

But, things being thus, in the lobby Mr Labouchere ran across a youthful Conservative.

"What's going on?" asked the newcomer.

"Only a count. I'll pair with you if you like," wisely responded "Labby."

The novice accepted, and the small number of members present being thus reduced by two, the House was duly counted out. It was only when he came to reflect that you cannot pair for a count that the young Conservative realised how very neatly he had been done by the artful Labouchere.

The most audacious hoax ever perpetrated on the House was the invention of a couple of irresponsible journalists. A more than usually important by-election was pending, and it was known that the result would be a close thing, though, as is usual in such cases, both sides were confident of victory. Mr Balfour, then Chief Secretary for Ireland, was speaking when a telegram was handed to the chief Liberal Whip.

"We've won!" he cried, waving the pink slip over his head, while his party roared their exultation again and again. Suddenly through the doors darted Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, his glasses gleaming with excitement. He, too, flourished a telegram; he, too, beamed triumph all around; and from the Conservative hosts there rose another and a louder shout.

The lately rejoicing Opposition looked puzzled and anxious, for their own candidate had in reality been defeated. The reckless jesters aforesaid had arranged for a confederate to dispatch a bogus result to be wired to the Chief Whip of the beaten party so soon as the counting of the votes had advanced far enough to give the result. The official telegram giving the real result did not arrive, as we have seen, till after the anxious Liberals had been imposed upon.

Only once have strangers been discovered on the sacred floor of the Chamber itself. The hair of hon. gentlemen stood on end one afternoon when someone pointed out two very respectable-looking members of the public calmly listening to the debate from one of the benches below the gangway.

They turned out to be two country people up for a holiday in London, who had planned to watch a debate from the Strangers' Gallery. While they were waiting in the lobby for their member to obtain passes for the gallery, some joker among the loungers there had directed them to "go straight on" into the Chamber itself. In their rural simplicity this they did, but to this day it remains a mystery how they managed to evade the vigilance of the door-keepers.

We have seen how even the wary Whip may fall a victim to the wiles of the crafty joker; but when that astute and resourceful person takes a head in the game his efforts are generally successful. A clever strategist of the chief Opposition Whip led to the defeat of the Dunslett Administration.

A big division was expected, and the Government Whips had organised a special service of messengers for the purpose of summoning their wandering flock from dinner, club, party, or theatre, according as their tastes or social engagements led them, so that every available vote might be recorded. At that time the nimble bicycle was not in general use, and the messengers were generally sent in cabs.

When the hour of the division drew nigh, not a solitary cab was seen in the neighbourhood. The Opposition Whips had chartered them all, and got them safely out of the way, so that Palace Yard was bereft of every single vehicle.



TURF FIXTURES.

Aug. 18, 19, and 20—C.J.C. Grand National September 1.—Amberley Steeplechase Club September 7. —Marton Jockey Club Hack September 17, 21, 24.—Avondale Jockey Club.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H.W." (Kumeu).—Archer won in 1861 and 1862. These were the first and second years for the Melbourne Cup.

Vanguard, Auckland.—You wish, Huku carried 125, and won by a head, in the race you refer to.

TURF NOTES.

Well-east is now an inmate of F. McMane's stable.

Geologist was again schooled at Ellerslie on Saturday, jumping well.

There are upwards of 100 horses in work at Ellerslie and districts adjacent.

J. Chasfe, Jr., has handled a two year old colt by St. Paul—Electra.

Hinekoa is the only Auckland-trained representative in the Winter Cup.

The Slave, by The Workman—Elesole, has foaled a filly to Menschikoff.

The three year old colt by Lochness—Delilah has had the same of Sir Hector bestowed upon him.

Haydn is to be indulged in a spell after the conclusion of the C.J.C. National Meeting.

Mr B. Armitage, the well-known horse-owner, went South to attend the National Meeting.

Mr W. Davies, part owner of Haydn, left for the South to attend the C.J.C. National Meeting.

Auckland has five representatives in the C.J.C. National Steeplechase and six in the Hurdle Race.

Mr J. O. Ewell has been re-elected handicapper, and Mr E. H. Hanku started to the Avondale Jockey Club.

Red-flew, the half-brother to Muthay, in J. Rae's charge, is coming on splendidly, and ought to be handy during the season.

Romeo, who is now in P. Jones' charge, is reported to be doing a solid cup preparation, and is both looking and going well.

Here's a Wild Western racing maxim: Keep within earshot the paddock and within gunshot of the betting ring.

Woodville Jockey Club has a credit balance of £294 at the end of the most successful year since its inception.

Amersley, by Phoebus Apollo—Lady Gertrude, is now being trained by J. Stilton at Avondale, Stilton has also Elsieph in work.

The most notable defection from the National Hurdle Race is Kremitt, whose withdrawal will be a nasty knock to a number of backers.

Koss Heston is working his team along the roads, and has not been on the tracks for some time. They are all looking well.

Star has had his name changed to Saturn, for some reason, due no doubt to a discovery that there is a brood mare with a prior right to the name.

There is every likelihood of Loch Erne coming to Auckland to be prepared for future engagements, and will in all probability go into C. Wea's stable.

Reambler, in J. Rae's stable, is doing a good preparation at Ellerslie, and, I think, will start out useful. For a big fellow he handles himself remarkably well.

Mr M. Taylor sold his pacer Bess Irvington to a Sydney owner during his recent visit, from which he returned on Monday last.

Mr H. T. Gennie annually takes a trip South to Christchurch, and last week left for Canterbury to be present at the New Zealand Grand National.

Hewitt, the jockey, was at one time owner, or part owner, of the pacer Ribbedwood, but sold his interest over a year ago.

The annual meeting of the Otahuhu Trotting Club is fixed for Thursday, August 25th, at 8 p.m. Nominations for the committee go in a week earlier.

The Cambria Park Stud Company have eight colts and eight fillies to go up for sale at the annual sale of yearlings about Christmas time. Cyrenian is responsible for six colts and five fillies, Eton for a colt and a filly, The Officer for two fillies, and South for a colt. The majority of them are well grown, and the whole lot are in perfect health.

Eton, by Cyrenian—Parera, won her second race since going to Australia at the end of last season getting a big acid at the Marlborough Meeting. Eton is a smart little filly.

The Committee of the Canterbury Jockey Club had a number of jockeys before them last week, and administered cautious regarding their conduct before granting them their licences.

Hamilton trainers are anxious to see the South Auckland Racing Club's tracks improved, and have their arrangements may be come to between the club and the A. and P. Association in the matter.

Stewart Watkiss, private trainer to the Hon. J. D. Ormond, had a narrow escape of being washed overboard while attending to his charges during the recent rough trip of the Zealandia between Napier and Wellington.

The Auckland Racing Club have again removed all disqualifications from horses which have competed at unregistered meetings during the season, but that it is understood, is to be for the last time—absolutely.

The Programme Committee of the Auckland Racing Club met on Thursday afternoon, when the programme for the season 1904-05 was drawn up, and it will be submitted to the General Committee at an early date to be finally passed.

Nominations for the Avondale Cup, Handicap Steeplechase, Plumpton Handicap, and the Flying Stakes Handicap, will be closed at the meeting of the Avondale Jockey Club, close next Friday, the 19th inst. at 9 p.m.

The Wellington Racing Club has decided to purchase the land at Trentham which has been under offer, and will proceed at once to form a new racecourse, and to erect the necessary buildings. It is estimated that the cost will be about £25,000.

The annual meeting of Tattersall's Club was held last Friday. The institution is in a sound financial condition, the club having some £1700 in ready cash, and a strong membership list. The following members were elected as committee-men:—Messrs H. Duder, W. Davis, H. Nicol, M. Moore, H. Wynyard, C. McKelvey, and H. Hay.

Should Haydn win the New Zealand Grand National the cost of a new organ for a little church near Ellerslie has been promised. If any horse is to have luck through carrying a heavy weight for his success, it is the box of South-wester and Myra.

The following names have been claimed for the new two-year-olds in the various stables at Ellerslie:—Colt by Phoebus Apollo—Miss Gladys, Apollo; colt by Kilmory—Falmory, Kilderran; colt, by Cyrenian—Bulge, Hero; filly by Scatlon Delaval—Lisselaur, Leisaur; filly by Cyrenian—Tommas, Syren; filly by South—Lady Annie, Annette.

There are no foalings to report yet from either the Cambria Park or Glenora Park studs, but Miss Gladys, dam of Gladstone, who was purchased at the dispersal sale of the Sylvia Park Stud, at midnight time, has foaled a deal foal to San Francisco, which is most unfortunate, as her colt by the same sire is a particularly due one.

There was a good deal of surprise expressed when the first acceptances came through for the New Zealand Cup at the absence from the list of the name of Melodion, one of the favourites for that event, and telegrams were sent South asking for information. It was then learned that Mr Watts' representative was an acceptor, but his name had been left out by mistake.

During a case in the Supreme Court recently in the South, some discussion arose as to the pronunciation of the name Roseau, of the well-known racehorse. The question was settled by Mr Justice Donaldson, who remarked: "I'm not a racing man, but from the way the name is split I should say the proper pronunciation is 'Roseau'." Counsel observed His Honour's remark, Roseau is by Handsome Jack from Rosinick.

Though Watkiss is reported to have been backed for the Melbourne Cup for £10,000, Mr Bradley has not supported the fine son of South himself. Mr Bradley does not mind his friends backing his horse right in front of him, as an owner would do. Watkiss has only to show a gallop or two such as he did before the last Auckland Cup, and he will be at a longer price than he is now.

The accident met with by Ice at the recent Wellington meeting was said to be due to the horse being cross at the start of the race, but prior to the meeting I was informed that one of her stifles was causing her to go lame, and this may have had something to do with the mishap.

The defection of Kistler from the New Zealand Grand National Steeplechase came as a surprise to a few people in Auckland who had supposed the trial of the horse's abilities, but generally it was considered that Auckland would have better representatives in the race. It appears that Kistler is suffering from influenza.

It is more than likely that Mr S. Bradley will send Watkiss to Australia during the first week in September. J. Mitchell, who has looked after the big son of South and Rose and White from the start of that horse's career, will go in charge. The other members of Mr Bradley's team will be left in good hands during McHugh's absence.

An acceptance of 118 for the Canfield Cup, to be run two months hence, does not indicate any decline in racing in the metropolitan or country districts. One of the acceptors are set to carry from 8.13 down to 6.8, half the field between 8.0 and 7.0, twenty-three between 8.13 and 8.0, and six between 8.8 and 8.1. A more useful windmill had probably never engaged in the race before.

St. Paul has been again leased to Mr Gray, of the Waimate Plains race stewards. The fact that the son of St. Leger goes back to the same district as he served two seasons is an indication that his services have been appreciated, for there are already in the district the horses of St. Leger, including his full-brother, St. Clemens, Sylvia Park, and St. Cyr, and the two last-named have been producing winners.

From a Sydney cablegram we learn that Mr Stead's horse, Grand Rapids, has been made the mainstay of the sporting support for the Ipswich Handicap, which is to be the opening day of the A.J.C. Spring Meeting next month. Grand Rapids, who is weighted at 10 st 11 lb, will have to improve a lot on any public form he has yet shown to have a chance. In the event of his winning he will incur a penalty of 7 lb for the New Zealand Cup.

By permission of the Canterbury Jockey Club, the N.Z. Metropolitan Trotting Club will hold their spring meeting at Riccarton on the 11th inst. and snow had made the new trotting track at Addington absolutely unfit for trotting, and the committee had no alternative, but to look for another course. On the difficulties of the position being represented to the C.J.C. governing body, they, with commendable generosity, immediately granted the use of the course and appointments to the Trotting Club.

Totelet is being driven in harness, a position in which the horse would occupy when he defeated Screw Gun, its stable companion, in the C.J.C. Welcome Stakes. It is a thousand pities this commanding son of Strepak became affected in the wind, for he was not only very brilliant, but could jump like a greyhound, and would have made a fine hunter and cross-country horse. It would be hard to find a finer looking light harness horse anywhere.

Ind, who met with an accident when riding Comfort in schooling work at Ellerslie, is certainly one of the most unfortunate riders who has ever lived. For many years in this colony, and he must be a good plucked 'un to face the music as he does. During the past twelve months he has had a very bad winter, a score of falls. His last fall was from a horse called Colibri, and it is not such a long time since he had both broken at one time. At Waingaiti, Auckland, Hawke's Bay, and Wellington meetings this horseman had falls.

A splendid race between two thoroughbred horses was witnessed at Ngairi (Taranaki), says an exchange a few days ago. They were in one of the local smitthes, when one became restive, broke loose, and plunged against the other one, tied by the bridle, which caused it to break loose also. They left the alive with a lound, and took the Eimley road for a course. When seen two miles up the road they were neck and neck. They went about four miles before being stopped. They were brought back none the worse for their spite.

Referring to past seasons' racing, the "Sydney Mail" says:—With the dawn of prosperity after the long and disastrous drought, which is common with the pastoral and agricultural interests, adversely affected turf affairs, racing in this State has made distinct progress during the season which came to a close last week, and the outlook for the current year is decidedly promising. The policy of steady advancement which is characteristic of the governing body in New South Wales is bearing good fruit, and the liberal prizes provided for the best event round the course season are gradually attracting the best equine talent from the other States of the Commonwealth as well as from New Zealand. The encouragement given to weight-for-age racing, especially, has made Handicap racing the most interesting and autumn reunions of the Australian Jockey Club, and the attendances at these meetings showed a great advance on previous seasons.

MARTIN'S APOLI & STEEL PILLS. A French Remedy for all Irruptions. Thousands of Ladies who have a box of Martin's Pills in the house to whom the first aid in all cases of Irruptions. Purely French and perfectly safe. Thousands of testimonials are on hand. All Chemists and Druggists throughout the World, or post free to M. J. B. & Co., 21, Rue de la Harpe, Paris.

PETER F. HEERING'S CHERRY BRANDY. OOPENEN. The Favourite Liqueur. SWIFT & COMPANY, 52 O'Connell St., Sydney, General Agents.