

Horse shot out after passing the St. Leger stand, and finishing like a dead rat (No. 13) by a neck in 1.14. Machine Gun started favourite at 5 to 2 against.

ADELAIDE, August 19.

The Grand National Steeplechase was won by Simple Joe (9.1), Lauder (9.8) and Ialifa (10.7) filling the other places. Twelve horses started. Won easily. Dividends, £7 1/2 and £3 3/4.

HUNTING.

PAKURANGA HOUNDS.

On Monday the Pakuranga hounds met at Tuskan for the first time. A short cut over some good jumps was taken across Messrs. Madill's and Ranker's paddocks, to Black's mill, where hounds were thrown off. There was no delay in finding a hare, but the run proved short and disappointing, there being too much cover. A hare was then made to Mr. Jones' farm, where really good sport was soon forthcoming. A fine strong hare was quickly put up, and a good run ensued. Wire, water, post and rails, and water and wire were negotiated in good style by those who were keen to be in at the death. After a run of four or five miles across splendid jumping country, the first kill was registered on Mr. Dwyer's farm. This was a good run, and more than satisfactory to the most flashing of head riders. At one fence no less than fifteen were seen to part company with their horses; in fact, spills were the order of the day, but fortunately no serious damage was done. After a short spell hounds were again thrown off on Mr. Jones' farm, and another strong hare quickly moved. After a sharp burst, over stiff wire fences, of twenty minutes, puss was lost in the swamp, and hounds were called off. This was the last run of the day, which was voted by all to be one of the best days down this way this season. Many thanks are due to Messrs. Jones, Black, Flaxay, Morgan, Smith, Schellert, and others whose properties were hunted over. Amateurs: those seen out were Misses Muir (2), Gray (2), Mrs. Calhoun, Messrs. V. Lindberg, G. Muir, A. Wylie, Orr (2), R. Clark, Madill (2), R. Johnstone, W. Fleishman, H. Craig, W. Priest, J. McTishan, W. McGowan, Dwan (2), Whiskey, and Pahl. Many ladies followed in carriages on the roads.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

JULIET'S HOUSE IN VERONA.

In connection with the revival of "Romeo and Juliet" by the Tittell Reune Co., the picture we give of Juliet's house in Verona, Northern Italy, is particularly interesting. The house, which is situated in the Via Capello, was sold recently for £136. It is an old brick structure, with pointed windows and a quaint Italian balcony, bearing on the keystone of its arch a cardinal's hat in high relief, the insignia of the Capulet family. It has lately been used as an inn, under the name of the Osteria del Cappello. Romeo and Juliet are said to have loved and died in the reign of Bartolommeo (1301-1304). Near the Via Pallone, within a garden in the Vieolo S. Francesco al Corso, a side street of Via Cappuccini, is a suppressed Franciscan monastery, where a chapel contains a medieval sarcophagus called the Tomba di Giulietta, or Tomb of Juliet.

A BIG PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

The photographs we give on another page of the railway built by the Taupo Totara Timber Company to connect

their mill at Mokai with the Government line at Putaruru junction, a distance of 75 miles, show what can be done by private enterprise. The line, which was built by Messrs. McLean Bros., of Auckland, was started two years ago last June, and will be formally opened next week. Its total cost, including rolling stock, will be between £70,000 and £75,000. The line is built on the same gauge as the Government lines, 3ft 6in, with 30lb rails and 3000 sleepers to the mile. It goes over about 22 miles of fair country and then rises up the Mangiti Range, about 1800ft above sea level, in some four miles. To get the necessary grades necessitates some pretty sharp curves in the line. On the other side the line falls about the same distance in ten miles to the Waikata River, which is crossed by a wooden bridge with a 257ft span, called a broad arch construction, which was designed by Mr. Fulton, of Wellington. Thence to the mill the line rises 1100 or 1200 feet, and here again there are some fairly sharp curves. The country passed through is mostly pasture and wivi grass, and is of very little use for agricultural purposes. The line is a really fine piece of work from end to end, and does credit to all concerned in its construction.

FAREWELL TO MR. A. McHARDY

A large number of the clients of the National Bank of New Zealand gathered in St. George's Hall, Newton, Auckland, last week, for the purpose of testifying in a practical way to the esteem in which they hold Mr. A. McHardy, the popular manager of the Newton branch of the bank. Mr. McHardy, who has been in charge of the Newton branch of the National Bank for the past seven years, is about to be transferred to New Plymouth, and the occasion has been taken advantage of to make a presentation to him of a gold watch and chain. Mrs. McHardy was also made the recipient of a very handsome silver coffee service and salver, the whole presentation being accompanied by an address, expressing the esteem and goodwill of the subscribers, whose names were attached to a large number beneath.

Mr. Farvell (Mayor of Grey Lynn) made the presentation, and in doing so said that the gentleman they had gathered there to do honour to was one whom they all held in the highest esteem, and was also a man who was evidently held very high in the estimation of his superiors, as they were transferring him to such an important branch of the bank as was New Plymouth. Mr. McHardy, while in charge of the Newton branch, had done more to forward the interests of the bank than could be readily estimated, and at the same time had always shown himself to be genial and obliging to his customers, and always a good fellow. (Applause.) The speaker then referred in eulogistic terms to what he described as the power behind the throne, Mrs. McHardy, and presented the gifts to Mr. McHardy.

Mr. McHardy replied in suitable terms to the testimony of goodwill and esteem

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This will be the final opportunity given intending passengers of participating in these excursions.

YOSEMITE VALLEY. The Wonder Garden of the World, in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 180 miles due east to San Francisco and 400 feet above sea level. The floor of the valley is a meadow-like tract seven miles long by one half to a mile in width. Its walls rise almost vertically to a height of 3000 to 5000 feet above its floor, and en route to its entrance is the famous MARIPOSA GROVE OF BIG TREES, some of which are 400 feet high with a base circumference of 110 feet.

MONTEREY (Del Monte). Located here is the famous Hotel Del Monte which is visited annually by tourists from all parts of the world. Monterey is 125 miles south of San Francisco, on Monterey Bay, Southern California, the land of sun-shine and outdoor life and sport.

FARES—Inclusive of American Rail, Hotel and Steamer Fares—

YOSEMITE and RETURN (first class).	-	-	-	-	278
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The trip may be prolonged if desired.

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