

engaged about equal. My opinion of the results is as follows:—At Masterton-Opaki, the Hurdle Handicap looks well for Vivacious (10st. 5lbs.). The Waipipi Handicap should fall to Revolt (8st.), with Sea Serpent (8st.) and Sedition (8st. 10lbs.), in close attendance. The Opaki Stakes is an open affair, but is likely to lie between Senator (7st. 4lbs.) and Revolt (7st. 10lbs.) In the mile and a quarter Hack Handicap, Makomako (8st. 4lbs.) is so good a stayer that he ought to win. The Telegraph Stakes should go to Sea Serpent (8st. 2lbs.) or Sedition (6st. 12lbs.), and the Hack Flying to Brookfield (8st. 8lbs.) or Meddler (7st. 10lbs.).

At Lower Valley, proceedings will be opened with the Handicap Hurdle Race. This should produce a good race between Langley the Devil (10st. 11lbs.) and Jacob (10st. 10lbs.), but I fancy the former, as he has more condition than Mr. Driscoll's horse. In the Hack Hurdles, Kaika (10st. 4lbs.) should at last win a race. In the Martin Memorial Handicap the struggle will be between Thalia (8st. 7lbs.) and Viola II. (8st.) and the latter should win at the weights. Retina (8st. 13lbs.) will be made very warm for the Lower Valley Jockey Club Handicap, two miles, but both The Dromedary and Viola II, who are nicely handicapped with 7st. 8lbs. each, are good stickers over a distance, and one of them might worry the favourite. Bangor (8st. 3lbs.) should win the Hack Handicap, and might possibly annex the Maiden Hack Race as well.

The acceptances for the Johnsonville and Hutt County Trotting Club's Meeting are not due until Friday (to-day), so that I must discuss the chances of the various candidates under the disadvantage of being somewhat in the dark as to owners' intentions. Mr. King has fixed very moderate limits, both in the three mile race and the Electric sprint of one mile, and if ever Mr. Smart's horse, Dakota, is to score another win he is given a chance on this occasion. On his best form he is fairly thrown in, but he has never done himself justice since he has been in Wellington and he may still continue to disappoint his friends. Next to Dakota in the big money, Bide-a-wee (12secs.) and Invictus (25secs.) look best. In the Maiden St. Elmo (15secs.), and Sparrow Hawk (20secs.), are most attractive, and Chance, if he is in form, should be dangerous for both Pony races, although he is at scratch with Tuesday. The District Handicap should fall to The Joker (13secs.) or Dora (25secs.), and the Railway Handicap to Invictus (scratch). In the Electric Handicap, next to Dakota, commend me to Bay Boy (14secs.), and Rover (8secs.).

In reference to the Auckland Cup which is run on Boxing Day I have little to add to what I said last week. I think it lies between Rosefeldt and Dilemma, and although the former is a great favourite, I shall place her second and expect to hear of the race being won by

DILEMMA.

The other handicaps for the first day and the acceptances for the Great Northern

Derby and Great Northern Foal Stakes were declared on Monday night. I shall not attempt to predict the absolute winners of the minor handicaps in the absence of acceptances, but shall content myself with selecting the following as likely to run forward in the various events. Loyalty (9st. 5lb.) and Coal-scuttle (7st. 4lb.) in the Trial Handicap, Anniversary and Forme in the Great Northern Foal Stakes, Lonely (10st.) and Belmont (10st. 12lb.) in the Hurdle Race, Loyalty (8st. 11lb.) and Quadrant (8st. 4lb.) in the Railway Handicap, Lady Marion (7st. 6lb.) and Ivy (7st. 5lb.) in the Nursery Handicap, and Lottie (7st. 12lb.) and Pegasus (8st. 4lb.) in the Christmas Handicap. For the Derby Loyalty should be a veritable "dead bird," and the Steeplechase I fancy lies between Despised and Waterbury. The former has run so honestly lately that I shall take him to win. But I shall have an opportunity of adding a word on the second and third day's events next week.

The Hawke's Bay Summer Meeting will also claim attention on Boxing Day. For this the weights were declared on Monday last, and the acceptances are not to hand as I write. In the Welter Handicap Dingo (8st. 7lb.) and Como (8st. 11lb.) are most to my liking; in the Handicap Hurdles I prefer Kapua in spite of his 12st. 6lb.; in the Summer Handicap St. Katherine (8st. 10lb.) should be about unless her stable companion, Noyade (7st. 8lb.) be the chosen one, and Zanilla (7st. 2lb.) also looks well. In the Trial Handicap King Harry (7st. 8lb.) and Samoa (7st. 6lb.) seem to have the best of it. In the Two-Year-Old Handicap Tartan (7st. 12lb.) and the Nordenfeldt—Patch colt (8st. 5lb.) read the best; and in the Christmas Handicap, six furlongs, the winner may be included in the trio—North Atlantic (8st. 10lb.), Chris (8st. 6lb.), and Mystic (8st.).

A fourth meeting which I might have included among those within reach of Wellington holiday-makers is that of the Manawatu Racing Club, which is held on the 26th and 27th inst. Very poor acceptances have been received, and the meeting is not likely to attract many from Wellington. The following are my selections for the events of the first day:—Grand Stand Handicap: Priores (8st. 8lb.), is best with Musketeer (7st. 4lb.), next; Hurdle Handicap: Unity (10st. 11lb.); Palmerston Cup: Au Revoir (8st. 6lb.) first, Krina (7st. 7lb.) second, Pill (6st. 7lb.) third; Hack Flat 1½-mile: Cyrus (7st. 9lb.) or Strike (7st. 12lb.); Hack Hurdles: Lonely (10st. 8lb.) to win with Nanakia (10st. 11lb.), if well, very dangerous; Ladies' Bracelet: Pat (11st. 10lb.).

The following acceptances have been received for the races on Boxing day of the Lower Valley Racing Club:—

Handicap Hurdles.—The Dromedary, 11st. 8lbs.; Langley the Devil, 10st. 11lb.; Jacob, 10st. 10lb.; General Gordon, 9st. 12lb.; Lone Hand, 9st.

Hack Hurdles.—Nuts, 11st. 2lb.; Pride of the Hills, 10st. 9lb.; Kaika, 10st. 4lb.; Rocket, 9st.

Martin Memorial Handicap.—Thalia 8st. 9lb.; Kathleen, Viola II., and Tuhī, tarata, 8st.

Maiden Hack Race.—Waidrop, Bangor, Hope, Bull's Eye, Lady Gertrude, Leo Lion, Hazard, Kilmarnock, Treacherous, Kate Jay.

L.V.J.C. Handicap, two miles.—Retina, 8st. 13lb.; Viola II., The Dromedary, 7st. 8lb.; Tuhitarata, 7st. 5lb.; Arius, 6st. 12lb.

Hack Flat Handicap.—Waikino, 8st. 10lb.; Bangor, 8st. 8lb.; Treacherous and Hope, 7st. 10lb.

For the Masterton-Opaki Jockey Club's Boxing Day meeting the acceptances are:—

Hurdles.—Vivacious, Lodger, Giraffe, and Pikihiua.

Waipipi Handicap.—Revolt, Sea Serpent, Princess of Whales, Legislator, Sedition, Silent Friend.

Opaki Stakes.—Revolt, Sea Serpent, Kent, Senator, Primero, Margrave, Silent Friend, Sedition.

Handicap Hack—Delusion, Makomako, Highland Mary, Brookfield, Vivacious, Brooklyn.

Telegraph Stakes.—Revolt, Sea Serpent, Senator, Legislator, Kent, Silent Friend, Revenge, Sedition.

Flying Hack Handicap.—Delusion, Brookfield, Makomako, Medler, Twilight, Delos, Merryman, Minora, Waikato, Voltaire, Brooklyn.

The following weights have been declared by Mr. Evelt for the first day's racing of the Auckland Racing Club's Summer Meeting:—

Trial Handicap, one mile and a half and a distance.—Loyalty, 9st. 5lb.; Quadrant, 8st. 2lb.; Van Diemen, 7st. 12lb.; Tulloch, 7st. 10lb.; The Bulldog, 7st. 7lb.; Cold scuttle, 7st. 4lb.; His Worship any Annabelle, 7st. 2lb.; Master Pat and Ga. Deceiver, 7st.; Heart and Oak, 6st. 12lb.; Sunbeam, 6st. 10lb.; Retaliation, 6st. 7lb.

Handicap Hurdle Race, two miles.—Waterbury, 12st, 6lb.; Despised, 12st.; Belmont, 10st. 12lb.; Marechal Niel, 10st. 6lb.; Lonely, 10st.; Fright, 9st. 10lb.; Ika Vuka, 9st. 8lb.; Otakeho, 9st.

Railway Handicap, three-quarters of a mile.—The Workman, 10st. 8lb.; Loyalty, 8st. 11lb.; Skirmisher, 8st. 6lb.; Quadrant, 8st. 4lb.; St. Clements, 8st. 8lb.; St. Kilda, 8st.; Swordbelt, 8st. 10lb.; Van Diemen, 7st. 12lb.; Stanmoor, 7st. 10lb.; First Nelson and The Bulldog, 7st. 8lb.; His Worship, 7st. 6lb.; Ben Godfrey, 7st. 4lb.; Acone, 7st. 2lb.; Gay Deceiver and Zingara, 7st.; Vieux Rose and Vivat, 6st. 12lb.; Sunbeam, 6st. 10lb.; Dark Rose, 6st. 7lb.