tried highly. Grand Rapids, as far as appearance is concerned, is a much improved horse since he was last seen in public, and, all going well during the next ten days, he will not fail for want of condition. Some people profess to believe that Kremlin is not as sound as he might be, but I think it is early to assert anything definite in this direction. Certainly the son of Stepniak is not doing a great deal of work, but then I understand that he does not require much. Brave Heart is doing a capital preparation, and in the event of anything happening to her more fancied stable companion can be trusted to represent Sir George Clifford with credit.

Lolah is also doing well. Although Bagpipes has been left in the Great Autumn Handicap, she may be regarded as an improbable starter. At the same time, I understand that she is very well. Delaney is doing fairly good work, and Stepdancer has never gone better than at present. Some people here fancy old Blazer, on the ground that 6.7 will be a luxury to him, but he has yet to show that he can get a mile and a-half with even the lightest weight on his back.

Of the ten youngsters left in the Champagne Stakes Aeolus, Veldt, the Leozant colt Sir Gum, King Paul and Guidaforia may be started. Without comment, the race promises to result in a match between Mr Stead and Sir Geo. Clifford, and if Silkworm and Golden Lily are both well we need look no further for the winner. Golden Lily is said to have developed into a grand filly.

The weights for the minor events to be decided on the first day of the Canterbury Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting made their appearance yesterday. I shall have ample opportunity to make my final selections after the closing of the acceptances. In the meantime I may say that I like Huka and Zealous best of those in the Kildare Hurdle Race, and that I think Bagpipes might have had a few pounds less in the Sockburn Handicap, in which I fancy Delaney and Stepdancer, Ostiak, Blackstone and Count of Kolmar are well treated in the Epsom Welter Handicap, while, unless Signalman is a good colt, the Yaldhurst two-year-olds might between them account for the Russley Plate.

CHRISTCHURCH, Tuesday.

The news of Moifaa's victory in the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase caused great rejoicings in local sporting circles. Personally, I must confess to having been among those who thought Mr Gollan had made a bad bargain when he bought Natator's son, who, I thought, had passed the age when he could be taught to jump in English style; but I was wrong, and nobody is better pleased at the fact than I am.

After three or four lovely days the weather broke on Sunday night, and training operations yesterday morning were conducted in rain. The rain will do no harm to the tracks, and unless a great deal more falls the course ought to be in grand order for the meeting.

Most of the local candidates for the principal handicaps are doing well. Welbeck was lame after working on Friday morning, but he quickly threw off the soreness, and is now apparently sound. He has tightened up and is improving generally, but I cannot believe that he will be ready by Monday to meet seasoned horses on equal terms.

Quarryman was also lame, but the soreness was only temporary. He is very well—probably better than he has been at any time in his life, and he is bound to run a good horse in the Easter Handicap. Cannie Chiel is also very well, and if the going should happen to be heavy on Monday there are more unlikely things than that he will win. One thing is certain, and that is that he will beat Brave Heart.

Lolah is doing well, but I don't fancy her chance; and Lady Lillian, like Welbeck, cannot be sufficiently forward to meet thoroughly trained horses with a prospect of beating them.

De la Rey is pretty well, and Stepdancer was never better in her life. This exhausts the list of Riccarton horses engaged in both events.

Of the visiting division only Petrovna, Full Cry, and Kremlin have arrived at the time of writing. All three look well, and the last-named may win a race at the meeting, although it will not be the Easter Handicap, the distance of which is a little too far for him.

There is nothing fresh to record regarding the Yaldhurst candidates. I have reason to believe that all going satisfactorily, that Martian and Grand Rapids will go very near winning the double.

Nothing among the local two year old division stands any chance of beating the Yaldhurst youngsters in the Champagne Stakes, but Signalman, a good looking brother to Cannie Chiel, may oppose them creditably in the Russley Plate and Autumn Nursery Handicap.

As regards the Challenge Stakes, Achilles, who has been suffering from a mild attack of strangles, will not fulfil his engagement. Mr Stead should have no difficulty in winning with his powerful lot, which comprises Machine Gun, Martian, Silkworm, and Golden Lily. Trendmill is keeping sound, however, and as sprinting is, I fancy, his strong point, he may give the Yaldhurst contingent a race.

De la Rey, Muskburn, Pallas, Master Alix, Prince Louis, a two-year-old by Stepniak—Lady's Maid, Sweet Nell, a two-year-old half sister to Pallas, and the hurdle racehorse Slow Tom, will be offered for sale in Christchurch on the Wednesday after the Canterbury J.C. autumn meeting.

The following business has been done locally on the Great Easter and Great Autumn Handicaps: 500 to 3 against Pampero and Stepdancer, 500 to 5 against Petrovna and Canteen, 500 to 12 against Martian and Red Gauntlet, 500 to 4 against Welbeck and Cannie Chiel, 400 to 2 against Kremlin and De la Rey, 44 to 2 against Lady Lillian and Blazer, 400 to 2 against Lady Lillian and Red Gauntlet, 400 to 2 against Lolah and Stepdancer, 400 to 2 against Red Gauntlet and De la Rey, 400 to 2 against Vladimir and Stepdancer, 250 to 1 against Lady Lillian and Field Battery, 250 to 2 against Grand Rapids and Canteen, 250 to 1 against Grand Rapids and De la Rey, 200 to 8 against Martian and Buluwayo, 200 to 3 against Grand Rapids and Buluwayo, 200 to 2 against Cannie Chiel and Red Gauntlet, 200 to 10 against Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids, 200 to 18 against Martian and Grand Rapids.

The Mauser horse, The Mohican, in Ainsley's stable, has been amiss during the week.

A pony by Mauser from Moderation has joined the same stable.

The hurdle racer, Scottish Minstrel, who in company with Sophistic, arrived from his owner's station on Saturday, is sore. He has a leg like a bolster.

W. Clarke is building stables and a residence at Riccarton.

The North Islander Full Cry reached Riccarton on Saturday. He looks in excellent condition.

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ENGLISH RACING.

(From Our London Correspondent.)

LONDON, February 20.

The death this week of Lord Alington at the age of 79 removes one of the most ardent patrons of the "Sport of Kings" in the Old Country. The event was not unexpected, since for months past the evidences of an early break-up were visible to all his lordship's friends.

At a very early period in life Lord Alington showed his love for the sport with which he afterwards became so intimately associated. As a mere boy he ran horses under an assumed name, and in his 24th year won the Champagne Stakes with Humphrey. This was his first notable success, and in the following year (1850) he was elected to the Jockey Club. His next "big event" was the capture of the Goodwood Stakes with Elcho in 1861, and in the year ensuing Mr Sturt (as he then was) bought Catch 'Em Alive, which in 1863 won one of the most sensational Cambridgeshires on record by a short head from Lord Westmoreland's Merry Hart, with Summerside beaten a like distance into third place. After the race an objection was laid. When the jockeys returned to scale it was found that Catch 'Em Alive's jockey did not draw the proper weight. He first weighed without whip, and one was given him. This barely made him weight, and Lord Westmoreland objected to the jockey being weighed with anything given to him after he got into the scales, and the stewards upheld his objection. The rider of Merry Hart had been previously weighed and passed, and the stewards were on the point of giving the race in his favour when the rider of Summerside was also found short of weight. On this the scales were examined. It was found that some lead had been fastened on to the bottom of the weight scale. When this was removed and the scales adjusted, the rider of Catch 'Em Alive drew his proper weight, and the stewards then declared Catch 'Em Alive the winner. The excitement that this race engendered can be better imagined than described, the crowd breaking into the weighing room. A reward was offered for the discovery of the scale manipulator, but he remains undiscovered.

In 1869 Mr Sturt, who was then in partnership with Sir Frederic Johnstone (the combination came to be known as "the Old Firm"), won the Oaks with Brigantine, but it was not till 1883 that he achieved the highest ambition of all horse owners, by winning the Derby with St. Blaise. It was a desperate race among three, St. Blaise just getting the better of Highland Chief, with Gallard close up third. Wood, indeed, who rode the winner, did not think he had quite got home, and when the inspector came to lead him back, told him curtly that "he had come for the wrong 'un." Two years later was fooled that remarkable horse Friar's Balsam, who as a two-year-old carried all before him. As a three-year-old, however, he was a failure, following on dental trouble, but he managed to beat Minting in the Champion Stakes at weight-for-age. Three years later the "Old Firm" carried off the "triple crown" with Common. The next winner of note was Matchbox, who was unlucky to have to run against such a horse as Ladas in 1889. Since then Lord Alington had owned few good horses, and of late years the well known colours were seldom seen on a racecourse.

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A NEW ZEALAND HORSE WINS LIVERPOOL GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE.

LONDON, March 23.

LIVERPOOL GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE, 4 miles 856 yards.

Mr. Spencer Gollan's br g Moifaa, by Natator—Denbigh, 6 years..... 1
Kirkland, by Kirkham, dam by Perigonious, aged..... 2
The Gunner, by Torpedo—Lady Windermere, aged..... 3

Won by eight lengths. Moifaa started at 25 to 1. The King was present, and his horse Ambush II., the favourite, fell at the second fence.

SWIMMING.

NORTHERN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB.

HANDICAPS FOR THE EASTER CHAMPIONSHIP CARNIVAL.

The following handicaps have been declared for the Northern Amateur Swimming Club's forthcoming gala by Mr. Eyre, the club's handicapper:—

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

(At the Baths, Albert-street.)

72yds Dalton Handicap.—R. Cavill scratch, G. A. Tyler, 4s, R. A. Bell 4½s, F. Warbrick 5s, W. J. Gibbons 7s, E. C. O'Hare 7½ s, S. Dickey 8s, C. P. Lakey, 8s, C. Wilson 8s, S Withy 8½s, B. Blakey, 9s, W. E. Dervan 9s, S. W. Kean 9s, R. O'Hare 9s, F. Tomlinson, 9s, A. Warbrick 9s, J. H. Heap 9½s, P. Warbrick 9½, G. C. Wynyard 9½s, W. E. Hooton 10s, A. E. Dale 10s, H. I. Tomlinson 10s, C. Yates, 10½s, J. T. Fraser 10½s, J. F. Mahoney 10½s, E. MacCormick 10½s, B. O'Hare 11s, M. Rees 12s, R. R. Mills 13s.

210yds Club Handicap.—F. Warbrick scratch R. A. Bell, scratch, C. Wilson 7s, J. T. Fraser 7s, W. J. Gibbons 7s, S. W. Kean 14s, G. C. Wynyard 14s, F. G. Fish 16s, S. T. McMillan 20s.

72yds Kinvig Cup (youths under 18).—D. R. Milne (present holder) scratch, J. H. Heap 2s, F. J. Brett 2s, W. Hand 3s, F. Barrett 3s, C. Rowe 3s, R. Harvey 3s, A. E. Ritchie 3s, F. R. Farquhar 3s, A. G. Blakey 4s, A. Toullouson 4s, J. Underwood 4s W. Francis 5s, O. Grubb 6s, J. Cochran 6s, R. Cotterall 7s, F. J. Kernott 7s, J. D. Stewart 7s, E. R. Mills 8s.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

(At the Graving Dock).

50yds Cavill Handicap.—R. Cavill scratch, G. A. Tyler 2½s, R. A. Bell 3s, F. Warbrick 3½s, C. J. Sainty 4½s, E. C. O'Hare 4½s, M. Hunter (Hawera) 5s, W. J. Gibbons 5s, S. L. Dickey 5½s, C. P. Lakey 5½s, C. Wilson 5½s, F. F. Kronfeld 6s, A. C. Bates 6s, B. Blakey 6s, S. W. Kean 6s, R. O'Hare 6s, S. Withy 6s, T. V. Frost 6½s, F. J. Brett 6½s, J. H. Heap 6½s, H. I. Tomlinson 6½s, G. C. Wynyard 6½s, A. Kean (Huwera) 7s, J. F. Mahoney, 7s, A. E. Ritchie 7s, A. E. Dale 7s, Cocks (Wanganui) 7½s, J. J. Barrett 7½s, A. G. Blakey 7½s, J. T. Fraser 7½s, F. G. Fish 7½s, F. J. Kernott 7½s, S. T. McMillan 7½s, E. O Hare 7½s, C. Yates 7½s, J. S. Kean 7½s, Richardson (Wanganui) 7½s, M. Rees 7½s.

100yds M. O'Connor Handicap.—R. Cavill scratch, G. A. Tyler 3s, R. A. Bell 7s, F. Warbrick 7s, C. O. Hughes 8s, C. J. Sainty 10s, W. T. Tyler 10s, M. Hunter (Hawera) 10s, W. J. Gibbons 11s, E. C. O'Hare 11s, S. L. Dickey 13s, T. V. Frost 13s, C. P. Lakey 13s, C. Wilson 13s, A. C. Bates 14s, B. Blakey 14s, S. W. Kean 14s, S. Withy 14s, F. F. Kronfeld 15s, J. L. Esdale 15s, W. E. Hooton 15s, R. O'Hare 15s, H. I. Tomlinson 15s, G. C. Wynyard 15s J. T. Fraser 15s, A. Kean (Hawera) 16s, A. E. Dale 16s, F. G. Fish 17s, S. T. Millan 18s, A. G. Blakey 18s, C. Yates 18s, F. J. Kernott 18s, Richardson (Wanganui) 18s.

75yds Mitchelson Handicap (for boys under 16).—W. J. Gibbons scratch, F. F. Kronfeld 4s, W. Hand 4s, A. W. Taylor 6s, J. Purdy 8s, J. Cochran 8s, F. J. Kernott 8s, R. Campbell 9s, R. Cotterall 9s, W. Daniell 9s, W. Francis 9s, A. Gamble 9s, O. Grubb 9s, M. Keyes 9s, J. D. Stewart 9s, H. Beard 10s, V. C. Fisher 10s, C. C. Forgie 10s, A. Joan 10s, E. Murray 13s, A. O'Hare 14s, J. Gibbons 16s.

SATURDAY EVENING

(At the Baths, Albert-street).

72yds Northern Handicap.—R. Cavill scratch, G. A. Tyler 3½s, R. A. Bell 4½s, F. Warbrick 5s, W. J. Gibbons 7s, M. Hunter (Hawera) 7s, Campbell (Wanganui 7s, S. L. Dickey 8s, C. Wilson 8s, B. Blakey 8s, W. E. Dervan, 9s, S. W. Kean 9s, R. O'Hare 9s, J. H. Heap 9½s, A. Pownall (Wanganui, 9½s, F. Barrett 10s, F. R. Farquhar 10s, W. E. Hooton 10s, A. Kean (Hawera), 10s, H. I. Tomlinson 10s, A. E. Dale 10s, Hogan (Wanganui) 10s, J. T. Fraser 10s, Cocks (Wanganui, 10½s, J. F. Mahoney 10½s, A. G. Blakey 11s, F. J. Kernott 11s, S. T. McMillan 11s, R. O'Hare 11s, Richardson (Wanganui) 11s.

108yds Kohn Handicap. — R. Cavill scratch, G. A. Tyler 3½s, R. A. Bell 3s, F. Warbrick 8s, M. Hunter (Hawera) 11s, Campbell (Wanganui 11s, W. T. Tyler 11s, W. J. Gibbons 12s, S. L. Dickey 14s, C. Wilson 14s, N. Pownall (Wanganui, 14s, B. Blakey 15s, W. E. Dervan 15s, S. W. Kean 15s, S. Withy 15s, R. O'Hare 16s, H. I. Tomlinson 16s, G. C. Wynyard 16s, J. T. Fraser 16s, A. Kean (Hawera), 17s, Hogan (Wanganui) 17s, Richardson (Wanganui) 18s.

432yds Waitiki Handicap.—F. Warbrick scratch, R. A. Bell 6s, W. J. Gibbons 18s, C. Wilson 18s, J. T. Fraser 28s, R. Rowsell 29s, S. W. Kean 30s, G. C. Wynyard 30s, S. T. McMillan 36s.

50yds Handicap (under 15).—E. Groon scratch, J. D. Stewart scratch, L. E. Kerr-Taylor 1s, H. Beard 2s, R. A. Cowley 3s, A. O'Hare 3s, R. Mitchell 3s, James Barrett 4s, O. Bell 4s, J. Gibbons 4s, J. Sheehan 4s, M. V. Kronfeld 4s.

The stately Eucalyptus bends its head,
And sighs and moans as if all joys had fled.
The sleepy Bear cries: "Why such sad lament?
I'd like to know what's ruffled your contentment."
"Alas!" the sad old tree says in reply,
"Once full of joy, and pride, and power was I,
But now my oil's discarded, and I find
WOODS' PEPPERMINT CURE is used by all mankind."

ATHLETICS.

AUCKLAND AMATEUR ATHLETIC CLUB'S CARNIVAL.

The Auckland Amateur Athletic and Cycle Club held their 49th sports carnival on the Domain cricket ground on Saturday. The weather was not entirely favourable for a sports gathering, for although it was fine, a strong easterly wind made things rather unpleasant for competitors and spectators. The attendance was very poor, their being only about 1200 people present, and it is evident that at present amateur athletics are not popular. This was all the more discouraging in view of the fact that the attendance at the last meeting, and the number of entries received for this, seemed to point to a revival in public interest. The meeting was, as usual, well conducted, and there was some interesting racing. The club's Victor Ludorum this time went to the runners, and was won by J. Hooker, who won the 220yds handicap and ran second to P. H. Marriott in the 100yds and 440yds handicaps. L. R. Webster, ex-champion of New Zealand, was a competitor in the sprints, but did not meet with success. He failed to qualify for the 100yds, and though he ran second in his heat of the 220yds event, he was unable to get placed in the final.

Half-mile Handicap.—A. Twiname, 25yds, 1; A. B. Smith, 20yds, 2; J. Tizard, 43yds, 3. A field of eleven started. Grantville led over the first lap, followed by Tizard, with Chevis third. Tizard then came in front, but entering the straight Twiname took the lead, and he and Smith fought out the finish, Twiname winning by a foot or so. Time, 2m 6 2-5s.

100yds Handicap (primary school boys under 15).—L. Garrett, 1yd, 1; A. Cormiga, 7yds, 2; J. Gardiner, 1yds, 3. Time, 11 2-5s.

Three-quarter Mile Bicycle Handicap.—First heat: H. H. Brook, scratch, 1; C. Stewart, 45yds, 2; F. G. Hayward, 1yds, 3. Time, 2m 1 4-5s. Second heat: H. C. Alexander, 45yds, 1; S. Galbraith, 50yds, 2; E. J. McKay, 75yds, 3. Time, 1m 56 3-5s. Final heat: Hayward, 1; McKay, 2; Brown, 3. McKay led up to the turn to the straight in the last lap, when Hayward challenged him, and won by about a wheel, with Stewart close up. Time, 1m 57s.

120yds Hurdles Handicap.—First heat: L. B. Todd, 5yds, 1; A. R. Gatland, scratch, 2; P. H. Foote, 5yds, 3. Time, 17s. Second heat: C. J. Dickeson, 5yds, 1; T. A. Kerr-Taylor, owes 10yds, 2; J. Bennett, scratch, 3. Time, 18 3-5s. Final heat: Todd, 1; Dickeson, 2; Gatland, 3. Won by three or four yards. Time, 17 2-5s.

220yds Handicap (Ladies' Bracelet).—First heat: N. P. Wyatt, 10yds, 1; L. M. Webster, scratch, 2; W. R. Bush, 14yds, 3. Time, 23 1-5s. Second heat: J. Hooker, 16yds, 1; C. G. Dickeson, 15yds, 2; W. T. Tyler, 19yds, 3. Time, 23 1-5s. Third heat: L. B. Todd, 10yds, 1; G. Williams, 14yds, 2; H. McLeod, 12yds, 3. Time, 23 2-5s. Final heat: Hooker, 1; Wyatt, 2; Todd, 3. The finish was a close one. Webster was fifth. Time, 22 2-5s.

One Mile Bicycle Handicap.—First heat: C. Stewart, 60yds, 1; J. Twiss, 45yds, 2; E. J. McKay, 100yds, 3. Time, 2m 12 1-5s. Second heat: G. F. Robinson, 100yds, 1; W. Hendry, 40yds, 2; F. G. Hayward, 20yds, 3. Time, 2m 45 3-5s. Final heat: Twiss, 1; Robinson, 2; Hendry, 3. Robinson led for over half-way, when Twiss came to the front, eventually winning by about a dozen yards. Time, 2m 31 3-5s.

100yds Handicap (for youths under 19).—First heat: R. Wynyard, 16yds, 1; S. Ellis, 0yds, 2; F. Harvey, scratch, 3. Time, 11s. Second heat: G. G. Smith, 6yds, 1; R. Sprague, 5yds, and T. Coles, 12yds, dead heat, 2. Time, 11 1-5s. Third heat: M. E. Wilson, 6yds, 1; F. Rose, 4yds, 2; C. D. McFarquhar, 24yds, 3. Time, 10 3-5s. Final heat: Wynyard, 1; Smith, 2; Coles, 3. Time, 10 3-5s.

One Mile Handicap.—A. Rogers, 75yds, 1; A. Twiname, 60yds, 2; J. Tizard, 5yds, 3. Rogers led all the way and won easily. Twiname beating Tizard by about 5yds. Time, 4m 55 3-5s.

High Jump Handicap.—T. A. Kerr-Taylor, 6in handicap, 1; C. C. Laurie, scratch, 2; W. Oliphant, 2in, 3. Kerr Taylor cleared 5ft 6in and Laurie 5ft. The latter Oliphant 5ft 2in. Laurie tried at 5ft 9 1-8in, the record, but failed. Laurie and Kerr-Taylor jumped well, and their efforts were heartily applauded.

Two Mile Bicycle Handicap (Ladies' Bracelet).—C. Kidd, 100yds, 1; W. Hendry, 60yds, 2; E. A. Cockeys, 8yds, 3. This race produced the best finish of the day. Hendry was leading at the Hospital bend in the last lap, but Kidd challenged him, and, after a keen struggle, won by a matter of inches. Time, 5m 47s.

440yds Handicap.—F. R. Mackforth, 7yds, 1; J. Dorkey, 20yds, 2; J. R. Alexin, 20yds, 3. Marriott cut through the field in grand style, and won in hollow fashion. Time, 53s.

WELLINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB'S CARNIVAL.

WELLINGTON, Saturday.

The annual sports meeting of the Wellington Amateur Athletic Club was held today in beautiful weather, and some 2500 persons were present, including the Premier and Sir Joseph Ward and party. The one mile walk was won easily by E. Ross from scratch in 7m 26 4-5s, Morton (Scratch) being second. In the 2-mile flat handicap W. F. Simpson, the New Zealand champion, endeavoured to beat his own record of 9m 42s, but failed. He covered the first half-mile in 2m 26s, the mile in 5m 55s, the 1½ mile and a-half in 7m 50s, and the full distance in 10 m 22 4-5s, finishing 300yds in front of Robinson (100yds). Ross carried off the half-mile walk in 3m 13 1-5s. H. W. King won the long jump with 20ft 6in, Anderson, owing 15yds, finished first in