

The work at Ellerslie every morning becomes more entertaining. One of the features for some time past has been the appearance of a thirteen band pony ridden by a woman in a blue, which was the object of getting the pony fit for the purpose of getting it himself deponent worth up a two round task under pressure.

It has been decided by the South Australian Jockey Club that on every nomination paper the place where the horse has been trained should be stated. It will not be a sufficient compliance with this rule to use the word "private," or name of the trainer of the horse nominated, and any other equivalent, but the actual name of the trainer must be stated.

The King of the Belgians is said by the English paper "World" to have decided to exhibit his racing colours on the Belgian turf, and to found a racing establishment of his own in imitation of his cousin, King Edward. It is at least certain that he is going to spend £50,000 in the laying out of a racetrack at Ixelles on the lines of Ascot.

In glancing through the catalogue of the Moscow Douglas yearlings, I note that the game little mare Whitford, who ran second to the champion Nelson in the Auckland Cup twice, and Biting Club Handicap cases, also winning that event once, and second in the Wellington Cup, besides winning other races, has produced no fewer than fourteen foals in fifteen years, seven of which have been returned winners.

Baltimore, who was entered for the A.R.C. Easter Handicap, and treated to set, was not satisfied with the impost allotted. Not having started in a race and being now four years old, Mr. Evelt must have feared that he was something out of the ordinary to treat him to the weight he did. On reflection, however, Baltimore has nothing special to recommend him.

The A.R.C. starter and official messenger, Mr. C. O'Connor, is taking two-hundred pounds on behalf of the Auckland Racing Club and certificates of measurement will be furnished. All pedigrees racing must be measured before the Easter meeting. Arroyo and Signal are the first that have been put under the standard since Mr. O'Connor's arrival.

The Canterbury Jockey Club has decided to try the experiment of a five shilling totalisator on Easter Monday and Tuesday. The club has also under consideration the holding of a "double event" totalisator on the Great Easter and Great Autumn Handicaps, available to occupants of both enclosures. Money will be returned to investors if the winning double is not picked.

On Wednesday a banker took 100 to 20 Watkell for the Easter Handicap, and 100 to 20 Watkell for the Century Stakes, from a local bookmaker, who, on reading over the acceptances for the Easter Handicap, and learning that Achilles had not arrived with the other members of the Porting team, concluded that the banker had a bit the best of the second wager at all events. At the same time he laid 50 to 10 Achilles, 50 to 5 Butchways, and 50 to 5 Starshot.

The most notable defections from the Easter Handicap at the A.R.C. Meeting are Achilles, Conway, Exmore and Gold Seal, all acceptances for the Easter Handicap, and learning that Achilles had not arrived with the other members of the Porting team, concluded that the banker had a bit the best of the second wager at all events. At the same time he laid 50 to 10 Achilles, 50 to 5 Butchways, and 50 to 5 Starshot.

The "Special Commissioner" of the London "Sportsman" says that the late Sir J. Blundell Mordaunt would long ago have attained to the height of his ambition and won a Derby had the management of later years been adopted. The plan so often advocated by the writer named of giving the stock complete change of air and pasture has worked wonders already, but for late in the case of any practical good may be except to the buyers of the childwick mares, foals, and yearlings that will come up for sale next July.

Sportsmen must feel regret that we are not to see Achilles at the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting owing, it is reported, to his having contracted a cold at Wanganui from which he did not recover in time to be ready for the trip North. To lose valuable weight-for-age or classic engagements is a serious matter. Good horses almost invariably receive plenty of weight in handicaps, and Achilles in that respect has been highly estimated.

The "Referee" states that Mr. Stead intended sending a handicap horse to Auckland with Silkworth, who was engaged in the Great Northern Fed Stakes. The weights for the Easter Handicap did not appear in time in the South, and Mr. Stead reluctantly abandoned the idea of sending any horses to Auckland. It appears that the handicaps published in Auckland on Monday morning were not published in Southern morning papers until Wednesday, and owners were waiting without knowing the reason for the delay.

In Hungarian studs a number of well-bred English stallions are doing duty at low prices. The best of these is the one named Jeddah is about the most extensive, his fee being 42 guineas, but only 84 guineas each are asked for the services of The Rush, Betty, and Orwell, the latter being a brother in blood to Ormond, the Royal Lancer is the latest English addition to blood stock in Hungary, and he is at the Royal Stud, Kishler, where his services will be available to Hungarian owners at 125 guineas, and foreign owners at 25 guineas.

Old Nelson, one of the hardest worked and hardest raced of our thoroughbreds, and one of our very best stayers and most neglected sires, looks a different horse to the wreck he appeared when his old mentor Cutts got him, as a gift from Major George on leaving for England, and for whom he did such signal service. For years the old horse did not carry any flesh, but Cutts soon got him as sleek as a seal, and he is a great favourite at Chokebore Lodge. The dual Auckland Cup winner who in twenty-one years has won 124 races, and will have a few more representatives on the turf in all probability later on, as he was mated with a number of mares last season.

Our London correspondent writes: "Mr. Spencer Colburn's Modra, which in the season 1903 won 11 races in New Zealand, including the Wanganui Steeplechase, and the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase, under a burden of 13st, ran third in the Male Handicap Steeplechase, a two mile event, given at Sandown Park last week. The field numbered a dozen, and Moffan, which carried 11.10, started at 10 to 1, led for a mile, and then compounding rapidly in the boggy ground, was caught and passed by Azno (11.4), and Perdious (12.4), the former winning by a neck, with the New Zealander four lengths off."

Manofium is the name by which Sir Hotchkiss Forme two-year-old colt is to be known. This colt is a good mover and has pace, and is sure to come to hand sooner or later, all going well with him, but he is one of the sort that it should pay to give time to. Another colt by Hotchkiss that has not to be hurried is General Average, and he has already shown his ability to gallop. He may run well during the coming meeting of the A.R.C., but should have a useful colt next spring, and he and Manofium look as likely to furnish into Derby candidates as anything at Ellerslie just now. They are both in the Champagne Stakes to be decided on Saturday next.

The Phoenix Apollo—Musket Maid, the Phoenix Apollo—Blind, and the South-Princess Alice colts, purchased by Mr. T. Forme of West Australia, are to remain in New Zealand to fulfil New Zealand classic engagements, a place of news which should be very pleasing to Aucklanders generally. The Musket Maid colt is not heavily engaged, or would have made more money at the sale that he did. He is a rare fine chest to look at, and so also the Blind colt, and the Princess Alice colt is a level to some little fellow. The Hotchkiss—Lady Augusta, the Castor—Radiant, and the Phoenix Apollo—Chrysalis colts, all nice ones, are to be sent to West Australia after the Easter meeting here.

Contrary to tradition, the Arabs have no written pedigrees. Family connections of Arabian horses live in the memory of the owner only. Alleged pedigrees of Arabian horses are the result of the fully carried about in a leather bag hung around the animal's neck are pure fiction, gotten up by horse dealers. The breeding of Arabian horses is carefully preserved, however, and is a matter of common knowledge among the natives, which renders it difficult for an owner to sport a false pedigree even if he should wish to do so. Some of the pedigrees are being carefully preserved. They have never known to lie about the age of their horses, or their marvellous qualities, but, regard to pedigrees they are straight—than some published records in more civilised countries.

A New York paper has it that at some time during the latter part of the season, the St. Louis World's Fair people hope to bring together Lou Dillon, Dan Patch, and the horse that is recognised as the best racehorse of the year, if such a decision can be made. These three are wanted as special attractions for the autumn horse show that is to be a feature of the Exposition. There will be no opportunity to show speed, but the people will appreciate seeing Lou Dillon and Dan Patch in the show ring of the amphitheatre, even if there is no opportunity for them to be shown at faster than an ordinary road gait. The runner that will be sought to complete this exhibition of the champions of the three is difficult to select at this time. Last September there were about "four greatest horses in America," and the same condition may exist next autumn.

The C.I.C. acceptances must be accounted very satisfactory. There are eighteen paid up for in the Great Easter Handicap and fifteen in the Great Autumn Handicap. Fit and well, Field Batter and Lady Lillian would be a hard pair to beat on their side of the Easter Handicap, but Field Battery is unsound and Lady Lillian has done no racing for some time. Full City has recent form to recommend him, and cannot be written out. I opine that most danger may be looked for from those lower down than above him. Quarryman and Brave Heart, Grand Rapids and Butchways, should have winning chances, if dressed in their best, and the English-bred year three-year-old colt Martin, in the Yaldhurst stable, reads nicely treated for a holder in both his engagements. Butchways, Full City, Grand Rapids, and Bagpipes are those that may furnish the winner of the Autumn Handicap, so many of the others being stale, recently out of form, or up from enforced retirement.

In America in a discussion as to who was the champion three-year-old colt of that country last year, it was agreed that Dick Welles, the Western crack, was entitled to the palm because he started in fourteen races, was beaten once, and made a new world's record for a mile, 1.37.3.5. He did not meet Affender, High Lad, and Golden Heat, consequently the Eastern turf men are not willing to concede the superiority of the son of King Eric. He won eight times in fifteen starts, was second three times, third once, and unplaced three times, carrying all kinds of weight and winning the Reunion at a mile and five furlongs and the Saratoga Cup at a mile and three-quarters. Irish Lad ran six times, winning three races and finishing second in each of the others. Saville defeated McChesney, but the race was a run for a fluke. There were 230 three-year-olds who won last year, twenty-three of them capturing ten or more races. Irish Lad, Flying Ship, Virgin, Nell, Captain Buckle, and Reliable were never outside of the money.

Country stewards in some parts of this colony are often referred to by racegoers as great sinners, but in my experience they more often err through ignorance of racing law and usage, than through a commonly accepted belief that they find it to their interest to do so. A proverbial coach and four through the racing code. There is always a class who attend race meetings who are ready to put the worst possible construction on the action of racing officials, and there are here and there a few racing officials who will take war risks in order to make money by speculating and sitting in judgment in cases in which they

are monetarily interested, but the proportion of such men, it is to be hoped, is small. The influence of men who do these things is exercised very often to such an extent amongst those who know little of racing that unfair decisions are come to, but on the whole even handed justice is aimed at by the majority of racing officials acting to the best of their light, up to the limit of their instruction. For those who when they fail it is almost invariably through want of knowledge, and is led away by evidence tendered by interested parties.

If Englishmen are not very careful and alert (says an exchange), they will eventually lose their prestige as the breeders of thoroughbred stock. Other countries are rapidly overtaking them. For years the French, German and Russian buyers have been outbidding them at the Ringside. What is more, they will have to make some radical alterations in the management of their race meetings. A Home paper says: "When compared to racing in France, the expenses in England are enormous, and only the other day we were talking over the matter with Mr. Frank Gardner, who used to keep a large racing stud at Foxhill, Wilts, and sold the entire for £12,000 in the Newmarket December sale of 1902. Although Mr. Gardner had a very fair share of luck indeed on the English turf, and could not complain of not winning races, his balance was always on the wrong side, and he never returned to the turf again. In France (Mr. Gardner informed me) his expenses were not more than one-third of what they were in England, while the prizes were more substantial."

Horse-owners, particularly along the West Coast of the North Island within Tararaki, Wanganui, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay metropolitan areas, have so out of race meetings as to which to engage their horses, and are besieged with requests for nominations, and it must be said respond most liberally. There are many, however, who think the time has arrived when clubs should only ask owners to nominate for first day races, leaving nomination to go in for the second day when acceptances are due for the first day handicaps, and they are thus given an opportunity of satisfying themselves as to the treatment of their horses before received. The nomination fee for most races is light, but when an owner nominates for as many as two races per day, and he is not satisfied to go on after the appearance of the first day's weights, it comes heavy, and more especially to owners who have a number of horses nominated at a number of meetings at one time. Shortly put, owners complain that nominating horses for so many races is a heavy part of their expenditure, and that they are often unnecessarily taxed in this respect.

Much interest, as well as curiosity, is being shown in the mode that will be adopted by the authorities in establishing the proposed Government stud to supply remounts for the army (says a London writer). That it will be run on the same lines as those of France and Germany and other continental concerns of the sort is more than probable, but the difficulty will be in the commencement, as, from what ever side it is approached, there are obstacles which would seem almost insurmountable. In the first place there are not a sufficient number of suitable mares in the country from which to breed anything like the supply of remounts that are required for the army. As a matter of fact, the United Kingdom has been drained of all the best breeding mares by the foreigner, who loses no opportunity to outbid English buyers when any useful mares are in the market. He is to be seen at work amongst breeders of all denominations, and in all parts of the country. He attends all the big fairs and shows and at the great exhibition at Dublin in August, where it is known the greater part of the exhibits are sent for sale, he is by far the largest buyer. It has been proved times out of number that it does not pay to attempt to breed horses for military purposes other than for officers' chargers, and it is only the misfits, namely, such animals as are not good enough for hunters or high-class harness races, that eventually find their way into the army. Owners, however, lose money, for the highest price given by the

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