

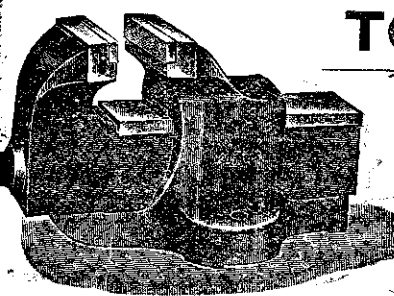
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J. DAVIS, on his Standard type Harley Davidson, won the 300 mile race in the Record time of 3 hours 40 minutes 4 4-5 seconds, against numerous 8 valve motors of other makes. His Harley was travelling 81 miles per hour at the finish.

SECOND and THIRD places were also secured by HARLEYS at this event, as was also the 100 and 200 mile races.

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## The Nature Column.

(By "Student.")

("Student" will be pleased to receive notes on any branch of Natural History. Observations on birds, insects, plants, etc., will be equally welcome. If using a pen-name, will correspondents please enclose real name and address.)

Mention has been made in the daily papers of late with regard to the climate of Southland has a sub-antarctic climate is North have found that the impression that Southland has a sub-antarctic climate is quite common. It is quite time we did something to controvert this mischievous idea. The climate of Invercargill is not the climate of Southland. Winton for instance seems sunnier and drier. The rainfall in the high country near the lakes is considerably less than Invercargill, and if instruments were available, it would be found that there were more hours of sunshine. Records taken at Waikiki, show, if anything, the worst side of our weather. A station near the sea where the air contains more moisture, is apt to show a higher rainfall than one inland, and perhaps less sunshine through the presence of clouds. Even taking the records as we find them, the far north is not very much warmer than here. The difference in the mean temperature between Auckland and Invercargill is about eight and a-half degrees. Rainfall for the same stations is about the same. Canterbury enjoys the doubtful distinction of having the greatest extremes of climate. Many Southlanders find the winter in Christchurch severe and the summer trying. We have our fair share of wind, and it is a pity this climatic factor is not shown in our returns. Our winds blow steadily, generally from the west and south and we do not experience long periods of calm. In England records of the wind are taken as often as rainfall and sunshine.

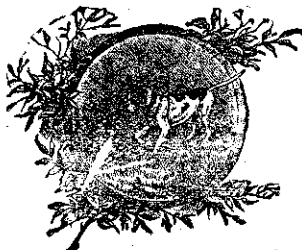
The wind furnishes a very cheap and economical natural source of power. A wind less than ten miles per hour, is not of any great use, but one of fifteen miles per hour is of considerable value. The power of the wind increases roughly as the cube of the speed, and at fifteen miles per hour the power is about three times greater than at ten miles per hour. It has been found in England that a fifteen mile wind blows on an average eight hours of the day during the year. The production of electricity on a commercial scale by wind power is in operation in Denmark, and other places where coal is scarce. The small windmill and pump is a familiar sight in Southland. Larger units should prove of of considerable value for drainage purposes for which wind power is well suited. In England and Holland many large mills are erected for this purpose. Isolated farms could be more cheaply supplied with electric light and power by means of the foregoing than by long transmission lines from a hydro-electric plant. The capital cost of a couple of miles of the line would pay for a windpower plant. Enough has been said to show that the study of the wind should be included in our meteorological records.

As further proof of the mildness of our climate it may be mentioned that plants have been discovered at the Hump (near Orepuki), which were thought not to come farther south than Nelson. Mr Tannock in his book of gardening mentions that plants will grow at Dunedin and Invercargill, which will not do well in Canterbury owing to the severe frosts there. The Southland League if it took the matter up should, without any great amount of trouble, be able to find meteorological observers in the different districts. Once the data had been collected, it could be used in an advertising campaign to boom Southland as a place good to live in and offering opportunities second to no other province.

The "Southland Times" of Wednesday, contains some interesting notes on the water-bearing strata under Invercargill. These notes bear out the writer's contention that the town supply comes from the east. I take it that the boring expert holds that the auriferous gravels came from the same direction, but here I join issue with him. Where is the quartz bearing country from which the gravel came? The mountains surrounding the Southland plains do not contain large amounts of quartz. The gravel must have come from some other direction. Then again he says that the water-bearing strata probably comes out near the mouth of the New River and not at the Bluff, and again it seems open to question whether this hypothesis is right. In next week's issue I hope to go into these questions more fully.

All will probably agree that the water-bearing strata should be thoroughly ex-

plored in the near future, so that when the question of increased supplies of water come up again, we will be in a position to make up our minds as to the most economical position for the pumping plant. It is obvious that the present system of pumping with small isolated units cannot be economical.



## Kennel Notes.

The local fanciers are now looking forward to the coming Kennel Club Show to be held in Christchurch during Carnival Week.

One of the large buildings on the A. and P. Show Grounds is to be used for benching the dogs in.

Last year a large marquee was used and was a great success owing to the weather being beautifully fine. Bad weather would always spoil a show held in the open, so the Christchurch Kennel Club has made a very wise move in securing an iron roof over the dogs.

It is quite on the cards for the above club to have in November one of its best shows. Great interest is very manifest throughout the South Island and the competition is sure to be keen. The fact that the show is to be a championship one will attract entries from long distances.

Utility classes are to be a feature of the show. Gun dogs most suitable for work are to be specially judged as are also sheep dogs. The latter are subject to a trial while the former must be certified by two responsible persons as workers on game.

Specialist clubs have done their bit to attract good entries.

The Airedale and bulldog clubs are also in evidence.

Christchurch is the home of the Airedale and with Mr McEntree as judge, very keen competition should be witnessed.

The British bulldog needs a help along at present as for various reasons a good number of the old breeders and exhibitors have dropped out of the game.

Mr Robert Francis should be the means of tempting the terrier men to make a good entry. In him they can depend on a fair and square go and if put down will always have the satisfaction of knowing that the verdict was a conscientious one. Buck up terrier men and give Mr Francis a very busy time!

The Dunedin fanciers, according to one who recently visited the northern town are getting very busy with their dogs in hope of having them at their best.

The Irish terrier fanciers particularly, are very busy and they have some fairly good ones to do battle for them. Invercargill will have a harder task to lower the colours of the Dunedinites now that they have settled down to business.

Messrs Critchfield and Porteous will be sending forward Bellvue Mischief to represent them. This terrier has kept on improving and is now a very fine specimen of a fox terrier.

The Sylvan kennel of cockers are not likely to be strongly represented this time, Mr Kidd having some weeks ago sold his crack bitch "Sylvan Satin" to Mr Eric Hay, of Waiuku, thus leaving him with only "Smiler," to carry on the good work. The others in his kennels, though being good, are hardly forward enough for Christchurch show.

Cocker spaniels will make a great display and it is hoped that the North Island is well represented.

Mr J. E. Lea, owner of "Sylvan Silk," is busy preparing his charge and should he get her looking her best it will take a real good one to put her down.

Mr A. Taylor of Auckland, will be tempted to give "Edenvalley Billy" a trip to the Cathedral City. "Billy" has downed everything in the North Island and it is quite safe to say that there are not many in the South Island good enough to trouble him.

Entries close for the show with the secretary, Box 815, Christchurch, on the 23rd October, 1920.

Established by the German Air Navigation Company, of Berlin, the aeroplane service between Germany and Sweden is being used also for the transport of postal matter.

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