

NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary General Meeting of the NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY will be held at the Registered Office of the Company, Queen-st., Auckland, on WEDNESDAY, the 13th day of January, 1904, at 2 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and the Balance-sheet for the twelve months ended November 30th, 1903, for the Election of Two Directors in room of MESSRS MATTHEW ANDERSON CLARK and HENRY HORTON, who retire by rotation, but are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election; and for the Election of Two Auditors.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the first inst. to the 13th prox., both days inclusive, preparatory to payment of Dividend.

Mr A. D. Lubeck, a shareholder, has given notice that he will propose at the above-mentioned meeting the following resolutions—That the following words be added to Article 70:

"Provided always that in case he shall have held office for six consecutive years immediately preceding such retirement, he shall not be eligible for re-election until the expiry of one year from the date of such retirement, but this proviso shall not take effect until on and after the First Day of January, 1904."

And that the following words be added to Article 75, after the word "Directors" in the third line:—

"Unless such vacancy shall have occurred within three months prior to a General Meeting, in which case it shall not be filled until such Meeting, when the Shareholders shall elect some qualified person who has given the notice required by Article 71.

And after the word "chosen" in the fourth line that the words "or elected" be added.

By order of the Board, JAMES BUTLER, General Manager. Auckland, 24th December, 1903.

G. W. ALLSOP, A.R.I.B.A.

(Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects), ARCHITECT 213, VICTORIA ARCADE.

ARE YOU ILL? IF SO, VITADATIO WILL CURE YOU.

Eminent Doctors in England (although unable to prescribe VITADATIO through not knowing its constituents) have advised MR S. A. PALMER to proclaim its virtues from the house tops.

Vitadatio.

STILL TRIUMPHANT.

CONSTIPATION CURED.

Tattersall's Hotel, Sydney. July 7th, 1903.

Dear Sir,—While in Ballarat last Xmas, I was in the theatre and saw your advertisement, and suffering from Constipation, thought I would give your remedy a trial, and I can assure you that I am now perfectly cured. I did intend writing to you before, but better late than never. I have sent letters to all my friends in Ballarat about it, and all I say is that I wish you every success with the remedy. Yours faithfully, WILTON CAREY.

For further particulars, S. A. PALMER, Head Office, CLARENCE ST. N. SOUTH MELBOURNE.

Correspondence Invited. Write for Testimonials. The price of Medicine is 5/6 and 3/6 per bottle. All Chemists and Storekeepers. To be obtained from Kempthorne, Prosser, and Co., Ltd., N.Z. Drug Co., and Marland and Co.



TURF FIXTURES.

January 8th and 9th—Whangarei Annual January 10—Auckland Trotting Club January 22nd and 23rd—Wellington L.C.

TURF NOTES.

Altogether Mr Price handicaps for between 40 and 50 country clubs in New South Wales.

The report that Barnes is training Vanquish is incorrect. A. Mitchell is the trainer of that mare.

The American high-jumper, Feather-bloom, is going to give exhibitions in France, England, and Ireland.

Although St. Simon is only thirteenth on the winning sires' list in England this season, his sons St. Frusquo, Persephone, St. Florian, and St. Sark are second, third, fifth, and fourteenth respectively.

No less than £5000 was pooled on the totalisator during the race for the Auckland Cup. This sum was £200 more than last year when 10 horses started whereas 12 started this year.

Ramblers, the brother to Battelaxe and Tupara, has earned distinction earlier than did either of those geldings, and will be a better horse, given a fair chance. Hotchkiss horses, as a rule, want a lot of time.

Fred Davis, who used to ride that sterling mare Lottie, had the mount on Miss Lottie in the Salisbury Welter on the second day of the A.R.C. meeting, and that fine looking young mare won in good style.

It is not often that a rider gets kicked off his horse, but this is what happened to Mars Ryan at the post before the start for the Sumner Cup. Owens not only kicked him, but was the cause of Fount's rider coming off also.

Some of those individuals who were disappointed in connection with the W.A.T.C.'s appointment of a handicapper are endeavoring to make things unpleasant for Mr A. Garry. Well, as they are credible and straight, it is safe to say he will come out on top.—Exchange.

The prize money for next year's Great Eastern Steeplechase at Okarainga is £1000, and an important alteration in the conditions is that the handicapper must not allot any horse more than 15st. The Okarainga Club, by the way, expended £2302 during the past 12 months, and still has a small credit balance.

Touching on the reduction of the stud fees of various stallions in England, "Vigilant" in the "Sportsman" says Caroline is a horse that is bound to fluctuate, for the simple reason that he has to pass through a year or two in which he can have scarcely any two-year-old representatives, and people are far too unreasonable to give weight to any such consideration.

It is given out that the American breeder, Mr Haggin, intends shipping 200 thoroughbred mares to South Africa shortly. He is of opinion that they will be in demand for stud purposes, but the demand for racing purposes, he says, will not be so good as he was led to believe. So far as racehorses are concerned, the South African market is reported to be completely played out.

Things must have been rather lively at the recent meeting at Blenheim (N.Z.). A local writer says that through so many inquiries into the running of horses, the racing became somewhat deranged, and some of the races were late in starting. To make up for lost time, the starter of the fields arranged that there was much money on the machine, consequently there was a shrinkage in the totalisator receipts.

Walrick is no better than I have always thought him, but he was fitter to take on the two-mile journey of the Auckland Cup than I, in common with many more, believed him to be. Nothing short of an exceedingly high-class four-year-old could have won the Auckland Cup carrying 9.8 in such time, on a comparatively easy preparation such as Walrick did. He is a grand-winded colt, and though he won he looked scarcely as good as the equus of Great Britain when seen at his best in Riccarton, and I am quite certain in my own mind that Multiform would have beaten any four-year-old we have seen on the same terms as Walrick met. Walrick, Mr Bradley had only a small bet on his horse at starting price.

A New Zealand trotter, full brother to Belmont, has commenced to show form in Australia. In a race at Keeningsloo he was an odds on favourite as soon as the betting opened, and although he won, the win was not as easy as the market indicated it would be. Belmont M. settled down, however, and at the end of a mile began to overhurl the leaders, and when the turn was rounded had only Harry to beat. The grey was going very solidly, however, but the severe pace told, and throwing his head in the air below the distance, Belmont ran past him, and won nicely. The horse and driver (Millson) received a very flattering reception on returning to the scale.

When Grand Rapids received 8.11 in the Auckland Cup nearly every sporting writer in the colony pointed out that Mr Siew's gelding had been harshly treated, and few at all advanced anything by way of a defence of the weight adjuster for the line he had taken, though, reading between the lines, some appeared to think that it was fair to take the gelding as his actual public form, but to treat him on the supposition that he was a first-class one. The last horse Grand Rapids beat was Juniper, who was giving him weight. Mr Evert said not to take the gelding as his actual form, but to treat him on the supposition that he was a first-class one. The last horse Grand Rapids beat was Juniper, who was giving him weight. Mr Evert said not to take the gelding as his actual form, but to treat him on the supposition that he was a first-class one. The last horse Grand Rapids beat was Juniper, who was giving him weight. Mr Evert said not to take the gelding as his actual form, but to treat him on the supposition that he was a first-class one.

That some men have been wonderfully lucky in connection with the breeding of blood stock, there is no denying, and "Vigilant," of the London "Sportsman," instances the late Duke of Westminster as an example. While admitting that the Duke was an excellent judge, the writer points out that it was by the merest chance that he ever became possessed of Doncaster, who laid the foundation stone of all his racing fortunes, and more than this, after he had purchased Angelica from Mr Taylor and was desirous of cancelling the transaction. To crown all, when Vampire was bought his Grace would fain have returned her, for her temper proved positively alarming when she reached the Eaton Stud, and as for the extraordinary experiment of mating her with Orme, that such an alliance did not dare send her away from home to foal, and she was put to Orme just because he was on the spot. Flying Fox was the result, and most breeders thought what intelligence, courage, and enterprise the Duke had shown in arranging such an alliance. Few indeed have been the breeders whom Fortune has so remarkably favoured, and had his Grace lived longer he would have seen another triumph with Neptune, for whose dam's stock he had some unaccountable dislike, as without exception he had got rid of them all seven in number up to that time. It is impossible to believe that he would have sold Neptune, but it is to be borne in mind that he sold Star Ruby, Orme's first living foal, when his had only run twice as a two-year-old, and the colt proved good enough to win 16 races in America, and to head the list of winning stallions there.

Mam Mordan, who in his time has been seen and been on the backs of many really good horses, inclines strongly to the opinion that "Middle Park Plate" was a first-class horse. In the eyes of the many, that race was looked upon as pretty much of a sure-thing to this day it is still so regarded by large majority. Mordan thinks otherwise, he has won of Galopin, though in justice to the latter jockey it should be stated that he was tied down with stringent and intricate instructions, in attempting to obey which he lost Galopin the race. Mordan and Holy Friar were then made with being, they are generally accredited, however, that in addition to which Mordan's horse was a tremendous one, having not the slightest doubt as to his being a good horse—well above the common. What a race it was! No one but the judges, and even which of the four had won, because of the present being under the impression that Holy Friar (who was fourth) had finished first. The spectators had tried this grand-looking horse to be the very best two-year-old they had ever trained in their stable. Concerning Per Se, the following will give that getting where she did was no Duke, as also that she was a top-sawyer into the bargain. Just before the race Mordan went to Toddie Brayley, who had at all times been a staunch patron and true friend to his old jockey. "Mr Brayley," said Mordan, "I can persuade you to have a monkey on mine. If he runs up to his trial, it isn't laying the odds against him that they are laying." "Thank you all the same, Mordan, but I cannot back a monkey; I am going for a big stake on Per Se. Why does not think it possible for her to lose, and why she is the best filly he has ever tried in his life." This shows what was thought of Per Se. Undoubtedly the first four in that ever memorable Middle Park Plate were "red-hot," and either one of them would have won this race quite five years out of six. Mordan was second for the "Middle Park" the following year on Madeira, Petrearch being the winner, and a ripping good horse he was, but, as Mordan says, "Madeira was only tried a plate, compared with Per Se." And yet in after life the latter proved out a complete failure, unlike the turf and at the stud.—"Sporting Sketches."

Mornington Cannon, familiarly known as "Morney," the celebrated English jockey, has contributed to "M.A.P." some interesting reminiscences of his early career. "When I was fourteen," he says, "riding began in earnest, and I was apprenticed to my father, then twenty years. I left school, but we were twice a week each afternoon. At least four hours a day of horseback was the rule, and even after I had begun riding in public and the lessons were kept up, Duke of Parma, winner of the Oaks which in 1873, was my schoolmaster, was one of the thoroughbred I ever rode—of course, of course. The first adult (and I rode in) was on Jolly Sir John. Those were well filled days, riding trials in the morning, study in the afternoon, and more riding after study. Moreover, we had got together a pack of basket hounds, which trip amused our leisure time. No end of fun did we have with that pack, which still survives in the New Forest, under the care of Mr. Heston's brother of the well-known colorator. We were rather fond of the sport, and would jump into the bog as readily as possible after the run, but I am afraid the latter had rather an anxious time of it. We heard of him first as having got into the bog in the neighborhood of hitting children. His mother demanded his life, so we bought him for 5s, and gave him life and a life of it. He usually started with crack-cows. The best run we had with the pack was quite an unexpected one. We were returning home one day after hunting hours, when suddenly the hounds went off on a hot scent, and we after them. On they ran as if possessed, and we could not imagine what they were after. Eventually they made for the village, and finally ran their quarry to earth in a cottage. The quarry was the kennel huntsman, Toby Kent. One morning very early a second stable had awakened us with the news that the pack was gone. Down we hurried to find the intelligence all too true. Not a hound was to be seen anywhere. We were quickly on our ponies, and vainly did we scour the country for hours. Eventually we had to return home, dejected, and in full expectation of a

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