

Our Sports Summary

TAUMARUNUI.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Celtic sports, which are to be held on Labor Day (writes our own correspondent). A great deal of interest is taken in these sports both locally and in the surrounding districts.

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TIMARU.

The annual meeting of the Celtic Cricket Club was held in the Browne Street Hall on Monday evening, Mr. M. J. Hyland presiding over a good attendance of members and supporters of the club. The annual report showed the club to be in a fairly good financial position, having to its credit about £17. On the whole the past season had been a most successful one. Both senior and junior teams acquitted themselves very creditably in the competitions. In the senior grade the first eleven drew with the Timaru Club, but were beaten in the play-off. The juniors were the premiers in their grade for the second season in succession. The social side of the club was not neglected and both the annual social and smoke concert were a pronounced success. The club was fortunate in having a fully representative following of enthusiastic supporters, especially the priests and Brothers, who by their encouragement rendered great assistance. The chairman commented on the annual report and balance sheet, and after some discussion they were adopted.

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Patron, Rev. Father Hurley; president, Mr. P. F. Roach; (a large number of vice-presidents was also elected); secretary, Mr. F. Geaney; treasurer, Mr. R. Marlow; committee—Messrs. P. Houlihan, M. Angland, P. Stapleton, M. Houlihan, N. Wildermoth, A. Bently, G. Flett, and F. Pearce; club captain, Mr. M. Houlihan; delegates to the Cricket Association, Messrs. P. F. Roach and F. Bowles; selection committee (senior), Messrs. M. Angland, J. Kane, and M. Houlihan; (junior) C. Dwan, R. Marlow, and F. Pearce; coach, Mr. F. Bowles. It was decided to enter a senior and junior team in the competitions this season, the subscription to be 25s and 12s 6d respectively. A vote of thanks was passed to the ladies' committee for the valuable assistance they had given the club in connection with the social functions.

The annual meeting of St. John's Tennis Club was held last week in St. John's Hall, Craigie Avenue, the president (Mr. J. G. Venning) presiding. The annual report and balance sheet were adopted, and evidenced a very good year for the club. The receipts totalled £63 9s 10d, and the expenditure £61 19s 8d. The assets showed an excess over the liabilities of £16 17s 8d. The report referred to a considerable expenditure during the season in excavating round the courts so as to allow more room for play. During the season three friendly matches were played with outside clubs. Miss E. Kane was the winner of the open competition. In the ladies' tournament Miss D. Dennehy won the club's gold medal, and the prize presented for the most improved lady player during the season was won by Miss Nancy Costigan. The chairman made feeling reference to the death of one of the oldest members (Mr. M. F. Dennehy), and a motion of condolence with his family was passed in silence. The work of top-dressing the courts is now in hand, and the committee hope to have the opening day on October 15.

The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing season:—Patron, Rev. Father Hurley; president, Mr. J. G. Venning; vice-presidents—Rev. Father O'Ferrel, Rev. Father Barra, Mesdames D. Martin, J. G. Venning, Chas. Hall, Richardson, and Dr. Loughnan, Messrs. T. Lynch, M. Mullin, J. O'Leary, and P. Reilly; committee—Misses V. Dennehy, Costigan, McAteer, McGrath, and Messrs. F. McGrath, T. O'Connor, F. Doyle, and J. Joyce; club captain, Mr. F. McGrath; selection committee, Miss V. Dennehy and Messrs. Venning and McGrath; hon. secretary, Mr. G. D. Virtue; assistant hon. secretary, Miss G. Kane.

JACK DEMPSEY'S FATHER.

It is interesting to note (says a Ballina correspondent) that Attymass, a village about five miles from Ballina, claims to be the birthplace of Jack Dempsey's father. Several of his relations, it is stated, still live there, and for the past few weeks local gossip has been entirely dominated by reminiscences of the wonderful feats of strength performed by a herculean uncle of the champion, who formerly lived in the village.

A small farmer and migratory laborer each year, he headed a large company of harvesters from this district, who crossed to England for agricultural work, his prodigious strength securing for his party complete immunity from attacks by English hooligans, who frequently at that time waylaid Irish laborers.

On the strength of his local connections Dempsey was heavily backed in the vicinity of Ballina, and his victory was nowhere more popularly received than in Ballina district.

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GARDENING NOTES

(By Mr. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

WORK FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

The Vegetable Garden.—This month, providing the weather and soil conditions are favorable, should be availed of to carry on gardening operations on an extended scale. Sow a good supply of peas, broad and French beans, cauliflower, cabbage, and brocoli, also carrot, onion, parsnip, spinach, lettuce, and other seeds according to needs. Plant out cabbage and cauliflowers in well-manured ground; artichokes and potatoes will now, too, need attention. Constant use of the Dutch hoe will be found necessary to cope with the growth of weeds. If weeds are not kept in check they will soon smother the young seedlings, which means a loss of both time and produce. To prove effective the work of weeding should be done during fine weather. A point to be well remembered in vegetable culture is that they should not be subject to any check during growth; neglect in this respect not alone lessens the quantity but also affects the quality. Asparagus will by now be producing, and, if this has not already been done, will require a light forking over to make the soil surface clean and porous.

The Flower Garden.—Now is the time to sow all outdoor hardy annuals. Prepare patches in the borders by turning up a few spadefuls of soil and breaking it down fine to receive the seed, which germinate better in fresh soil. Sow thinly and cover over very lightly, patting the soil firmly down. When the seedlings are well advanced in growth they require to be thinned out, leaving some (according to the nature of the plant) a suitable distance apart, and transplant the remainder to other portions of the borders. Plants grown in pots and boxes under cover should be also thinned out and the surplus replanted in other receptacles; with watering and other careful treatment these will provide a good supply of healthy material for later planting out. Geraniums and similar tender plants which have been kept housed during the winter, will harden off preparatory to planting out if removed to a sheltered position in the open. It is not advisable to plant tender varieties out of doors too early, as there is always a possibility of frost appearing even as late as November. The beginning of that month will be soon enough for the bedding out of choice tender plants.

The Fruit Garden.—With the pruning and spraying completed little remains to be done amongst the fruit trees. Vines growing in greenhouses should be attended to now by having all the surplus buds rubbed off, leaving one good strong bud to each shoot. While admitting plenty of fresh air on fine days, care must be taken to avoid a draught through the greenhouse, as such would injuriously affect the young tender shoots. Air admitted from the top is always the safest. Keep a look out for mildew, and if this should appear shake sulphur on the affected part. Sprinkle the floor on warm sunny days to create a warm moist atmosphere. Now is a good time to do grafting in the garden. Newly-planted trees will do better if carefully staked to keep them firm, while a mulch of stable manure will prove beneficial to them during the summer months.