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THE AMATEUR IN SPORT.

SEEKING A DEFINITION.

CONTROLLING BODIES CONFER.

A meeting of delegates from the governing sports organisations was held recently for the purpose of discussing ways and means of adopting a general definition of the amateur status. Mr C. P. Skerrett, K.C., presided. There were also present: Messrs A. A. Marryatt (New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association), G. W. Slade (New Zealand Rugby Union), B. A. Guise (New Zealand Boxing Association), W. S. Brice (Rugby League), M. J. Crombie (New Zealand Cricket Council), A. R. Clanders (New Zealand Golf Association), A. D. Bayfield (New Zealand Amateur Rowing Association), and G. S. Hill (New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association.) Mr Skerrett said the conference was the outcome of the last annual meeting of the Sports' Protection League, when the opinion was expressed that in the period of reconstruction something should be done to try to define the amateur status. The present conference would have no legislative powers and would be purely consultative. The delegates, however, could refer to the bodies that they represented the decisions arrived at. It was not clear that the conditions in New Zealand differed greatly from those in England. In New Zealand certainly there were no large sections of the sporting community who received emoluments from sport, but in England many persons derived a substantial part of their income from playing games. The meeting could consider the possibility of the acceptance of a general definition and whether the definition should be restricted or enlarged so as to include horse racing and possibly aviation. Delegates might also consider whether it would be possible to come to a reciprocal arrangement between various sports organisations and they could discuss the relationship of New Zealand with the governing bodies abroad.

It was pointed out to the meeting that according to the rule adopted by the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association an amateur was one who had never competed for a money prize or stake, nor a declared wager, and one who had not knowingly and without protest competed with or against a professional for a prize of any description, or who had never taught or assisted in the practice of any athletic sports as a means of livelihood or gain.

The definition meant, said Mr Skerrett, that if a man was a professional in any class of sport he was deprived of his amateur status in any other sport.

After discussion the meeting expressed its opinion by resolution that it was impossible to recommend a definition under which all sports bodies could be governed, but that it was possible to frame a definition which would gain the support of a substantial section of sports organisations. Messrs Skerrett, Marryatt and Bayfield were appointed a sub-committee to draft a definition which might be acceptable to a considerable section of sports bodies, and were instructed to refer their report to the various organisations concerned for consideration.

"You own all the to-morrow in the world! . . . To-morrow new empires will be built, new fortunes made, new glories won. There is no end to the opportunity for success that lies in to-morrow."

Agriculture.

Pasture Notes.

(BY E. BRUCE LEVY.)

ASSISTANT BIOLOGIST, WERAROA
STATE FARM.

Temporary grass land consists of pasture that does not last longer than two years and mixtures for such pastures always consist of rapidly establishing and fast growing grasses.

Their use fulfils the following functions:

- (1) To supplement established pasture lands during crucial periods.
- (2) To improve (provided plenty of clovers are used) the land on which supplementary crops are grown where this is available only in small areas on a farm.
- (3) To break in certain classes of country prior to establishment of a permanent pasture.

SHORT ROTATION PASTURES.

The duration of these varies from three to five years, but generally are broken up at the end of the third years owing to undesirable successions having taken place.

It is on these pastures that most of the perennial rye-grass is used and they are all of a rye-grass type.

LONG ROTATION PASTURES.

The duration of these varies from five to eight years or even longer according to conditions of soil, climate and farm management.

In general a greater number of species are used in the mixtures than on short rotation pastures, nearly all the first class grasses as a rule being included.

PERMANENT PASTURES ON PLOUGHED LAND.

These are sown down on the very best land, and under proper farm management should be truly permanent, the species that are used being able to survive against all other competitors.

Under poor management such plants as rushes, pennyroyal, etc., may come in, necessitating resowing, but in general undesirable successions to the poorer second class grasses that we get in short and long rotation pastures does not occur.

PERMANENT PASTURES ON UNPLOUGHED LAND.

Although many of these that are sown are not permanent as far as all the species used is concerned, yet such lands as bush burn, fern etc. are sown with the idea of permanence, and to ensure this a great deal of knowledge and consideration is necessary in selecting the species to be used.

True swamp land, peat bogs, etc., and much of our natural pastures are by necessity permanent, and the best we can do is, that undesirable ones may be avoided.

Permanent pastures may be further classified under headings apart from duration.

This the plant ecologist speaks of:—

- (1) Pure association pastures.
- (2) Mixed pure association pastures.
- (3) Mixed association pastures.

Pure association pastures are those generally considered to have reached the final stage in their transition resulting in the almost complete dominance of the position by one single species.

Pure Danthonia association pastures for instance.

Pure mixed association pastures are those in which a stable association has been reached in small definite areas in the one pasture, each area being dominated by a single species.

Thus we have a small pure association of Panthonia, and their adjoining one of ratstail, another of agrostis, or another of paspalum, each dominating its own respective area and each in themselves pure associations. If one of these pure associations is not able to withstand the aggression of its neighbour it may ultimately disappear and the whole pasture resolve itself into a pure association pasture.

Mixed association pastures are those (usually on good land), where no particular species dominates to the exclusion of the rest, but where each species is blending with and tolerating its neighbour.

Wherever possible the mixed pastures are to be aimed at for the following reasons:—

- (1) They offer a variety of feed.
- (2) Owing to the growth period of various grasses differing, they yield a better seasonal supply than do pure ones.

(3) Temporary unfavourable conditions are less likely to produce permanent ill effects.

(4) Are appropriate to a greater variety of live stock.

(5) More species can be used owing to many being unsuitable to sowing alone.

(6) Symbiotic relation of grasses and clovers availed of.

In the sowing down of mixed pastures on good land, it is expected that some at least of each species sown will survive (excluding the purely temporary elements), and will form part and portion of the herbage of the pasture.

In sowing down land that is likely to revert to pure association or mixed associations (usually second or third class country) pastures, it is not expected that all the constituents of the mixture will hold but these constituents even although they do not prove permanent under the conditions applied, yet they must be included for the following reasons:—

(1) To form a pasture sward while the permanent elements are establishing (most of our second and third class country grasses are slow at establishing.)

(2) To provide feed that stocking may be regulated in the early stage so that incidentally to the feeding off of the pasture herbage, undesirable plants are eaten or broken by trampling (a most important phase in management of fern country.)

(3) That the ground may be rapidly covered by vegetation. This is of particular importance where the area sown down is infected with weed seed.

A pure association permanent pasture may not always indicate that a final stable association has been reached.

Thus in swamp land where there may be a pure association of Yorkshire fog or niggerhead, etc., so soon as the physical conditions of such a swamp are altered by drainage, etc., other successions take place. Various species of grasses and clovers will be brought in by stock on their wool, in their dung, and finally, after that original pure association had passed through a mixed association, certain aggressive species perfectly adapted for that location may possibly become in themselves pure, as has been the case in some of our meadow foxtail and Poa trivialis pastures in the Manawatu. All such transition do not end up so advantageously, however, as has been demonstrated also in the Manawatu where large tracts of first class country have reverted to Tall fescue, an unmitigated weed on the type of land.

It is these transitions, and the study of those factors governing them that is of the utmost importance to the agriculture of New Zealand, and of themselves, of intense interest to the pasture land investigator.

FREE PASSAGES.

WIDOWS OF RESERVISTS.

The War Office notifies that it has been decided that free passages to the United Kingdom may be granted to widows and orphans of Imperial Reservists recalled to the colours from abroad on mobilisation, and who have died whilst serving during the war, subject to the following reservations:—

(1) Each case to be one of proved hardship.

(2) Free passages only to be given to children in cases where the mother is returning to the United Kingdom, or where they are orphans.

(3) When the reservists lived in a self-governing colony, the wife and family only to be given passages, provided the wife had emigrated within three years before the husband's death. Special cases of over three years may be allowed for tropical countries.

(4) Applications for passages should be submitted to the War Office, London, not later than March 31, 1921, for consideration, always provided that, when applications for passages are not made later than that date, passages will be provided, other conditions for entitlement being fulfilled even though embarkation cannot be arranged for until later.

"DIGGERS."

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THE WORLD'S CHAMPION.

A YEARLING PRODUCES 643.8lb OF FAT.

By producing 10,799lb of milk and 643.8lb of butterfat an American heifer (Silver Chimes' Gwendola) becomes the yearling champion over all breeds of dairy cattle. She was acclaimed the "world's yearling champion" amid scenes of wild excitement among the Jersey fraternity at the National Dairy Show when her record was first made public.

Silver Chimes' Gwendola was placed on test at the age of one year and eleven months, and was tested for 365 days. Her record passes the one made by Lucky Farce, the former Jersey yearling champion, by 8lb of butterfat. Lucky Farce's record of 14,260lb of milk and 635lb of butterfat was held for more than five and a half years.

Silver Chimes' Gwendola's dam, Gwendola, Rosaire, is a Register of Merit cow with two yearlings records. One of her records, made at the age of two years and one month, is 7724lb of milk and 414lb of butterfat. Her second record, 11,415 lb of milk and 648lb of butterfat, was made at the age of four years and five months. Gwendola Rosaire is now again on test, and in all probability will produce well over 600lb of butterfat.

The sire of Silver Chimes Gwendola is Silver Chimes of S.B., the sire of eleven Register of Merit daughters. He is a descendant of the famous bull Gedney Farm Oxford Lad. The latter is the sire of twenty-four Register of Merit daughters and twelve Register of Merit sons. One of his sons, Royal Majesty, is a gold medal bull, and was also grand champion at the National Dairy Show in 1908.

Rosaire's Olga Lad is the grandsire of the new yearling champion. Thirty of his daughters are in the Register of Merit. His grandam, Pride's Olga 4th, was the grand champion cow at the Pan-American Exposition in 1901.

A good example of the successful combination of show type and production is to be found in Silver Chimes, Gwendola. While still on test she was sent to the Oregon State fair. She was an outstanding winner in a strong two-year-old class, and was beaten for champion honours by an aged fresh cow. At the fair she was also winner of the milking contest, open to all breeds.

Silver Chimes' Gwendola is owned by M. F. A. Doerfler, of Silverton, Oregon, whose herd average is 625lb butterfat. In 1918 the herd was awarded first, second and third in the milk contest at the Oregon State fair, which was open to all breeds. Several more Jerseys from this herd that are now on test will complete their tests shortly with very high records.

A PECULIAR FISH.

A peculiar fish was caught by a trawler off the Long Lookout, Banks Peninsula, which the Lyttelton fishermen have so far failed to identify. The stranger is a female, and is coloured similar to a porpoise, black on top, running to white underneath, and has also the round appearance of a porpoise. It has a snout and mouth underneath, similar to a shark, and has no blow-hole, so that it is not a surface fish. Underneath just behind the large gills, are two large lateral fins, each 12in in width. There are also two small lateral fins, 4in in width, near the tail, and a large dorsal fin. The body of the fish is about 3ft 6in long from snout to where the tail begins. This tail is the most peculiar part about the fish. It is a ribbon-like structure, 2in in width and 4ft 6in in length, that is, longer than the body of the fish, and is greyish in colour.

UNION OF CHURCHES.

CONGREGATIONAL WISH.

EARLY FUSION DESIRED.

The Congregational Union debated the report of the committee on the possibilities of church union and carried the following resolution unanimously:—"That the churches of the Congregational Union be asked to affirm the desirability of an early union with the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches; that in view of the attitude of the Presbyterian Church, indicating probability of a long delay in accomplishing the union of these denominations, and in view of the special circumstances tending to facilitate an earlier union between the Congregationalists and Presbyterians, the council urge the wisdom of uniting to approach the Presbyterian Church with a view of arranging an immediate union of the two denominations." Other resolutions were passed providing a means of determining the voice of the Church on the issue.

ECONOMIC EGG CRATES.

LINDSAY AND CO., Tay street, Invercargill, have been appointed Southland Agents for this well known crate.

The Economic Egg Carrier has now been on the market for twelve years, and Crates made as far back as 1908 are still giving good service.

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GRATITUDE TO TORQUAY.

NEW ZEALAND FLAG PRESENTED.

On October 11th last the Borough of Torquay was presented with a New Zealand flag as an expression of thanks and gratitude for the hospitality shown to the New Zealanders who passed through that depot.

The ceremony took place in the open, outside the main entrance to the Municipal Buildings. A contingent of New Zealanders, under Major McLean headed by the Colour party, commanded by Captain Edwards—Lieutenant Hill bearing the flag—assembled at the Mallock Memorial and marched to the Municipal Buildings, where they were drawn up in square formation, supported by the Comrades of the Great War, Members of the Sailors and Soldiers' Federation, and others.

In the course of his speech, when presenting the flag, Sir Thomas Mackenzie said he could assure the people of Torquay that to him it was a most interesting occasion, because it gave an opportunity of tendering to them thanks for the great kindness they had extended to the New Zealand soldiers during their sojourn in Torquay. A great many had married from that part of old England, and he was assured that those alliances would be attended with a larger proportion of happiness than would usually be found elsewhere. He hoped these new links would further cement the relationship between the Old Country and the Overseas Dominions. He had the privilege of presenting a New Zealand flag to their town, which, like Jerusalem of old, was "beautiful of situation, and joy to the whole earth." (Applause.) In that flag, they saw the emblem of a young nation coming into being.

Major Kay also expressed appreciation on behalf of the men under his command, and at the conclusion of his remarks the flag party presented arms, and the flag was presented to the High Commissioner, who presented it to the Mayor of Torquay.

The Mayor, in returning thanks, said the people of Torquay were proud and pleased in being presented with the flag which would remind them—if a reminder were needed, and he did not think it was—of those unforgettable and splendid things which the men of New Zealand had done for the empire. (Applause.) But from times of war, he would pass to times of peace, and thank them for all they had been during their sojourn in the borough. He did not know that men could be found who could have a better record than the New Zealand soldiers had had during the time they had been there, and on behalf of the town he thanked them heartily for that. (Applause.) In the ways of peace, they had shown Torquay how to do things on the Watershed, where they had taught them how to till the land, and right nobly had they done their work. He was proud to hold that flag. It would be guarded and respected for all time.

In conclusion Sir Thomas Mackenzie said that, representing New Zealand, as he did, it gave him great satisfaction to know that from one end of Great Britain to the other, the men had earned the reputation of being soldiers and gentlemen. (Applause.) That meant a great deal to them across the water, and it meant a relationship which would be of great benefit to them imperially.

—FOR—

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