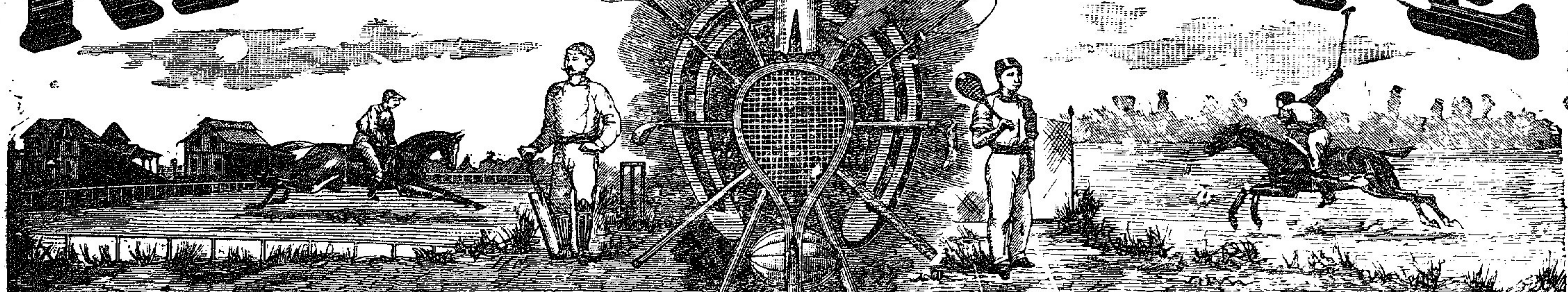


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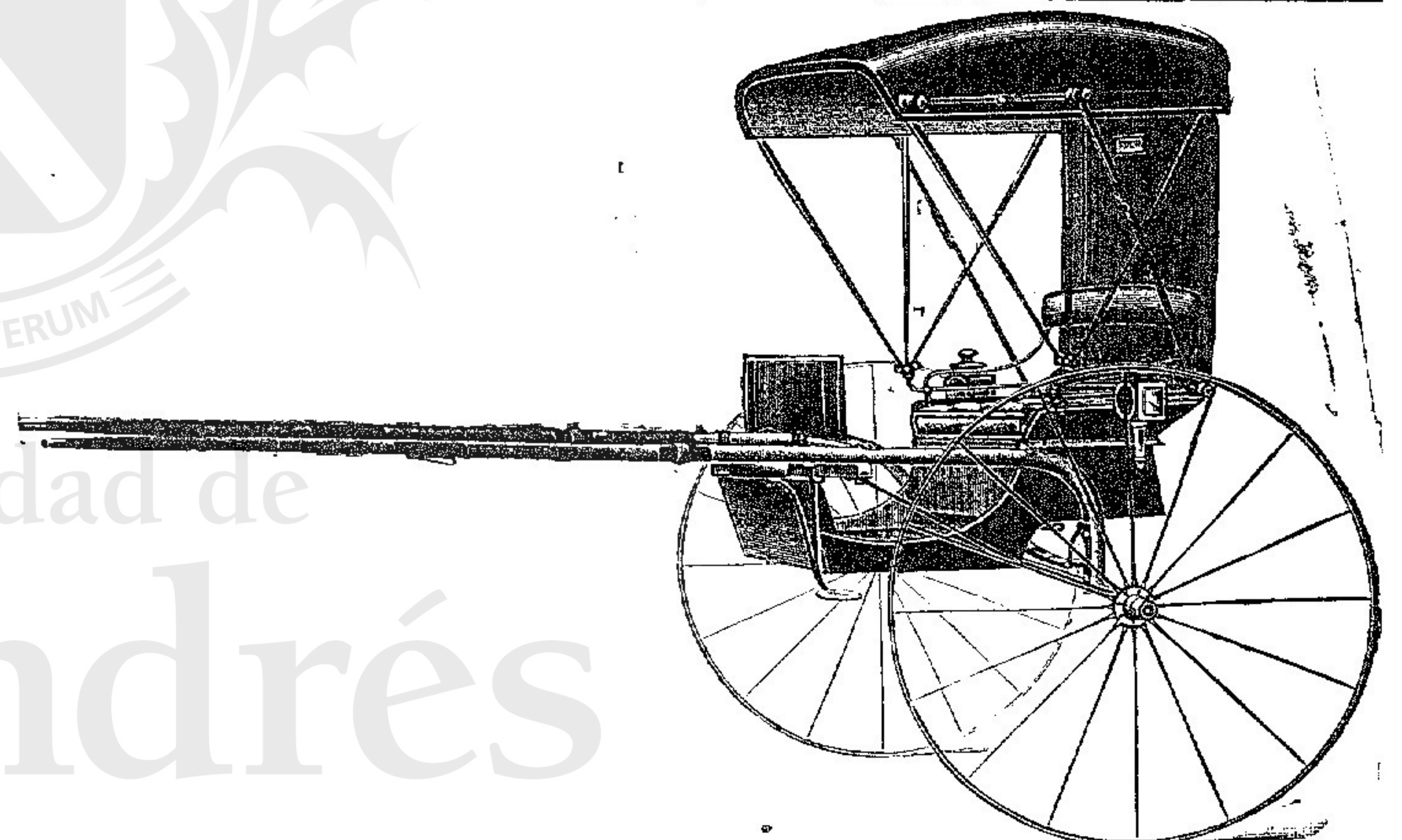
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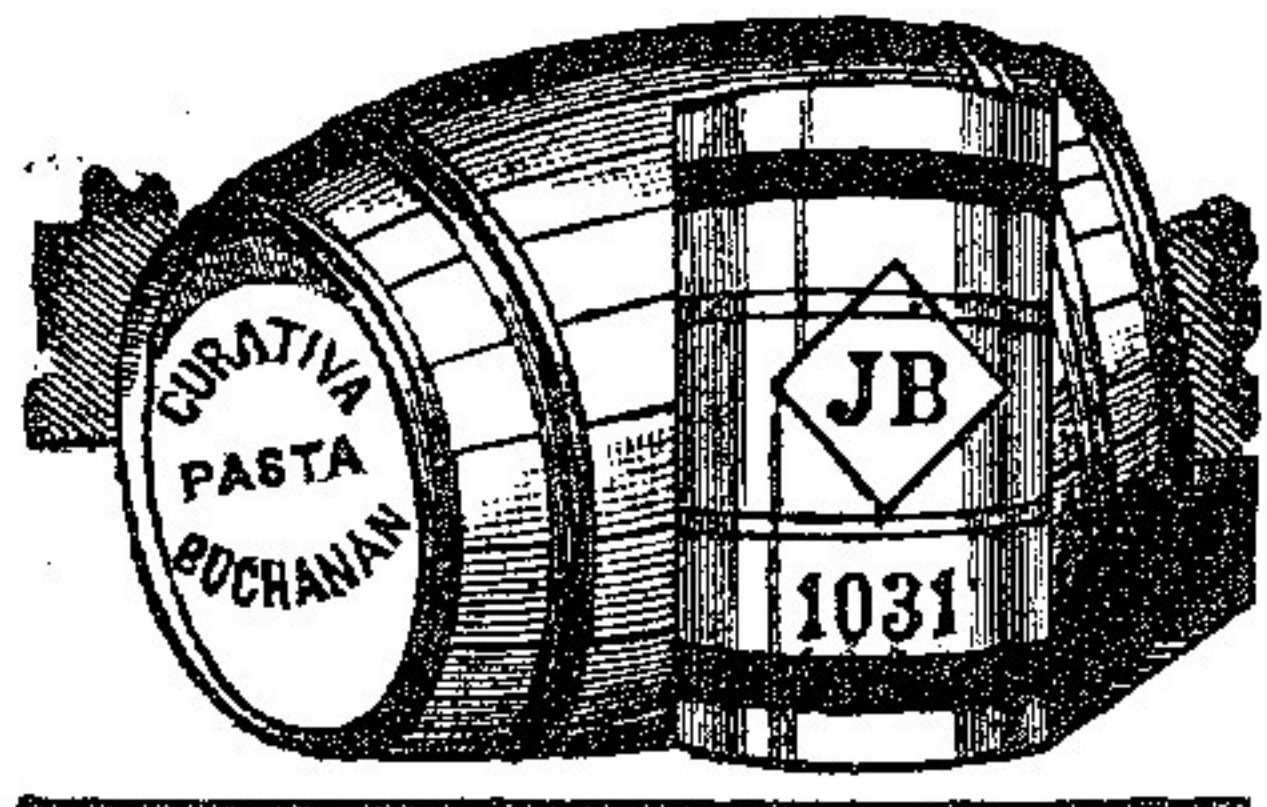
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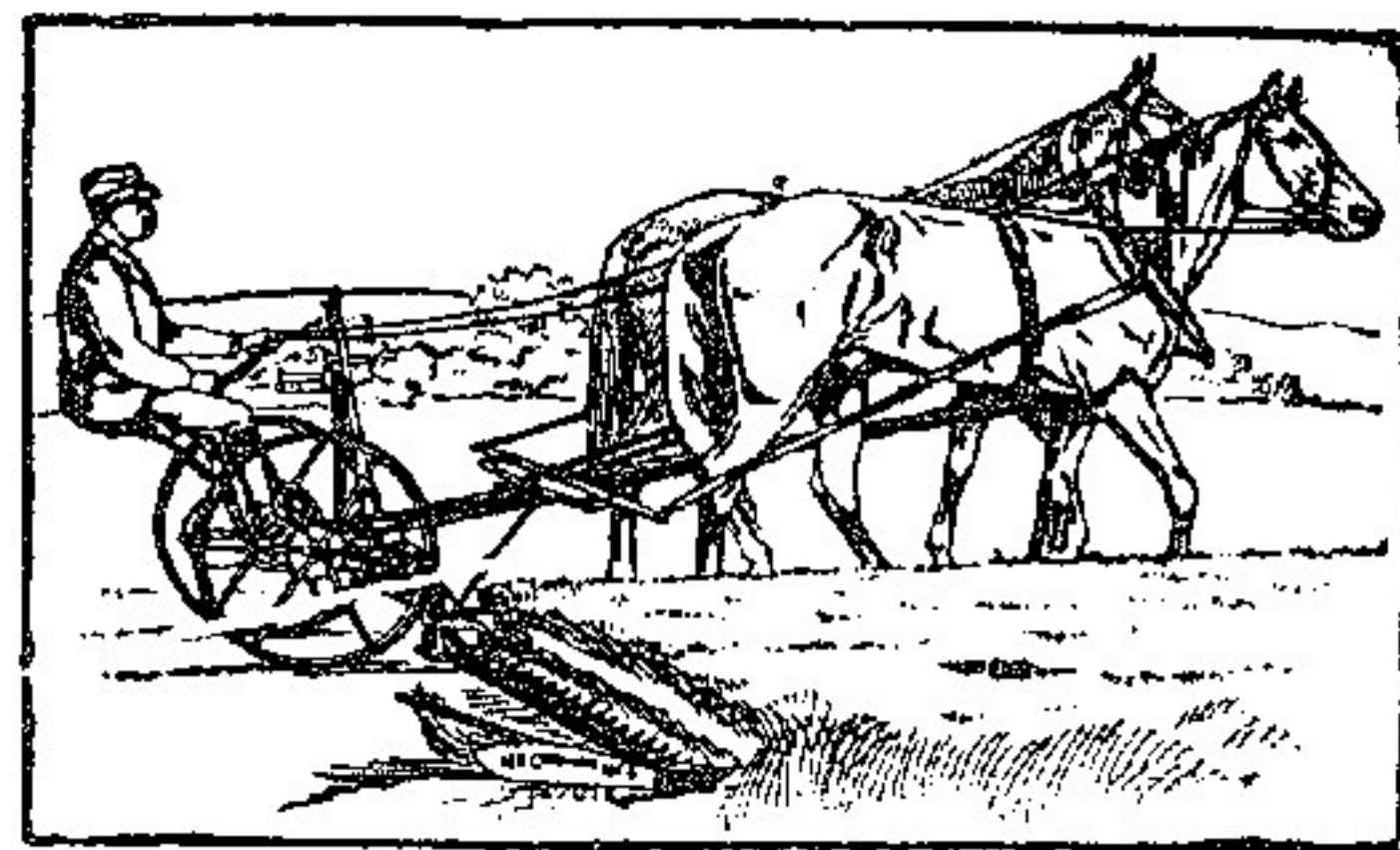
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FOOTBALL

SUGGESTIONS FOR ASSOCIATION REFORMS.

We find the following excellent remarks in the "Field" of January 16 regarding Association Football:

Now that the heat of recent controversies within the council of the Football Association has partially subsided, an opportune moment has come for the consideration of the substantial grievances under which a large and important section of the players of the country conceives itself to labour. The arbitrary measures by which the executive has attempted to limit the liberty of amateur players have at length roused them to a sense of the miserable position into which they have drifted since their admission of professionalism a dozen years ago; and their tardy protests have not only enlisted a great mass of public opinion in their favour, but must also have made some impression on the most reasonable and sportsmanlike of the opposite party. One question has raised another. It is now clearly discerned that amateurs have been deprived of, or have relinquished, their rightful share in the management of the game, and further that, as a natural consequence, the rules of the game itself and the spirit in which they are carried out have step by step been altered for the worse. Although the amateur clubs of the country vastly outnumber the professional, and the amateur players are, to the professionals, as a host to a handful, a full general meeting of the association would show the real minority in possession of something like three-fourths of the voting power. A still greater anomaly may be found in the fact that, since professional players have no voice in football administration, the members of the voting majority are merely the representatives of non-players, subscribers, season ticket holders, and the proprietors of shares. Thus it comes about that the rules of the game are from time to time remodelled, not by players for the benefit of their sport, but by spectators, practically according to their ideas of the exigencies of the arena and the demands of the gallery. It is true that an immense amount of capital and gate money is represented by the majority of the delegates, and that the bulk of their business consists of the regulation of payments, registrations, transfers, and financial details affecting their paid servants. The outcome is that, while the few remaining amateur councillors are reluctantly involved in such questions, they find themselves powerless to prevail in safeguarding the interests with which they are really concerned. If the standpoints of the two sections are not so utterly incompatible as to require the disruption of the Association, it is clear that amateurs can only be satisfactorily retained within its compass by prompt attention to their reasonable demands. For that object a few of the most urgently needed reforms may now be opportunely outlined.

To begin with the game itself, as more directly concerning the generality of players, it may be pointed out that wide-spread dissatisfaction is felt with the new system of refereeing. The penalty of a free kick may be awarded on a breach of the rules without appeal and to the detriment of the aggrieved side. Thus the whistle may be, and frequently is, blown and the game stopped because a player has touched the ball with his hands, when his opponents would prefer to forego their claim. As an extreme instance, a goal may be disallowed because one of the defenders has committed an illegality in vainly trying to resist the attack. This is as though the winner of a race, having passed the post well ahead of his rivals, were ordered to run or row again because he had been fouled in his course. A more direct violation of the spirit of sport could hardly be perpetrated. In the second place, what is technically known as a penalty kick is given for intentionally unfair play under certain circumstances. Among generous sportsmen such an infliction is felt to convey a hateful implication, and its imposition by a referee when it is not even demanded is considered an indignity. Players who would never dream of claiming such a penalty are equally insulted when it is given against esteemed opponents and when it is inflicted on themselves. This rule should either be rescinded or made permissive at the option of the captains. We believe that the University teams habitually contract themselves out of it before their matches, and we have actually seen an international match played on a ground on which the 12 yards "penalty lines" were not marked. Thirdly, the growing practice of referees, tolerated by the council, of penalising fair and vigorous charging should be repressed in no dubious manner. Not only are matches between amateurs and professionals quite spoiled by this innovation, but even amateur contests are often reduced to fiascos; besides, the alternative resort of certain players is to tackle unfairly; with the feet, or even the hands, to the great increase of the dangers of football and the excitement of unsportsmanlike passions.

To prevent the further deterioration of the rules their case ought to be intrusted to a commission, on which amateurs have a half share of representation. The business of the Association should be so divided as to give professional club delegates the sole or chief control of their own business, while, on the other hand, the amateurs should be supreme in the department which concerns themselves.

Lastly, the excessive claims of the Association to control unregistered clubs, to forbid football among non-members, and to interfere with scratch teams, ought, in the interest of liberty, to be entirely abandoned. The power which they possess of calling upon their clubs to show their balance sheets might be somewhat extended if it is really thought necessary to guard against unlicensed speculative football troupes.

ASSOCIATION.

League matches. First Division.—It is satisfactory to have to state that Sunderland have at last done an excellent performance. The Wearsiders, playing at home, beat the formidable Aston Villa team by four goals to two. They went away in fine style at the start, and in three minutes scored with a good shot. The visitors began to press, but it was not till half an hour had passed that they were able to equalise. Nothing further of importance resulted in the opening half. In two minutes after the resumption the Villa obtained another goal, but Sunderland once again made the scores level. Harvey put the home side a goal in front, and before the conclusion Sunderland scored a fourth point. The game was finely contested from beginning to end, and the Wearsiders have not this season been seen to so much advantage.

Much interest was felt in the meeting of Derby County and Sheffield Wednesday which took place on the ground of the former. Derby opened by pressing, but the Wednesday were the first to score, putting the ball through from a corner. The home team soon equalised, A. Goodall, beating Massey with a nice shot. Derby scored the winning goal in the second half. Burnley did not do at all well in their match with Stoke, who won by three goals to one. The match was played at Burnley. Sheffield United at home beat the Blackburn Rovers by seven goals to nothing. The Rovers' goalkeeper Ogilvie was hurt in the first half and had to leave the field. This accounted for the high scoring of the United. Liverpool beat Wolverhampton Wanderers by two goals to one; and Everton beat Notts Forest by three goals to one.

Second Division.—Newton Heath and Burton Swifts drew, one goal each; Darwen beat Manchester City by three goals to one. Leicester Fosse beat Newcastle United by five goals to nothing. Notts County beat Gainsborough Trinity by two goals to nothing. Burton Wanderers beat Walsall Swifts by one goal to nil, and Grimsby Town beat Lincoln City by three goals to nothing.

Southern League.—Before a few spectators Millwall Athletic beat Chatham by a goal to nothing, but the winners had very little the best of the game. Gravesend beat Wolverton by five goals to two, Swindon beat Tottenham Hotspur by a goal to nil, Reading and Southampton St. Mary's drew, one goal each.

Cornwall v. Devon.—The return match between these counties was played at Truro on Jan. 9, in fine weather, but on a slippery ground. As the result of the previous meeting was a draw, special interest was taken in the fixture, and there was in consequence a numerous gathering of spectators. The teams turned out practically as they had been selected, Cornwall being a powerful combination. They had rather the best of the play all through, but they only won by one goal to none.

Berks and Bucks v. Surrey.—The annual match between these amateur associations in the South-Eastern Counties' Championship was played at High Wycombe on Jan. 13. Berks and Bucks had previously beaten Sussex and lost to Middlesex in the competition, but it was Surrey's first fixture. The Loakes Park ground at High Wycombe is not by any means an ideal football inclosure, the playing area sloping sharply from side to side. From the point of view of the attendance, the selection was a fortunate one, for the game was watched by a numerous and enthusiastic gathering. With fine weather and firm turf the conditions were altogether favourable, and some interesting play was witnessed. In the first half Berks and Bucks scored a goal, while in the second half Surrey equalised and no further score taking place the match ended in a draw of one goal each.

Suffolk v. Norfolk.—The second meeting of these teams took place at Ipswich on Jan. 9, in the presence of a numerous assemblage. Wretched weather prevailed, and the recent heavy rains had rendered the turf in a very unsatisfactory condition, but despite this drawback good form was shown, more especially by Suffolk, and they gained a well-earned victory by six goals to none.

St. Bernard's v. Queen's Park.—It is curious that the fortunes of the ballot should have decreed that these clubs should for the second successive season oppose each other in the Scottish Cup competition. Last year, in Glasgow, the St. Bernard's were successful in the second round; on Jan. 9, at Logie Green, Edinburgh, they ousted the premier club in the first round of the final stage. Fully 6000 people were present, to the majority of whom the result gave lively satisfaction. The better team won, and their superiority was more pronounced than the score—two goals to one—indicates. The losers' forward play was singularly ineffective, and it was only the strong defence of their goalkeeper and backs that kept down the scoring. The St. Bernard's had the aid of the wind in the first half, but when, towards its close, snow began to fall heavily, and there had been no scoring, it was thought that they had let their opportunity slip. Up till this point they had certainly had the best of the play, but

that was only to be expected. On resuming, however, the snow soon passed off, only to restart some twenty minutes later. Still play favoured the home team, albeit the St. Bernard's goalkeeper was now occasionally tested. At length St. Bernard's scored from a corner, and a little later their centre-forward beat the Q. P.'s custodian with a good shot. Ten minutes from time the visiting forwards had an opening and scored. There was yet time for them to draw level, but they were kept well in hand and retired defeated as above mentioned.

Eastbourne v. Marlow.—The first match between these clubs was played on the Saffrons, the excellent Eastbourne ground, on Jan. 9. The proceedings attracted considerable attention, and despite the dull weather the attendance numbered over 1000. Owing to the recent rains the ground was on the heavy side, and the light was by no means good all through the game. Neither club put full strength in the field, owing to the holidays and other causes, amongst the absentees being the rival captains. A very even game resulted, first one and then the other acting on the defensive. A. G. S. Laurence kept goal splendidly for the home team and it was mainly owing to his efforts that the result of a pleasant game was a victory of two goals to none only in favour of the visitors.

Old Foresters v. Old Etonians.—These teams met on Jan. 9, at Snaresbrook, but a drenching rain and the heavy state of the ground had a decided effect on the play. The old Foresters, who were well represented, had somewhat the best of matters throughout, and won by four goals to two.

The representatives of Ilford were to have met the Old Carthusians at Ilford on Jan. 9, but the latter being unable to keep the engagement, Ilford arranged a match with the 2nd Coldstream Guards. Rain and the heavy state of the ground spoiled the game to some extent. Ilford had upon the whole the best of the exchanges, but they failed repeatedly in their efforts to score, and had to accept defeat by two goals to one.

RUGBY

England v. Wales.—We have to record a brilliant victory for Wales over England at Newport, on Jan. 9. The score was a goal and two tries to nothing, but if the Welsh fifteen had been rewarded according to their merits the points would have been still more. On a day when the weather and the ground were equally unfitted for any thorough demonstration of skill in a great game the Welsh football reached a high degree of excellence. Much has been said by the English apologists about the condition of the ground and how it affected the English play, but if one side could develop excellence why not the other? It is all very well to say that English teams are unused to heavy grounds and that Welshmen are perfectly at home on such a sea of mud as existed on Jan. 9, but the fact is forgotten that this has been an abnormally wet winter, and except, perhaps, at Blackheath, the various football fields have generally been heavy. Beyond doubt Wales possessed the better side, for not only were the forwards as strong in the scrummage as England and much better in the loose, but their whole set of backs was collectively and individually immeasurably superior to that of England. Indeed, the only merit with England was their real honest scrummage work, which on a dry ground would have been much more effective. On Saturday the Welsh forwards broke up quickly, and were round so swiftly on the half backs that Cyril Wells and E. W. Taylor did little else than fall on the ball to stop rushes. And if the ball did come out towards them they had neither the quickness nor the resource of Selwyn Biggs and Jones, both of whom played a wonderful game. Selwyn Biggs was in great form, and the way he slipped away and opened the game for the backs had much to do with the character of the game. But there was much excellence all round in the play of Wales behind the scrummage. At three-quarter perhaps most of it was absorbed by Arthur Gould and T. W. Pearson; with the former were all those wonderful points in his resource, either in attack or defence, while Pearson's pace and capacity for taking a pass were among the best things in the match. This was Arthur Gould's twenty-seventh international match, and it is saying a great deal when we remark that he played on Saturday, under the worst conditions as well as ever he did. Cliff Bowen and Gwynn Nicholls were both very good, while Bancroft only once erred at full back. He did not have much tackling to do, but his kicking and the way he found touch were wonderful. At every point behind the scrummage were Wales very good, and, unlike the Englishmen, the Welsh three-quarters covered their full back with great judgment. This brings us to the grave error on the English side in the way the three-quarters got right up to a level with the half backs. This may have been caused either by their anxiety to check the Welsh three-quarters, or by instruction. Whichever it was, it was a serious blunder. The Welsh three-quarters slipped by the English line constantly, and J. F. Byrne, the full back, had an anxious time. Had the English three-quarters kept the average distance off, they would have afforded protection for their full back, and at the same time given themselves more scope both in defence and attack. Speaking of the English half backs, Taylor has seen his best football days, while Wells on Saturday failed. These men together have never been a success, save when behind a winning scrummage, and the fact

of their failure made the three-quarters appear worse than they actually were. Baker and Fookes did a lot of hard work on defence, but F. A. Byrne did not by any means play up to expectations, and Fletcher did nothing more than he did in North v. South match, when he was given his cap. The Rugby Union committee erred in separating the two Byrnes, who succeeded so well together in North v. South; and last Saturday F. A. Byrne was quite at sea without his brother to make his game for him. Whenever England attacked it was always the work of the forwards, who were really a good lot. But the slackness of the halves did often in a moment destroy the work of ten minutes' hard scrummaging. So the whole game turned on the backs, and, with England here outclassed, Wales won quite easily. It is a coincidence that the first Welsh victory against England was gained on just such another day as was Saturday. This was seven years ago at Dewsbury, when the series of International matches, which had been broken by the notorious dispute, was renewed. The morning began with a fine rain, which developed into a downpour about one o'clock, and this was succeeded very soon by a storm of sleet. It was through such weather as this that people reached to ground, and the majority of the 20,000 spectators were without cover. The Press, especially those members who had to work during the progress of the match, were very badly off, for they were in the open facing the wind. There is just one matter that may, in the interests of the game, be pointed out for discouragement. It cannot be better done than by using the words of a well-known follower of Rugby football. "It is not pleasant to see trainers and their attendants on amateur football teams. It is a practice that smacks of the professional Association clubs, and it may be hoped that the custom observed by Wales on January 9th will not spread. In the good old days a piece of lemon perhaps at half-time, and a fresh for a torn jersey, were all the attentions given to players beyond much advice."

Wales having won the toss, E. W. Taylor, the English captain kicked off, Gould returning well. F. A. Byrne was tackled before he could get away, and a scrum was formed in the visitors' twenty-five. England broke through, and Bancroft relieved by kicking into touch. The Welsh forwards gradually recovered the lost ground, but their progress was stopped by Baker. In the next scrum Wales were penalised, and Ashford took the kick, Gould could not hold the ball, but Bancroft got possession, and putting in a nice run he passed to Bowen, who put the ball into touch near the centre flag. The Englishmen then had a turn, Baker trying to get away. He was collared by Nicholls, and nothing resulted. More scrums were formed in the Welsh twenty-five, but Gould brought relief to his side by running smartly, and Pearson finally kicked into touch by the English twenty-five, but Gould brought relief to his side by running smartly, and Pearson finally kicked into touch by the English twenty-five line. A determined rush was stopped by J. F. Byrne and England again forced their way back. Pearson was the next to show prominently, all but scoring, but spoiling his chance by knocking on. Some very fast play in the English territory followed. As Wells was given off-side, a penalty kick was awarded to Wales. Gould took it but the ball went wide of the goal. The Welshmen began to press hard, but Baker and Byrne defended well. Pearson was pulled up two yards from England's line, and after some scrambling play the visitors worked back to mid-field. Fletcher got possession, ran nicely, and kicked well. He and Fookes followed up, the latter making his mark. Ashford shot at goal, but the ball went wide, and Gould, securing it, sent it to mid-field. Give and take play ensued, after which a most severe attack was made on the English goal. Biggs picked up the ball and passed to Gould, who in turn passed to Nicholls. Pearson was at hand and scored at the corner. Bancroft tried to convert, but failed. On restarting the ball the home forwards went away together irresistibly. Towards the end of a splendid combined run Bowen ran out and obtained a well deserved try. Bancroft again failed to improve the point, and the angle was not difficult. As the game went on the Welsh forwards carried all the scrums, but the tackling of Baker, Fletcher, Fookes, and J. F. Byrne saved the English goal till after half-time. After crossing over England began to press, and Wells made his mark in a good position. J. F. Byrne tried to kick a goal, but the ball fell short. Biggs helped his side to recover some ground, but Wells neutralised his effort. Baker sprinted finely and a scrum was formed close to the Welsh goal. Pearson dribbled right into the English quarters. For some time the English forwards more than held their own, and Wells nearly scored. Gould replied by taking the ball to the centre, where he was successfully tackled by Fletcher. Fookes then put in a brilliant run and passed to Fletcher, who lost a chance by failing to hold the ball. England did not again show to advantage. Boucher got away, passed to Jones, who got a try near the posts; Bancroft this time made no mistake. Wales till the end held the upper hand but could not add to their score.

Durham v. Lancashire.—Although both these teams are out of the running this season as far as championship honours are concerned, there is still a great amount of interest taken in their doings, especially in Durham. This was the case on Jan. 9 when a strong team was prepared to do battle at West Hartlepool with the Lancashire men. As in other parts of the kingdom, there was no escape from the biting winds and heavy falls of rain and sleet; yet, in spite of this, between four and five thousand enthusiasts put in an appearance. Each team was weakened by the absence of a representative at Newport, and in addition Lancashire were without Allen and other prominent members. Matters looked very bright for Durham when the changes in the visiting

ranks became known, but it turned out quite contrary to expectation Lancashire winning by three tries to nothing. The game was not a worthy one from a spectator's point of view, neither side performing in a manner approaching the usual standard of attractiveness, a fact due considerably to the state of the weather and the ground.

Kent v. Hampshire.—On January 13, on the Rectory Field, Blackheath, these counties, who are in the south-eastern district of the Rugby Union, played the final match of that division, and, by winning, Kent will meet Somersetshire, who have succeeded in gaining first place in the south-western group. The winner of the latter game will have to do battle with the team which comes out the top of the northern section, and that will probably be Yorkshire. After the wet weather experienced of late it was quite a treat to have a fine day, and a fairly-sized crowd witnessed the game. Kent had a strong side, and were considered to have a big advantage over their rivals, which was realised, they winning by twenty-five points to nothing.

The representatives of Manchester paid their first visit to the metropolis this season on Jan. 9 when they were opposed by a fairly strong Blackheath team on the Rectory Field. Heavy rain had fallen in the south during the greater part of the preceding two days, and as there seemed every likelihood of a continuance it was naturally thought that the turf would be in such an unsatisfactory condition that neither side would be able to play up to usual form. These anticipations were, however, far from being realised, as a more interesting or well contested game has not been witnessed at Blackheath for some considerable time. The attendance, estimated at 2000, was much better than expected under the circumstances, and much interest was taken in the proceedings. The Lancashire club being unable to muster more than fourteen men, they were obliged to call upon F. Kendall to assist them on the three-quarter line, and there was no reason to complain of the substitute. During the opening half Manchester were distinctly unfortunate through losing the services of Bannerman, one of their most prominent forwards, owing to injuries, but despite this, the visitors held a lead of six points to five at the interval. From that stage to the close, however, Blackheath showed to advantage, and ultimately won by sixteen points to eleven.

Richmond v. Marlborough Nomads.—In spite of the previous bad weather the turf of the Richmond Athletic ground was in very fair condition on January 9, nor was the game between these clubs very much affected by the fine cold rain which fell during a part of the afternoon, some very creditable passing being performed by the winning team with a slippery ball. Although the victory of Richmond was gained by a respectable score, the contest did not altogether present a one-sided appearance, since the Nomads worked hard in the scrummages, and frequently worked into their opponents' forwards. But both in open forward play and in the speed and skill of their three-quarters, the winners possessed a marked advantage, and some of their tries were gained by long runs from the middle of the ground just when they seemed hardly able to hold their own in the packs. Richmond having contributed three of their forwards and a three-quarter to the English fifteen, and its reserves engaged at Newport, were a little below their full strength, in spite of which however they won comfortably by a goal and four tries to one try.

Harlequins v. London Scottish.—These teams met at Chiswick on January 9, in anything but favourable weather, rain falling rather heavily during the first half of the game, and a cold wind blew across the ground. The consistent downpour of the previous two days caused the ground to be much on the heavy side, and true football was quite out of the question. The game was fixed to start at a quarter to three but owing to the late arrival of some of the players, a commencement was not made till half an hour later. In consequence of this the play was limited to twenty minutes each way, and when the teams took the field it was noticed that the London Scottish were a man short, Jackson being absent from the three-quarter line. Otherwise the Scots were strongly represented, but the Harlequins suffered much from the absence of their captain, C. M. Wells, who was playing for England against Wales at Newport. From the outset the game was of a scrambling nature, the scrummages never being held long, and the attempts at passing were very poor. Forcing matters at the start, the Scots worked into the Harlequins' territory, and several times appeared likely to score, but stout defence prevented them from scoring. Once the Scots from a scrum in their opponents' twenty-five, worked the ball over the goal line, but it was dropped on by one of the Harlequins which gained the latter relief. Following the drop out the Scots immediately gained an advantage, but a grand run by C. Wells took the play to the other end of the ground, and getting the better of the scrums the Harlequins looked likely to score. No points were gained by either side up to half time, but the concluding portion of the game had not been started very long when one of the Scotch half-backs dribbled the ball over the Harlequins goal line, and following it up scored a try. Neilson was entrusted with the place kick, and made a good shot, but the ball went a few inches outside the left hand post. A free kick to the Harlequins gave Pank an opportunity of obtaining a goal, but the angle was a

difficult one, and no surprise was occasioned when he missed. The Harlequins now played up with more vigour, and the London Scottish had to touch down and directly afterwards kick the ball dead. Thence to the close of the game the play was fast and furious, but nothing further was scored, and the Scots were thus the winners by a try (three points) to nothing.

Leicester v. St. Thomas's Hospital.—In wretched weather, and with the ground in a very heavy condition, this annual match was brought off at Leicester on Jan. 9. The hospital was by no means strongly represented, in fact, the hon. sec. experienced some difficulty in getting a team together so soon after the holidays. Leicester, on the other hand, had, with the exception of Redman, their full strength, so that it was not at all surprising that they added yet another to their already long string of victories. The first half provided the best portion of the game, but the pace at which the play was carried on amid such unfavourable surroundings soon told upon the students, who, after crossing over, experienced anything but a comfortable time. Leicester eventually won by three goals and two tries (twenty-one points) to nothing.

RACING

Just at present steeplechasing is at a somewhat low ebb, the meetings which have been brought to a head during the past three weeks having been of comparatively minor importance, but a better state of things may be looked for in our next advices, as meetings that extremely attractive programmes have been provided for will then have taken place at two or three prominent centres. At Manchester, for instance, the valuable Lancashire Steeplechase, and Jubilee Hurdle Race, will be run for, the former of which has obtained fifty-eight entries and the latter no fewer than sixty-one.

LINGFIELD PARK—JAN. 9.

Weald Handicap Steeplechase of 80 sovs; 3 miles.
Mr A. Yates' b g New Abbey, by St. Keen, dam by Old Tom, aged, 10 st 3 lb (scar. 10 st 4 lb) . . . Dollery 1
Mr F. D. Leyland's Prioress, aged, 10 st 7 lb . . . G. Morris 2
Mr O. Gibson's Daimio, aged, 12 st 10 lb . . . Hickey 3
Lord Shrewsbury's Ballyohara, aged, 11 st . . . Williamson 0
Mr. A. H. Hudson's May Day aged, 10 st 5 lb . . . A. Nightingall 0

Betting: 2 to 1 agst Ballyohara, 7 to 2 agst Daimio, 4 to 1 agst May Day, 9 to 2 agst New Abbey, and 5 to 1 agst Prioress.

On settling down Prioress was the leader, with Daimio and New Abbey next, and they came round the first time in this order. Daimio clearly did not like the going and was flagging perceptibly, whilst Ballyohara was travelling anyhow. These two and May Day were rapidly left in the rear by the other two, of whom New Abbey was sent to the front at the water the second time, and a very fine race to the end, ensued. Dollery with the inside berth just held his own, despite a determined effort the whole length of the straight by Prioress, and he won all out by two lengths. The others were pulled up and finished 600 yards behind the second.

Eden Vale Hurdle Handicap of 70 sovs; 2 miles.
Mr E. V. Marchant's b h Melton Prior by Melton—Julia, 6 yrs, 10 st 13 lb (inc. 10 lb ex.) . . . T. Fitton 1
Mr G. B. Corbett's Champs d'Or, 5 yrs, 10 st 12 lb . . . Hopkins 2

Mr G. Parker's Bev Jones, aged, 11 st 5 lb . . . Parker 3
Mr Priaux's Grimpo, aged 12 st . . . H. Brown 0
Mr E. B. Ashmore's Mysore, 5 yrs, 11 st 1 lb . . . Little 0
Mr J. Biste's Minerval, 5 yrs, 10 st 13 lb . . . A. Birch 0
Mr J. Butchers' Sea Wall, aged, 10 st 11 lb . . . Butchers 0

Mr W. Sibary's Armitage, 6 yrs, 10 st 9 lb . . . Williamson 0
Mr Polegh's Pomade Divine, 6 yrs, 10 st 6 lb . . . Makepeace 0

Mr Hervey de Montmorency's Pink Domino, 4 yrs, 10 st 6 lb . . . Owner 0
Betting: 7 to 2 agst Champs d'Or 4 to 1 agst Sea Wall, 9 to 2 each agst Melton Prior and Armitage, 7 to 1 agst Grimpo, and 10 to 1 agst any other.

Pink Domino was the leader for a mile or more, Melton Prior and Champs d'Or always being close up, as was Armitage until coming a tremendous purler on the flat. Melton Prior assumed the lead topping the hill, and had an easy task to win by six lengths from Champs d'Or, who beat Bev Jones by a head; Sea Wall was fourth and Pink Domino fifth.

Blindley Heath Maiden Hurdle Race of 40sovs; 2 miles.
Mr A. Sydney's ch h Hawker, b Falcon—Larker, 4 yrs, 11 st . . . H. Sydney 1
Mr O. Mosley's Pilot, aged, 12 st . . . Mr H. Sidney 2
Mr J. Widger's Hawkwood, 4 yrs, 11 st . . . Mr de Montmorency 3

Mr H. W. Gilbey's Lord Roberts, 5 yrs, 11 st 10 lb . . . Mr Tabor 0
Mr H. I. Higham's Bank Note, 5 yrs, 11 st 10 lb . . . C. Russell 0
Mr C. Levy's Mob, 5 yrs, 11 st 10 lb . . . W. Pullen 0
Major A. S. Hardinge's Solent Belle, 4 yrs, 11 st . . . Mr A. H. Ripley 0
Mr F. C. Robinson's Doughty, 4 yrs, 11 st . . . G. Williamson 0

Betting 3 to 1 agst Doughty, 4 to 1 agst Pilot, 9 to 2 agst Bank Note, 5 to 1 agst Hawker, 7 to 1 agst Mob, and 10 to 1 agst any other.

Hawkwood led away the favourite coming past the stand third, and after that fell away. Hawker was sent to the front soon after, Pilot and Hawkwood lying close together to the straight where they challenged, but Hawker held his own and won by a length and a half; three-quarters of a length been second and third; Solent Belle was fourth and Lord Roberts fell.

LATEST LONDON BETTING—JAN. 15.

DEBBY.
(Run Wednesday, June 2).
11 to 4 agst Velazquez (t).
3 to 1 — Galtee Moore (t and o).
100 to 15 — Vesuvian (t).
25 to 1 — Orelia (o).
50 to 1 — Palmiste II. (t).

POLO.

HURLINGHAM.

A good game was played on Sunday last between the following sides:

Mr Robson's Team	Mr Furber's Team
T. S. Robson	A. Williamson
J. Ravenscroft	Waring Smyth
J. C. Hanna	A. Ott
H. S. Robson	F. Furber

Messrs G. Haig and R. Thorold cutting in-and-out through the game.

Mr Robson's side won by five goals to two, but unfortunately most of the players were short of ponies.

THE INDIAN POLO RULES.

Captain H. de B. de Lisle, writing in the "Bugle," puts in a strong protest against the present waste of time during a match. As the opinion of one so thoroughly up in all polo matters, we reprint his remarks:—

"Each season, as the annual revision of the rules of the I. P. A. are published in Home papers, they are freely discussed amongst all lovers of the game, and sometimes by the press. This year there is a strong feeling prevalent that the substitution of Rule 26 for Rule 24 of the calendar of 1895 I. P. A., by the General Meeting which assembled at Umballa last March, by which the duration of a match has been considerably lengthened, is a retrograde in place of a progressive movement.

"To onlookers, at a polo match, nothing is so tedious as the constant stoppages which occur so frequently, and though a match is not played entirely for the benefit of the spectators, we must admit that they have just cause for complaint when we consider that in the last open tournament at Umballa, which was played with the new ruling in force, a game of forty minutes play was spread out over a space of time varying from two hours to two hours and three-quarters. From this it will be seen that the waiting about far exceeded the actual play. Until the rule was altered, the ball, when beyond the boundary, had to be revived as soon as possible, but was still considered to be in play. Now, whenever the ball crosses the side or back line, it is to be considered out of play and time has to be deducted until play is resumed.

"The effect of this will be to render the game even longer than it was before.

"In comparing this step with the rules of other polo clubs, we find it directly opposed to the tendency elsewhere. The Hurlingham Club is always willing to accept any improvement to their rules, especially when introduced from India, knowing that such are fairly tested where polo is so universally and unremittingly played. And yet it is three years since Hurlingham introduced their present rule decreasing the duration of a match by nearly half, and at the same time making the actual play longer, and infinitely more interesting to spectators. Their rule reads as follows:—

"No. 7.—The duration of play in a match shall be one hour, divided into three periods of twenty minutes with an interval of five minutes between each period of play.

"Rule 8.—As soon as the ball goes out of play, after the expiration of the first ten minutes of each period of play, the game shall be suspended for sufficient time, not exceeding two minutes, to enable players to change ponies. . . . Any change of ponies except according to the above provision, shall be at the risk of the player.

"From this it will be seen that a match at Hurlingham lasts one hour of actual play, which is divided into three periods of twenty minutes, having an interval of five minutes each, making a total of one hour and sixteen minutes. When the ball goes beyond the boundary, no time is deducted but it is all included as actual play in exactly the same way as in Association football.

"In India, a game of forty minutes may last for two or three hours, most of which is spent waiting about while one player or another is changing his stick, &c. In India we are so accustomed to going off the ground whenever we want to, and to keeping the other seven players, two umpires, and thousands of spectators waiting, that any restriction in this line would be looked upon as an unnecessary innovation. In England and other countries, the same outcry was heard three years ago; and to-day we find the same players, who were most indignant at the innovation, upholding the rule as a great improvement on the old style.

"Let us briefly consider what the immediate result of such a rule in India would be. The great objection would be that ponies could not be changed (except at a player's own risk) in the middle of a chucker, and that ponies could not gallop in India for ten minutes without getting dead beat.

"This is most reasonable, but in India the sixty minutes' play might advantageously be sub-divided into eight periods of five minutes. Ponies manage ten minutes' actual play in fast station games, and ought to be able to do five minutes in a match. It is true there are many old cripples brought on to play in matches that can go brilliantly for two minutes, and then have to stop.

"Such a rule as we propose would affect them, and yet it would be no disadvantage to polo, to owners, or to the unfortunates themselves if such were not found of much use in matches.

"The second objection to such a rule is that a stick may snap, a girth slip, or a stirrup break, and the match be lost in consequence. We contend, however, that with such a rule as we propose in force more care will be devoted to employing sound saddlery and to using nothing but good sticks. There must be a certain amount of chance in every game, and though in polo there is less than in most others, still the breaking of a polo stick need not mean more to the opposite side in India than it does elsewhere.

"We might now consider the advantages to be obtained should the Hurlingham Rules be adopted. The principal of these lies in the fact that the game would be made a better test of merit, more enjoyable for the players without the constant stoppages, and infinitely more interesting to spectators.

"Secondly, the game would not last so long and tournament committees could safely arrange for two matches in an afternoon without fear of the late contest running into the twilight. Thirdly, this rule would ensure none but sound ponies fit to play being used for matches.

"It is more than probable that sixty minutes may be found too long for India, and that forty minutes, or eight periods of five minutes, are ample to decide the merits of two teams, and to give both men and ponies quite sufficient exertion for one day. It must, of course, be remembered that to play full periods, without stoppages is far more tiring to both player and animals than the present style. A few games played between first-class teams would decide this point.

"To polo players who have played in matches in England and in India, there can be no doubt that for once India, instead of taking the lead, should learn a lesson. We are informed that this subject will be brought up at the next general meeting of I. P. A., and as this is such an important step affecting all Indian polo players, we invite criticism from all club secretaries or individuals interested in the finest of games."

Polo is looking up at Calcutta. A most successful tournament was played there in December, the first team of the Calcutta Club were rather easy winners in the final, the Fort team, which had played well up to that time, going to pieces. This, however, was probably a testimony to the great superiority of the Calcutta men, a team which will play well enough with equal or weaker teams than itself frequently going to pieces altogether when it meets stronger players.

It is too seldom that one hears much of polo in South Africa. It is quite the game for the country, and the ponies there are very easy to teach. They take to the game with the greatest readiness. A young friend of the writer's who emigrated there not long ago says that he should like the country if he could get a game now and then. In the meantime he has bought some ponies, and is training them to keep his hand in. He tells me that they are very hardy, not at all shy of the stick and ball, and, if not quite so fast as English ponies, yet many are certainly as quick as any other foreign ponies.

PIGEON SHOOTING

HURLINGHAM.

On Sunday a match was shot at Hurlingham between Messrs H. K. Penrose and J. M. Mullaly—five birds at 27 yards. As both killed their five birds it was agreed to go back to 30 yards, after which Mr Mullaly killed four more birds, and Mr Penrose five, thereby winning the match.

Later in the afternoon several sweepstakes were shot off, as well as a prize confined to members, which was also won by Mr Penrose, who was in rare form, killing as he did in the course of the afternoon thirty birds out of thirty-two. Mr Penrose was shooting with a charming gun which has just been built for him by Messrs Westley, Richards and Co., of Bond Street, London, and with which he seems delighted.

The others events were won as follows: First sweepstakes, Messrs Penrose and Wells, divided; second sweepstakes, won by Mr E. Obert.

The details will be found below:

Match, at 27 yards, five birds.		
	Birds shot at.	Killed
H. K. Penrose	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	10
J. M. Mullaly	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0	9

After the fifth bird they shot from 30 yards,

Handicap sweepstakes of \$10 each, one bird.		
Yds.	Birds shot at.	Killed
25	H. K. Penrose	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 divi- .. 9
25	N. G. Wells	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ded. .. 9
25	G. Mallison	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 .. 8
30	E. Obert	1 1 1 1 0 .. 4
25	F. Furber	1 0 .. 1
26	J. Mullaly	0 .. 0

A Members' Prize, handicap sweepstakes of \$15 each, two misses out.

Yds.	Birds shot at.	Killed
25	H. K. Penrose	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 .. 10
26	J. M. Mullaly	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 .. 9
25	G. Mallison	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 .. 8
25	E. R. Gifford	1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 .. 8
25	F. Furber	1 0 1 1 1 0 .. 4
27	Waring Smyth	1 0 1 1 0 .. 3
25	N. G. Wells	0 1 0 .. 1
30	E. Obert	0 0 .. 0

Sweepstakes of \$10 each, 28 yards, one bird.		
	Birds shot at.	Killed
E. Obert	1 1 1 1 1 1	5
G. Mallison	1 1 1 1 1 0	4
J. M. Mullaly	1 1 0	2
E. R. Gifford	1 1 0	2
H. K. Penrose	1 0	1
N. G. Wells	1 0	1
Waring Smyth	1 0	1
F. Furber	0	0

LAWN TENNIS.

BELGRANO ATHLETIC CLUB'S TOURNAMENT.

The following are the entries (with handicaps) for the above tournament, which consists of three events, viz., gentlemen's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles.

First round to be played off on or before Sunday, the 21st inst.

GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES.

- G. M. Gosschalk (+ 15) v. J. S. Lee (+ 1/2 15).
- C. C. Mackenzie (+ 1/2 15) v. T. Fowler (+ 1/2 15).
- G. S. Wood (+ 1/2 30) v. W. Chevob (+ 1/2 30).
- J. Gibson (+ 1/2 15) v. J. G. Dunn (- 15).
- C. Edge (- 1/2 30) v. T. A. P. Macdonald (scr).
- R. H. Roberts (- 15) v. H. Kelly (+ 1/2 15).
- R. C. Mackinnell (- 1/2 15) v. A. M. Barton (- 1/2 30).
- J. W. Todd (- 15) v. H. Buxton (+ 1/2 15).
- M. Wilson (+ 1/2 15) v. J. Bell (- 1/2 15).
- J. S. Macpherson (scr) v. C. Stockdale (+ 1/2 15).
- P. Boyd (- 15) v. G. L. Miles (scr).
- A. Brodie (scr) v. W. Fowler (scr).
- R. Roberts (jun.) (scr) v. S. J. Moore (- 30).
- J. Negron (+ 1/2 15) v. J. Wilson (+ 15).
- W. M. Graham (- 1/2 30) v. J. H. Joyce (- 15).
- E. Buxton (+ 15) v. J. Boyd (- 15).
- P. Harcastle (+ 1/2 15) v. W. Bell (- 1/2 15).
- W. Goodwin (+ 15) v. G. H. Brodie (+ 1/2 15).
- H. W. Botting (scr) v. G. F. Wallis (- 1/2 30).

MIXED DOUBLES.

- Miss Martindale and J. G. Dunn (- 15) v. Miss Callis and G. H. Brodie (+ 1/2 15).
- Miss Mitchell and J. W. Todd (- 1/2 30) v. Miss P. Stockdale and S. J. Moore (- 30).
- Miss Fowler and A. Brodie (+ 1/2 15) v. Miss Stockdale and C. E. Stockdale (+ 1/2 15).
- Miss Buxton and H. Buxton (+ 15) v. Mrs Haette and J. Boyd (- 1/2 30).

GENTLEMEN'S DOUBLES.

- J. W. Wilson and J. S. Macpherson (+ 1/2 15) v. H. W. Botting and C. C. Mackenzie (scr).
- M. Wilson and R. C. Mackinnell (+ 1/2 15) v. A. Reid and J. Gibson (+ 15).
- A. Brodie and G. H. Brodie (scr) v. W. Fowler and J. H. Davies (+ 15).
- W. Bell and T. A. P. Macdonald (scr) v. E. Buxton and H. Buxton (+ 15).
- G. F. Wallis and S. J. Moore (- 1/2 30) v. A. M. Barton and J. G. Dunn (- 1/2 30).
- J. H. Joyce and P. Harcastle (- 1/2 15) v. C. E. M. Thomas and G. S. Wood (+ 15).
- H. M. Edge and J. W. Todd (- 1/2 15) v. J. Boyd and P. Boyd (- 15).
- J. Fowler and J. Bell (+ 1/2 15) v. C. Edge and J. Negron (- 1/2 15).
- J. J. Dowson and J. E. Croll (- 15) a bye.

CYCLING.

Cycling in Australia seems to be as much a rage as in other parts of the world. Lately in Melbourne a constable had to be told off to a certain junction of streets to control the bike traffic alone, and over a thousand machines are reported to have passed his corner between 6 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

A late invention in the line of a bicycle pump is one which can be carried in a tool bag. It is claimed it will inflate a tyre in thirty seconds, and is operated by the foot. The pump consists of a cylinder and a piston, the latter acting within a spiral spring, which is held in position by three lugs encircling a flange, and can be removed at will. A suitable leather valve encircles the base of the piston, and the hose attachment is provided with a ball valve, which prevents air that has once been forced in the tyre from being driven back into the cylinder of the pump.

A bicycle race with a panther was the exciting experience of an English lady in Singapore. When riding slowly homeward along a road outside of the town the cyclist found that she was being quietly stalked by a huge black panther. She had the presence of mind to start off at full speed, and soon distanced her pursuer.

During 1896 a total of \$3,000,000 gold worth of bicycles were exported by American makers. Of this amount \$1,200,000 went to the United Kingdom, \$220,000 to Germany, \$120,000 to France, more than \$400,000 to the rest of Europe, more than \$515,000 to British North America, and \$350,000 to Australasia. Wheels worth \$35,000 were sent to Africa. Cuba was not so immersed in war as to escape the business, and she took \$5,000 of American machines.

A military motor car has been built by a Coventry maker. It is of oval shape, armour plated, and carries two Maxim guns. It is claimed for it that it travels more quickly than horses or bicycles. In getting to the scene of action it will probably beat every other means, provided only it has good roads to travel on. Under these conditions, it would be entirely useless for the campaigns in rugged roadless countries, of which we have usually one or more in hand.

The Americans ever to the fore in the shape of inventions, have brought out a new cycle lamp which is likely to cause quite a sensation. The light is a powerful incandescent one, and so strong that a newspaper can be read thereby at a distance of 70ft. away. There is no cumbersome battery to carry, and the total weight is under 1lb. The old bugbear of re-charging has been overcome, a fresh charge being obtained by means of a small chemical pellet, easily carried in the pocket, which, on being put in the well of the lamp, generates enough electricity to light up for six hours.

Physicians have recommended the bicycle for exercise, and now we have them prescribing its use for the insane, and its latest thing is its recommendation for cure of curvature of the spine. Curvature of the spine is one of the afflictions that oppose special difficulties to successful treatment. A physician has come forward with an ingenious proposal for utilising the bicycle as a remedial agent. He places the two lateral halves of the seat at unequal heights, so as to produce a pull in the desired direction. This pull is reinforced by an unequal arrangement of the pedals. The result is that an agreeable form of exercise takes the place of a cumbrous and irksome mode of counteraction. It is probable that all of the utilities of the wheel as an aid to the physician have as yet by no means been worked out.

A race in which very great interest centred was decided on the winter track in Paris last month, C. F. Barden and Constant Huret being the famous contestants. The Englishman has won laurels as a sprinter, and his foe is unrivalled at the long-distance game. In the event under notice, however, they met for a fifty kilometres race, so that the probable result was open to considerable speculation. Would Barden last the distance? Could Huret keep up a big pace all the time? The stakes were £400, and to be brief, Barden won the money. He drew away at the start, and when about a quarter of the journey was over he was a lap to the good. Thence he and his pacers simply hung on Huret. It was a fair and square race, but some of the French spectators displayed some of that bad spleen, or hostility, for which Paris has recently earned unenviable notoriety.

The bicycle has long since achieved the dignity of being commonly prescribed as a curative agent by a large proportion of the up-to-date medical fraternity of Europe and America. It is but natural, however, that linked with this very evident approval should be a caution against its immoderate use, especially by those who expect thereby to add to their mental or physical health and vigor. Instances are not wanting of fatal results following a severe trip when the victims have not been in proper condition for the ordeal. Such cases are, however, to be charged to the abuse side of the ledger of cycling, for the exercise of pedaling does not differ very materially from that of walking, which latter is universally regarded as an ideal exercise. An early morning spin of a few miles improves the circulation of the blood and aids digestion besides assisting the development of the muscles, while a ride with genial companions tends to relieve the mind from the tension of work and worry.

It is altogether probable that if it were not easier to over-exert oneself a wheel than afoot, cycling would not be any more liable than walking to ill affect even the victims of heart trouble. Four miles at the rate of say five miles per hour could be covered by a delicate person with less fatigue than one mile could be afoot, and the superior exhilaration of cycling invariably tones up the system better. Rational wheeling is a pleasure, while walking may become a drudgery—a very material difference. The latter is ordinarily harmless, but foot racing would not answer at all for such as would be injured by immoderate wheeling. The same distinction may be made between slow pedaling and "scorching" or long distance riding for those of frail constitution. After all, it is the abuse and not the use of the bicycle that produces injury.

ESTANCIA AND COLONY.

If the rains which have long been looked for have been general all over the province the outlook will be very much improved and grass will have plenty of time to grow before winter. As it was the prospects were anything but cheerful, and if proof were required of the pessimistic views held by camp men we have it in the fall in prices of stock and land in face of the rise in gold.

It is a matter of surprise to us that some of our estancieros in the province do not rent a league or two of alfalfa in Cordoba, say near Belleville, where land can be had very cheap. They could then fatten all their own stock instead of selling for *invernada*, and would avoid the risk of loss by *seca*, as the alfalfares are always green.

Some of the camps I passed through recently were very bare and dry, but the difference between those camps which had been over stocked, and those which had been judiciously stocked, was very marked. The former like a dusty road—bare, scorched and triste—the latter, dry if you like, but with grass for the cattle to eat, and if only the water were supplied the animals would still be fat.

Some people, however, seem to attach too little importance to the water question, and I noticed cattle which should have been fat if a plentiful supply of grass will make them so, looking anything but well, and drinking out of stagnant pools in a half-dry arroyo. It is sad to see the way they hang around these pools, instead of drinking their fill and lying down to chew the cud.

Personally, I would rather have no water on the camp at all than a supply which may dry up and fail just when needed, and the change from rain water to well water always throws them back. Drawing water may be an expense, but if there be no good permanent water it is the best laid out money after all.

Messrs Bullrich and Co. have received by the steamer *Virgil* a splendid lot of twenty ram lambs from the stud farm of Mr Smith, specially selected by Mr William Riddick; also, a very fine Hereford bull for Mr Leonardo Pereyra.

The Fabricantes Ingleses have on show, at Messrs Bullrich's, a lot of 100 Lincoln rams and some ewe lambs, specially selected by Messrs Tomlinson and Hayward from such well-known breeders as Messrs Wright, Dudding, Kirkham, Cartwright, Caswell, etc.

Swine fever is causing great mortality in the United States. In the state of Iowa, out of 6,000,000 swine, 2,000,000 have succumbed, and in other parts the losses are also proportionately large.

A new electrical plough has been invented in France which is reported to have given very good results. It works the ground by itself, making perfectly straight and level furrows. The plough as yet has only been employed on flat lands.

The Australians are showing great activity in shipping wool to the United States, as it is believed that from March next the Customs duties will be increased. From the port of Sydney 36,000 bales have been forwarded.

Messrs Roques, Vilella and Co. have been named sole agents for the tobacco dip "La Nicotina Real," of which Messrs E. Obert and Co. are the representatives of the French Government for this country and Uruguay.

The total amount of the sale of rams recently held in Chascomus by Mr J. Aristegui only reached \$4,955. The thirty-one animals offered for sale averaged \$189.96 each.

On Monday last Messrs Bullrich and Co. sold in their yard the undernoted animals from the *Cabaña Laura*: six Durham cows, with calves at foot, averaging \$533.33 each; seven Durham heifers, averaging \$372.88 each. The following were the buyers: Messrs P. Paz, E. Sorantes, Woodgate, Manrique, E. Peña, A. Madariaga.

Mr J. D. Willis, of Wiltshire, England, the well-known breeder of fine stock, possesses a famous Shorthorn bull named Count Lavender, out of Sweet Lavender by Norseman. Norseman is by Strongbow from Nonpareil. The career of Count Lavender is a record one, having won the following honours: In 1890, 13 first prizes and 2 championships; 1891, 9 firsts and 6 championships; 1892, 5 firsts and 5 championships, 1893, 7 firsts and 6 championships; 1894, 6 firsts and 5 championships; and in 1895 and 1896, when he was only shown twice,

he gained 2 firsts and 2 championships. All his descendants have been most successful, every time they were exhibited they gained first honours, a son of his gaining the championship at the Royal Show in 1894, followed by a daughter winning the same honour in 1895. All the cows and heifers that have gained first honours for the last two years in the Royal Counties Shows were by him.

The annual fair at Balcarce, which seems to steadily increase in popularity, was held at the end of January, when some very fine stock were exhibited. The sales were well attended and attained a total amount of \$20,629.85.

On Saturday, 27th inst., Mr R. Dhers will bring to the hammer 600 fine half-bred Durham cows in excellent condition. The sale will take place in Azul.

Dr Daval, veterinary surgeon to the Health Committee has just returned from General Rodriguez with a report of the state of carbuncle or "grano malo" in that district. The "carbunclo bacteridiano" has made its appearance on the estancias of Messrs M. Trueba and J. Arrúz, and up to date twenty animals have been attacked by this dread disease. Dr Daval has done everything in his power, ably seconded by the authorities, to prevent the spread of the epidemic.

From Dec. 26, 1896, to Jan. 2 of this year there were the following cases of serious diseases amongst animals in the Province of Buenos Aires: 8 new cases of "grano malo," 7 of lockjaw, and 5 of rabies, against 21, 27 and 15 respectively during last year.

Colonel P. Velasquez has sold his fine estancia Palmas Altas, in Villaguay. The price is said to be \$115,000 gold, and the stock consists of 2500 head of cattle, a like number of sheep, and 500 horses. Mr C. Anderson is the purchaser, and there are seven leagues of camp.

Some very fine Lincoln rams, from the best English flocks, and imported by Mr Miller, were sold by Messrs Funes and Lagos on Tuesday, and attained the following prices, though bidders were by no means numerous—thirty-eight rams averaged \$468, and forty-eight ram lambs \$260.

These sales were to have been continued on the two following days, but owing to the small amount of competition on Tuesday it was judged best to postpone the sale, and Mr Miller has since determined to dispose of those remaining by private bargain. As there are still about a hundred fine sheep unsold many estancieros will no doubt be found in the yard in the course of the next few days.

Lung worm is unfortunately very prevalent on the camps round Guamini, and also in several of the more northern partidos, notably Rojas. The large increase of this pest is generally ascribed to the openness of last winter and the absence of frost, a deadly enemy of the embryo lombriz.

Some very large camp fires have lately taken place down south. One in particular, which began near Tornquist, swept over a great many of the camps between there and the Curumalan range, and crossing the low hills got on to the Curumalan estancia, where it is said to have destroyed a considerable amount of stock.

During the week the value of live stock has greatly improved, both in fat bullocks and cows. Fat calves of medium size are selling at higher prices than last week. The prices for wethers have not varied, the lots coming forward being small and not in good enough condition for export. For fat and well-selected animals there is a good demand.

During the past fourteen days Messrs Kingsland and Cash have shipped no less than 4,165 bullocks, of an average weight of 670 kilos, and 18,700 wethers, of an average weight of 65 kilos, all for London and Liverpool. These animals were shipped in twenty-one steamers. This is a record for live stock shipment, by one firm, from this port.

Messrs Alchourron and Co. held an important sale of stock on Messrs Caillard and Co.'s establishment in Tapalqué during the week, the total amount of the sale being \$228,270.

The same auctioneers sold also during the week the undermentioned stock, from the estancia San Francisco in Juarez: 100 Lincoln rams, from \$165 to \$360; 200 mestiza ewes, from \$14 to \$20; 1000 wethers, at \$5; Clydesdale and Percheron stallions, from \$165 to \$220; mestiza Clydesdale mares, \$50; cows, from \$19 to \$22; bulls, from \$70 to \$150; potros, \$25 to \$30. Notwithstanding this sale taking place the day after the Juarez Fair the amount realised was \$28,247.

Owing to the continual robberies of animals in the southern camps the chief of police, Sr. Lozano, has decided to send from La Plata a strong contingent of police to reinforce the comisarias.

**

Messrs Funes and Lagos' sale yard was largely attended on Thursday when the stock from the estancia Ojo de Agua, was brought to the hammer, prices ruled rather low although the total amount of sales was \$100,773.50.

**

Three thousand and five hundred bullocks from Mr Ortiz Basualdo's estancia Las Aguas, were sold during the week to Messrs Rocca and Terrarosa.

**

Mr Wm. Comyn has sold for export to France 1300 wethers from his estancia in Lobos

PRICES

Price of gold on the Bolsa from February 6th to February 12th inclusive—

Saturday.....305.00 %	Wednesday.....306.70 %
Monday.....308.80 "	Thursday.....308.00 "
Tuesday.....307.30 "	Friday.....312.00 "

The prices at the Corrales during the past week have been as follows:

Bullocks, \$50—65.	
Novillos for Export.....\$ 70— 90	
Fat cattle for consumption—novillos. 30— 60	
" " " " "—cows..... 25— 35	
Calves—large, \$10—18; small, \$5.00—9.00	

Wool—Fine.....5.00— 7.70	
" —Cross Lincoln.....4.50— 8.00	
Hides—Bullock.....\$14.00—15.00	
" —Novillo.....10.00—11.50	
" —Cow.....8.00— 9.50	
Sheepskins, consumo, per kilo.....0.31— 0.60	
Lambskins, per dozen.....2.00— 2.50	

Sheep—Lincolns.....\$ 8.00— 9.00	
" —Mestizo-Lincolns.....5.00— 7.00	
" —Rambouillet.....3.50— 4.80	
Ewes.....3.00— 4.50	

Wheat (barleta), 100 ks.....\$10.00—10.65	
" (French), 100 kilos.....7.00—10.50	
" (Candeal).....9.50—14.00	
Barley.....3.50— 6.00	
Maize (morocho), 100 kilos (new). 2.70— 4.30	
" (amarillo), 100 kilos (new). 2.40— 3.80	
Hay, 1000 kilos.....26.00—38.00	

NATURAL HISTORY.

The tiger's strength exceeds that of a lion. Five men can easily hold down a lion, but nine are required to hold a tiger.

According to the computation of the gardener of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, the number of pigeons which add such a charm to the sacred edifice exceeds 600. Originally bred from "strays," they are daily being added to by new arrivals; whilst amongst the number may be counted some twenty-five to thirty one-legged birds—the survivors of various "shooting matches."

The African elephant has been waiting a long time for a sanctuary, and at last it appears he has got one in Samaliland. A tract of land 200 miles long by 40 broad has been reserved for elephants, and no one will be allowed to molest them within its boundaries. Those actually within these limits are confined to a small area, about 40 square miles, in the Galimbursi Mountains.

A man who lately escaped from the jail at Anderson, Indiana, adopted a novel method of breaking the scent of the bloodhounds which were put on his track. One of the dogs tracked his man to a farmhouse north of the city. Here a stranger had stopped and begged breakfast. He had stolen a pepper box and had peppered his tracks after leaving the house. The dog almost died, and had to be called off.

The most remarkable gold beetles in the world are found in Central America. The head and wing-cases are brilliantly polished with a lustre as of gold itself. To sight and touch them they have all the seeming of metal. Oddly enough, another species from the same region has the appearance of being wrought in solid silver, freshly burnished. These gold and silver beetles have a market value. They are worth from £5 to £10 each.

A species of bear, new to science has been found among the glaciers of Mount Elias, Alaska. It is called the blue or glacier bear by hunters, and has been designated as *Ursus Emmonsii*, after Lieutenant Emmons, the discoverer, by naturalists. It is a handsome bear, the fur resembling that of the silver fox, having a bluish-black pelt with white hairs. The sides of the head are a lovely tan colour. The claws are small, sharp, and black, and evidently adapted for climbing trees.

Mr E. C. Fischer, of New York City, has brought from Central America a fine specimen of the two-headed snake. It is about a foot long, and over four months old. When full grown it will attain a length of several feet. The colour is a brownish-green, which appears to change somewhat. Its eyes are very bright, and each head seems to be endowed with a separate intelligence. The snake lives in a glass box, and feeds with both heads simultaneously on milk, raw meat, and blood. Mr Fischer finds it best to feed both heads at once, for, strange to say, they appear to be jealous of each other, and sometimes fight; at other times they play with one another. The animal seems to know Mr Fischer, for it comes to the side of its box and welcomes him by protruding its tongues in sign of joy.

Some years ago stoats, weasels, and ferrets were turned loose in New Zealand in the hope that they would exterminate the rabbits. The result has been that a new pest has been introduced into the country, and one that will not easily be got rid of. The foreign vermin have nearly exterminated many interesting native birds, they have, on a few occasions done much mischief among the lambs, and the rabbit still flourishes in Maoriland. A farmer, writing to the "Timaru Herald" lately, stated that he had had four lambs killed in one night, and five more in the next eight days. The injuries to the lambs showed that they were unmistakably made by ferrets or stoats. He moved the sheep into another paddock, and still lost lambs at intervals.

Not only are horses, possessed of long coarse hair on their bodies, and that perspire freely at work during winter, liable to contract colds and chills at night in the stable from the difficulty of drying their coats effectually, but the process of sweating is a loss to the animal frame and reduces the normal vigour of constitution. Sweat consists of something more than simple water, it contains a considerable proportion of fat, albumin, and globulin, besides salts—potash, soda, magnesia. The excretion of these by the skin is the reason why horses which sweat profusely at work lose condition so quickly. Sweating, therefore, is a thing to be avoided. Clipping largely checks this loss, and accounts for the improved condition generally observed in horses soon after their heavy hair covering has been removed by the clipping machine, unless they are overworked. It follows that a clipped horse can perform more work, and with greater comfort to himself, than an unclipped animal of equal power and of like temperament.

Seven miles an hour is the camel's limit, nor can it maintain this rate over two hours. Its usual speed is five miles per hour.

There is a common impression that half-bred sheep make a larger quantity of mutton on the same food and in the same time than pure-bred sheep. This is no doubt challenged by the breeders of pure-bred stock, but the general practice of farmers is undoubtedly based upon the contention. It may be interesting to recall the particulars of a feeding experiment carried out nearly forty years ago with the view of testing this point. Four lots of matured wethers were chosen, consisting of pure Leicesters, pure Cheviots, twice-crossed sheep, and half-breds. The twice-crossed were by Leicester tups from half-bred ewes, and the half-breds were a cross between the Leicester and the Cheviot. They were all fed alike on swedes, with an equal allowance of oats during the last five weeks of the experiment, which lasted from November to March. The result was that the half-breds gained 4 stone more than any of the others, though they consumed about 100 square yards of turnips more. The twice-crossed sheep came next in gain of weight, though they ate rather less than the Cheviots, and the Leicesters came out worst.

A very interesting account appears in the "Daily Chronicle" from a trooper correspondent of his experiences on patrol in Matabeleland. A harder life it is difficult to imagine. At one time they had no food and had to kill a horse to keep themselves alive. The following is his account of this diet:—"What is it like? Well, it's not so bad when you get accustomed to it, and if you had salt, mustard vegetables, to go with it, and if you did not happen to have had a personal acquaintance with deceased before he died for your benefit. It is one thing to say, 'I'll trouble you to pass the horse, please,' and quite another to say, 'Give me another chunk of D. 15.' But in either case it goes down all the same." It is now thirty years since I was in Paris and sate a horse steak. It was cooked like a fillet of beef, and although rather hard, would pass fairly well for it if a man was very hungry.

LONDON'S DEAD HORSES.

There is a firm in London who kill 26,000 horses yearly. Their workmen are on duty both night and day, slaying and flaying, boning and boiling down, and cooking these horses for feline food.

On an average, a horse yields 2 cwt. 3 qrs. of meat; and as 26,000 horses a year means 500 carcases a week to be disposed of, this firm alone provides weekly seventy tons of meat to feed the London cats and dogs.

Some idea of the extent of the trade done in this class of food in London may be obtained from the fact that it employs thirty wholesale salesmen. If any of the depots were visited about five o'clock in the morning, a string of traps, handcarts, and barrows might be observed waiting for their consignment of cat's meat.

As a pound of meat cuts up into half-a-dozen "harporths," sufficient is thus provided for 134,400 meals. This firm also uses 182½ tons of deal every year in such an apparently unimportant detail as skewering up the horses made into meat. It takes half a ton of skewers to fix up a day's consumption.

Sometimes the supply of meat exceeds the demand. To cope with this difficulty a complete refrigerating plant is kept at work cooling the larders, in which 250 carcases can be stored.

FIXTURES

CRICKET

- Sunday, Feb. 14—Lomas A.C. v. Belgrano A.C., at Belgrano.
- Sunday, Feb. 14—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Hurlingham 2nd XI., at Hurlingham.
- Sunday, Feb. 14—Lanus A.C. v. Flores A.C., at Lanus.
- Sunday, Feb. 14—Palermo A.C. v. Lomas 2nd XI., at Lomas.

NOTE.

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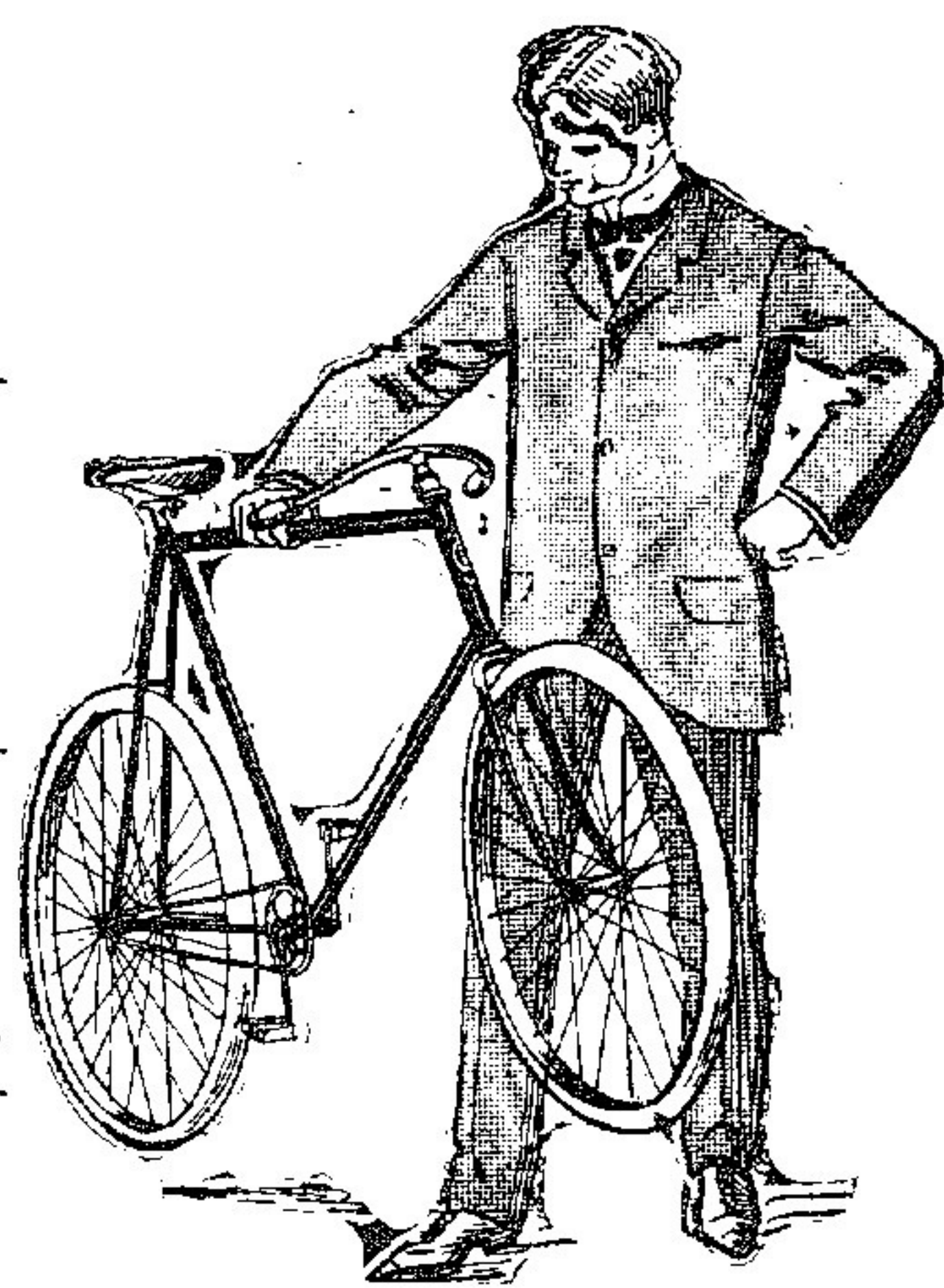
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The writer's name and address are required with all letters but not for publication, unless desired. Letters and enquiries from anonymous correspondents will not receive attention.

Advertisements, orders for papers, &c., should be addressed to PIEDAD 559, BUENOS AIRES, and should be kept distinct from communications intended for the Editorial Department.

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River Plate Sport and Pastime

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1897.

SPORTING NOTES

As the North and South teams have not yet been selected we hold over the two elevens chosen by popular vote until later. By next issue, however, I expect we shall be able to publish them.

**

I wish to remind my polo playing readers that the general meeting of the association to adopt the new Hurlingham rules and to fix the date when the 14.2 standard of height shall come into force, will be held in this office on Monday next at 4 30 p.m.

**

Some remarks and suggestions by Capt. H. de B. Lisle anent the notorious waste of time during the progress of the game of polo in India, will be found in our polo column and will, no doubt, be read with considerable interest, though, I think, they hardly apply to the game as played in Argentina where, as a rule, players are prompt to change ponies, and a game is seldom stopped without serious cause.

**

I hear the well-known brood mare, Esperance, by Albert Victor Euxine, is to be put to St. Gall to English time, with, of course, the view of running the produce at home, and as this mare's previous foals have shown good form, it is reasonable to expect a good result from her union with Mr Unzue's horse.

Sr. Unzue has bought a two-year-old colt in England, from R. Chaloner. The colt is by St. Simon, dam by Hermit, and as he is a late foal, it has been thought advisable to let him run for some of his English engagements before sending him out here to join the Ecurie Indecis, and he has therefore been sent to F. Lynham, who will train him until he leaves for here.

**

A capital number of entries have been received for the inaugural regatta of the Tigre Sailing Club, which is to be held to-morrow. There will be two races, one for boats and the other for canoes, the former starting at one o'clock and the latter at 2 p.m. The course is from the mouth of Abra Nueva round posts at the mouth of the Lujan and back again. The boats to go twice round and the canoes once.

**

Among other entries for the race for boats are Mr Trant's Hortensio, Mr C. Mackern's Chinito, Mr Mackinley's Icheneumond, Mr MacIver's Joan, Mr C. G. Smith's Soss, Mr Verschoyle's Ruby, Mr W. E. Sackmann's No. 27, Mr Simpson's Iris, Mr H. T. Grigg's Chiquilla and Mr J. P. Lynch's Ipé. If there should be a light wind the Chiquilla ought to walk away with her large silk sail.

**

For the canoe race are entered, among others, Mr C. Altgelt's Anonyma, Mr F. S. Kinch's Mini, Mr J. P. Simpson's Bloater, and Mr R. de Oliveira Cesar's B.A.R.C.'s 45. Of these, the Mini, an American boat, will probably be the first home. If the weather holds up this regatta should attract a large number of spectators, as the club seems to be most popular, and contains several very enthusiastic members.

**

It is expected that much additional interest will be given to the above races, from the fact that they will be sailed under sealed handicaps, which will not be opened until after the finish of the races, so that it is quite possible that the boat which is first past the post may be actually last in the race.

**

The Union de Regatas held a meeting last night for the purpose of drawing up the programme and of making preliminary arrangements for the annual Autumn Regatta which will be held, as usual, on March 25. Owing to the unfortunate illness of Mr W. H. Krabbe, the Tigre Rowing Club were represented by Mr W. Miller, the club captain.

**

An extraordinary general meeting of the Banfield Athletic Club, is to be held at the Italian Hall, Banfield on Saturday evening next, 20th inst., at 8 o'clock, to accept the resignation of the Hon. Treasurer and appoint his successor; also to fill other vacancies on the Committee.

**

The pavilion of the Flores Athletic Club is now being enlarged and generally improved. The old portion has been moved forward two metres, and they are making additions at the back of it. There will now be more lockers, more baths and lavatories and a bar. The work is going ahead fast and it will soon be finished, when the Flores club will have a pavilion worthy of their splendid ground.

**

A most excellent plan for laying out cycling and running tracks is also under discussion, but at present absolutely nothing has been definitely decided upon. Should this idea become an accomplished fact, we shall be able to boast of four athletic meetings in Buenos Aires and district.

**

Little is heard of the Kennel Club just now, but I hear that it is none the less active and is taking steps to put everything on a thoroughly business footing. Now that the Dog Shows have been so successful and have become so popular, the club ought to keep well up to the mark and committee and members alike do all they can to improve the position of the club and the breeds of dogs year by year.

At a late meet of the Flint and Denbigh Hounds at Llangerniew, North Wales, the proceedings ended in a somewhat extraordinary manner. During the day several foxes were unearthed, and the hounds divided. One portion of the hunt had a stiff eighteen miles run, and then lost their quarry, which ran to earth. The scent, however, proved so strong that the huntsmen could not get the hounds together until long after dark. Many of them were running about all night, and several days elapsed before the entire pack were collected.

**

The well-known trainers P. Torterola and L. Alvarez, jun., will sail this month for Europe, taking with them several horses of good class, which they will train and run at home. If these trainers have anything approaching the difficulties to contend with in the old country that our English trainers had to encounter on their arrival here, they will find it what our American cousins call "a hard row to hoe."

**

One of the medical journals has published a learned treatise on "wasting," and has arrived at the conclusion that this practice is injurious to jockeys. No one ever supposed that it does them much good, and they don't do it for amusement. The fact, however, should be remembered that many old jockeys are now living who have "wasted" a great deal in their time, and do not seem much the worse for it.

**

A great deal depends on how it is done. One eminent jockey used to "waste" by lying in bed and drinking gin; another by sitting up all night reading; another by swearing at his wife; while drastic physic is the chief reducing agent employed, and the most pernicious. Many jockeys assert that they never feel so well as when they are "wasting," especially if they are able to sleep satisfactorily; they describe their sense of fitness as like "walking on air," with a wonderful clearness of the mental faculties. That is, when the process has not been carried to excess.

**

As will be seen from the scores of the pigeon shooting on Sunday last many of the performers were in splendid form, and naturally some very good shooting resulted. Mr Obert was hardly up to his best form, but Messrs Penrose, Mullaly, Mallison, and Wells were all shooting in quite their best style. I understand another prize will be shot for on Sunday the 21st inst.

**

A curious incident took place during the recent shooting competitions at Monte Carlo in a handicap sweepstakes. Mr Robinson, the Californian shot, had a good bird from the extreme left-hand trap. He killed it high in the air, and the pigeon dropped stone dead on No. 2 trap.

**

Now that summer is almost over and the welcome rains have come, golf committees should bestir themselves and lay out the courses and get the greens as far advanced as possible. Taking it all round the summer has not been a very trying one for the grass and there is no reason why a month hence golf should not be in full swing, especially at Hurlingham, where many of the greens are already almost ready for play.

**

The lawn tennis tournament now being held by the Belgrano Athletic Club, is in full swing, and creating a large amount of interest. We have been requested to remind those interested that the first round must be played off on or before Sunday the 21st inst. Full particulars of the entries, etc., will be found under Lawn Tennis.

**

The Retiro Athletic Club after struggling along in a half-hearted manner through the last two seasons, have now cancelled all their fixtures. It is a great pity, as there are plenty of keen sports-

men on the Port Works, and with a little organisation the club would have prospered. Now I'm afraid we shall not see them in the Football League this year.

It used to be said at one time that "Sport and Pastime" was more of a polo record than a general sporting paper. This can hardly be said now and in the absence of "Boots" polo notes stand a good chance of being even more scanty. I shall be very much indebted to any camp correspondents who may send me accounts of games played in their districts which I know are eagerly read by polo men all over the country. I hear of polo at the Victoria, Refango, Venado Tuerto, Laboulaye, Colina, and other centres, but I have not so far received any accounts of the game.

CRICKET.

FIXTURES.

FEBRUARY

Sun. 14—Lomas A.C. v. Belgrano A.C., at Belgrano.
 Sun. 14—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Hurlingham 2nd XI., at Hurlingham.
 Sun. 14—Lanus A.C. v. Flores A.C., at Lanus.
 Sun. 14—Palermo A.C. v. Lomas 2nd XI., at Lomas.
 Sun. 21—Nondescripts v. Mr J. G. Dunn's XI., at Lomas.
 Sun. 21—Flores A.C. v. Hurlingham, at Hurlingham.
 Sun. 21—Lanus 2nd XI. v. B.A.C.C. 2nd XI., at Lanus.
 Sun. 21—Palermo A.C. v. Banfield A.C., at Palermo.
 Wed. 24—Northern Camps v. Lomas, at Lomas.
 Thurs. 25—Northern Camps v. Hurlingham, at Hurlingham.
 Thurs. 25—Belgrano 2nd XI. v. Flores 2nd XI., at Flores.
 Fri. 26—Northern Camps v. Flores, at Flores.
 Sat. 27—Northern Camps v. B.A.C.C., at Lomas.
 Sun. 28—Lomas A.C. 2nd XI. v. Lanus 2nd XI., at Lanus.
 Sun. 28—Palermo A.C. v. Belgrano A.C., at Belgrano.

MARCH

Mon. 1—Lanus A.C. v. Banfield A.C., at Lanus.
 Mon. 1, Tues. 2—North v. South, at Palermo.
 Sun. 7—Nondescripts v. Bohemians, at Lomas.
 Sun. 7—Lomas A.C. v. Flores A.C., at Flores.
 Sun. 7—Belgrano 2nd XI. v. Lanus 2nd XI., at Belgrano.
 Sun. 7—Palermo A.C. v. Bohemians, at Palermo.
 Sat. 13, Sun. 14—B.A.C.C. v. Montevideo C.C., at Montevideo.
 Sun. 14—Lanus A.C. v. Belgrano A.C., at Belgrano.
 Sun. 14—Lomas A.C. v. Hurlingham, at Lomas.
 Sun. 14—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Flores 2nd XI., at Palermo.
 Sun. 21—Lomas A.C. 2nd XI. v. London Bank C.C. 2nd XI., at Lomas.
 Sun. 21—Banfield A.C. v. Flores 2nd XI., at Banfield.
 Sun. 21—Lanus A.C. v. B.A.C.C., at Lanus.
 Sun. 21—Palermo A.C. v. Quilmes Rovers, at Quilmes.
 Thurs. 25—London and R. P. Bank v. British Bank, at Palermo.
 Thurs. 25—Belgrano A.C. v. Hurlingham, at Hurlingham.
 Sun. 28—Banfield A.C. v. Hurlingham, at Banfield.

APRIL

Sun. 4—Lanus A.C. v. Hurlingham, at Lanus.
 Sun. 4—B.A.C.C. v. Old Bedfordians, at Palermo.
 Sun. 4—Palermo A.C. v. Portefios, at Palermo.
 Sun. 11—B.A.C.C. 2nd XI. v. Palermo A.C., at Palermo.
 Sun. 11—Flores A.C. v. Old Bedfordians, at Flores.
 Thurs. 15, Fri. 16—Rosario A.C. v. Lomas A.C., at Lomas.
 Thurs. 15, Fri. 16—Montevideo C.C. v. Hurlingham, at Hurlingham.
 Sat. 17, Sun. 18—Montevideo C.C. v. B.A.C.C., at Palermo.
 Sat. 17, Sun. 18—Rosario A.C. v. Flores A.C., at Flores.
 Sun. 25—United Banks v. Lomas A.C., at Lomas.

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

The following will represent the above clubs in their match to-morrow at Belgrano. Play to commence at 11.30.

Lomas A.C.—Messrs P. L. G. Bridger (captain), J. O. Anderson, P. M. Rath, H. B. Anderson, A. Anderson, E. L. Wilson, F. H. Jacobs, W. R. Goodbody, C. R. Tupholme, W. Stirling, D. Gibson.

Belgrano A.C.—Messrs H. W. Botting (captain), W. H. Fowler, W. M. Graham, W. H. Harvey, T. A. P. MacDonald, R. C. Mackinnell, G. L. Miles, S. J. Moore, J. Negron, R. L. Phillips, J. D. Shepard.

Train leaves Central Station (Rosario line) at 10.50 a.m.

Mrs Paton and Mrs Graham have kindly promised to give afternoon tea.

B.A.C.C. 2ND XI. v. HURLINGHAM 2ND XI.

This match will be played to-morrow at Hurlingham. Train leaves Central Station at 9.25.

The following have been selected to play for their respective clubs:

B.A.C.C. 2nd XI.—Messrs A. Lace (captain), S. Francis, C. E. Thursby, R. O. Watson, T. A. H. Forde, E. Thornton, W. H. Masters, D. Kingsland, C. W. Cumming, R. E. Hunt, A. M. Barton.

Hurlingham 2nd XI.—Messrs J. Drysdale, J. Huxtable, M. G. Fortune, H. M. Mills, F. Bell, J. Stuart, P. Permain, A. Williamson, H. Schwind, A. Brodie, A. M. Chailinor.

LOMAS A.C. 2ND XI. v. PALERMO A.C.

The following are the teams for the above match to be played at Lomas to-morrow:

Palermo A.C.—Messrs J. Cambell, A. Campbell, A. J. Goode, A. J. Rugeroni, H. Fraser, J. C. Lea, J. Boyd, E. Potter, R. Levy, G. Potter, G. Brown.

Lomas A.C. 2nd XI.—A. A. Miller, H. G. Sketchley, T. R. Griffin, H. Dobson, A. Dobson, H. O. Dodds, J. Wright, S. Gibson, C. P. Davis, F. X. Canter, A. N. Other.

Train leaves Plaza Constitucion at 12.30.

FLORES A.C. v. LANUS A.C.

The following are the teams for the above match to be played at Lanus to-morrow:

Flores—Messrs B. W. Gardom, A. Boyd, W. Brown, G. A. Thomson, T. V. M. Knox, B. B. Syer, R. W. Rudd, G. F. Elliot, F. E. Jones, W. D. Gardom, A. N. Other.

Lanus—Messrs A. Venn, A. E. Martin, D. Duncan, Addison Smith, F. W. Fothergill, R. Draper, A. V. Sly, R. Seymour, C. Weir, C. Belton, and A. Greaven.

Train leaves Plaza Constitucion at 10.35 a.m.

BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES.

The first six on the list remain in the same order, though J. O. Anderson, B. J. Dillon, and E. L. Rumboll all have lower averages. R. W. Rudd goes up a place, while F. H. Jacobs drops one lower. A. B. P. Boyd reappears in the list and J. R. Garrod makes his first appearance. To still further increase our list we shall leave the minimum number of innings the same.

In the bowling, the first three remain the same. Rumboll goes up one, and Knox drops to his place. Mann, with his average unchanged, changes places with Thomson, who drops three places. Next week the minimum number of overs bowled will be the same, viz., 90.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	No. Times		High.	Total	Aver.
	inns.	out.			
A. Anderson	20	5	106*	633	42.2
J. O. Anderson	28	4	103*	964	40.1
P. M. Rath	10	2	70	307	38.3
E. L. Rumboll	23	3	117*	597	29.8
B. J. Dillon	16	1	76	404	26.9
R. E. H. Anderson	22	2	122*	508	25.4
R. W. Rudd	10	1	41*	204	22.6
F. H. Jacobs	10	1	54*	215	21.5
A. B. P. Boyd	9	1	52*	159	19.8
E. R. Gifford	9	2	36*	130	18.5
G. F. Elliot	14	2	45	219	18.2
G. A. Thomson	17	0	50	299	17.5
W. Brown	16	1	34	262	17.4
R. L. Halstead	9	1	33	136	17
H. B. Anderson	17	1	55	268	16.7
E. L. Wilson	15	1	45*	226	16.1
J. Negron	15	2	28*	159	12.2
W. H. Harvey	21	1	57	240	12
J. R. Garrod	9	0	53	106	11.7
H. W. Botting	19	1	38	206	11.4
A. Venn	15	1	34	158	11.2
C. R. Tupholme	11	2	57*	98	10.8
D. L. Mann	13	3	31	102	10.2

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
P. M. Rath	143.4	34	319	42	7.5
W. Brown	187.1	75	366	46	7.9
W. R. Goodbody	109	44	188	23	8.1
E. L. Rumboll	298.3	80	629	63	9.98
T. V. M. Knox	299.2	89	627	63	9.99
W. H. Harvey	177.1	33	412	37	11.1
D. L. Mann	98	16	265	21	12.6
R. C. Mackinnell	162.3	47	487	37	13.1
A. Venn	94.2	10	280	21	13.3
G. A. Thomson	229.4	46	576	44	13.09
H. B. Anderson	133.1	34	316	22	14.3
J. O. Anderson	109.3	19	345	23	15
G. F. Elliot	108.1	21	281	19	15.05
J. Stuart	105.1	12	317	21	15.09
C. R. Tupholme	116	24	270	15	18
J. R. Garrod	120.1	34	252	12	21

ROSARIO A.C. v. FLORES A.C.

The above match, postponed from Tuesday, 2nd inst., was contested on Sunday last at Plaza Jewell, Rosario, and after a most interesting game ended in favour of the home team; although at one time it looked very much against them, for with the respectable total of 116 to beat they lost six of their best wickets for 21 runs. Penman and Dorning, however, came to the rescue, and put the question beyond doubt before being separated.

A somewhat large and enthusiastic crowd assembled on the ground to witness the match, and each team came in for its share of approbation as occasion merited.

The pitch was not all that could be desired, as at times the ball rose high above the batsman's head, but on the whole it played fairly well.

Half-past nine was the hour fixed for the start, but owing to the late arrival of some of the players it was 10.40 before the teams took the field. The visitors having won the toss elected to bat, Dillon and Palmer facing the deliveries of Martin and Penman. From the latter's first over Palmer put a ball through the slips for two, following with a single, and after Dillon had also added a single, Palmer, in trying to hit, was bowled by Penman with the last ball of the over (4-1-3).

Jones replaced the outgoing batsman, and Dillon recommenced scoring by hitting Martin for two and a single, following with two singles off Penman's succeeding over. After a maiden from each of the bowlers Jones commenced operations by obtaining a brace and two singles from Penman's following over, and after Dillon had received a maiden from Martin, Jones hit Penman for four and a single, Dillon cutting the same bowler for two. A couple of maidens were then bowled, followed by two more after a nice cut by Jones for three and a single by Dillon off Martin. The last ball of Penman's succeeding over was sent to the pavilion for four by Dillon, and just as the two batsmen seemed to be well set Jones placed a ball from Martin into Calder's hands at point (35-2-12). Rudd filled the vacancy and received the last three balls of Martin's over. After another two maidens Penman sent down a ball which proved too much for Dillon, who retired with 13 runs to his credit (35-3-13). Boyd was the next man in, but his stay was of short duration, as after hitting Martin and Penman for three and one respectively his stumps were disturbed by a good breaking ball from the former. Syer replaced Boyd and commenced by hitting Martin's fourth ball for two. With the first ball of Penman's next over Rudd, in stepping out, should have been stumped, but was let off. After a brace of singles by Syer, Rudd sent Martin to the boundary for four, followed with a good drive for three off the same bowler in his succeeding over. Traill at this point took the ball from Penman at the pavilion end, and off his first over one only was scored by Rudd. Dorning, who had replaced Martin at the stand end, sent down a maiden to Rudd, Syer obtaining one off Traill, after which the same batsman sent Dorning for two, following with a boundary hit for four, but the last ball from Dorning was too much for him and he was forced to retire, the telegraph reading 62-5-15. Thomson then joined Rudd but only succeeded in augmenting the score by five when his balls were removed by a "scorcher" from Dorning. Brown filled the vacancy and off the first ball from Bury (who had taken over the ball from Traill at the pavilion end) gave the wicket-keeper an easy chance of stumping him, which was not accepted. Rudd and Brown then made things rather warm for the fielders, threes and fours following in rapid succession, each of the bowlers sharing the punishment. With the score at 100 Penman again went on in place of Bury, his second ball being cut nicely by Brown for two and the third followed for a single. After one or two more overs, Brown, through playing late, succumbed to a bailer from Dorning (106-1-10). Gardom then took his place at the wicket, receiving the last ball of Dorning's over, which went to the boundary for four byes. Off the next two overs only four singles were scored, in attempting one of which Rudd narrowly missed being run out owing to the smart fielding of Willis at slip. The reprieve, however, was not for long, as off the first ball of Penman's following over he was caught at cover point by Garrod, having compiled a very stylish and useful 34. Knox was the next comer, but without any alteration to the score he lost the companionship of Gardom, who was run out. Henderson then joined Knox and received the last ball of Penman's over. After Knox had hit Garrod, who had replaced Dorning, for two, Penman bowled Henderson, leaving the former batsman not out 2, the innings closing for 116.

After an hour's interval for luncheon, which was kindly provided by Mr Malcolm Graham at his house, Willis and Garrod opened the Rosario innings, the bowling being intrusted to Brown and Knox. The former started delivering to Garrod, who found the second ball too much for him. Bury replaced the retiring batsman, but did not remain long, the second ball he received being played on to his wicket. Martin was the next man in, but proved equally unsuccessful as he was caught by Rudd in the slips off the first ball he received. Brown thus accomplished the creditable performance of taking three wickets in the first over. Calder then joined Willis, the latter receiving an over from Knox off which he nicked one and after securing another single off Brown, Knox sent him a maiden. The first ball off Brown's following over Willis cut to the boundary for four, but off the third ball of the same over he was smartly caught by Henderson (9-4-6). Traill then took the place of Willis and took the remainder of the over from which he managed to score three, but directly afterwards, owing to the smart fielding of a ball hit by Calder, he was run out (12-5-3). Dorning then joined Calder each batsman finding the boundary in the next two overs. Brown then sent a maiden to Calder, and after Dorning had scored one off Knox the same bowler sent in one which upset Calder's wickets. With more than half the side out for 21 runs things looked very blue for the homesters when Penman joined Dorning, but the pair soon altered the aspect of affairs, and they were not separated until they had taken the score to 125, and so turned what at one time appeared to be a certain defeat into a win. Both batsmen scored freely, fours being most frequent, each of the changes of bowling being treated with apparent indifference by them. Although from a critic's point of view their batting was not what could be termed first class, great credit is due to them for their plucky stand at such a critical time. One or two chances were given by both, which were not taken advantage of. With the score at 125 Dorning was run out, Penman following immediately afterward being stumped by Syer. Ellery, who had replaced Dorning, was joined by Leunda, who succeeded in scoring 4 off Knox and then drove Brown to the boundary for 4, but was caught at point by Gardom off the next ball. Keyworth, the last man in failed to score, and the innings closed for 133. Ellery not out 1.

The visitors returned to Buenos Aires by the night train, after having apparently enjoyed a very pleasant time.

The following are the full scores and analysis :

Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes names like B. J. Dillon, A. Palmer, F. E. Jones, etc.

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Table showing bowling statistics for Flores A.C. and Rosario A.C. with columns for O, M, R, W.

B.A.C.C. v. BELGRANO.

The above fixture was decided on Sunday last at Belgrano, in beautiful weather.

During the afternoon numerous visitors attended, and with the club lawn tennis tournament starting their first round on the new courts recently laid out the field presented a most lively aspect.

In their second innings they fared better, but the bowling and fielding of the visitors was very slack which is only too often the case in the second innings of matches in this country.

The wicket was far from good, not for want of preparation, but we feel sure that until the turf there is replaced, it will be next to impossible to obtain a good true wicket.

The visitors won the toss and elected to bat J. O. Anderson and Rumboll opening the innings. W. H. Harvey and R. C. McKinnell having charge of the bowling. Harvey kept very short and continually hit the batsmen.

On resuming, Anderson continued to hit and Moore was given a trial. With the score at 111 Francis in trying to obtain a fifth run for a leg-hit of his partner's was "run out," though if his bat had been down, the decision would probably have gone the other way.

Belgrano then batted, Campbell and Botting being the first pair while E. L. Rumboll and R. W. Anderson shared the attack. Rumboll opened with a maiden to Botting, and Anderson with his first ball hit the top of Campbell's off stump.

Four wickets down for 10 runs looked very bad, and it appeared as though a very small total would be reached. W. Graham was the next comer and after scoring 3 a general appeal for a catch at the wicket was decided in the batsman's favour.

After the usual interval the home team followed on and, as usual, the fielding side appeared to have lost all interest in the game, their fielding, bowling and throwing in being as loose as it was brilliant in the first innings.

No fewer than seven of the B.A. team went on to bowl Higgins with three for 24 being the most successful. For the home side, Botting (27), Negron (23), W. Graham (19, not out), and Campbell (24), all showed to advantage and the respectable total of 130 for seven wickets was obtained.

A pleasant day's cricket was spent and during the afternoon Mrs Fowler kindly dispensed tea to the players and spectators.

Below we give the scores and analysis :

Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes names like E. L. Rumboll, J. O. Anderson, R. L. Phillips, etc.

Table showing scores and analysis for Belgrano A.C. 1st inn and 2nd inn, including player names and runs scored.

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Table showing bowling statistics for Buenos Aires C.C. with columns for O, M, R, W.

S. J. Moore bowled one wide.

Belgrano.—First Innings.

Table showing scores for Belgrano's first innings, including player names and runs.

Second Innings.

Table showing scores for Belgrano's second innings, including player names and runs.

LANUS (F.C.S.) A.C. v. LOMAS ACADEMY.

This match was played at Lanus on Saturday last resulting in a win for the home club by 15 runs. Lanus batted first and lost seven wickets for 36 runs.

batted, but only three of their side were able to obtain double figures, while Tupholme performed the "hat trick" taking the sixth, seventh and eighth wickets in succession.

Below are the scores and analysis :—

Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes names like H.G. Sketchley, R. Draper, A. Venn, etc.

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Table showing bowling statistics for Lanus and Academy with columns for O, M, R, W.

BELGRANO A.C. 2ND XI. v. BANFIELD A.C. 2ND XI.

This match was played last Sunday at Banfield and after a good day's cricket ended in a draw in favour of the visitors. Some good individual scores were made.

Belgrano won the toss and decided to bat Evill and Macfarlane opening the innings. The latter soon had to leave, but on Campbell joining Evill, a most determined stand was made, and in spite of various changes in the bowling the score rose rapidly.

Below are the scores and analysis :—

Table showing scores and analysis for Belgrano 2nd XI and Banfield 2nd XI, including player names and runs.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Table showing bowling statistics for Belgrano and Banfield with columns for O, M, R, W.

ROSARIO LOCAL CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP.

The following is the result of the competition matches up to date:

Table showing results of Rosario Local Cricket Championship matches, including teams and points.

Polo Association of the River Plate.

A GENERAL MEETING of the above will be held on MONDAY, 15th inst., at 4.30 p.m., at 569 PIEDAD, to consider the advisability of adopting the New Rules of the Hurlingham Club (England) and the immediate adoption of the new (14.2) Standard for Ponies.

SECRETARY,

PAVILION GOSSIP.

Rosario have now defeated both Lomas and Flores this season. Their performance on Sunday last was excellent, and Messrs Penman and Dorning are deserving of the highest praise. Coming together with the score reading 21 for six wickets, they were not separated till the score had reached 125, and the match won. Their innings opened in a most sensational manner, Brown securing three wickets in his first over before a run had been scored.

.

Messrs. Penman and Dorning also shared the bowling honours, the former taking four wickets for 29 runs, and the latter three for 25. For Flores Mr Rudd played a good patient innings of 34, while Brown with five wickets for 46 was the most successful bowler.

.

Not only does this result show that cricket in Rosario has vastly improved, but I am told by one qualified to judge that the game they play now is very different to that of recent years. I am delighted to hear this and trust they will help the North team this year to make honours easy once again with their Southern friends.

.

In the match at Banfield on Sunday last a curious incident occurred. One of the home batsmen was given out when caught off a ball which the umpire had called a wide. On arriving at the pavilion the batsman was called back, the decision reversed, and he was allowed to resume his innings.

.

I can recall two instances of parallel cases. In July, 1890, in a match between the Crystal Palace and Beckenham clubs, the latter club wanted 10 runs to win and had two wickets to fall. G. E. Bicknell bowled a ball, which the Beckenham umpire, without hesitation, called wide, before the ball had passed the stumps. The batsman hit it however and was palpably caught at the wicket. The umpire, who was appealed to, gave it not out because he had already called wide. The runs were knocked off.

.

The other instance was last season in a match between the Hampshire Hogs and the Old Malvernians. The Old Malvernian umpire called a wide too soon, with the result that the batsman hit the ball and was caught. The umpire refused to give him out, on the ground that he had called wide. In my opinion the umpire was wrong in all three cases. In such an emergency the only course open to the umpire was to recall the wide, as there was no doubt as to the batsman having hit the ball in every case.

.

I have just received the probable names of the eleven who will represent the Northern Camps in their matches here this month. They are Messrs W. Leach, F. Leach, H. R. Miles, C. T. Wright, J. L. Bury, H. Bury, H. C. Foster, P. C. Bury, E. Traill, B. W. Traill, and C. A. Hay. From the names it will be seen that our clubs will have to put their full strength in the field if they wish to make a game of it with our Northern friends. Their first match is on Wednesday the 24th inst. against the Lomas Athletic Club at Lomas. I trust by this time the different elevens are completed, as it would never do for any of our teams to turn up short, after our opponents had come such a distance.

.

The interest which Lord Hawke, the Yorkshire captain, has always shown in the professionals is proverbial, the latest example, as I mentioned a short time back, being the winter employment scheme. The pros. have reciprocated this interest by presenting his lordship with a handsome gold cigarette case, bearing on front Lord Hawke's crest and the county arms, and on the back a white rose, with the inscription, "To Lord Hawke, by the Professionals of the Team, 1896."

.

On Jan. 13, the following gentlemen, under the management and captaincy of Lord Hawke, sailed from Southampton in the Royal Mail Packet Company's steamship Don, for the West Indies, to fulfil several engagements made with the prin-

cipal clubs of the islands: Lord Hawke, H. D. G. Leveson-Gower, G. R. Bardswell, P. F. Warner, H. R. Bromley-Davenport, C. Heseltine, W. H. Wakefield, J. M. Dawson, R. W. Wickham, A. E. Leatham, R. Berens, and A. B. Whatman. As can be seen by the names the team is decidedly stronger in bowling than in batting, however, they will doubtless give a good account of themselves.

.

The strong Australian team which visited England last season appear to have continued their fine record during their New Zealand tour, since out of five matches played—all against odds—they won three and drew two. The scoring was nothing like so high as in England, but the falling off in this respect may be attributed to the slower wickets and the greater number of men in the field.

.

The bowling analysis aren't yet to hand, but I append the batting averages:—

	Ins.	N.O.	H.S.	Runs.	Avg.
J. J. Kelly.....	6	1	53	143	28.60
C. Hill.....	7	0	51	176	25.14
G. Giffen.....	5	0	38	125	25.00
J. Darling.....	9	0	59	222	24.66
G. H. S. Trott..	9	0	41	183	20.33
F. A. Iredale...	9	0	75	180	20.00
C. J. Eady.....	9	0	41	131	16.37
H. Trumble....	9	2	32	113	16.14
S. E. Gregory..	7	1	25	73	12.16
E. Jones.....	8	0	21	70	8.75
T. McKibbin...	8	5	10*	15	5.00
A. E. Johns....	2	1	0	0	—

.

From the above figures it will be seen that as in England Darling obtained the biggest aggregate, although he only takes fourth place in the averages. Gregory has gone down from first to ninth place and Hill has secured the position he was expected to have obtained in England. Kelly's success is most popular though from his form in England, it is a success difficult to understand.

.

Perhaps the most extraordinary cricket match ever played took place at Thillinglee Park, the seat of the Earl of Winterton, between eleven friends of his lordship and thirty-seven labourers of the village. The eleven won by five wickets. Flushed with their triumph the Earl and his friends subsequently tackled fifty-six labourers. An unfortunate incident prevented the conclusion of the match. The yokels, as may be supposed, got so often in each other's way in the field that by the time the bell rang they were all in the worst of tempers.

.

When the Earl and his friends, refreshed with a substantial lunch, re-entered the field, they were horrified to find their fifty-six opponents busily engaged in belabouring each other. So great was the skill they exhibited in this battle royal that when peace was restored it was found that at least half of the number were unfit for play, so the game was abandoned.

.

Although cricket is a game peculiarly adapted to summer, it has been played with the thermometer registering forty degrees of frost. This occurred in the Arctic regions in 1823, when the crews of the Hecla and Fury, forming Parry's expedition to discover the North-West Passage, growing weary of concerts and private theatricals, determined to cheer their drooping spirits and keep themselves warm with a game of cricket.

.

There must have been some enthusiastic spirits in the teams, for both side were utterly exhausted long before the game terminated. The wickets, unfortunately, were pitched on an extremely smooth piece of ice, and when the wind got behind the ball the lightest tap meant at least a dozen runs. The first innings was remarkable for no fewer than sixteen drives of twenty runs each, the difficulty of fielding being greatly increased by the skins and flannels in which the players were encased.

.

The first International match was played on Jan. 9, between England and Wales, and from accounts to hand the ground at Newport was quite unfit for play. Rain had fallen all the week and this had made the ground is a terribly sloppy state. Strange to say this seems to have been

an advantage to the Welsh team. Several Welsh authorities stating before the match that it meant at least a try in their favour.

.

The Welshmen's success, winning as they did, by one goal and two tries to nothing, caused the greatest excitement in Wales. The whistle blew for "no side" amidst a scene of the wildest enthusiasm. This is the third victory Wales has obtained over England, one having been drawn while the Englishmen have won ten.

.

This was Arthur Gould's twenty seventh International for Wales. So that he holds the record beating W. E. Maclagan, the old Scotch captain, by two. It seems strange to read that Gould was the weakest of the four three-quarters in this match, but such was the case. Not only did he make one or two misses, but he made one or two bad errors of judgment, one especially, early in the game, preferring to try and drop a goal from an easy position for a place kick from a penalty, and later attempting drop goals instead of passing.

.

The fact that the Welsh team contained a policeman led to some very funny remarks both on the ground and in the Welsh papers. In one of these a Welshman writes, "Several of the English team told me before the match they didn't know what to do about that Welsh policeman. From old association they felt that kicking a 'copper' was a punishable offence."

.

An interesting fixture now in course of arrangement is that between the Albion Club and the Social Club, Lomas. Both clubs have plenty of good cricketers on their lists of members, and a very good match should result. The game will be at Lomas on the ground of the Athletic Club and the probable date will be Sunday, March 21.

.

With reference to the rumour that Eton and Harrow might not meet at Lord's this year, the Rev. J. E. C. Weldon, the head master at Harrow, writes that it has been arranged to play the match as usual at Lord's, but that strong objection has been felt at both schools to the proposal of the M.C.C. that the game should be fixed in the same week as the University match.

.

There is a rather diverting story indirectly concerning Dr. Morley, J.P., the genial and popular "father" of the famous Blackburn Rovers, and brother to the ex-Irish Secretary. Not long ago an enthusiastic footballer had to answer a summons for indulging in his favourite pastime in the High Street, Blackburn. The magistrate frowned severely, and said: "So you have been footballing in the public road, to the danger and discomfort of the passers-by, eh?" The culprit nodded assent. "Well, it will cost you a matter of five shillings." The accused took two half-crowns from his pocket, and laid them on the desk. "But, your worship, has Dr. Morley permission to play football in that same street?" The magistrate looked up at the skylight, at the same time grasping his chin in a reflective manner between his thumb and forefinger. "Er—I—oh—um—no, certainly not. Is this your first offence, young man?" "Yes, sir, and my last," replied the offender. "Well, then, I'll remit the fine this time, but don't let it occur again. Be off with you." Our footballer picked up his money, smiled his thanks, and walked off. But when he had got to the door, the "great unpaid" called out to him: "Wait a moment, young man. Did you actually see Dr. Morley footballing in that thoroughfare?" "I? No, your honour, never," answered the enthusiast, with a twinkle in his eye; and he was gone—gone before the "beak" had even time to say farewell!

"The Teneriffe."

Best English and American Tobaccos

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IN FRONT OF THE BOLSA

HIS HENLEY.

"You know, Tom, I am awfully sorry you can't come. Are you quite sure you can't come just for one day?" said Mrs Arden, twisting a lock of her husband's grizzled hair between her fingers.

"Quite sure, Kitty. You see they are bulling Bertha A.'s fearfully just now, and I must be on the spot, Henley or no Henley."

"Ah! you wouldn't have said that two years ago," said she with an enchanting pout.

"My dear child, don't be unreasonable," said Mr Arden admonishingly, but secretly a little flattered at his pretty wife's desire for his society. "Go down and enjoy yourself, and never mind about me."

"And you won't be silly and—jealous again, Tom," she said, coaxingly; "remember you promised you wouldn't. You don't know how awfully circumspect I am when I'm without you, but, of course, I can't help it, if people will be ordinarily civil to me. I dare say if I were like Mrs Grumbleton it would be better."

"It would be much worse," said Tom, emphatically, "you little hypocrite. Do you think I would ever have married you if you hadn't been pretty?"

Mrs Arden gave a well satisfied little smile. "Well, you're a dear boy to let me go. You know its just my idea of happiness to be on a houseboat, and I think it was just sweet of Millie Lovelace to get me the the invitation to go with her."

"I don't know whether Mrs Lovelace has much ballast," said Mr Arden reflectively.

"Oh, indeed, Millie's as steady—as steady—as a rock," said Kitty, seeking for a convincing simile. "I believe the boat is lovely, too. So beautifully decorated, and a mass of yellow and white flowers. That's why I got that yellow and white frock to be on suite. Oh! it will be lovely, and I only wish you were coming, too."

Mrs Arden was a small and vivacious brunette, of a type of beauty particularly distracting to mankind by reason of its very irregularities, and during their short married life Mr Arden had already made himself, on many occasions, into a temporary Othello, but Kitty had always proved herself so triumphantly innocent that he had always had to apologise, and had solemnly sworn never to be jealous again. He felt he was proving this abundantly by allowing her to go down to Henley with Millie Lovelace as her guardian.

The place seemed very desolate when he came home from the "House" and found his solitary dinner awaiting him. He read through a lengthy article in the "Nineteenth Century" fell asleep over it, and went to bed early feeling what a virtuous husband he was not to be spending the evening at the Tivoli or the Empire, while his wife was away enjoying herself. He went down to the city next morning with the same glow of righteous satisfaction upon him, bought and sold some Nitrates to advantage and dropped into Crosby Hall to reward himself with a good luncheon. He was leaning back in his chair waiting for his sole and Maudie, when two other men entered and took the table at his back.

"And where were you yesterday?" said one.

"At Henley, to be sure."

"Lucky dog. Wish I could manage it. Had a good day?"

"Bippin,' dear boy. Herbert Williams was there and some more of the crowd from the Friv, and they fairly painted things red, I can tell you. William sang that new song of his, 'Mother wouldn't buy me a pussy cat,' you know; sang the *encore* verse too."

"Suppose Pigott wouldn't let him use it at the Friv?" said the other.

"Not much, you bet. Heaps of the 'boy' for everybody, and I can tell you some of those girls can put it away."

"And whom did you mash? Florrie Flounce?"

"Not me. Don't care for actresses, too cheap for me. No, there was a deucedly pretty little married woman on the Lady Alice I went for."

The Lady Alice! Mr Arden bounded on his chair. That was the name of the houseboat to which his wife was invited.

"What was her name?" said the man behind him.

"Don't know—wouldn't tell me. Said she'd got a husband in the City somewhere, who was very particular. Well, I don't envy him, but she was awfully fetching—just my style, *petite* and dark as coal. Never saw such a neat ankle in my life, and you bet she knew how to show it, Charles, my boy," and the two men laughed significantly while, Mr Arden sat silent, with a whirling brain. The Lady Alice. Husband in the city, dark, wouldn't tell her name, neat ankle. Not a doubt but it was Kitty, his Kitty, who had cajoled and humbugged him into letting her go down to these disreputable people. No doubt she and that brazen Mrs Lovelace had concocted it between them and had laughed over his credulity. To think of Kitty exhibiting her ankles to a set of low actors, his blood boiled at the very idea, for his views about women were quite Turkish in their severity.

"Your sole, sir," said the waitress, seeing him gazing wildly into vacancy.

"D—the sole," cried Mr Arden, springing to his feet, and casting a glance of impotent fury at the two young men, who had been discussing his wife's charms. "And you, you young black guards, how dare you speak of a lady in that fashion." He glared round him fiercely, and dashing out of the place, hailed the next hansom.

"Paddington, sharp!" he cried as he leapt in. Yes, he would go down and surprise the perfidious woman, overwhelm her with disgrace, and drag her back home.

"Here, cabby, can't you make that horse do anything but crawl?" he cried impatiently, "Sharp, I said."

The way to Paddington seemed interminable, and the cab had hardly stopped before he sprang out, threw the astonished driver half a sovereign, and dashed into the station to find what he had half-an-hour to wait. He paced frantically up and down the platform, framing scathing invectives and bitter reproaches to hurl at Kitty, his lips moving as he uttered the words aloud.

"Party seems a bit mad," he overheard one porter say to another; and it was a fortunate thing that he had no companion in his journey down to Henley, or he would surely have been arrested as a madman. At last Henley was reached, and Mr Arden hurled himself from the train, and disregarding the adjurations of the vociferous fly-drivers strode towards the river. The races were not yet over, and the fun was fast and furious. The band was playing the "Ave Maria" from Rustic Chivalry which blended with the strains of the "Coster's Serenade," as played by an amateur banjoist. The banks were lined with houseboats gorgeous with many-coloured flowers; punts, outriggers, skiffs, and gondolas jostled each other in every direction. Friends shouted to each other across the stream, men exchanged personalities as their boats collided, girls on the roofs of houseboats chattered over their tea, and everyone seemed bent on making the most of the July weather and the river, except Tom Arden, whom the glitter of and gaiety only irritated almost to madness.

"Boat, sir?" said one of those amphibious creatures who haunt the Thames.

"Yes. Row me to the Lady Alice."

"Gent belongs to the nobs, you see," said a beery-faced man who sat on a post cracking nuts, winking facetiously. "Mustn't keep the lady waiting."

"Whereabouts is she, sir?" said the waterman as Mr Arden stepped grimly into the boat.

"I don't know. How should I?" he said.

"Row about till you find her."

"What's she like, sir?"

"Yellow and white, I believe," said he; "there, there, start, can't you?"

"I s'pose you wouldn't grudge a trifle of five shillings?" said the man, insinuatingly.

"Oh, anything you like," retorted Mr Arden, frantically; and to his dying day the man will regret he had not asked half a sovereign.

Up and down they rowed in a fashion that caused much bad language from the pleasure seekers, and at last he caught sight of a big houseboat, glistening with white paint, on which he read in yellow letters, "Lady Alice. A striped yellow and white awning shaded the deck, yellow silk curtains fluttered at the windows, and huge pots filled with white and yellow flowers lined the sides.

There was a crowd of people on board, a young woman with hair of a marvellous yellow shade was pouring out tea, while a man with a clean-shaven face, attired in an immaculate duck suit was singing a song which evoked roars of laughter from his listeners.

Ah! Now he should find Kitty, thought the angry husband, as they pulled alongside the Lady Alice, and he put his foot on the bows. He could just catch sight of a neat dark head in the backround which he thought was hers.

"So aw'fully glad to see you, deah boy," said the clean-shaven man, with an exaggerated "masher accent." "So good of you to come. How's the dear old dutch and the kids? Why didn't you bring grauny. A little fresh air would do the deah old girl lots of good, don't you know?"

"Don't try your d—d nonsense on me," said Mr Arden, furiously, "where's my wife?"

"Well, you see, deah boy, she didn't do one the honour to take me into her confidence, but I should imagine she was trying change of company," said the other, while everyone laughed and one man said approvingly:

"Bravo, Herbert!"

Mr. Arden had dashed up on the roof, only to find that the dark-haired lady was a perfect stranger, and now stood gazing round him rather blankly.

"Let the bereaved husband taste the simple hospitalities of the Lady Alice," said Herbert Williams, for it was that celebrated low comedian: Solace his widowed soul with the guileless rye-whiskey, or the seductive three-stars brandy. Maudie dear, mix it for him, as you do for your best boy, when he's got the 'ump."

"I shall wait here until my wife returns," said Mr Arden.

"Do by all means. Just what I was going to suggest, dear boy. We were wanting a nice genial pretty mannered addition to our society; and you'll excuse us if we have to leave if the Judgment Day arrives before your errant spouse returns to the arms of her lovin' 'usband. Meanwhile we'll sing thee songs of Araby and all that, don't you know."

Mr Arden gazed scornfully at him and did not deign to reply. He felt his anger against Kitty growing stronger every moment, as he realised to what insults she had exposed him. The incurable levity of women! To what depths would it not descend! And so this was the kind of society she preferred to his!

"I like a man who doesn't stand on any blooming ceremony, doesn't wait for an invitation, don't you know, deah boys," went on Williams. "Just comes and stops in a simple affable way, and makes himself quite at home. I don't like leaving a man like that. Couldn't tell you, deah fellow, how sorry I am we must go up by the 6.30 train, but I'm afraid the boss wouldn't quite swallow it if we all telegraphed to say we were suddenly indisposed."

The dark-haired girl had been silently surveying Mr Arden, and now went slowly up to him with a demure look of sympathy on her piquant face.

"I'm awfully sorry; I hope you are not in a very great hurry, but she'll surely return soon," she said, softly.

"Then you admit she is here?" said Mr Arden, facing round on her suddenly.

"What would be the use of denying it?"

"Then perhaps you can tell me whom she has gone out with?"

The girl shook her head. "I'm afraid not; you see we're rather a large party, and I hardly know some of the boys."

Mr Arden shuddered. To think of his wife going out with "some of the boys."

"You look awfully knocked up," said the sympathiser, who, he noticed, had soft, dark eyes. "I wish you'd have a whiskey and soda."

"No, thank you," said he, still rather distantly.

"Do. It really isn't our fault she has done this," said the girl, and somehow Mr Arden found himself accepting a tumbler of a seductive sparkling fluid, agreeably tempered with lumps of ice. His throat was parched with anger and heat, and he heaved a sigh of relief as the draught disappeared.

The dark girl was leaning against the railings by his side; he noticed a tiny mole on her smooth, dark cheek; she really was a most sympathetic person, and he found himself gradually confiding in her about Kitty. He had reached the point in his narrative when he overheard the conversation at luncheon when a familiar cry of "Tom!" broke upon his ear, and he looked up to see Mrs Arden in a punt, with some most undoubtedly orthodox matrons, regarding him with unmitigated astonishment.

"Here, come here at ance:" he cried, waving a hand magisterially.

"Certainly not," said Mrs Arden, haughtily. "Mr Gerard, please go on," and the punt moved quickly away while an echo floated over the water of "brazen creatures, unparalleled audacity."

"Isn't that lady of your party?" said Mr Arden, turning in bewilderment to his sympathiser.

"Never saw her in my life before; but you seemed so certain your wife was here, I thought it was a pity to disappoint you," said Miss Maud Loraine, suddenly displaying her fine teeth in the regulation footlights smile.

"I—I think I must be going," said the poor man utterly disconcerted, and he went down into his boat amid much chaff and laughter from the crew of the Lady Alice. From afar he meekly followed his wife's punt and saw it stop at the Alice houseboat, when a light suddenly broke upon him.

"Tom," said Kitty, severely, when he had shaken hands with her hostess, "I want to know what this means. You distinctly told me you *could* not come down to Henley, and here, at the end of the day, I find you, never having come near me, on a houseboat with those horrid acting people, and evidently *very* friendly with that dreadful Miss Loraine." Never before had Mrs Arden's pretty face worn such a look of severity, and never before had the husband's brain worked so rapidly. Confess what an *egregious ass* he made of himself through jealousy? Never! And rathlessly stifling a rather robust conscience, he said unblushingly.

"The fact is, my dear, I found at the last moment I could get away and as I was searching for the Alice I saw on that other boat a man I used to know very well; he saved me from drowning when I was a boy, indeed, and you see I could hardly cut him."

"No," said Kitty slowly.

"And surely my little Kitty isn't going to be jealous when I've come down all this long way on purpose to please her?"

"Oh, no!" said Kitty, very decidedly.

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THE BUNDLECOND CONFEDERACY.

No. II. OF THE "JONES" SERIES OF POLO STORIES

(Written for the "New Zealand Mail,"
by F. D. A. C. De Lisle).

With the departure of Major Bruce for twelve months' leave of absence, matters at Rawal Pindi became more pleasant for Lieut. Carr-Jones. For the glorious year in which he had so triumphantly scored over his persecutor warned his fellow-officers that he was not a man to be easily trifled with, and he was, metaphorically, labelled 'Dangerous' by all who knew the history of the Umballa Polo Cup race.

With virtually two of the fastest ponies in India to play polo on, 'The Sandfly,' as Jones was universally called, was a very strong order, and under his guidance and command the 28th B. L. polo team carried all before them. These were the piping times of peace, and the officer man's lines were cast in pleasant places, so that Jones could always get leave for a few days, either to go shooting or to try his hand at pig-sticking for a change.

And since the departure of Mrs Major Bruce for England, a strange taste for solitude had taken possession of the dashing little 'sub,' who very often disappeared for three or four days together, and no one ever knew where he had gone to.

One day after getting his dak (mail) from England Jones became particularly melancholy, and applying for leave of absence for a week—rather a longer time than usual for him—he departed out of the cantonments one night with his four polo ponies and his Oorya bearer in attendance.

The bearer had been in the boboorchee khana (kitchen) prior to setting out, and he had informed Mrs Col. Cleeve's wet-nurse that his lat sahib (lord master) had received aik to bahut burra chitty (a very long letter) aur aik tushvir Major Bruce sahib ka bebe ka pas (and a photo from the wife of Major Bruce). The photo was of the Major's bebe (wife), or rather of what had once been his, for she disclaimed all connection with him now. And the tears sprang to 'The Sandfly's' eyes as he looked into the sad, beautiful face, and noted the wistful expression of the large, tender brown eyes.

One part of her letter ran as follows:—

'Ernie is with his regiment at Amritsar, and I'm afraid is getting into bad company. He has been sending home for a lot of money lately.'

Ernie was the little woman's only brother, and 'The Sandfly' gnashed his teeth and swore one or two hideously disguised Pushtu oaths at the 'infernal idiot' for causing his sweet sister any pain.

Well, he started for Amritsar to see how the 'infernal idiot' was getting on.

He had not been gone half an hour before Mrs Col. Cleeve's di told Lady Bertrand's Eurasian governess that Lieut. Jones had received the portrait of Mrs Major Bruce by the last dak. The Eurasian told Captain Polhill-Carew's body servant, and he in turn told the Adjutant's Madrassee kitmaghar (table servant), who whispered it in the dusky ear of the Punjabee ayah (waiting servant) of Mrs Major Concannon—as arrant an old gossip as ever set a cantonment by the ears. And before 11 that night the whole district knew why Carr-Jones had cleared out on leave of absence—

'Because he could not endure the sight of her surroundings,' 'His heart was breaking, and he had to find distraction,' and so forth.

In twenty-four hours Jones rode into Amritsar and put up at the best hotel. On the books he appeared as 'Lieut. Carr-Jones, Manager, the Bundlecond Confederacy.'

He had his chota hazri (small breakfast) about 5.30 the next morning, and mounting his Arab pony Eclipse (which he had bought at the sale of Major Bruce's stud), he cantered down to the racecourse.

The fine-looking pony and the dapper-looking 'sub,' were the cynosure of many eyes on the course, and after the Arab had carved out a mile in one-fifty-four without turning a hair, many anxious enquiries were made as to whether he was for sale or not.

'The Sandfly' was soon serenely chatting away with one or two amateur trainers and a gentleman rider who appeared the authority on all racing affairs in Amritsar.

'Yes, he's a grand little fellow,' Jones said. 'The best of his kind in the hills, I should say. I bought him for the Bundlecond Confederacy, who will race him for the Civil Service Cup next year, I think.'

The racing authority appeared puzzled for a moment; then he asked—

'Bundlecond Confederacy? Hang it! I never heard of the Bundlecond Confed. before!'

'I suppose not,' said Jones, calmly; 'they have only just been formed—down in Bengal. You see, Pattiata and Durbunghar and Cooch Pehar are all getting very strong now—in fact, they are as good as Jeypore. So some of the wealthy men down in the plains have formed a confed. with the Cachar planters, and they're going to play "Hell and Tommy" with the other syndicates. I'm buying for the Bundlecond Confed., and will give you your price for anything that can beat my best.'

'Hard to find, I should think,' laughed the authority. 'But we'll see what we can do. My name is Hallington. I'm one of the 40th Panjab Horse. Come and see us parade on the maidan (open plain or reserve), and I'll introduce you to "Ours." We are just getting ready for the "Sky" Gymkhana (depending chiefly on the weather or sky) meeting next month. Some of the "tats" are good, but I'm afraid they're not a patch on the little gem you've got there. By the way,' went on Captain Hallington, as he and 'The Sandfly' trotted away towards the parade ground, 'there is a man here who

owns a flyer, a really fast pony for six furlongs, but he can't get an inch further. If you think you can do one-eighteen with nine stone up, give him a go, but don't let him bluff you into a heavy wager. He lives on the game, and, I am sorry to say it, a good many of the 40th know him to their cost. He has had us all on toast, and some of our fellows have been heavily hit. This is in confidence, of course. You're bound to come across Rogers. Don't be "had" if you can help it. He's rather too smart for most young fellows.'

'The Sandfly' chuckled to himself. He had a superabundance of faith in his own acuteness, and he felt quite pleased at the prospect of crossing weapons with the 'smart' man. On the parade ground after parade he was introduced all round, and he made himself especially agreeable to Lieut. Ernest Sedgecumbe, Mrs Major Bruce's only brother.

Polo and polo racing formed the chief subject of conversation, and 'The Sandfly' was eagerly welcomed by the 40th P.H., who invited him to their mess, and promised to provide him with all the sport they could find. His reputation was hardly known in Amritsar, so that the 40th P.H. may be forgiven for patronising the dashing little light-weight to a certain extent.

As he expressed some anxiety to meet the owner of the flying six furlong polo pony, the 40th offered to invite Mr Rogers, ostensibly tea planter, but actually hawk, to dine at their mess in order to be presented to the manager of the Bundlecond Confederacy. 'The Sandfly' murmured his thanks, and with Lieut. Sedgecumbe adjourned for hazri (breakfast) to his hotel.

It was not long before he was fast friends with Lieut. Sedgecumbe.

'I know your sister, Sedgecumbe,' he said, apropos of nothing at all. 'Married to Bruce, Major in "Ours." Awful brute. Gone home on furlough. Probably will exchange. Tried to drum me out of the regiment. I beat him in the end. Know much of this Rogers, eh?'

'Wish I'd never seen him,' candidly answered the young lieutenant. 'He's rooked me over and over again, and the worst of it is, there's nothing "crooked" about him. He's just too smart, and awfully lucky at cards.'

'Oh, bobbery my!' said Jones. 'So you go in for cards. What'd you play? Loo?—Baccarat?'

'Sometimes. Usually poker when Rogers is there,' answered Sedgecumbe.

'Is he often there?'

'Not now. He's won too much; and the colonel is in an awful wax with us. He seldom appears at "Ours" now.'

'I suppose you meet nevertheless?'

'Yes, at the private houses. He is a constant diner-out, and consequently we often come across one another.'

'Hum! Has he won much from you?'

'Yes, a goodish bit. He's evidently fixed on me as a regular source of income.'

'Humph!' and 'The Sandfly' made a wry face. He'd like to have given Sedgecumbe some wholesome advice, but etiquette forbade it. He thought he could see a better way out of it than that. 'Like to get it all back, Sedgecumbe?' he asked.

'Not much chance, I think,' sadly answered Sedgecumbe.

'Yes there is. Join the Bundlecond Confed, and you'll be quits with him inside of a week.'

'Why, what on earth do you mean?' asked Sedgecumbe.

'Just this. It will cost you five hundred rupees to become a member of the Bundlecond Confed.; the only other member being myself. I've got three ponies here that can all beat fifty-four a mile, and one of them, a duu country-bred, can do six furlongs inside of one-sixteen. Join the Confederacy, and you can match First Blood against Rogers' flyer for all he is worth. Let me ride, and if I lose I'll pay all wagers myself.'

'By Jove! you don't mean that!' gasped the astonished Sedgecumbe.

'But I do, though,' said Jones. 'Hand me your cheque for the five hundred, and you become part owner of First Blood.'

'Done!' shouted Sedgecumbe. 'By George! you're a brick. Though why you should take such an interest in an outsider like me I can't understand.'

'You will some day,' dryly said Jones, 'but for the time being let it suffice that it always affords me the greatest pleasure to "take down" one of the clever division. Get Rogers to play poker to-night, and I'll try his strength. And whatever you do, mind and make a match with his flyer for whatever sum he'll have.'

At the mess of the 40th P.H. that night Jones was the centre of observation. As the manager and buyer of the Bundlecond Confed, he attracted all the attention, and he completely captivated the hearts of the 40th by the quiet way in which he chaffed Mr Rogers.

After mess, the officers adjourned to the smoking-room, and soon they commenced to play poker. Rogers early took a decided lead, and with great 'bluff' and a lot of luck he was 'in to the tune of four hundred rupees at the end of an hour's play. Then a change came over the spirit of his dream. Lieut. Jones commenced to go one better than him at every opportunity. This annoyed Rogers, who put out several feelers, but was beaten each time by a greater gambler than himself. At last he held a full hand of three queens and two aces. He commenced to raise at a hundred rupees a time. There were four players, but at the second raise two of them dropped out, and Jones went calmly on, going a raise of a hundred better every time Rogers spoke. At length they each had a thousand rupees staked. Confound it!' said Rogers, angrily, 'how much more are you going to raise it may I ask?'

'The Sandfly' pulled a wad of notes from his pocket and placed them on the table.

'There are notes to the value of five thousand rupees there. Cover that wad and I'll send my bearer down to the hotel for twenty-five thousand more. I'll go on till daylight, if you like.'

'But I won't,' said Rogers. 'You can take it,' and he flung down his full hand.

'Thanks!' said Jones, as he exposed a hand, nine high, without even a pair in it. 'This is one of the glories of unlimited wagers. Like to go on?'

There was an ugly scowl on the planter's face as he rose and left the table. The 40th were wreathed in smiles.

'I always contend, went on Jones, calmly, 'that there

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is no man or animal so good but that his superior can be found. Now, I'm told, Mr Rogers, that you have a wonderfully fast polo pony. It may be fast, but I would back the Bundelcund Confed. to find a better.'

'You think so, do you growled Rogers. 'Would you back your opinion?'

'For a small amount, yes. I will race you a mile for five hundred. My Arab polo pony Eclipse against your best.'

'It's not tempting enough,' said Rogers. 'Lieut. Sedgumbe will tell you that I never race for less than five thousand. He has had some experience in these matters.'

'Which means that I have not,' coolly said Jones. 'I won't race you for five thousand, but I'll tell you what I'll do—I'll race you a mile, nine-seven up, the winner to take the loser.'

'Not tempting enough,' again said Mr Rogers. 'Yours might be some wretched crock, not worth racing for. Broken down, perhaps.'

'Sound as a bell,' answered Jones. 'But I can see you are not on for sport. The Bundelcund Confed. are pure sportsmen, and not simply gamblers. Their ponies are the best in the Hills, and I suppose in India. I'll go you the best three out of five—polo ball race, flag race, bending, hurdle and flat—for a thousand.'

Rogers shook his head.

'I will race my polo pony against yours, six furlongs, nine stone up, for five thousand rupees only.'

'It's a wager,' said Jones. And everybody was surprised. 'I can see you are going for the gloves. Anybody else like to back Mr Rogers?'

'I for one won't said Sedgumbe, who had been impatiently waiting for his cue. 'Why, I believe I've got one that can beat both of you. Rogers only beat me by half a length in our last match.'

'And Rogers can beat you again,' chimed in that worthy.

'So you think,' answered Sedgumbe. 'But I don't mind betting you the same wager that my best will beat yours.'

'A bet,' said Rogers. 'I will race Lieut. Jones to-morrow, and you the following day. You youngsters will never learn sense.'

'Hope you'll think so when I've done with you,' said Jones. 'Now I must seek my virtuous couch if I'm going to ride a match to-morrow. Gentlemen, back the Bundelcund Confed. It's one of the best things you've ever had.'

The next morning on the racecourse Eclipse only just squeezed home a short head in front of Mr Rogers' Rajah—a really speedy sprinter. The time for the six furlongs was one minute seventeen seconds, and the little Arab, Eclipse, won by judgment only. There was jubilation in the camp of the 40th P.H.

The next morning Lieut. Sedgumbe brought out the dun country-bred polo pony, First Blood, to race Mr Rogers' Rajah, and the pony was promptly objected to as not being his property. But the gallant lieutenant produced his cheque book, and also a receipt for his member's fee to the Bundelcund Confederacy.

Rogers started his pony under protest, and First Blood simply made a hack of him, winning easily by ten lengths, hard held, in one-sixteen and a half. Then Rogers refused to pay, and the protest was referred to the Indian Turf Club, who decided in favour of Lieut. Sedgumbe.

The 40th P.H. were never again troubled by Mr Rogers.

When 'The Sandfly' was returning to his regiment, he said to Lieut. Sedgumbe—

'Well, old man, you're about square again, and you've learnt something. Here's your 500 rupees. Give me back my receipt. The partnership is dissolved by mutual consent. I shall be always pleased to see you if you come down our way. Now go ahead and lead a decent life. And, by the way, if your sister ever asks you how you got square again, you need not mention my name—put it all down to the Bundelcund Confederacy.'

EVERYDAY LIFE IN PARAGUAY.

(Specially written for "Sport and Pastime.")

(Continued.)

We did not stay long in Ajos. The horses had rested; the weather was cool, the roads were good, so we cantered along the main tracks leading to Carayas and St. Ane yerbales. No water carriage being available in this district, carretas mules and mares are used as transport.

We camped with an old piratical Correntino who, with a couple of mares, was on his way down to Asuncion with ten arrobas of yerba. He had been away from home six weeks and expected to be another fortnight on the road. He said he had purchased the yerba for \$5 the arroba and offered it to us for \$8.50. Thus in two months he would have earned \$35, about 23s. English money, the Paraguayan dollar usually being about half the value of that of the Argentine.

A good deal of yerba from this district is "pirated," that is gathered by men who are not lessees. It is the custom here for the Government to lease the yerbales, the rent being fixed by auction. A man discovers a yerbal, or rather employs Indians to climb trees and discover them for him. Then he solicits the Government to measure it, and put it up to auction. As the petitioner is about the best Judge of its value, it is usually knocked down to him.

By the way, most of the yerba sent down to Buenos Aires is delivered on contract by the richest company here the "Industrial." Its dividends are enormous. There is an export duty on yerba which finds its way to England. The bondholders of London get 10 cents per ten kilos, which pays them 1 per cent. on their bonds.

We parted from our piratical friend with mutual expressions of good will, and before nightfall pulled up at a miserable little rancho the only one in the neighbourhood. We were as hungry as the proverbial hunters, but all we could get that evening, was a few sticks of mandioca, not even a chipa or a drink of milk. It is on such an occasion as this that the published menus of say the Criterion, read like a heavens poemly.

There was just light enough to cut a few leaves of the "pindo" palm for our horses, even a feed of maize being unobtainable. The one solitary room which made up the rancho was crowded with children, so we slept outside under a carreto, consoling ourselves with mate, bombilla and swear words. A fowl can usually be purchased from the poorest chacarero, but the foxes they said had been exceptionally bad and cleared them out.

Hitherto we had got along very well by ourselves, but in the morning on inquiring whether there was a track across the "impassable" estero sufficient evidence was forthcoming to show that it would be better to get a native to go with us; so a hunter, who turned up in the early morning, and was willing for a couple of dollars to pilot us across was engaged forthwith.

He would only take a little time, he said, and he would land us across in "Ya-cu-tu." We rode down to the edge of the estero, left our horses in charge of Geordie and started. At the first go off, it wasn't too bad, simply walking round tufts of high grass; then it began to get sploidy, and we pulled up our trousers; by-and-bye it was a case of jumping from one tuft to another. After that our legs began to bleed; cut and hacked by the razor-like reeds and then after we had fallen into the slimy-bog that came up to our armpits, Murray, who had looked rather solemn and kept very silent from the beginning, took a rest and as he looked round observed that it was as good as a picnic, and that if I could only see myself I would expire with merriment. Perhaps there was some truth in this as he himself looked a perfect wreck—mud, blood, and tears all over, and it was with a sight of relief we reached firm land.

After that we crossed from one little island of monte to another. It was simply wonderful how that native picked up the tracks through the scrub, and across the estero. At the last bit of monte the entrance had been blazed on a tree. The path was overgrown and did not seem to have been used for years, but without a moment's hesitation our guide went ahead, using his machete right and left, and at last brought us into a magnificent potrero; "Yu-cu-tu," he said, and we felt real glad.

Through the long grass there were absolutely dozens of tracks. At first cattle pads would suggest themselves, but they were too narrow. Presently Murray stopped and shouted quite excitedly, "Why, there are horses here; recently, too." The native turned back, gave a glance, and answered, "No, mister, boravé;" adding that all the deep-trodden tracks were made by wild animals. He told us stories of the number of skins one could get in good seasons from this paddock, and showed us where, a couple of years before, he and some companions had erected a bit of a hut and sun-dried their deer flesh.

Although the tracks were so numerous we had not shot a living thing. We had heard the call of the wild turkeys in all directions, and the rush and "sniff" of a couple of deer, but being anxious to push on had not stopped to follow them up. Besides, our guide had assured us the journey and return would not take long.

The day before we had been half starved, and when the sun beat down at mid-day I for one was nearly famished.

Our native friend only smiled when we expressed our wants and reproached him with not having a very keen idea of time and distance, but as he produced from some part of his scant raiment a couple of chipas and some mandioca we were somewhat mollified, although it was

poor sustenance for the five hours tramp we had got through.

As we sat in the shade resting after our frugal meal, the shrill challenge of a bull in the distance was borne faintly on the breeze. For the time being the whole of us forgot our weariness and we made for the tallest trees we could find, scrambled up them like awkward monkeys.

There was nothing grand about the view, but it is always interesting to look over strange country. What we saw was what looked like a level grassy plain, about fifteen miles across, dotted here and there, with clumps of trees, pools of water, and reeds, but not a hoof of cattle could we see.

All round the high monte closed us in like a fence. It was as if the whole camp had once been a lake wooded down to the water's edge, and the lake had run dry. From our look-out we could see dozens of indentations or pockets—potreros en potreros—each one of which would be capable of hiding and feeding a thousand head of cattle.

It would have been madness to try and look round this potrero on foot, so having taken our bearings, we resolved to cut a track through the monte from the side of our estancia, a six mile road we were told, and bring our horses through from that side.

Making the best of our way back, we recrossed the estero, reaching our horses before sunset, more dead than alive, and after a couple of hours' spell, made up our minds to get on and travel by moonlight, a favourite time here in the hot summer weather for a "viaje."

We got back to the Estancia next day, and after resting, set about making preparations to cut our way through the monte.

Fresh horses, a pocket compass, two machetes, and a pack-horses this time loaded with provisions. Geordie brought along an old Mauser rifle, weighing after he had carried it half a day three-quarters of a ton, so he said.

One way lay due north, and for leagues there was not a single inhabitant. Occasionally, we would sight the bare posts of what was once a cattle ranch abandoned during the war and never rebuilt.

One place, though we passed had only been deserted eight years; Casa Blanca the neighbours call it. The people around about have a superstitious horror of the puesto, and would not pass a night alone there for a gold mine.

When the south wind comes up and the monte at the back of the old house sighs and groans, the passing peon thinks he hears old Blanc screaming for mercy and crying for help. At night, too, lights flicker and two men ride up on shadow horses.

Old Blanc came from Corrientes, rich with the spoils of a bandit's calling. He settled down here as a respectable estanciero, admired, respected and feared by every native in the district. He prospered, and at the time of his death, forty or fifty thousand gold dollars would not have bought him out.

He had two peones, one, his godson, also from Corrientes, was a bold reckless ruffian, the other, a Paraguayan, might have been a priest or a bolichero if he had been trained that way. Chance made him a horse peon and he followed his Correntino mate like a dog.

They would drive small mobs of bulls into Villa Rica, where Blanc himself would follow and sell them later on. One afternoon they set out with a troop, but returning at night entered the house and assassinated the old man before he could defend himself. Two hundred dollars was all they could find, with which they went on a howling drunk.

In the end they were caught, tried, and, strange to say, sentenced to be shot on the river bank in Asuncion. Crowds of people turned out to witness the execution. Women shed tears and showered flowers, cigars, and chipas on these worthy heroes.

The Correntino bore his honours bravely, sang, smiled, and strutted. "See," he said, "what numbers come to see me; I never knew until to-day the quantity of friends I had in Paraguay. The other poor wretch was shivering and shaking like a leaf. His companion encouraged him by jeering at him and mimicking his terror."

Just before the soldiers fired one of the prisoners turned round to the priest, and said he had something to confess. Time was short, but the priest listened; horrorsruck while he charged a son of old Blanc with having promised them a bribe of four thousand dollars to put the old man out of the way.

Perhaps, the confession was a device to put off the execution. However, the officer in charge would not delay. He gave the word to fire and they died "seated in their chairs" with their backs to the walls of the barranca.

All murderers, horse thieves, and electioneering bravos in Paraguay are said to be fugitives from Argentine justice. Perhaps, this is true, but if so they must come across the border like an invading army.

At another of the old estancias we passed, great palms and orange trees were growing where once had been spacious rooms. The cross pieces and posts of arunday and curupy were as good as when put up thirty or forty years since. This house was the old cattle king's chief residence, right on the side of Laguna Grande.

In the time of the Jesuits this lake was described as a sheet of water, now, as far as the eye can reach, it is an ocean of reeds; save in one place where there is, perhaps, twenty squares of clear water.

Close here, runs the rumour, that the rich old man buried half a million of Spanish dollars; besides gold and silver plate and fine jewelry. He was the richest man in the country. His cattle kept the army of Lopez for nearly twelve months, and then for his patriotism—forced, perhaps, the old fellow was shot like a dog.

(To be continued.)



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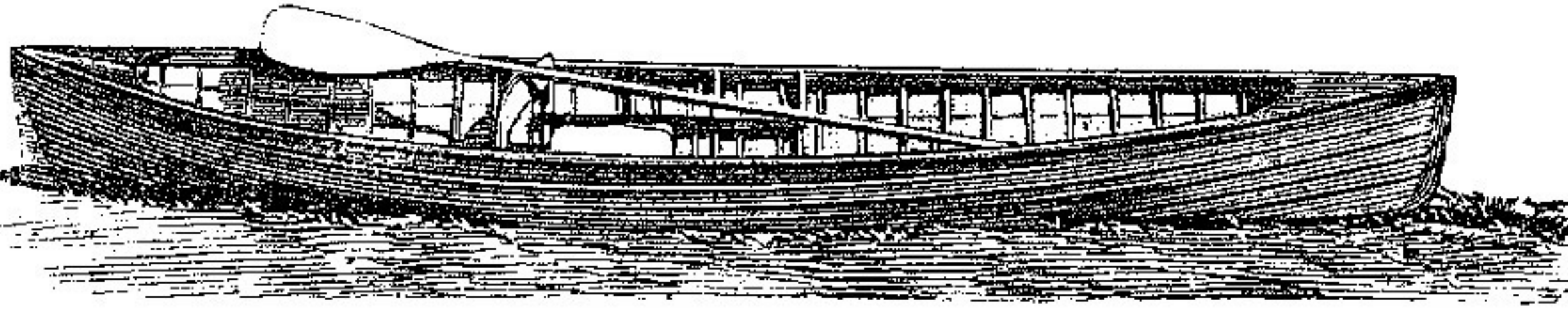
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