Aka Aka and Pure Silver, 300 to 2 Haydn and Graduated Tax, 800 to 2 Victory and Killarney, 750 to 1a Haydn and Ostlak, 750 to 6 Pipi and Spalpeen, 750 to 6 Moccasin and Hautapu, 750 to 1 Sunburn and Spalpeen, 700 to 7 Haydn and Hautapu, 600 to 8 Slow Tom and Zealous, 600 to 3 Evening and Kremlin, 600 to 2 Merry Boy and Cavalry, 1000 to 1 Mollie and Ostlak, 600 to 1 Moccasin and Medallion, 550 to 3 Pipi and Zealous, 500 to 5 Pipi and Huka, 500 to 4 Tapatu and Ostlak, 500 to 1 Haydn and Pure Silver, 500 to 1 Tapatu and Pure Silver, 500 to 1 Slow Tom and Talune.

New Zealand Cup: 700 to 7 Blackstone, 700 to 16 Flour, 600 to 15 Black Reynard, 500 to 7½ Sunly, 400 to 24 Achilles, 400 to 8 Guideform, 200 to 14 Melodeon.

Since I advised you on Saturday of the departure of Mr Stead's team for Sydney, I have learnt that Nightfall was suffering from a cold when she left. Hewitt, as I told you in a previous letter, was to meet the team in Sydney, and Jones and Carruthers, the other Yaldhurst horsemen, accompanied the team. I understand that Grand Rapids is the only member of the team who is to run in handicaps.

The Canterbury J.C. intends to erect a large scratching board close to the present number and jockey board. On this at the beginning of the day's racing, the number of every horse in each race on the programme will be shown, and whenever a horse is scratched his number will be taken down. In this way owners and the public will be made acquainted at once with the non-starters for each race, instead of having to wait as at present till just before the start of each race. The innovation is certain to be appreciated by all visitors to the club's meetings. Similar boards are worked on some of the leading Australian courses.

Several well known race goers contemplate being present at the Australian J.C. spring meeting. Among the number are Messrs P. Campbell, G. Gould, and C. G. Dalgety.

Aka Aka is now favourite for the Grand National Steeplechase, and Haydn is next in demand. Moeasdu is bound to have a strong following, provided he continues as he is going.

The conditions of the Tally-ho Steeplechase, to be decided at Riccarton this month, have been amended. Horses must have been duly qualified by a member of a hunt club, who is eligible as a gentleman rider under the rules of racing during the season of 1904.

The weather, which had been very mild last week, is broken. On Saturday rain fell heavily throughout, part of Sunday, and yesterday. The temperature fell yesterday, and training operations yesterday and Tuesday were conducted under most unpleasant conditions. Unless much more rain falls, however, the tracks will soon be in good order again.

Canteen is to travel to Melbourne by the s.s. Warrinoo, leaving Dunedin on August 25. On his arrival he will go into McNamara's stable, and will therefore become a stable companion to Gladsome. Canteen has wintered capitally, and is in excellent health.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

The following was the report and balance sheet of the A.R.C. submitted at the annual meeting on Monday.

To the members, Auckland Racing Club. Gentlemen,—In submitting the annual report and statement of accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1904, your committee congratulate you upon the continued success of the club. During the past season we have held four meetings of thirteen days, giving in added money the sum of £21,445; the totalisator investments amounting to £156,821, as compared with £150,414 last year. The net profit carried to capital account is £1575 7/2, which, after taking into consideration the amounts written off for sundry repairs, painting, depreciation, etc., must be considered very satisfactory. You have to elect six members of committee, as Messrs H. T. Gorrie, Thos. Morrin, A. Hanna, Murdoch McLean, G. W. S. Patterson, and O. Nolan retire in terms of rules, but all being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The following gentlemen have also been nominated in accordance with rules, and are eligible for election: Messrs E. A. Price, Samuel Bradley, George Bennett, and Dr. E. W. Sharman.—Thomas Morrin, Chairman of Committee.

Balance-sheet of the Auckland Racing Club for the year ending June 30, 1904:—To capital account, £25,123 13/7; creditors secured, £3000; Great Northern Peal Stakes, 1904-5, £29; Great Northern Derby, 1904-5, £98; Great Northern Derby, 1903-6, £9; Champagne Stakes, 1905, £13; Great Northern Guineas, 1904, £34; Great Northern Guineas, 1905, £11; 10th Royal Stakes, 1904-5, £57; 11th Royal Stakes, 1905-6, £10; Great Northern Oaks, 1904, £4; sundry creditors, £10; bank balance, £98 4/; total, £28,439 17/7. By racecourse, buildings, etc., including grandstands, members' lavatories, £23,803, 10/5; water reservoir, £500; hurdles, £355; furniture, £646 10/; working plant, £390 12/9; dining-room plant, £155; £1/2; sundry debtors, £301 3/; stocks, £38 10/5; improvement account, £267; total, £28,439 17/7.

Profit and loss account for the year ending June 30, 1904:—To secretary, £300; secretaries, £150; handicapper, £250; caretaker, £150; wages, £495 17/3; interest, £145 9/1; fire insurance, £117 2/2; legal expenses, £24 5/; periodicals, £13 11/; rates and taxes, £233 15/9; office rent, £70; rent and land, £225 10/2; timber account, £58 19/6; printing and stationery, £195 15/6; refreshments and entertainment of visitors, etc., £83 11/3; advertising, £312 6/7; donations, £93; horse feed account, £75 8/4; charges—racing calendars, shoeing, implements, telephones, gas, coal, petty cash, and sundries, £139 10/5; bad debts written off, £11 4/9; sundry repairs, painting, architect fees, etc., £308 17/9; 5 per cent. depreciation off furniture, £24 12/; 5 per cent. depreciation off working plant, £13 14/6; 5 per cent. depreciation dining-room plant, £84 5/; spring meeting, £75 18/3; autumn meeting, £27 12/1; balance carried to capital account, £1575 7/2 total, £3001 8/6. By members' subscriptions, £1244; subscriptions, £1710 10/; gentlemen riders, £20 4/; assumed names, £24 2/; rent of course, grazing, etc., £47 10/; training fees, £291 10/3; summer meeting, £2002 7/2; winter meeting, £545 10/1; total, £3001 8/6.

Capital Account.—1904, June 30: To amount written off long standing accounts, £157; balance per balance sheet, £25,123 13/7. Total, £25,280 13/7. 1903, June 30: By balance, £23,646 15/11; bad debts recovered, £58 10/6; profit ending June 30, 1904, £1575 7/2. Total, £25,280 13/7.

The statement of accounts for the year ending June 30, 1904, shows that there was a loss of £75 18/3 over the spring meeting, and £27 12/1 over the autumn meeting, while a profit of £2002 7/2 was made over the summer meeting, and £545 10/1 over the winter meeting. The net profits for the year amounted to £1575 7/2. The balance sheet of the Trainers' and Jockeys' Provident Fund shows an all round increase.

ENGLISH RACING.

ROYAL ASCOT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, June 17.

Fine weather makes fine birds (pardon the liberty taken with a well worn adage) at "Royal Ascot," and as the morning of the opening day of this famous meeting gave promise of a blue sky the day long, the ladies with one accord donned their brightest and gayest frocks, and their most bewitching millinery. So the Royal enclosure at Ascot formed a beautiful panorama of grace and colour, a parade of exquisite artifice, and untold wealth. The King came with his gracious consort, the Prince of Wales brought his charming lady, and the great dames of society, with the lords, mustered in great strength. Such an assembly of rank and fashion can only be seen at Ascot on a fine day.

But it is not for me to deal with Ascot's social side; for these notes the racing is the mutton, so have at it!

In the opening event, the Trial Stakes of £620, run over a short mile, the Duke of Westminster's smart colt Grey Plume, 3yrs, 7.4, easily defeated a field of ten, and so justified his position as first favourite at 11 to 8 against. But in the ensuing race, the "Gold Vase" of £760, weight for age, run over two miles, Mr S. B. Joel's Bachelor's Button, 5yrs, 9.8, upset a couple of better fancied candidates in Hands Down, 3yrs, 7.8, and Hammerkop, 4yrs, 9.4; and the Coventry Stakes of £1800, for two year olds, run over nearly six furlongs, also proved a pitfall for backers. On form Mr Fenton's Vedas should have been able to account for the six animals in opposition, and the bolders seemed to be erring on the side of generosity when they offered 11 to 10 against the colt. The reason no doubt was the favourable reports made concerning Lord Rosebery's Cicero, the winner of the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom. This son of Cyllene and Gas was the only other animal backed, 6 to 4 being the best price on offer at flag fall. Backers were not far out in selecting these two, for after running a couple of furlongs Vedas assumed command, only, however, to resign to Cicero in the next hundred yards. Lord Rosebery's colt gradually drew away from the favourite, and won by a couple of lengths from Vedas, the latter being three lengths ahead of the rest of the field.

For the race of the day, the Ascot Stakes of £1945, run over two miles, no less than 22 runners sported silk. Naturally, with such a collection to pick and choose from, backers were much divided, and after some heavy speculation, no less than ten animals started at odds between 100 to 12 and 100 to 7, nominal favouritism resting with Sandboy, 4yrs, 7.9, at 100 to 12. The most fancied goods, however, were right out of it, when it came to racing, for after a fair start to the distance, Mr Miller's Merry Andrew (Xury—Merryfoot), 6yrs, 7.6, which started at 26 to 1, drew out and won by half a length from Pure Gold, 5yrs, 8.8, the rest of the field being beaten off. The winner's time was 3.22 2-5, which beat by close on 15sec. the previous record for the race.

The next event of importance was the Prince of Wales's Stakes, one mile five furlongs, of £1875, for three-year-olds, for which a field of ten went to the post. Backers declared on the Duke of Westminster's Rydal Head (84. Frusquin—Rydal), 8.3, being well content to take 6 to 4 about the colt. Their confidence was well founded, for before half the journey was covered, the favourite came to the head of affairs and though vigorously challenged by Admiral Breeze, 8.13, he won easily enough by a couple of lengths, the third home being the King's horse Chatsworth, which finished four lengths away.

On the morrow the piece de resistance of a "flat" card was the Royal Hunt Cup of £2620, decided over seven furlongs 166 yards. As usual there was very heavy speculation over this race, but of the 23 runners, Mr L. Brassey's Wild Oats, 4yrs, 8.2, at 5 to 1, Robert le Diable, 5yrs, 9.0, at 9 to 1, Kilglass, and Mr Keswick's Czardas, a son of Ladas and Polka, 5yrs, 7.7, carried the main weight of money. Others well supported were Cossack and Nipheles, but the rest were backable at all prices from 20 to 100 to 1, including the Hungarian horse Hazafi, 5yrs, 8.2, which figured among the 40 to 1 chances. Considering the size of the field, backers were not far out in their calculations, a fast run race leaving Czardas a winner a length and a half in front of the outsider Hazafi, with the favourite beaten half a length for second honours, and Robert le Diable a neck behind fourth, and Cossack and Nipheles close up next.

A race which by reason of Pretty Polly's appearance therein created nearly as much interest as the Hunt Cup was the Coronation Stakes, a mile event worth £3000, for three-year-old fillies. Major Loder's superb mare carried the extreme penalty, and was presenting from a stone to 21lb to each of her nine opponents. Yet backers were content to lay 6 to 1 on the chances of Gallinule's flying daughter, who rewarded their faith in her by cantering home three lengths ahead of everything. As in all her previous 11 essays, Major Loder's filly never seemed to be exerting herself, and apparently had Lane so willed it she could have won by the length of Fleet street.

The Ascot Derby for three-year-old colts, worth £1125, and run over a mile and a half, fell to the Duke of Portland's Darley Dale (St. Simon—Isinay), which, starting favourite at 5 to 4, easily beat the King's colt, Chatsworth, and four others.

In the Fern Hill Stakes of £630, five furlongs, Mr P. Gilpin's Delunay (Fortunio—Fet), a stable companion of Pretty Polly, squandered a field of 10, including the speedy Sentry and Bass Rock, and the same stable supplied the winner of the 52nd Triennial Stakes of £730, for two-year-olds, in Mr Neumann's Petit Bleu (Eager—Letterewe). Yesterday's racing provided one of those "turn-ups" for which Ascot is notorious, namely, the defeat of Zinfandel and Sceptre by a handicap horse—and not reckoned in the first flight at that—from which they were both in receipt of weight. This was in the Gold Cup of £2260, run over 2½ miles at weight for age. There were only four runners, and on the strength of his previous defeat of Sceptre, Zinfandel (4yrs, 9st) started favourite at 5 to 4 on, Sceptre (5yrs, 9.1) being second in demand at 7 to 4; whilst tens were laid against the French horse Maximum II. (5yrs, 9.4), which won the Gold Cup last year; and 20 to 1 was on offer against Mr Alexander's Throwaway (Rightaway—Theale), 5yrs, 9.4. Cannon and Madden on Zinfandel and Sceptre respectively were watching each other, and allowed Lane on Throwaway to steal a lead of half a dozen lengths and hold that advantage till until nearly two miles had been covered. They had been going at a slow pace, and when Throwaway was challenged he had enough left in him to stall off the challenge of both Sceptre and Zinfandel and win by a length from the colt, the mare, faltering close home, being relegated to third place. Madden and Cannon no doubt felt very sick at the result, as did the backers of their mounts, which are undoubtedly from 14lb to 21lb better in a true run race than Throwaway.

Another piece of bad luck for backers occurred in the previous race, which had been reduced to a match between Cossack and Orchid. The former was a red-hot favourite, backers being quite eager to lay 4 to 1 on its chance. It won easily, but an objection was laid on the score of wrong weight, and the race awarded to Orchid!

The rich New Stakes of £1942, for two-year-olds introduced racegoers to Mr L. Neumann's colt Llanglibby (Wildflower—Concussion), which cleared out a field of 10 in hollow fashion, and is evidently the best two-year-old we have seen out so far this season.

In the St. James's Palace Stakes of £2150, for three-year-olds, Mr S. Darling's Challenger (Isinglass—Meddlesome) gave a three lengths beating to Rydal Head and Cadoa, both of whom are, like the winner, St. Leger candidates.

The meeting at Hurst Park on Saturday suffered by reason of its close proximity to Ascot, but a really sumptuous bill of fare was provided for its patrons, no less than three races worth £1000 or thereabouts figuring in the programme. The first of these was the Foal Plate of £1133 for two-year-olds, which brought out a field of 13 youngsters, and was won by Captain Orr Ewing's Thrush, an unfashionably bred colt by Missel Thrush out of Chemistry, which made every yard of the running and won by a clear length from Lord Durham's Orator, with Sir James Miller's Amitie third.

For the Victoria Stakes Handicap of £1134, decided over a mile and a quarter, no less than 16 runners mustered at the post. Backers were all together out of their reckoning in this event, for the favourite, Jolly Bird, was beaten out of a place, and a 100 to 8 chance in Sir W. Ingram's Cottager (6yrs, 7.13), a son of Common and Marguerite II., ran home a clever winner a length and a-half ahead of the well-backed St. Emilion (4yrs, 8.0), with a 10 to 1 chance, Alderman (4yrs, 7.7), a good third.

In the Duchess of York Plate of £970, for three-year-olds, also decided over a mile and a quarter, the favourite, Chanter, likewise let down his backers through colliding with the rails, and Lord Penrhyn's well-backed Peroration (Persimmon—Panmonia) had no difficulty in winning by three lengths from Antonio, with the Duke of Portland's The Scribe third a couple of lengths off.

Possibly Englishmen have reason to be grateful to M. Edmond Blanc for deciding to allow his Derby chance to rest upon one horse, and for selecting Gouverant as the better of his pair of Flying Fox's sons. Had he shipped his so-called "second string," Ajax, it is quite likely that he would have taken our most coveted racing prize back to France with him. In the Grand Prix de Paris—a race worth £19,994—decided over a mile and seven furlongs, last Sunday, M. Blanc ran both his colts, and Ajax won easily, his stable companion being relegated to fourth place many lengths behind. The winner has now won £19,000 in two outings, and during his brief career has credited M. Blanc with £22,400. Ajax has an engagement in the St. Leger, which is run over the same length course as the Grand Prix, and as he evidently stays well, it is quite probable that he will be sent to England to give battle to ex. Amant and the flying Pretty Polly.

HUNTING.

THE PAKURANGA HOUNDS.

On Wednesday, July 27, the hounds had an exceptionally successful day. The meet was at the creamery at Papatoetoe, and the followers rolled up in large numbers. Three splendid runs eventuated, one kill being registered. The properties hunted ever were those of Messrs Gillard, sen., A. Gillard, T. Gillard, Ralph, Eccles, Willis, and Walker. The visitors were entertained at luncheon by Mrs E. Kelly.

On Saturday the hounds met at Mr McLaughlin's place, "Puhinui," but the day was not a favourable one for sport. Only one run took place, which, although a short one, included a fair amount of jumping. The followers were entertained by Mr McLaughlin.

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EXTRAORDINARY TESTIMONIALS FROM N.Z. MEN.

MR. J. PEISLEY, South St., Auckland, states, March 30, 1904: "Nothing in the world gives me greater pleasure than to thank you for the wonderful way your great Remedies have cured me, and sufferers who consult you will thank me for making this statement public. Publish my photo. to show this testimony is genuine."

EX-CONSTABLE THOS. McINNESS, Howick, write to say: "April 30, 1894. Suffered for two years with Blood Poison in the leg, which prevented me following my occupation, and all treatment failed until I had the luck to consult you, and I cannot let your services pass without informing you and the public your treatment is genuine and a cure made.—Witness, J. Dunstan."

Hours daily: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2.30 to 6, 6.30 to 8 p.m. Sundays, 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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