He ought to beat Ghoorka on Wanganui form. Grand Rapids, 7.12, is a horse for whom the handicappers seem to have the greatest respect, but he has yet to show that it is quite deserved. Melodeon, 7.11, is one of the genuine stayers engaged, and although he has received all he is entitled to should be equal to making a good fight for winning honours. Regulation, 7.8, has evidently been treated as a non-stayer, but she is a fairly brilliant mare, and cannot be passed by lightly at the weights. Oblivion II., 7.6, 14, as far as New Zealand is concerned, is unknown quantity, and his performances in Australia were not of sufficiently high class to recommend him for a race of this description. Probably he may show something in the interval to throw some light on his abilities. Shrapnel, 7.6, is a very brilliant horse, who may stay the journey, but I have more fancy for Full Cry, who has three pounds less and may run well forward. General Symons, 7.5, who may not stand, and Fleka, 7.4, I will pass at present, also Okoari, 7.3, Ottoman, Uranus, Golden Knight, and Onidaform, 7.2, are a quartette of three-year-olds from whom something brilliant might come and probably Golden Knight will prove the best. Black Reynard, 7.2, Float, 6.13, Cyrus 6.13, Shrapnel Shell 6.12, and Onewa 6.11, have yet to show that they are quite class enough for a race of this description. Zetland, 6.11, is a colt who is well spoken of, and may turn out useful, and of those lower down the list I think Geordie 6.9, Malakoff 6.9, Akarana 6.9, General Average 6.7, and Rehua 6.7, will prove the best. To sum the matter up I will take Achilles, Cruciform, Convoy, Lady Lillian, Halberdier, Romeo, Melodeon, Regulation, Golden Knight, and General Average as those the winner may likely come from.

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NAPIER PARK RACING CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

FIRST DAY.

NAPIER, Tuesday.

The Napier Park Racing Club were favoured with fine weather for the opening day of their winter meeting, and the attendance was above the average. Most of the races were won easily. The principal event, the Napier Steeplechase, was won very easily by the favourite, Papatu, whose principal opponents, Evening and Victory, both came to grief, as did also Towhatu, Stockman being the only other competitor besides Papatu to finish. Crosscut accounted for the Hurdle Race in easy style, and he is improving with every gallop. The sum of £5654 was invested on the totalisator, as compared with £4129 on the first day last year.

Motoo Hurdles.—Ostlak, 11.2, 1; Warwick, 9.8, 2; Ia, 11.2, 3. Ontario fell at the last jump, Lord, her rider, getting a bad shaking. Scratched: Taiune. Time, 3.31. Dividend, £6 4/.

Napier Steeplechase Handicap. — Papatu, 10.13, 1; Stockman, 9.7, 2. Scratched, Eclair. The other starters all fell. Papatu won easily by 20 lengths from Stockman.

Time 6.47 2-5. Dividend £2 10/.

Stewards' Stakes. — Ice, 9.3, 1; Repulse, 8.2, 2; Mussel, 9.5, 3. Scratched — Kremlin and Athol Maid. Won easily by a length. Time 1.49. Dividends—£10 and £2 13/.

Bracelet. — Joe Chamberlain, 11.9, 1; Pearl Diver, 11.2, 2; Sleepwell, 11.2, 3; all started. Won by half a length.

Time 2.22 4-5. Dividends—£3 16/ and £1 10/.

Hack and Hunters' Steeplechase of 750sovs, 2½ miles: Rhyl, 1; Gun Metal, 2. All started. Won easily. Time 5.5. Dividends £1 13/.

Ahuriri Hurdles, 100sovs, 1¼ miles: Crensel, 1; Roller, 2; Defoe, 3. Scratched: Gossamer. Won easily by two lengths. Time 3.27. Dividends £4 4/ and £5 18/.

Settlers' Hack Handicap, 50sovs, Six furlongs: Runnawaiwa, 1; Athol Brose, 2; Wild Cat, 3. Won by nearly two lengths. Time 1. 21 1-5secs. Dividends £2 4/ and £4 4/.

SECOND DAY.

NAPIER, Wednesday.

The weather was fine but cold for the second day of the Napier Park Racing Club's Winter Meeting. The course was in good order, but the racing was not as good as usual. The attendance was larger than on the first day. The jumping in the steeplechase events was not of a very high order. The sum of £5877 was invested on the totalisators, making a total of £10,731 for the two days, an increase of £1900 on last year's total. The following are the results:—

Waiohiki Hack Hurdles.—Rangerawa, 9.6, 1; Trumpery, 9.0, 2; Ostlak, 11.13, 3. All started. Won by two lengths. Time, 2.54 1-5. Dividends, £2 19/ and £2 9/.

Winter Oats.—Mussell, 9.6, 1; Mouru, 9.9, 2; Repulse, 9.8, 3. All started. Time, 1.50 5-5. Dividends, £4 3/ and £2 13/.

Park Steeplechase. — Towhatu, 9.7, 1; Roller, 10.4, 2; Stockman, 9.7, 3. Scratched — Papatu and Victory. Won easily. Time 3.21 2-5. Dividend, £7 19/.

Hunters Hurdles, 1¼ mile. — Gun Metal 1, Anubis 2, Eerebus 3. Scratched — Mephisto. Won easily. Time 3.40. Dividend, £7 11/.

Hurdles. Crensel, 11.3, 1; Mouruer, 9.11, 2; Arahs, 10.12, 3. All started. Time 3.25 4-5. Dividends £2 5/ and £1 16/.

Farewell Steeplechase—Rhyl 1, Eclair 2. Strayhird 3. Scratched—Victory and Roller. Dividends—£2 2/ and £1 4/.

Newstead Hack Handicap of 50sovs, 7 furlongs—Sleepwell 1, Admiral Cervera 2, Rainmaster 3. Won by two lengths. Time 1.37. Dividends £3 11/ and £1 11/.

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.

WEIGHTS FOR THE NEW ZEALAND CUP.

Mr Henrys has declared the following weights:—

THE NEW ZEALAND CUP, a handicap of 2000sovs; second horse 300sovs, and third 200sovs from the stake. Two miles.

	st.	lb.
Mr A. J. Monk's ch h Achilles, 5yrs, by Medallion—Nereid	10	0
Mr G. G. Stead's ch m Cruciform, 6yrs, by St. Leger—Forme	9	6
Mr A. Black's ch h Nonette, 6yrs, by Seaton Delaval—Charente	9	0
Mr W. V. Young's br g Convoy, aged, by Vanguard—Squib	8	6
Mr A. Moss' gr h Canteen, 6yrs, by Castor—Vivandiere	8	6
Mr G. G. Stead's b c Martian, 4yrs, by Martagon—Ottenden	8	5
Mr E. Gates' b m Lady Lillian, aged, by Phaethon—Lady Zetland	8	5
Mr S. Monatt's b c Roseal, 4yrs, by Handsome Jack—Rosalind	8	3
Mr C. de S. Teschemaker's ch g Buluwayo, 5yrs, by Perkin Warbeck II.—Crest	8	2
Mr B. T. Bennett's b g Halberdier, aged, by Cuirassier—Miss Stead	8	0
Mr A. J. Monk's blk h Ghoorka, 5yrs, by Lochiel—Fiancee	7	13
Messrs Ellis Brothers' ch h Red Gauntlet, 6yrs, by Lochiel—Russet	7	13
Mr P. Jones' b g Romeo, 6yrs, by Leolantis—Signet	7	12
Mr G. G. Stead's b g Grand Rapids, 5yrs, by Gipsy Grand—Whirlpool	7	12
Mr E. J. Watt's br c Melodeon, 4yrs, by Medallion—Melodia	7	11
Mr J. Cossardey's b m Regulation, aged, by Regel—May	7	8
Mr W. J. Taggart's ch g Oblivion II., 6yrs, by Medallion—Tata	7	6
Mr S. L. Parson's b g Shrapnel, 6yrs, by The Workman—Element	7	6
Mr M. Friedlander's b h General Symons, 5yrs, by Perkin Warbeck II.—Countess Kolmar	7	5
Mr W. Rathbone's ch g Fleka, aged, by St. Andrew—Flatter	7	4
Mr E. Laurent's b g Full Cry, aged, by Reynard—Vienne	7	3
Mr F. Watson's b m Okoari, aged, by St. Leger—Musket Maid	7	3
Mr H. Friedlander's ch c Ottoman, 3yrs, by Hotchkiss—Crescent	7	2
Mr J. Davidson's blk g Black Reynard, aged, by Reynard—Brassclis	7	2
Mr G. G. Stead's br c Uranus, 3yrs, by Castor—Cissy	7	2
Mr G. G. Stead's b c Golden Knight, 3yrs, by Wallace—Anra	7	2
Messrs Ellis Brothers' ch c Onidaform, 3yrs, by Multiform—St. Ouida	7	2
Mr E. J. Watt's ch m Float, 6yrs, by Captain Webb—Bonnie Idea	6	13
Mr G. W. Smart's b c Cyrus, 4yrs, by Cyrenian—Silk	6	13
Mr W. Smart's b g Shrapnel Shell, 6yrs, by Soul'wester—Dudu	6	12
Mr Lance Wood's br c Onewa, 4yrs, by Hotchkiss—Jadestone	6	11
Mr E. Gates' b c Zetland, 3yrs, by Diligado—Lady Zetland	6	11
Mr G. G. Stead's ch f Nightfall, 3yrs, by Multiform—La Notte	6	11
Mr Simmelhag's ch c Gladstone, 3yrs, by Seaton Delaval—Miss Gladys	6	11
Mr H. Friedlander's b c Beau Seaton, 3yrs, by Seaton Delaval—Tres Bien	6	11
Hon. J. D. Ormond's br f Idea, 4yrs, by The Officer—Mount Ida	6	10
Mr D. O'Brien's b h Heroism, 5yrs, by Grafton—Grafin	6	10
Mr G. Marshall's br h Geordie, 5yrs, by Seaton Delaval—Casabianca	6	9
Mr J. F. Buchanan's b g Secret Society, 5yrs, by Gipsy Grand or Stepniak—Tempest	6	9
Mr H. Friedlander's br f Rose Shield, 4yrs, by Hotchkiss—Rose of Wellington	6	9
Mr G. Palmer's blk c Malakoff, 3yrs, by Stepniak—Sorite	6	9
Mr J. C. N. Grigg's b h Calibre, 6yrs, by Light Artillery—Sunningdale	6	9
Messrs R. and H. Dudder's b c Akarana, 3yrs, by Seaton Delaval—Anua	6	9
Mr R. W. Patterson's b f Solution, 3yrs, by Soult—Problem	6	8
Mr P. J. Quirk's b h Joe Chamberlain, 5yrs, by Bonnie Scotland—Lady d'Eau	6	8
Mr F. Moore's br m Armistice, 5yrs, by Malakoff—Melinite	6	7
Mr R. G. Campbell's br f Merry-go-Round, 4yrs, by Gipsy Grand—Whirlpool	6	7
Mr F. Busch's b g Speculate, 6yrs, by Banner—Spec	6	7
Mr D. O'Brien's b c Grenade, 4yrs, by Grafton—Grafin	6	7
Mr Tini Kara's br f Manawaru, 4yrs, by Malakoff—The Brook	6	7
Hon. J. D. Ormond's b g Provost-Marshal, 4yrs, by The Officer—Dreadnette	6	7
Hon. J. D. Ormond's b g Sir Percival, 3yrs, by Sir Launcelot—Trentalta	6	7
Mr C. McMaster's b c General Average, 3yrs, by Hotchkiss—Cressy	6	7
Mr R. Solomon's b g Sandy, 6yrs, by Soult—Lorelei	6	7
Mr Schaus's ch f Red Start, 4yrs, by Casket—Red Riding Hood	6	7
Mr F. Stehr's br g Inglewood, 6yrs, by Sylph Park—Princess Ida	6	7
Mr Wilkinson's br g Little Turk, 6yrs, by Lakeshell—Ormanda	6	7
Messrs Ellis Brothers' br c Blackstone, 4yrs, by Grafton—Consistency	6	7
Mr C. H. Wallace's ch g Rehua, 4yrs, by Quilt—Maude	—	

(The age of each horse is given at time of running.)

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

(By Telegraph.—Own Correspondent.)

CHRISTCHURCH, Saturday.

Although 10st is a high weight in a race like the New Zealand Cup, it is difficult to see how Achilles could have escaped with less. He is one of the most brilliant horses that have raced in New Zealand, and last year's Cup proved that he can stay. In these circumstances it cannot be said that he is over-weighted. Nor can it be said that Cruciform is badly treated. Exclusive of sex allowance, she receives 3lbs from Achilles, and this, I think, is about as much as she is entitled to. Nonette has earned every pound of the 9st against his name; indeed, if I supposed for a moment that he would reach the post sound and thoroughly fit, I doubt if I should look any further for the winner. But it must be extremely doubtful whether he will stand a preparation, and a similar remark, though in a lesser degree, applies to Achilles and Cruciform. If Canteen starts as fit and well as he was when he won last year's race, he is bound to run prominently—that is to say, if he can be trusted to do his best. On his form at the end of the present season he might have had a pound two less, and so might Convoy. Lady Lillian has only to start dressed in her best to nearly win, and Martian, though untried as far as a distance is concerned, is entitled to the respect which always belongs to a brilliant horse. Roseal has not been over-weighted, and Buluwayo certainly cannot complain—8st 2lb is not a heavy impost for a Dunedin Cup and Great Autumn Handicap winner. Both Halberdier and Red Gauntlet have been leniently treated, and if they were not under suspicion would assuredly command a great deal of support. Ghoorka and Romeo have both "useful" horse chances; and, regarded from the point of view of weight, Grand Rapids must be accounted dangerous. I shall think more of the last-named's chance, however, when I see him at the post. Melodeon is held in great respect by people whose opinion is worth having; and Regulation, I suppose, is well enough treated; but you know as much as I do about Oblivion II. The next on the list for which I have a fancy are the relatives, Full Cry and Black Reynard, both of which may fairly claim to belong to the "useful chance" division. The Yaldhurst three-year-olds, Golden Knight and Uranus, are certain to create a good deal of comment. It is possible that both are good colts, Golden Knight exceptionally so, but Mr Stead is not given to starting three-year-olds in the New Zealand Cup, and I hesitate to recommend either of the pair. Of those further down the list a considerable portion may be dismissed without comment. Of the remainder I like Zetland, Solution, and Mahutonga best, and at the present time I fancy the winner may come from Achilles, Canteen, Lady Lillian, Martian, Roseal, Buluwayo, Grand Rapids, Melodeon, Halberdier, and Zetland.

A box has been engaged at Taggart's for Walwera. Evidently the son of Gipsy King is going to make an effort to win a second Grand National Hurdle Race.

Although the committee of the Canterbury Jockey Club dismissed Mr Jeffs' appeal in the Bagpipes case, the decision arrived at was by no means unanimous. The motion was carried by a majority of one. I suppose that Mr Jeffs will now appeal to the Racing Conference.

Pampero ended a disappointing career by dropping dead at Wingatui on Wednesday, shortly after doing slow work. His death was due to rupture of the heart. I have always thought that Pampero was a good horse mismanaged. He was a very brilliant animal, as witness his victories in the C.J.C. Stewards' Handicap, in which he covered six furlongs in 1.14 3-5, and in the C.J.C. Great Easter Handicap in 1.29 3-5, and he would probably have added materially to his winning record if he had never been trained for distances over say 1¼ miles. In short, he was one of the many victims which annually pay toll to the owner's desire to win the New Zealand Cup. I cannot agree with a Southern writer who pronounced him the best horse bred at the Warrington stud; this honour undoubtedly belongs to Eurocklydon.

As Canteen has received 7.13 in the Caulfield Cup and 8st in the Melbourne Cup, Mr Moss may think it worth while sending him over to Victoria next spring.

Nihilist was among the horses lost on board the Monowai during her recent trip to Melbourne. As I told you in a former letter, the son of Stepniak was on his way across to find a buyer.

T. Puddicombe has improved in health sufficiently to leave the Oamaru Hospital.

The Hon. G. McLean has had Sychem transferred from McGuinness' stable at Wingatui to Davies' at the Hutt, with the object of having him prepared for the flat races to be decided at the Wellington Racing Club's Winter Meeting.

Sirius has resumed work in the South.

The following names have been bestowed on the Hon. G. McLean's rising two-year-olds:—Colt, by Lord Rosslyn—Komart, "Windflower;" colt by Lord Rosslyn—Tiara, "Erskine;" full sister to Vladimir, "Afar;" filly by Stepniak — La Reine, "Fro;" filly by Lord Rosslyn — Vienna, "Bicoshel;" filly by Stepniak — Ventosa, "Sonia."

A half-sister by Captive to Flower o' Clutha has joined Ellis' team at Wingatui.

The decision that Flower o' Clutha herself shall retire to the stud next season has been recalled.

CHRISTCHURCH, Tuesday.

Friday and Saturday last were the two coldest days we have had this winter. Sunday was warmer, and yesterday the sun shone brightly, drying up the roads and materially improving the tracks at Riccarton. In spite of the rain and frosts of last week not a few local jumpers were schooled. Hugh and The Mohican were companions in a gallop over the hurdles on Thursday morning, when both fenced well. Cimbaros was schooled on Friday, but after refusing repeatedly fell. On Saturday Slow Tom by himself was tried over the big fences, and acquitted himself in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. He will not be sent to Wellington, but will be kept in reserve for the Grand National meeting.

The local visitors to Wellington will be confined to Ragabrash, Canute Chief, Count of Kolmar, and Catherine Gordon.

The only other animals which have been schooled during the past few days are Phaetonitis and St. Reef, both of whom performed very moderately in a gallop over the big fences yesterday morning.

Legerton, the St. Leger—Lady Harriet gelding, which arrived from Auckland last week, has joined Taggart's team. One of his hind eastern joints is disfigured by ringbone.

The Cup favourite, Martian, in company with Golden Lily, Ruby, Uranus, and several other members of Mr Stead's lengthy team, was on the course one day last week. He looked in rare fettle—a remark which applies to his companions also.

The light-weight rider P. O'Brien has left Yaldhurst and taken service with G. Aynesley.

G. Matthews, whose injury I chronicled last week, is still far from well.

Petrovna's two-year-old brother, Master Alix, has resumed work after a lengthy spell. He has built up a good deal.

Buluwayo and Martian are equal favourites here for the New Zealand Cup at 14 to 1 each.

The following are the prices current about the other candidates:—10 to 1 Canteen and Achilles; 20 to 1 Romeo, Convoy, Cruciform, Lady Lillian, Ghoorka, Regulation, Nightfall, Roseal, and Melodeon; 25 to 1 Oblivion II., Shrapnel, Full Cry, Zetland, Rose Shield, and Grand Rapids; 33 to 1 Solution, Halberdier, Red Gauntlet, Cyrus, General Symons, Uranus, Golden Knight, Fleka, and Mahutonga; 40 to 1 Onidaform, Float, Onewa, Bean Seaton, Gladstone, Heroism, Idea, Akarana, Sandy, Nonette, Black Reynard, Inglewood, and Armistice; 50 to 1 Blackstone, Ottoman, Geordie, Shrapnel Shell, Secret Society, Malakoff, Provost-Marshal, Speculate, and General Average; 60 to 1 Okoari, Calibre, and Joe Chamberlain; 100 to 1 Grenade and Sir Percival; 200 to 1 Manawaru and Merry-go-round; 250 to 1 Little Turk and Red Star.

The following business has been done:—1500 to 19 against Speculate, 1200 to 24 Tonga, 733 to 23 General Symons, 650 to 21 Halberdier, 600 to 22 Buluwayo, 500 to 21 Martian, 300 to 29 Achilles, 300 to 15 Roseal, 300 to 15 Ghoorka. Grand National Steeplechase and Hurdle Race: 1500 to 16 against Slow Tom and Epalpeen, 1000 to 10 Haydn and Catherine Gordon, 800 to 8 Kalfere and Roseshoot, 700 to 7 Slow Tom and Slow Tom, 700 to 7 Eclair and Roseshoot, 600 to 6 Papatu and Walwera, 500 to 3 Nadador and Trumpery, 500 to 5 Haydn and Spalpeen, 500 to 7 Haydn and Huku, 500 to 22 Evening and Trumpery, 400 to 7 Slow Tom and Cresset, 350 to 7 Haydn and Cresset, 300 to 6 Haydn and Roseshoot, 300 to 3 Haydn and Killarney, 300 to 3 Nadador and Killarney, 300 to 3 Nadador and Kremlin.

The locally patented tote, the invention of Mr Robertson, is to be used at the winter meeting of the Wellington Racing Club.

The secretary to the Racing Conference has under contemplation a revised edition of the Rules of Racing. No alteration of any rule is affected by the re-arrangement, which aims solely at the simplification. Under the suggested scheme the number of rules will be reduced from 170 to nine rules. The reduction is to be effected by having only one rule dealing with each separate subject, and what were formerly regarded as distinct rules being now only clauses of the different rules. If the revision is approved by the Racing Conference, the addition of a new enactment will not necessitate any renumbering of the whole of the rules.

The Hon. G. McLean has been elected president, and Mr W. S. Solomon vice-president, of the Dunedin Jockey Club.

Achilles is favourite for the New Zealand Cup in Dunedin at 13 to 1.

Red Lancer's half brother, Red Ronald, is for sale in Dunedin.

The North Otago Jockey Club made a profit of £250 over its winter meeting.

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VICTORIA RACING CLUB'S GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

MELBOURNE, July 2.

The V.R.C. opened their Grand National meeting at Flemington to-day. The following was the result of the principal event:—

THE GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE RACE, a handicap of 15sovs each, with 1000sovs added; second horse to receive 200sovs, and third 100sovs out of the stake. Three miles.

Mr V. Elliott's br g Sarasati, 5yrs, by Tostig—Halle, 10.9 1
Bellis, 9.12 2
Pierrott, 10.10 3

Betting: 6 to 1 against Scout, 10 to 1 Alrly, Pierrott, and Kudos, 25 to 1 Sarasati and Bellis.

From a good start Quo Vadis led Scout, Sarasati, Pierrott, and Kudos. As the field swept out of the straight Sarasati took charge and he led along the river, with Scout and Kudos his nearest attendants. Scout was in front at the bridge, but passing the grazing sheds Coral took up the running, followed at an interval of three lengths by Scout and Sarasati, these two being well clear of the field. There was very little change to the straight, but before passing the stand the second time, Sarasati was again at the head of affairs, and he came away and won by three lengths from the fast finishing Bellis, Acrobat and Malong fell early in the race. Time 5.56.

Adjuster has been scratched for all Grand National engagements.