pato, 53 in, 62 k, w. i.
Mr F. E. Kinchant's cream Nutria, 53 in, 62 k, w. i.
Mr J. L. McMorrans' black Cabo, 52 in, 59 k, w. i.
Mr Erskine's Baccarat, 53 in, 62 k, w. i.
Mr W. Lacey's L. B. W., 53 in, 62 k, w. i.

THE MARCH HURDLE RACE, for Horses the property of and to be ridden by members of the Buenos Aires Hunt Club or an affiliated Polo Club; a Sweepstakes of \$20 each with \$50 added; catch weights, not under 75 kilos; 2500 metres, over seven flights of hurdles.

Mr H. C. Thompson's brown Felisa
Mr W. Paats' bay Sultan
Mr R. England's bay Old Carthusian
Mr F. E. Kinchant's dun Camello
Mr J. Weinberg's chestnut Pagliaccio
Baron Peers' roan Regent
Mr L. Moser's brown The Jabberwok
Mr O. Barbazat's cream Miss

ATHLETICS

The Committee appointed by the Amateur Athletic Association of the River Plate to revise the Rules of the Association have made the following alterations in the Rules and Bye-Laws. All the new wording and additions are printed in italics:—

RULES.

1. That the Association be called the Amateur Athletic Association of the River Plate, its object being to improve the management of athletic meetings; and to promote the uniformity of rules for the guidance of local committees, to deal repressively with any abuses of athletic sports, and to hold an annual championship meeting.

2. That the Association be governed by a Head Committee, comprised of separate representatives of every affiliated Club. One-third of the Committee to form a quorum. The head centre of the Association to be in Buenos Aires.

N.B.—Such representative not necessarily being a member of the Club he represents.

3. That affiliated clubs pay an annual subscription to the Association of \$25 m/n.

4. The "governing body" have power to suspend or disqualify any athlete who may take part in any meeting not recognised by the Association or held under its rules or who does not come under the definition of an amateur, which is:

Any person who has never competed in an open competition, or for public money, or for admission money, or with professionals for a prize, public money or admission money, nor has ever at any period of his life taught or assisted in the pursuit of athletic exercises as a means of livelihood.

5. The rules and bye-laws of the Amateur Athletic Association of England be adopted by this Association.

Rule 6. Any alteration in these Rules and Bye-laws can only be made by the governing body with a majority of two-thirds of its members, at a meeting specially called for that purpose.

BYE-LAWS.

1. Due notice of all athletic meetings proposed to be held under the Association's rules must be given to the secretary, as also any intended match in which any member of an affiliated Club may propose to take part against a person or persons not coming within the jurisdiction of the Association.

2. Championship meetings will be held yearly at Buenos Aires, Rosario, Montevideo, or such other place as the governing body may decide upon.

3. Entries for all open handicaps to be made on authorised forms, which may be obtained from the secretary. The handicaps to be made by the official handicappers with the assistance of the local sub-committee.

RECORDS.

The only records or standards to be accepted shall be those made in public competitions and held under the Association's rules and by a member of an affiliated Club.

Questions of gradients, wind and other favourable conditions, shall be taken into consideration when deciding any individual record or standard.

No records or standards for high or pole jump, in which the pegs for supporting the lath have projected more than one and a half inches from the sides of the uprights, will be accepted.

RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

The Officials shall consist of:

1. A Committee, in whose hands shall be placed all matters which do not relate to the actual conduct of the meeting itself, and who shall have a final decision in all cases not provided for in the rules of the meeting.

2. Two or more Judges, whose joint decision shall be final in every competition, and with whom shall rest the power to disqualify any competitor.

3. A Referee, who shall decide in the event of a difference of opinion between the Judges. The decision of the Referee shall be final in all cases.

4. Two or more Stewards or Clerks of the Course, whose business shall be to call out the competitors for each event and to assign to each his distinctive badge.

5. One or more special Judges of Walking, a Time-keeper, a Starter, and one or more Marksmen.

6. The Officials at Championship Meetings to be appointed by the Governing Body.

7. The travelling expenses of officials appointed to attend Championship Meetings away from Buenos Aires shall be defrayed out of the Association's funds.

8. Under no circumstances shall any official at any meeting be allowed to accept remuneration for his attendance or any services he may render.

9. Whenever possible the Governing Body will delegate one or more of its members to attend meetings, and such delegates shall be ipso facto members of the local committee of management for the time being.

ENTRIES.

1. The Committee shall reserve to itself the right of refusing any entry, without being bound to assign a reason.

2. Entries shall not be received, unless accompanied by the entrance fees.

3. Competitors in handicap competitions shall be required to send with their entries full and definite particulars as to their last three performances, if any. The entry form shall be so drawn up as to make it easy for the competitors to give the information required.

4. All entries shall be made in the real names of competitors.

5. Competitors in youths' races must have their age duly certified to by a responsible person. Such certificate to be attached to their entry form, and if required must furnish certificates of birth.

A general meeting of the Association will be held on the 26th of March to sanction the adoption of the new rules and to elect officers for this next season.

THE EARLIEST TRACES OF CRICKET

Among a people so fond of our national game as we are, and who are also so closely conversant with its present-day details, it is remarkable that there should be so small an acquaintance with the early history and literature of the pastime. Every schoolboy has heard of Mr Grace or Shrewsbury, and can often tell of the doughty deeds of many other contemporary wielders of the cricket bat. But it may be questioned whether one in ten—even among mature enthusiasts—could quote with any confidence from the earlier story of their delightful game.

Yet cricket has a most pleasing and interesting past, stretching a long way back, and containing much that is entertaining and instructive to the followers of good sport. No historian, it is true, has yet arisen to do justice to its ancient chapters; but dabblers in old cricket lore have been many, and are still growing apace. Attempts have been made to trace the origin and most primitive "habitat" of the game, but with not much further results than to show that it was an Anglo-Saxon pastime—as its name implies—and was played in the olden time with a bent piece of wood for a bat. An enthusiastic foreigner, named Bonstatten, who, in the early part of the present century, developed an inordinate desire to fathom its historic depths, traced the origin of cricket to Iceland; whilst another poor fellow had watched a game, strongly suggestive of the older cricket, away up among the valleys of bleak though hospitable Switzerland. But the wish with most of these excellent worthies has been father to their conceptions. The game is purely English, and may, it is argued, be traced under other names into the Middle Ages as a pastime of some notoriety, whilst mention of the word "cricket" occurs during the time of Henry VIII.

Four records—belonging to the probability period—have much exercised the minds of students of cricket lore, as containing reasonable evidences of the existence of an earlier kind of cricket.

Firstly, in the King's Library of the British Museum there is a manuscript, 14 B. v., entitled "Chronique d'Angleterre, depuis Ethelberd jusq'à Hen. III.," which contains a grotesque diagram of two male figures en-

gaged in a game with a bat and ball, the period being about the middle of the thirteenth century. If it is really cricket, this will be the oldest known representation of the game.

Secondly, the game "creag," referred to in the wardrobe account of Edward I., and dated 1300 A.D., has been seized upon as being nothing else than an older form of the word cricket. Profound English scholars have been appealed to for any other meaning for the word "creag," but with no very decisive results. It may have been an earlier form of the word cricket or it may not.

Thirdly, "in the Bodleian Library at Oxford," says Strutt, "is a MS. (No. 264), dated 1341, which represents a figure, a female, in the act of bowling a ball (of the size of a modern cricket ball) to a man, who elevates a straight bat to strike it; behind the bowler are several figures, male and female, waiting to stop or catch the ball, their attitudes grotesquely eager for a chance. The game is called club-ball, but the score is made by hitting and running, as in cricket." The drawing may be said to contain a batsman, a bowler, and four fieldsmen, the "female" figures having been deciphered by later researchers as being, in reality, monks with their cowls drawn. Here, again, there is no other evidence than what is inferred from the picture; and a most interesting disquisition might be entered into to prove that club-ball is not the progenitor of cricket.

Fourthly, Barrington, in his "Remarks on the more Ancient Statutes," comments on 17 Edw. IV., A.D. 1477, in the following manner:—"The disciplined soldiers were not only guilty of pilfering on their return, but also of the vice of gaming. The third chapter, therefore, forbids playing at cloish, ragle, half-bowle, quekeborde, handyn and handoute. Whosoever shall permit these games to be played in their house or yard is punishable with three years' imprisonment; those who play at any of the said games are to be fined £10, or lie in jail two years." "This," continues Barrington, "is the most severe law ever made in any country against gaming; and some of those forbidden seem to have been manly exercises, particularly the 'handyn and handoute,' which I should suppose to be a kind of cricket, as the term hands is still (writing in 1740) retained in that game." "Hands," as is well known, stood for "innings" in the older records of cricket. There is more than ordinary evidence, also, that cricket was severely proscribed by law in much more recent times. In the olden time it was largely played in the tea-garden grounds of village inns, and was indulged in only by the very lowest order, who were intensely addicted to gambling on the results of the matches.

We know that cricketers figured before the King's Bench as far back as 1746; so that if "handyn and handoute" really were cricket, it would be a most interesting subject of research, if only to discover the number of "leading bats," not to say "All-England" players, who may have "done time," or suffered "hard," as martyrs to the "glorious uncertainty" of their national game.

It will be noticed that the owners of cricket grounds were to be sentenced to "three" years' without the option of a fine; whereas the batsmen, bowlers, and fielders might—should they be able to pay £10—escape the detention for two years, which the law had marked out for them.

So much for the discoveries relating to the period of more than ordinary probability. But cricketers are more concerned about what is positive in the history of the game.

The first mention of the word "cricket" in the English language occurs in the year 1593 A.D., and refers to the pastime half a century earlier still. The county of Surrey bears the palm in this antiquity; for in the "Constitution Book of Guildford," a manuscript collection of records, which were once the property of that town, occurs the following:—"In the thirty-fifth year of Elizabeth, one John Derrick, gent., aged fifty-nine, gave evidence that when he was a boy of nine, and "a scholler in the free school of Guildford, he and several of his fellowes did run and play there at Crickett and other plaies."

Allowing for the age of this witness, we have direct proof, therefore, that cricket was known under its present name as far back as 1543 A.D. Still, the Elizabethan poets, who often refer to football, tennis, and other sports, never mention cricket. Shakespeare ignores it. But of its existence under its present name at this period we have other evidence than the above Book of Guildford. In Stow's "Survey of London" is a list of games in 1598, which states:—"The lower classes divert themselves at football, wrestling, cudgels, ninepins, shovel-board, cricket, stow-ball, ringing of bells, quoits, pitching the bar, bull and bear baitings, throwing at cocks, and lying at ale-houses." This proves that cricket was a pastime of some consequence during the age of the greater dramatists, yet none of them notice it.

Among our public schools, Winchester College has the first notice of the national game: for Lisle Bowles, writing of Bishop Ken, who entered that school in 1650, says:—"On the fifth or sixth day our junior . . . is found for the first time attempting to wield a cricket bat." In the "Life and Death of Thomas Wilson," 1672, the biographer refers to the profaneness which characterised Maidstone in those days. "I have seen," he wrote, "morrice-dancing, cudgel-playing, stool-ball, and crickets, and many other sports on the Lord's Day." Sunday is known to have been a favourite day with cricketers up to quite recent times. Another of the earliest references is found in the "Diary of Henry Teonge, chaplain on board His Majesty Charles II.'s ships Assistance, Bristol, and Royal Oak, A.D. 1675-1679," where we read of the game being played in Asia Minor. "This morning early [6th May, 1676] (as is the custom all the summer long) at least forty of the English, with his Worship the Consul, rode out of the city

[Antioch] about four miles, to a fine valley by a river-side, to recreate themselves. There a princely tent was pitched, and we had several pastimes and sports, as duck-hunting, fishing, shooting, hand-ball, and cricket, and then a noble dinner brought thither with great plenty of wines, punch, and lemonade; and at six o'clock we returned all home in good order, but soundly tired and weary." From this it will also be seen that the cricket diversions of our sailors in foreign parts are not of recent origin.

Edward Philips, John Milton's nephew, has a reference to the game in his "Mysteries of Love and Eloquence, or the arts of Wooing and Complimenting, the Treatments of Ladies at Balls, Sports, Drolls, the Witchcrafts of their Persuasive Language, etc.," 1685. The passage runs:—"Will you not, when you have me, throw stocks at my head and cry, 'Would my eyes had been beaten out of my head with a cricket-ball the day before I saw thee?'" Still, in this period the game was rarely mentioned. Lord Macaulay, who knew the literature of the time probably better than anyone, was appealed to and wrote:—"I have many editions of Chamberlayne's 'State of England,' published between 1670 and 1700, and I observe he never mentions cricket among the national games, of which he gives a long list." In 1688, however, we find in an Eton boys school bill the entry, "A ram and bat 9d.," marked in all gravity as an "extra."

Tom D'Urfey, that ribald songster to the court of our "Merry Monarch," was till recently credited with having first alluded to cricket. In his "Pills to Purge Melancholy," 1699 (later editions have been erroneously quoted by Strutt and others), there is the following:—
Herr was the prettiest fellow
At Football or at Crickett.

In 1706 there occurred the earliest attempt at writing on the pastime. This was in the shape of a poem called "Certamen Pike, or The Cricket Match," by William Goldwin, and appeared in "Musæ Juveniles." The bards now became extremely attentive to cricket, and the story of many of the combats of the past century was related in verse.

Pope about this time wrote:—
The judge to dance his brother sergeant's call.
The senators at cricket urge the ball.

Later still, Soame Jenyns:—
England, when once of peace and wealth possessed,
Began to think frugality a jest;
So grew polite: hence all her well-bred heirs
Gamblers and jockeys turned, and cricket-players.

This was the time when cricket began to rise out of the slums, and was taken up by statesmen and noblemen.

Robert Southey, in the Commonplace Book IV., 201, attempts to place the peculiarly low surroundings of the older cricket by a quotation from the "Connoisseur," No. 132, 1756. In this a Mr Toby Bumper is in the habit of "drinking purl in the morning, eating black-puddings at Bartholemew Fair, boxing with Buckhorse," and is also "frequently engaged at the Artillery Ground with Faulkner and Dingate at Cricket, and is esteemed as good a bat as either of the Bennets."

Dean Swift more than once has an ironical knock at cricket. In his pamphlet of "John Bull," 1712, he informs us that "Bull began to pursue his own interests through all impediments thrown in his way. He left off some of his old acquaintance, put on a serious air, knit his brows, and for the time had made a very considerable progress in politics, considering that he had been kept a stranger to his own affairs. However, he could not help discovering some remains of his nature when he happened to meet with a football or a match at cricket."

It is only natural that Horace Walpole's "Letters," addressed as they were to so eminent a patron of cricket as Sir Horace Mann, should contain allusions to the national game. But that "literary epicure" has no polite word for the pastime. "I can't say," he says (May 6th, 1736). "I am sorry I was never quite a schoolboy; an expedition against bargemen or a match at cricket may be very pretty things to recollect; but, thank my stars, I can remember things that are very near as pretty." Again, in June, 1740, he writes: "I could tell you of Lord Montford's making cricket matches, and fetching up parsons by express from different parts of England to play on Richmond Green."

In this way, references to cricket will now be found in increasing numbers among the works of English authors, showing that the game, even a century and a half ago, must have been a leading pastime. Still, the history of the game is imperfectly known, for, with the exception of the Rev. James Pycroft in his several works, the students of old cricket lore have not displayed any very serious attempts to prove its interesting story.—M. R. F. in "Bailey's Magazine."

FIXTURES

RACING

Sunday, Mar. 18—Hipodromo Argentino, at Palermo.
Thursday, March 22—Hurlingham (Polo Association Cup)

CRICKET

Sunday, March 18—London Bank v. Rosario Ry., at Palermo.
Sunday, March 18—Lomas v. Flores, at Flores

POLO

Thursday, March 22, to Sunday, March 25—Championship Tournament, at Hurlingham.

ATHLETICS

Sunday, April 29—Junin Athletic Club's Annual Sports.

List of Clubs with their Secretaries

POLO CLUBS

Association of the River Plate—F. J. Balfour, 559 Piedad.
BELGRANO—*Black and White*—J. K. Cassels, Lavalle 108, Belgrano.
CAMP OF URUGUAY—*Pale Blue*—L. Edwards, Barrancas Coloradas, Colonia.
CAÑADA DE GOMEZ—*Red and Yellow*—J. S. Robinson, C. de Gomez, F.C.C.A.
CASEALS—*Crimson and White*—R. McC. Smyth, Venado Tuerto.
Guaaleguay—H. Jewsbury, Guaaleguay, Entre Rios.
HURLINGHAM—*Blue, Red and Yellow*—F. J. Balfour, 559 Piedad, Buenos Aires.
LA MERCED—*French Grey and Cerise*—P. H. Cawardine, La Merced, Chascomus.
LA VICTORIA—*Brown and Yellow*—Magnus Fea, Estacion El Trebol, F. C. Central Argentino.
LAS PETACAS—Frank E. Kinchant, Las Petacas, San Jorge, F.C.C.A.
LEZAMA—*Red and Black*—E. J. Craig, Estancia Las Barrancas, Lezama.
MEDIA LUNA—*Pale Blue with Crescent*—Scott Moncrieff, Soler, F. C. Pacifico.
MONTEVIDEO—*Chocolate and Green*—Fred. A. Christie, Club Inglés, Montevideo.
North Santa Fé—R. S. Foster, Chiru Traill, F.C.C. and R. Roldan—W. Ellery, Roldan, F.C.C.A.
Rosario—W. F. Christie, F.C.C.A. Rosario.
San Jorge—C. H. Hall, San Jorge, Estacion Molles, F. C. C. del Uruguay, Montevideo.
SANTA FE—*Red and Blue*—Kemball Cook, Las Tres Lagunas, Las Rosas, F.C.C.A.
SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO—*Green*—Dr. Newman Smith, La Banda, Santiago del Estero.
Tuyú—H. Gibson, Los Ingleses, Ajó, F.C.S.
VENADO TUERTO—*Chocolate and Gold*—H. Miles, Venado Tuerto, F. C. S. Santa Fé y Cordoba.

ATHLETIC CLUBS

AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF THE RIVER PLATE—*Blue and White*—E. Danvers, 559 Piedad.
B. A. AND R. RY.—*Yellow and Black*—F. F. Webb, 748 Avenida de Mayo.
CAMPANA—B. J. MacCullagh, Campana.
Cordoba—J. C. Bowden, Gerencia, F.C.C.C., Córdoba.
ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL—*Red and White*—Percy Hill, 3502 Santa Fé.
FLORES—*Light Blue, Yellow, and Dark Blue with narrow White Stripes*—B. G. Henderson, 89 B. Aires, Flores
HURLINGHAM—*Blue, Red and Yellow*—F. J. Balfour, 559 Piedad, Buenos Aires.
JUNIN—C. J. Love, Junin, F. C. Pacifico.
LOBOS—*Blue and Red*—James F. McKeon, Lobos, F.C.S.
LOMAS—*Blue and White*—P. L. G. Bridger, Casilla de Correo 1121.
Montevideo—H. D. McMaster, Club Inglés, Montevideo.
QUILMES—*Dark Blue and Orange*—F. W. Fothergill, Plaza Constitucion, F.C.S.
ROLDAN—T. H. Wilson, Roldan.
ROSARIO—*Claret and Light Blue*—Thomas A. Hall, 2 Plaza Jewell, Rosario.
Tucuman—A. S. Reade, Tucuman, F.C.N.O.A.

LAWN TENNIS CLUBS

BUENOS AIRES—*Light and Dark Blue and Yellow*—T. S. Boadle, 25 de Mayo 149.

CRICKET CLUBS

BUENOS AIRES—*Black and Red*—A. Lace, Banco Británico Buenos Aires.
CENTRAL URUGUAY—*Black and Orange*—A. N. Davenport, Talleres, F.C.C.U., Montevideo.
FISHERTON—J. Beaumont.
HURLINGHAM—*Blue, Red and Yellow*—F. J. Balfour, 559 Piedad, Buenos Aires.
Lanús—D. Duncan, Plaza Constitucion, F.C.S.
London Bank—R. L. Rumboll, Banco de Londres.
MONTEVIDEO—*Black and White*—J. Harvey, Club Inglés, Montevideo.
WESTERN RAILWAY—*Dark Crimson*—F. T. Parkes, Tolosa

FOOTBALL CLUBS

ALBION—*Blue and White*—H. A. Woodcock, Montevideo.
Argentine Association League—A. Lamont, Plaza Constitucion F.C.S.
BUENOS AIRES (Rugby)—*Blue and White*—T. M. Lees, London Bank.
HURLINGHAM—*Blue, Red and Yellow*—F. J. Balfour, 559 Piedad, Buenos Aires.
St. ANDREWS—*Blue and White Stripes*—T. Bridge, Plaza Constitucion, F.C.S.

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KENNEL CLUB

H. H. Ewen, Piedad 559.

ROWING CLUBS

BUENOS AIRES—*Blue and White*—Piedad 852.
MONTEVIDEO—*Blue and Black*—J. Murray, Banco Británico, Montevideo.
NACIONAL DE REGATAS—*Sky Blue and White Hoops*—Manuel Reu, Piedras 156, Montevideo.
ROSARIO—*Dark Red and White*—E. W. Newte, English Bank, Rosario.
TEUTONIA—*Blue and White*—F. Lindheimer, Chacabuco 78
TIGRE—*Black and Golden Yellow*—W. E. O. Hazell, 423 Rivadavia, Buenos Aires.

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" (criollas)	6—11	3—9		

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" —Cow	0.45—0.86
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" —Mestizo-Lincolns	6.20—11.00
" —Rambouillet	4.50—9.50
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Lambs	2.00—2.50

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" (French), 100 kilos "	6.50—7.00
" (Candeal)	7.00—7.50
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" (amarillo), old, 100 kilos	6.50—7.30
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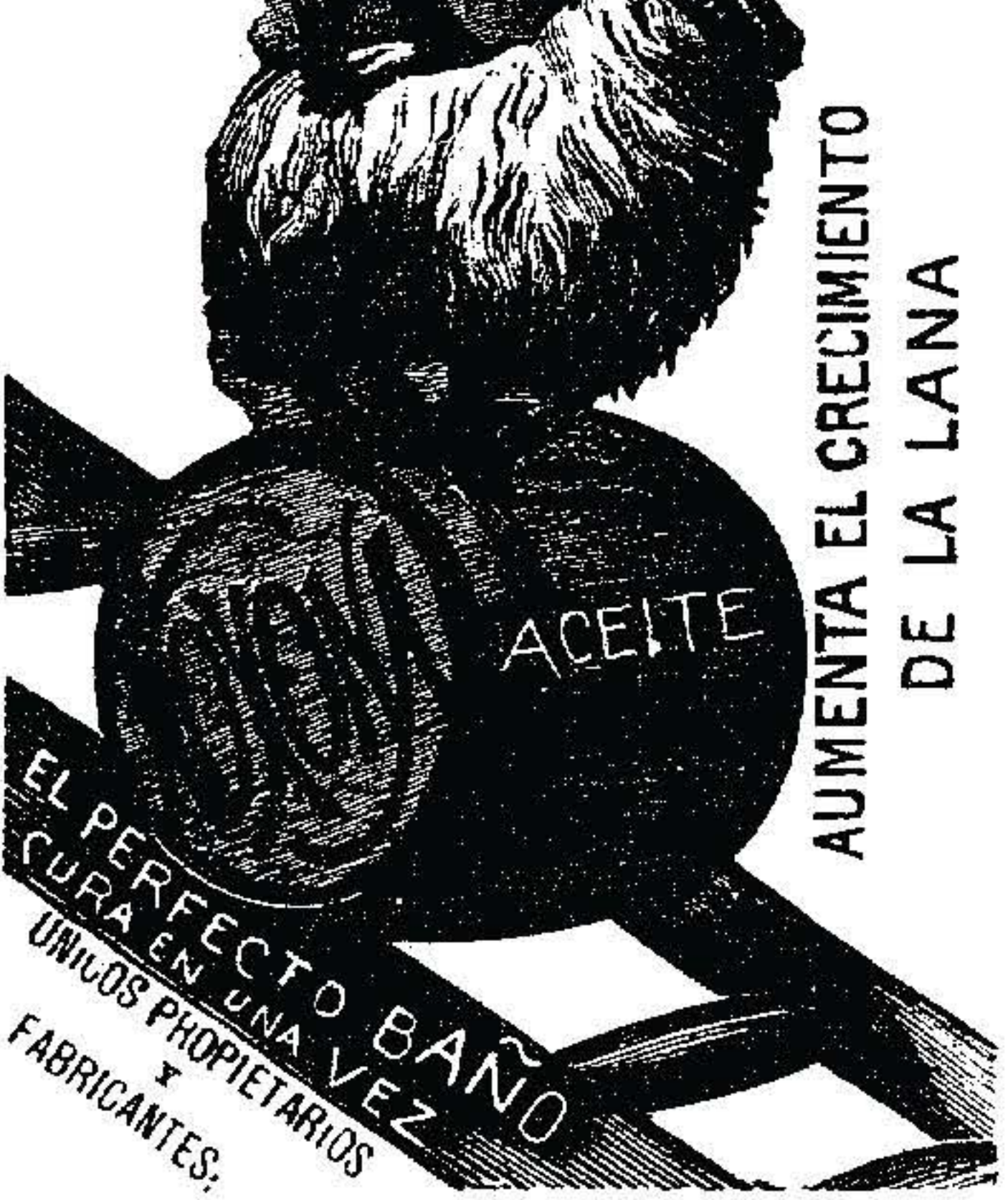
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| O | NEVER CRACKS HANDS! | O |
| A | NO RUBBING OR LABOUR! | A |
| P | SIMPLE BOILING ONLY! | P |
| P | LINEN IRONS GLOSSY! | P |

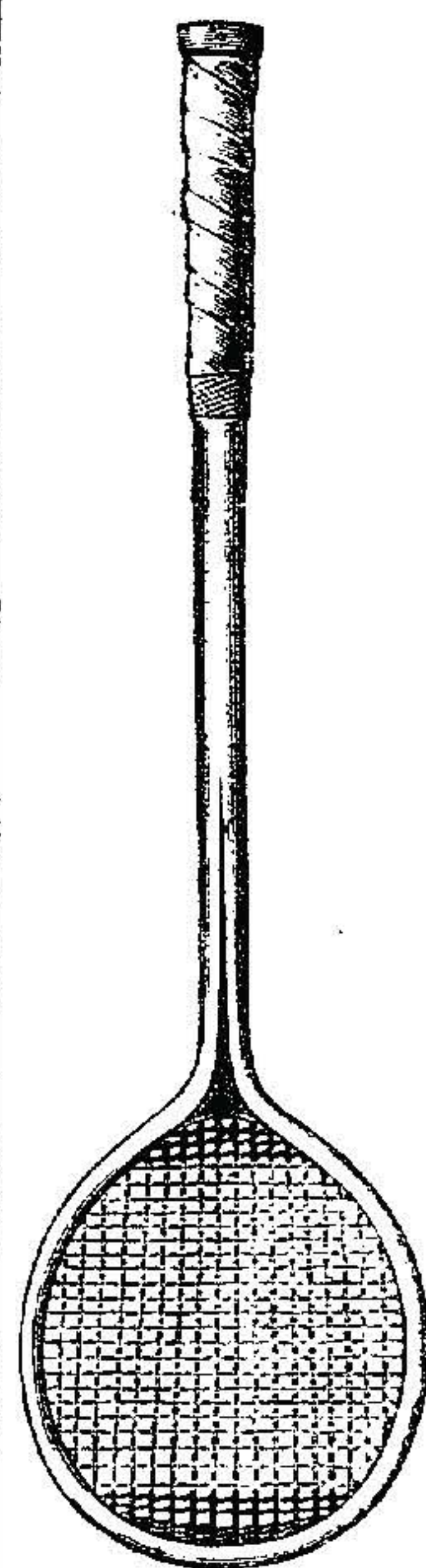
Curtains, Laces and delicate articles washed without tearing!

When used for Flannels and Woollens they retain the Soft Fleeciness and Colour of New Goods!

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Fives Bat,
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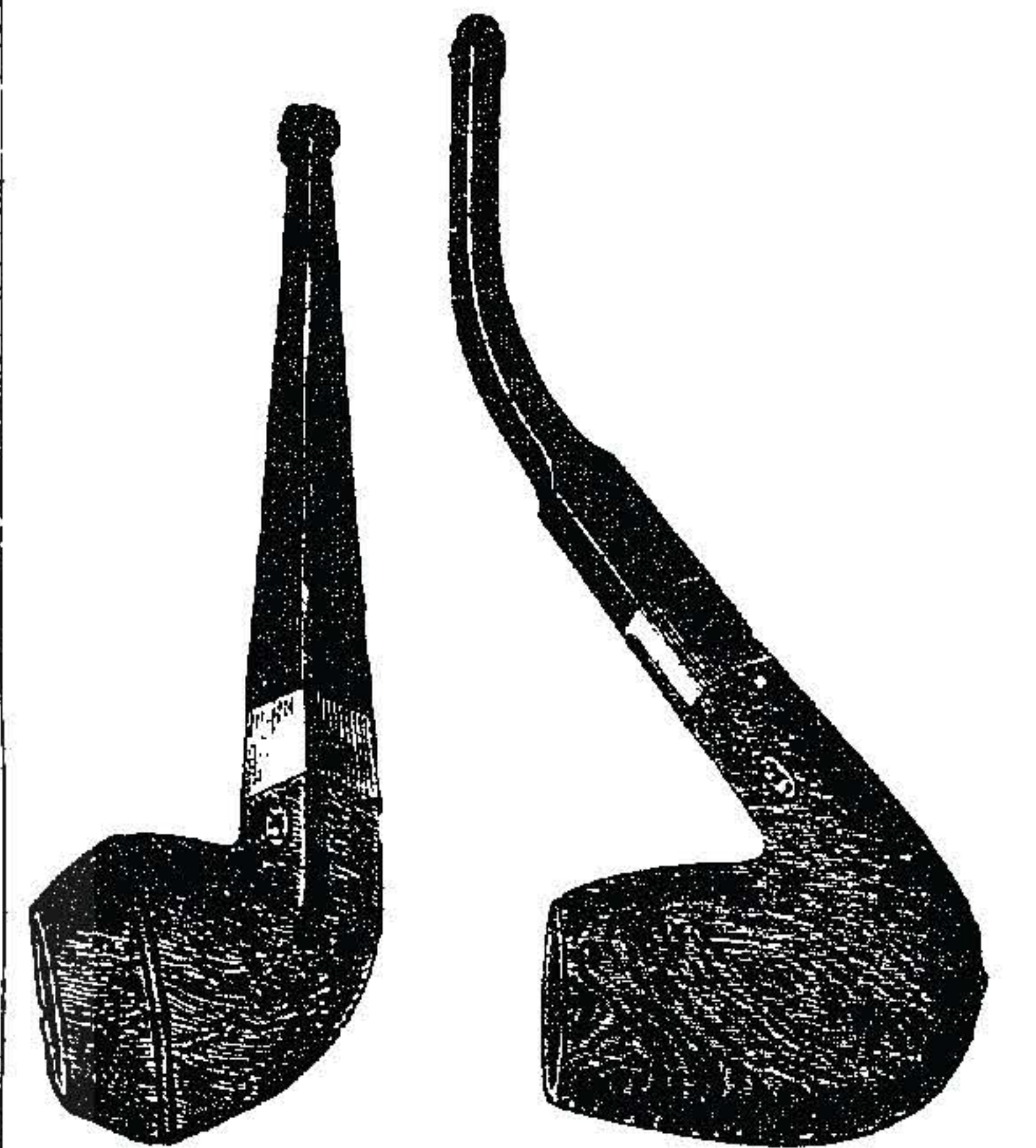
CRICKET

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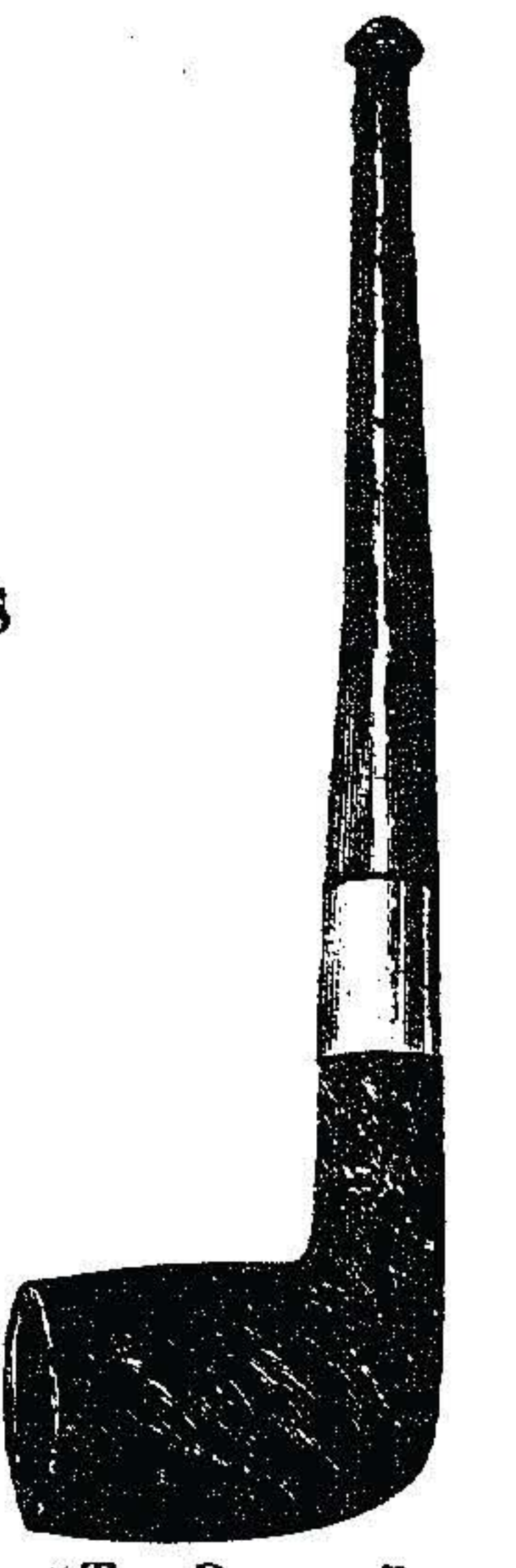
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"THE PASTIME"



TEA
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Accept no other flower

ROUND THE TOWN.

The Rosales court-martial has occupied the attention of the public almost entirely during the past week, and many are the conjectures formed as to what will be the final outcome of this case. The fiscal, Colonel Lowry, who has been engaged for a long period in the preparing of the arraignments, is of the opinion that no raft was ever constructed, and that the poor seamen went down with the ill-fated vessel. The final decision being still pending, it would be out of place to offer any comments on the evidence adduced, and I have here only to record that the arraignments of the officers being concluded, the fiscal finds Commander Funes guilty of abandoning his vessel and leaving the crew to their fate, which offence is punishable by a death sentence, and asking that the remaining officers be degraded from their rank, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, from ten years to three.

* *

The arrival of Dr. Alem in Buenos Aires after his long incarceration in Rosario was the occasion for one of the most imposing manifestations ever seen in Buenos Aires. For some considerable time prior to the arrival of his train, all the streets giving access to the Central Station were blocked with sympathisers and sight seers, and the enthusiasm with which the leader of the Radical party was greeted was beyond all bounds. Well could Dr. Alem cry "Save me from my friends," for from the moment that he set foot in the station, he was not only "welcomed" but "enveloped in friends," who well nigh crushed him to death. I had an excellent view of the proceedings, and can safely state that the old gentleman had a worse time during the half hour subsequent to his arrival in Buenos Aires than he had experienced during the whole five months of his imprisonment in Rosario.

* *

With regard to my note anent the new timetable of the Royal Mail Co. in last week's issue, I have received the following letter from the agent of that company which I cannot do better than publish in extenso:

NEW TIMETABLE OF THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

Buenos Aires, 8th March, 1894.

To the Editor *River Plate Sport and Pastime*.

Dear Sir,—

Referring to a paragraph on the above subject under the head "Round the Town" in your issue of yesterday's date, I shall be obliged if you will give publication to the following rectification in the next issue of your esteemed paper.

You say that "the only alteration worthy of note is that steamers will only be in Buenos Aires four or five days," but you overlook the fact that the new service provided by this Company is carried on by a fleet of the fastest, largest and newest vessels trading to the River Plate such as the Nile, Danube, Thames, Clyde, Magdalena, by which passengers are landed at Southampton within twenty-one days after leaving Buenos Aires, and that the smaller steamers hitherto included in the list of sailings have been altogether eliminated.

It is correct that, by the new itinerary, the stay in port of the Royal Mail steamers has been shortened, nevertheless they will go into La Plata port as hitherto and passengers will therefore, not be under the necessity of landing, or going on board, in the Outer Roads as you seem to apprehend. In their desire to do everything possible for the convenience of passengers the Company will, in a case of necessity, even go so far as to postpone their date of departure hence.

Referring to the latter part of your remarks please note that merchandise will be landed at La Plata and conveyed to Buenos Aires by rail. Should, however, unforeseen circumstances compel me to resort to lighterage, it is satisfactory to me to state that the firm who have done this work for the last twenty years give every guarantee that the outrages you anticipate will not be perpetrated on the goods intrusted to the care of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY L. GREEN.

* *

On thus giving publication to the above letter, I have here to state that the timetable referred to, and which I have now before me, makes no mention of "a fleet of the fastest, largest and newest vessels trading to the River Plate," nor does it give the names of any vessels. I do not see, therefore, that any rectification is necessary, nor can I believe that the R.M.S.P. Co. would wish us to look upon this excellent service in the light of an alteration. With regard to the latter part of the above letter, dealing with events and results to be expected in the future, we must leave the matter to time to decide, as no one can foretell with any degree of accuracy what is going to happen—and certainly not in this country.

The establishment of a National Lottery in this country was sanctioned by Congress last year in view of the financial troubles of the republic and the consequent inability of the Government and the municipalities to support the hospitals and other charitable institutions dependant upon them. As such, therefore, the measure was possibly admissible, for as great ills call for great remedies, it was absolutely necessary to find some extraordinary means of filling the municipal coffers. I cannot believe, however, that the Senate realised what would be the ultimate result of this sanction, for surely the amounts received by the committee are out of all proportion to the charitable requirements. I find that in three months a net profit of \$800,000 has accrued after paying all prizes, expenses, etc., and the fact of there being a lottery, to be drawn on May 23rd next, in which there is a big prize of \$600,000, with other prizes in proportion, leads one to wonder where all the money comes from and where we are going to stop. The lotteries appear to be growing bigger and bigger, and seem to come round with ever-increasing frequency, and it is really necessary that some steps be taken to stop the growing evil, for a lottery ticket seems to carry with it a kind of fascination which many are powerless to resist, and for such people therefore some measure should be taken which should prevent the indulgence of a hobby which is as harmful when carried to excess as drink or any other vice.

* *

The theatres promise to be very busy during the coming season, and it would appear that we shall really have some novelties to record. Among these will be the German company at the Onrubia, the Charley Opera troupe at the Odeon, (of which I hear great things), and last, but not least, a serpentine dancer at the Zarzuela theatre, Miss Thompson, whose sister is already a celebrity in the Terpsichorean ranks. These novelties should form a pleasant variation to the everlasting zarzuela companies which are so popular among theatre goers in this country. The opera troupe, of which I made mention last week, will make their debut on May 21st, and with regard to a former note of mine anent tenors, I note that the famous Tamagno is expected here (vide "La Prensa," March 12th) so that, if the newspapers are to be believed, we shall have nearly all the most famous tenors in the world in Buenos Aires during the approaching operatic season. Let us hope that the wish is but father to the thought in this instance.

* *

The Sociedad Filantropica Francesa will hold their annual Fete Saint Cloud beginning on May 23rd, in the Arcadia Gardens, arrangements having been made with Messrs Ridgely and Harris to that effect. Let us hope that with the return to their old "locale" this pleasant fete will regain its éclat of former years, which I fear has depreciated of late owing to their deserting the old Jardin Florida in favour of the newer Eliseo Bieckert. I hear, however, that this year's celebration will be especially brilliant, as there will be merry-go-rounds, shooting galleries, Aunt Sallies, etc., galore, in fact that nothing will be wanting to please the patrons and charm the dollars from refractory pockets. These fetes should be the gayest of the gay, for few people know how to amuse themselves as well as our lively neighbours.

* *

The Columbia Skating Rink will shortly open its doors, and although no definite date has yet been decided upon for the opening, it is generally understood that the ball will be set rolling about the end of the present month. Roller skating in Europe has seldom more than a three years' vogue, but I trust that this will not be the case in Buenos Aires, for there are few places where one can enjoy a pleasanter evening, combining exercise with pleasure, than in the spacious edifice in the Calle Charcas.

It is a pity that this health-giving recreation should be so dependant on fashion, but I have no doubt that the enterprising proprietors will make a bold bid for the public favour, which they have always succeeded in retaining hitherto.

* *

Advertising nowadays is being brought to a fine art, and every sort of method has been tried, even in Buenos Aires, to attract purchasers. It is a matter for congratulation that poetical (!) advertisements have had their day and are now a thing of the past, but street advertising is now all the rage, and I defy anyone to walk up

Piedad, from the Central Station to our office, without learning that So-and-so is a good tailor, or that Thingumy's pyjamas are cheap.

* *

Advertising on railway trains is also on the increase, but we are glad to learn from the "Herald" that it is not true that the principal railways intend to contract for advertisements to be placed on the back of guards' uniforms yet. It appears imminent, however, that all the available window space will shortly be taken up, and the guards may yet be converted into sandwich men.

A FAVORITE OF FORTUNE.

There is a saying that "it is better to be born lucky than rich," and Jacob Swenk's career went far to prove its truth. When a young man he was employed in a goldsmith's shop in Hamburg, and seemed content enough with his somewhat humble fortune, which did not admit of his indulging in many pleasures.

He had two weaknesses, however: he liked a good cigar and had an eye for beauty. Here his good luck came in, for what might have proved stumbling blocks to another gave him his start in life. He found the means of gratifying both his tastes in a small tobacco shop in a humble quarter. The fraulein who presided was pretty, and accepted Jacob as a suitor for her hand, whereas the goods she dispensed were not to be equalled at the price in all Hamburg. Here Swenk passed his evenings—the only time he was at liberty. Seated on a painted barrel, which stood in the shop, against the sides of which he kicked his heels—for he was a man of small stature though round as the barrel that supported him—he smoked his cigar and gazed on the placid features of the fair Nannchen. He was happy in those days before fortune smiled upon him, for he loved and his passion was returned; but they were both poor, and the day that would see them one seemed very remote; so he would puff and sigh on one side of the counter, whilst she would sigh and knit on the other, waiting, in the words of the immortal Micawber, till something should turn up.

Now it chanced one evening as he was thus employed that Jacob's master, the rich goldsmith, finding his cigar case empty, turned into the little shop to fill it.

"If you will take six," said the girl, "we give a ticket for the great lottery with them."

"Six then let it be, pretty one," exclaimed the gallant jeweller, "but you must let me present you with the coupon; if it wins a prize I shall claim a kiss."

"Nannchen," said Jacob when his master had gone, "I like not that thou shouldst accept the ticket, from the Herr Spritdman. Should it win, and he claim his kiss, I should die, here on the floor of the shop. Return it to the jar, my wellbeloved."

"But, Jacob!"

"Nein! Nein! I tell thee, Nannchen, that it is unseemly. But thou shalt not lose. Lo, I will buy me six cigars and will choose a ticket, which, if it win, even the gross lot, shall be for you even as for me."

Jacob's jealous fears were rewarded; he drew the great prize—100,000 guilders, equal to about £8,000, and became the most envied man in the free city of Hamburg from that day. He was true to both his love and his promise, and combined the two by wedding Nannchen, by which means he proved his devotion and had the use of the whole of the money.

It was now that the Herr Swenk showed the extent of his ambition. In Hamburg there was no room for a man of his views, so he and his wife migrated to Paris, and within a couple of months had opened a splendid jeweller's shop in the fashionable quarter near the Madeleine. He was now on the summit of the wave of fortune, which rolled steadily onward, bearing him with it. He speculated freely during business, and when the *coup d'état* landed Napoleon III. on the throne, he made a second fortune. But whoever knows when to stop?

It was the eighteenth birthday of their daughter Julie, who had recently returned from the convent where she had been educated, when Nannchen entered her husband's private room shortly before the breakfast hour.

"Jacob," she exclaimed, evidently somewhat excited, "Madame de Lusade has asked me to see you on the subject of Julie's marriage. When our child spent that month with her schoolfellow, it seems; Madame's nephew, Claude de Lusade, saw and fell in love with her, and before approaching you he asked his aunt to speak of the matter to me. He is a nice young man (an officer), for I have seen him; but unfortunately not rich; surely, however, if Julie loves him, that need not matter?"

Madame Swenk had had some fears as to how her husband would take this proposal for their daughter's hand, but she had no idea that he would have gone into such a rage over it as he did. He called Claude de Lusade a fortune-hunter and far worse, and without listening to his wife's pleadings, swore he should never enter the house or see Julie again. The fact was that fortune had forsaken Jacob Swenk at last, and the hope of securing a rich son-in-law was one of the few good cards left in his hand. But fate was determined to persecute him. Julie refused to see two would-be admirers, either of whom her father approved of, and Jacob was in despair. He was on the brink of bankruptcy, and nothing but a *coup* could save him.

It was the time of the unfortunate Mexican campaign. Suddenly all Paris was placarded with the announcement that "by special permission a lottery in aid of the

widows and children of the French soldiers who had fallen would be drawn on the 18th of the following month, the chief prize a magnificent diamond necklace, valued at one million francs." Jacob felt a weight removed from his heart. He was saved! Fortune had favoured him once in a lottery, why not again? He went into it heart and soul. He raked together every penny he was able to, and purchased tickets by the score, by the hundred, by the thousand; for they were issued at fifty centimes each, so that they might be within reach of all; but first he secured the number 0576321, the same which had won him the 100,000 guilders. At length the great day arrived, and Herr Swenk found himself in a large hall, one of a great crowd. At the end, on a platform, was a cylinder turned by a handle, which held the numbers. On a pale blue velvet cushion lay the diamond necklace. After a short speech by the president of the committee a boy was blindfolded. The cylinder was turned rapidly so as to shake up the numbers within, and the boy drew one out.

"Number zero," shouted the president, and put it in the first division of a rack which was placed so as to be visible to all.

Jacob glanced at his list, though he knew he had many beginning with a 0. Again the blindfolded boy plunged in his hand and drew out a number.

"Five!" cried the president, placing the 5 after the 0 in the rack. Seven was the next, and then a six. Jacob was delighted. Already four numbers of his old lucky ticket had turned up. History was going to repeat itself.

"Number three!" shouted the head of the committee. Swenk wiped the perspiration from his forehead. Would the next be a 2? It was!

"I have still two chances," he muttered to himself, consulting his list. "I must win!" he exclaimed aloud, carried away by excitement.

"I have a chance too, sir, allow me to state," remarked a gentleman by his side.

"And what is your last figure, monsieur, may I ask?" demanded Swenk gruffly.

"A five, sir. I will save fifty thousand francs with you, if you like."

"No, no! All or none!" gasped Jacob, for the last ticket was being unfolded.

"A zero, gentlemen!" cried the president.

It was over. No shouts of joy told that the fortunate holder of number 0576320 was in the hall. Jacob Swenk looked in a dazed manner in the face of his brother in misfortune—even in that bitter moment he felt pleased that this man had not won—and then turned away and mingled with the departing crowd.

It was raining, but he did not notice it. The reaction after the past excitement left him torpid and indifferent. He was ruined! What did anything else matter? Presently he entered the Palais Royal. There were more people in the arcades than usual, seeking shelter from the shower.

"Sir, may I speak to you for a moment?" said a voice by his side. He who spoke was a good-looking young fellow, but Jacob Swenk did not recognise him as even an acquaintance.

"Sir, my name is Claude de Lusade," continued the stranger. "I have long sought this opportunity. I am twenty-three years—"

The very mention of figures seemed to rouse Jacob from his trance-like condition. "I beg your pardon, Monsieur de Lusade," he said curtly, "but to save you further trouble I beg leave to tell you that I am ruined, consequently unable to dower my daughter. This, of course, puts an end to the affair."

"Excuse me, sir, on the contrary," cried the young man. "I should be delighted—"

"Ah, Swenk," exclaimed a passing friend, "who won the diamond necklace? Not you, I suppose? What was the number?"

"0576320. I was within one of it!" replied Jacob bitterly.

"Faith, that is very much like my number," remarked de Lusade, pulling out his note case. "Mine has a zero at each end!"

"You have it. The million is yours!" he cried, and then staggered, and would have fallen if the young officer had not caught him and helped him to a seat.

So luck once more befriended Jacob Swenk after all, for Claude de Lusade married Julie, and, clearing the business of debt with half his winnings, gave it another start, since when it has prospered.—"S. and D. News."

Shall we save the "Follow-on"?

For some time past, murmurs loud and deep against law fifty-three, as it now stands, with regard to the "follow-on," have been heard in cricket circles. Our Australian cousins, upon their perfect wickets under the Southern Cross, have long had occasion to complain of the comparatively small margin of eighty runs which entitles a side to the privilege of following their innings in a match where an innings of less than 200 runs is the exception; and from time to time of late years, in our cricket at home, instances have not been wanting when, towards the close of an innings, desperate expedients have been resorted to by the bowlers to avoid, or by the batsmen to secure, the follow-on.

Now, the question naturally arises, when we attempt to deal with this subject, What is the origin and object of the law which compels the side which is eighty runs (or, in the case of a one-day match, sixty runs) behind on the first innings to follow their innings? Is it framed for the benefit of either side, and, if so, of which? We are inclined to think that

originally the law was intended to save time, and to enable a team much stronger than their opponents to win by wickets, or more probably in an innings, rather than by runs. We must remember that in the old days of cricket, when this law was made, three-day matches were exceptional, and matches in which play was confined to one day, or possibly an afternoon only, mainly constituted the cricket for which the authorities had to legislate. We must not lose sight of the fact that it was not until comparatively recently that one-day matches, according to the laws of the game, could be decided upon the first innings; and, bearing this in mind, one can readily appreciate the spirit in which law fifty-three was framed to assist sides to gain a definite result. Framed at a time when cricket grounds were very different to the lawns of the present day, when a score of 100 runs for the whole side would represent a very good total for batsmen who had to carve their way to glory on rough wickets, we imagine that the number sixty, which was taken as the then fair measure of following-on value, represented a deficit which the side following on would very likely fail to wipe off, or, at all events, to greatly improve upon, and so the stronger side would win with the minimum amount of exertion.

Considering the difficulty of making runs at that time, any side who were more than 60 runs behind upon the first innings would stand very little chance of winning the match, and we quite understand that, in an era of one-day matches and small scoring, it was as gratifying as it was all-important to make your opponents follow on, and so have a chance of a clean and complete victory, rather than, as the shadows lengthen, to embark upon a new batting venture of your own, in which all ten wickets had to fall, no matter how many superfluous runs might have been scored, before you could again put your morally-defeated opponents upon their defence. That this was more or less the state of affairs when law 53, with 60 as the number, was adopted will, we think, be generally admitted, and that it worked well for a time we have no reason to doubt. We imagine, however, that after a time, as grounds improved, and batsmen's averages became higher, the margin of 60 was considered too small for any but one-day matches, and so we find that about five-and-twenty years ago the margin was raised to 80 runs for matches extending over more than one day, and at that figure it has stood ever since.

If, as it would appear, there was at that time a growing conviction that 60 runs was too narrow a margin, it is hardly surprising that at the present day, considering the enormously increased facilities for run-getting, on perfect wickets, with easy boundaries, there should be a generally expressed opinion that a deficit of 80 runs no longer represents, even approximately, the following-on value of a side. Whereas thirty years ago 80 runs would have been a fair total for an entire eleven to make, to-day there are two batsmen in England who averaged last season between them more than 80 runs for upwards of forty innings, and whilst formerly a side followed on with defeat staring them in the face, they now, on a good wicket (provided, of course, the deficit is not much in excess of the prescribed number of runs), hail the follow-on as affording them, not only a loophole of escape, but as actually reviving hopes of victory.

We have arrived, however, now, at an epoch in the history of the game of cricket when the value of runs is much lower than ever it was before, and 80 runs to-day no more represents the value of 80 runs in 1863 than our homely Victorian penny possesses the purchasing power of a penny, say, of the reign of Henry VIII.

This being the case in modern cricket, more especially in Australia, where the wickets and the weather are more trustworthy—and, of course, we are now, for the purpose of this article, only dealing with the follow-on upon good wickets—we find that law 53 to-day entirely fails in what we regard as its original object, namely to give the leading side an opportunity of winning the match, if win they can, with the least possible waste of time by unnecessary batting.

Nowadays the side who have the lead of 80 runs, as a rule, infinitely prefer a lead of some runs less, with the privilege of batting next, to undertaking the onerous task of fielding and bowling through two innings straight on end, with their own batting to come at the finish, when a broken wicket or a change in the weather may bring defeat.

So strong is the feeling of aversion to making one's opponents follow-on, that it is an acknowledged fact that on good wickets, when the question of the follow-on is a close thing, bowlers will deliberately bowl no-balls in order to carry the opponents' total past the fatal deficit of eighty. And not readily to be forgotten is the storm of indignation aroused at Lord's when, in the Varsity match, Mr Wells bowled no-balls some yards wide of the wicket to avoid the follow-on which the two last Oxford batsmen, with the utmost sangfroid, appeared to be discussing at the commencement of the over. We heard then that such conduct was disgraceful, and not cricket; and whilst we admit that such a performance is a blot upon the game, we can blame not the actors in it, but the legislature, who, by tolerating the existence of a law which now operates directly against the interest that it was framed to protect, are driving the players to expedients which, even if regarded as absolutely fair, are none the less deplorable.

That bowlers should repeatedly be driven to action of this kind to avoid the follow-on, and that, on the other hand, the last batsman should sacrifice his wicket with a view to following on, is, we think, sufficient proof that at present the law is a mischievous one. Next, then, we must consider how best to remedy this evil, and we think the most natural train of thought is somewhat as follows.

The side who ought to benefit by the law complain bitterly that at times it is dead against their interest to make their opponents follow, and actually in a high-

scoring match on a good wicket the game is often lost entirely through this apparent advantage of eighty runs upon the first innings, which entails upon the side holding it the burden of getting down twenty wickets on end, and then taking fourth innings. Having realised this, we say, "This is a monstrous injustice to the side who have the advantage on the first innings, but it is easy to remedy it by leaving it to their option to make the weaker (on that day's play, at all events) side follow on, or to go in themselves, at their discretion."

This is, we believe, the solution of the difficulty that is arrived at by nearly everyone who considers the problem from the point of view of the side that at present suffers the injustice, and that, of course, is the point from which one most naturally would regard the matter, and so it comes about that the very generally expressed opinion on the subject is that the law will best be mended by leaving the follow-on "at the option of the side leading."

Now, let us scrutinise more closely this remedy, which is so beautiful in its simplicity, and first we will ask ourselves this question—"Upon what occasions, if any, will the captain of the side leading in a three-days match insist upon his opponents following 'their innings'?" Certainly not upon a good wicket, because he would always prefer to bat again and increase his advantage up to the point of declaring his innings at an end whilst sure of a good wicket, rather than put his opponents in upon a good wicket and take upon his own shoulders the risk of the fourth innings, with all its hideous possibilities.

We think that no captain will disagree with us here, and we will be bold enough to go a step farther and assert that, should this ever become law, the captain of the leading side will insist upon the follow-on just so often as, and no oftener than, at the present time he puts the other side in to bat when he wins the toss. Let us recall the words of Mr A. G. Steel in his article upon Captaincy in the Badminton Cricket Book. "There is perhaps only one reason to justify a captain putting the other side in first—if the ground, previously hard, has been softened by a night's rain, and if at the time of beginning it is drying under a hot baking sun, and if the captain is tolerably sure that it is going to be a fine day."

Mr Steel here admirably defines the only conditions under which we are wont to invite our opponents to bat, and to defer our own exhibition with the willow until a later and more convenient period, and this quotation from his article is, we maintain, the answer to our question as to when a captain will make his opponents follow on, if he has the option. If this prove the case, and we think that nearly every captain of a county team will justify our view of the question, we arrive at the conclusion that the side who can make 80 runs more than their opponents, by winning the toss gain choice of innings, not once, but twice in the match—a most oppressive arrangement for the losers of the toss, and, in case of changes in the condition of the wicket, an enormous advantage to the side who least require extraneous assistance.

In brief, to make the follow-on optional is practically to abolish it entirely, except at the time when it is most mischievous, as it would be enforced upon those occasions only we have referred to, when the injustice always inseparable from a follow-on would prejudice the weaker side in far more deadly fashion than, under the present system, it affects the stronger side. Of the two evils, we believe the present system is preferable.

But since the only good point in the proposed scheme of the option is the fact that it would, to a great extent, abolish the follow-on altogether, why may we not pursue this a little further, and suggest that the fairest solution of the difficulty lies in the total abolition of a feature of the game which is no longer necessary. Necessary enough, as we have shown, was it as an economiser, however clumsy, of time, so long as cricketers could devise none better; but from the moment that law 54 empowered captains to declare their innings closed, there has no longer, in our opinion, been any need for the continued existence of law 53; in fact it has now become an excrescence that might well be pruned away from the game.

Give either captain the power, at any time in the match, of declaring his innings closed, and, if occasion should arise, of waiving his claim to a second innings, and we think that cricketers, or, at any rate, those taking an active part in the game, would bid farewell with but a passing pang of regret to their former trusty servant the Follow-on.

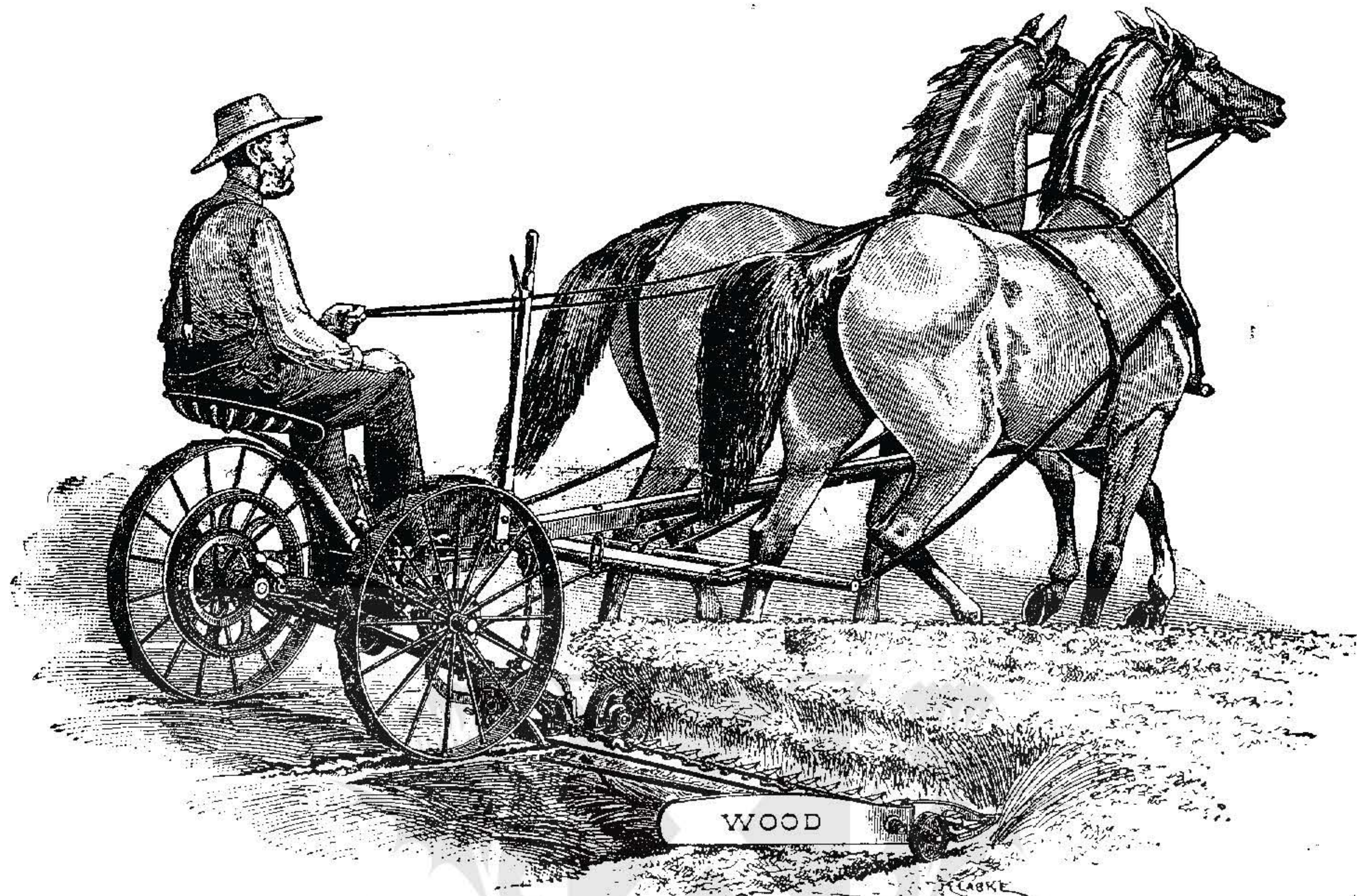
We have in these remarks confined our attention entirely to the aspect of the follow in three-day matches, and this because the whole subject is far too wide for discussion in an article of this length; but we think that our readers who are practical cricketers will agree with us when we say that it is in matches to be decided by the first innings, because there is no prospect of playing the game right out, that the follow-on assumes its most repulsive form, and leads not unfrequently to the most regrettable incidents, when both sides are anxious to have another innings, and there is no chance of a close finish.

At any rate, our suggestion, that a side may waive its claim to a second innings, would give the victor in day matches an opportunity of attempting to surprise the pose of their opponents, should they be "Bailey's Magazine."

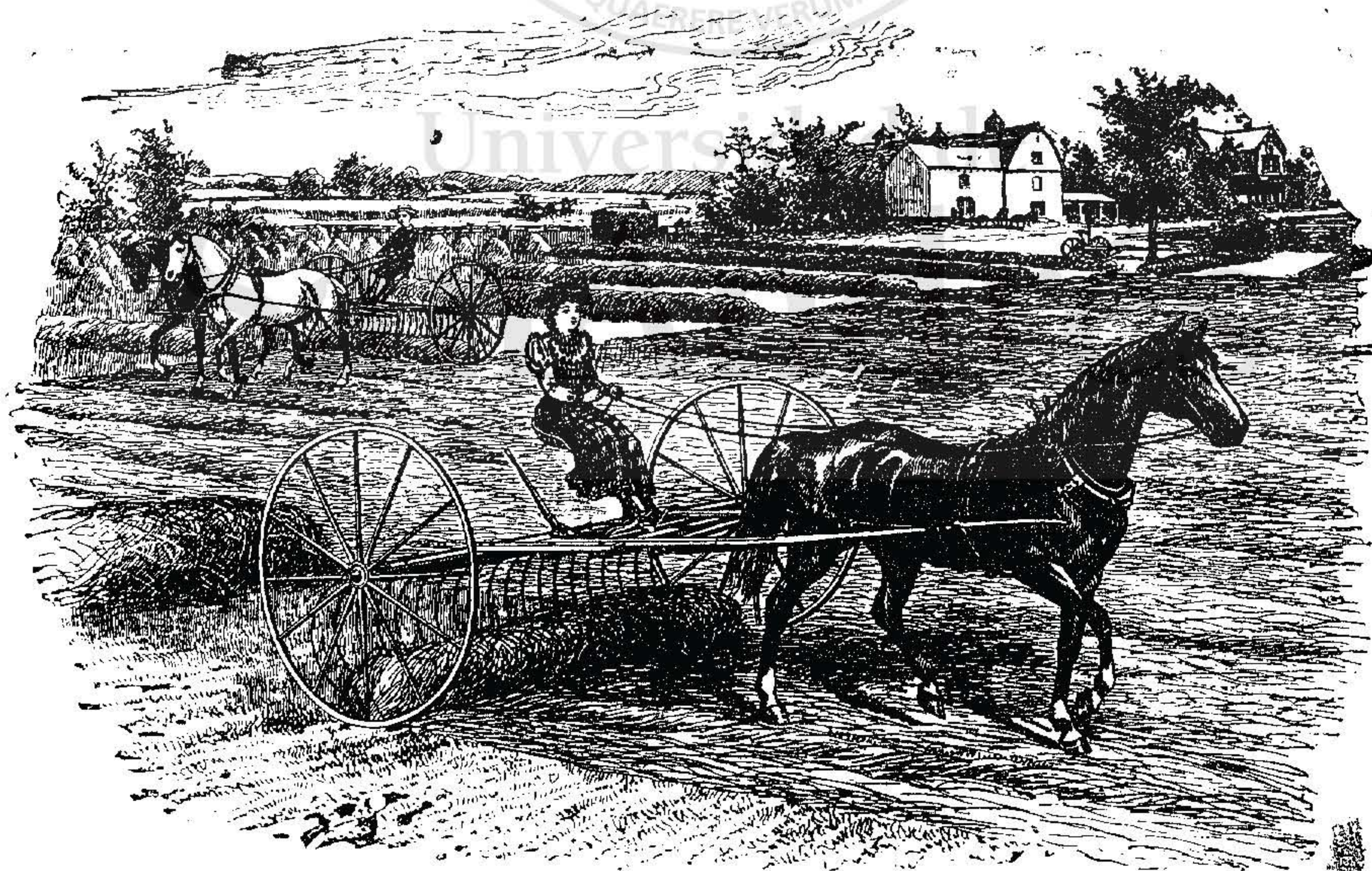
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