

have already heard so much. Mr Good and his companions backed Manapoto heavily as is known by the Epsom Handicap, and up to the time the barrier was raised, as did most people, and pretty well all the expert racing men were sure that Manapoto would win. Mr Good says that the Steeple got an initial advantage of about a couple of lengths, and that Manapoto was asked to go straight to home, but when the barrier was struck, the aluminism shivers were falling. In Mr Good's opinion, to give him a good grip of the track, whereas on his next appearance he raced in steel shoes with rubber soles, and he did well. He does not blame the horse or rider, but considers that it was nothing but an unfortunate mistake that lost the Taranaki representative the race. Though he also thinks that the son of Stout had a hurried and an interrupted preparation, and he could be made better and more seasoned, he still holds that, despite this, and the fact that Manapoto swayed profusely before he ran each time, he would certainly have won the Epsom had he been in the plates he wore on the second day, when he won the Metropolitan Handicap. The engagement for the third day is a quitter, he will not have for a moment, and he accounts for the failure of Manapoto in the weight-for-age race on his third appearance in that he would have done better had he allowed him to run along, instead of restraining him and getting his head in the air, as he was in the habit of getting into when galloping with some horses in New Zealand, and in races, in a matter I commented on last March after he raced at Manawatu, when getting a shakiness in his style to that of a better horse. He has done well, and has raced more brilliantly than he did when asked to come away from Pahoda in the Sydney Metropolitan Handicap, and Mr Good, who is the business manager of the race, and the ownership of Manapoto, refused to entertain any offers for the horse, and though pressed to sell by Mr Glen's representative, who held a power of attorney, he would not hear of such a thing, and with Mr Good, his other partner, backed Manapoto for the Melbourne Cup, and decided to withdraw him from the New Zealand Cup, for which he had also entered. Mr Good, in his action, not only did Mr Good take this course, but he bought Mr Glen's interest out at a figure representing double the original cost. The syndicate now (1905) has Manapoto won the Metropolitan Handicap, and one of the returned visitors, who had a substantial bet about him for the Epsom, but a modest two bets, on at 33 to 1 in non-acceptance, and a single Manapoto has started since the syndicate have owned him did they have such a small investment as they had on the Metropolitan; indeed, their outlay did not represent more than a single bet on the previous stake, but it nevertheless returned them their largest actual win. Mr Good says that when leaving New Zealand he advised his friends to support Manapoto each start, and though they did not do so, his display in the Epsom Handicap, and not fully convinced that it was due to slipping until after new steel plates, with heels, had been fitted, was certain of it after the Metropolitan.

Mr Good thinks that Manapoto has a stiff contract for the Melbourne Cup, in which his weight is 8.10, but he would like to see his prospects with that weight as possibly better than in the New Zealand Cup with 10, and the chance of owning a Melbourne Cup winner, which would come in as well as the financial reason, the stake, and the chance of winning a fair parcel from the Australian race, which in New Zealand he could not see the same chance of doing so. He has a number of horses for the New Zealand Cup at his increased burden. Mr Good and his companions have all along raced Manapoto fairly, and they naturally felt the hostile demonstration by the public, and the more than public when their horse won the Metropolitan. "Such conduct," said Mr Good, "is not calculated to cause owners as a whole to show any consideration for the public, as it has done, and some of the newspaper comments were unfair, too, but altogether we were nicely treated during our visit, and though I asked the stewards to hold an inquiry if they had the slightest objection to the way they were being run, they would not entertain my suggestion." Mr Good added: "After losing the Epsom, I can assure you I felt more for my friends in New Zealand, who I had advised to back the horse, than I do for Mr Good. I may say that the strongest opposition Manapoto will have to meet in the Melbourne Cup is from horses below him in the matter of weight. While horses from New Zealand have frequently run best after being in Australia on a few weeks, Mr Good is hopeful that it may not be so with Manapoto, but that the racing he has had at Raddwick may make him a better horse than he has been. He has had a number of engagements during the winter, and on November, questioned as to horses that were racing, Mr Good says that he is the best of the Australians when he is trying to show his best, and he is uncertain as to any time, as most public know, of the New Zealand horses, he thinks that all at all, and well his own is second to none that can race. Mr Good's colts, Nocturnum and Muzon, are good, but not the best New Zealand has turned out at the same age, but both is certainly one of the best of her sex. All three met with good opposition, however. Nightfall is a game, good horse, and a very nice one. Mr Good's representatives were wonderfully successful, and that was a long way towards success, and flew his horsemanship counted for a good deal. This horseman was in great form, and was given by the best of the Australian racing experts for his brilliant display, particularly when he got Nightfall home by a head from Canton in the Taranaki Handicap, in which he gave the winner 10 lbs. He has a few good prospects, but he ran generously enough. Though he has likely seen his best day, he looked well. Gladstone retains her brilliant met. In the Epsom, Gladstone and Nightfall met in the spring, and finished in that order, the runner-up probably a pretty true line of their individual merits over a mile and a half at

weight-for-age, an opinion shared by others of the public.

From Jackson I learned that Manapoto might have done better in the Epsom had he been educated to jump off and run faster a few furlongs, through one of his gallops, and he would have done so, as the meeting was felt the best ever done at Raddwick on the outside of the track, and his mile on the same track was better than any he had ever done before. The opening of proceedings, due to the presence of a team of good state winners was asked to bring out something to gallop over, and he declined that, as he did not think he could perform that would be of any use to the New Zealander. Now, as to the wonderful records that were put up, it should be explained that the time of the race, at the starting post, and in this colony. Barriers are erected well back from each of the starting posts, and thus a flying start is obtained, a white flag being used to indicate the precise moment the horses are at the starting post, and it is estimated that quite 20 secs. are gained in this way. Then the track was in the best condition, and the weather was all in favour of fast time, as well as the flying starts. Jackson thinks that Manapoto can be made a better horse with time, and that he was unlucky in getting beaten on his first start, and in so doing. He is of opinion, however, that though the horse swayed a great deal on Epsom day, that he might have been all the better for it, as he was sharpening up he got in the race itself, seeing he had not raced for so long.

Mr. Davies had something to say about the horses and the trip, and he set out his doubts as to the horse's doing in the steeplechase when he showed the stewards the extent to which he had backed the old horse, and loyally defended the rider, Mr. Ferguson, whose horsemanship was called at. Mr. Ferguson told the stewards that he had ridden at Raddwick about twenty years before, that he had been riding before that, and his long record would stand in evidence. He was particularly desired that it should be stated in contradiction of the report that Hayden ran off in his next essay that he did not do so, but was when he was very first fence. Mr. Davies brought with him a newspaper cartoon showing a big New Zealand horse representing Machine Gun literally galloping over the little Australian sprainers. Hewitt is riding, and Maori chief is standing on the horse's quarters with a bag of gold in each hand. Another figure came out with a fish for a race between the New Zealand and the cart-line. "These are New Zealand horses - the Australians are following."

Manapoto has been left in charge of the old man, Mr. H. H. Hays, who has had a long experience of Australian racing, and E. Jones, who rode him in his Australian engagements. Mr Good may return for the Victoria Spring Meeting.

Avondale Jockey Club's Spring Meeting.

SECOND DAY.

The second day's racing of the Avondale Jockey Club's Spring Meeting took place yesterday at Avondale. The weather was a steady drizzle, but passing over the course so frequent intervals of sun. The race was fair, but speculation was slow, the small sum of £4235 being passed through the machines, a decrease of £365 from the previous day. As in the first day, the various officials got through their various duties in a highly satisfactory manner. Particulars of the racing are as follows:—

Racing commenced with the Second Handicap Handicap, from which Rana and Leo Feve were withdrawn, leaving a quartette to face the starter, and of these Ilkara was made an odds-on favourite. The race was a close one, with Ilkara leading, Lady Clara had been out in the lead for about a mile, the favourite took charge, and from that out was never troubled, winning at the finish by a length and a-half from Lady Clara, who was fifteen lengths in front of Loch Fyne. Time, 3.30. Dividends, £1 17/.

Delania declined her engagement in the President's Handicap, and punters went strongly for Austerlitz. Austerlitz gave a fine account of his performance, but Mr. Inankens succeeded in getting them away on even terms. Nervine was first to find his feet, and, joined by Austerlitz, he put the race away for about a furlong, when Rookby got out in front, but clear of Gale Ira and Partita. Austerlitz led her position crossing the top stretch, Rookby and Nervine together at the entrance to the straight, when the former went on in front, and he was in charge at the distance, where Austerlitz put in her own bid, and Full Cry also joining in, a great race ensued, with Austerlitz showing long enough to win by half a head from Austerlitz, who was half a length in front of Full Cry. Callie Iris was fourth and Callie Iris. Time, 1.35 2/5. Dividends, £4 12/6 and 15/.

The field for the Classical three-year-old event, the Avondale Guineas, was reduced to five, and of these Apologie and Kilderkin were bracketed on the machine, the latter being the favourite, but Apologie, delaying the start for some time, but eventually Mr. Inankens succeeded in hitting the barrier on a severe start. Kilderkin was the first to move, but Apologie could not hold to the front, and he showed the way

around to the back stretch, where he was joined by Annette, and the pair carried on the leading two lengths clear of Kilderkin, with Fullpelt next, and Callie Iris, who got badly bumped soon after they jumped off, last. Passing the half-mile post, Annette assumed command, and she showed her true speed, and she was where Kilderkin ran up into second place. As they turned for home Annette was still in charge, but a little further on Kilderkin gave an attempt to challenge in a determined manner, went on and won by three parts of a length from Fullpelt, who finished fast and beat the string Annette a head for second honours, with Apologie a neck away fourth and Callie Iris last. Time, 1.54 1-5. Dividends, £2 3/4.

After the race the winner was decorated with the Gulesue Hibboun by Mr J. W. Russell.

After the race the stewards had M. Ryan, the rider of Kilderkin, before them for alleged interference with Callie Iris, but after hearing the explanation decided that the bump was the result of an accident and took no further action.

All the acceptors came out for the Nursery Handicap, and Migno, on her form of Saturday, was made a favourite, and was in the lead after fifty yards had been covered, and although Affo got within a length of her as they turned for home, the favourite drew out again in the run for the post, winning at the finish by two lengths from Primo, who came fast and beat Affo a length for second honours. Time, 5.50. Dividends, £1 14/4.

Annoyed was pulled out of the Plumpton Handicap at the last minute, leaving seven to go to the post, and Delania was made a slightly better favourite than Avalanche. Delania was first to show prominent, but after she gave place to Avalanche, and the latter plied the field along the back two lengths clear of Southsea, who was just clear of a bunched field. Avalanche still showed the way as they crossed the top stretch, and she was in the lead, but she was being second and Delania third, they straightened up for the run to the post Full Cry and Delania made their efforts, but it was of no avail, as Avalanche easily beat her own time, and she was three lengths from Delania, who outstayed Full Cry and beat him half a length. Micozam was fourth. Time, 1.51 4-5. Dividends, £2 6/ and 16/.

The largest field of the day came out for the Kingsland Handicap from which Southsea was the only defection, Trephine was the popular selection. Martyr King was first to commence, followed by Steppin, who was in the lead, and he was in the lead when they turned for home. When they came in line for the run to the post Franklin shot out, and coming on under punishment, lasted long enough to win by half a length from Kola Nip and Lady Clements, which the judge was unable to separate, as second honours. Time, 2-5. Dividends: Frankin, £4 12/; Kola Nip, 11/; Lady Clements, £2.

Orange and Blue was favourite for the Pony Handicap, for which the whole eight acceptors were entered, and Orange and Blue, while Compress was slow to move, Orange and Blue was first to find her feet, and setting a merry pace she was first to turn for home, with Merry Delania and Hurlhur as her nearest attendants. The latter pair ran out wide as they entered the straight, and Lady Nanette, getting through to the rails, checked Orange and Blue, but the latter held her own, winning at the finish by two lengths, Lady Nanette beating Hurlhur a neck. Time, 1.8. Dividends, £2 9/ and £2 1/.

Millie found solid support for the concluding event, the Mount Albert Handicap, from which Annoyed was the only one to drop out. Getting to the front early, Millie had no difficulty in keeping, in the position at bay, eventually winning by two lengths from Walkato, who was a similar distance in front of Pukekohe. Time, 1.22. Dividends, £2 4/ and £1 11/6.

THIRD DAY.

The concluding day's racing of the Avondale Jockey Club's spring meeting took place on Saturday at Avondale. The weather at the commencement was fair, but during the afternoon several showers of rain, making matters the reverse of pleasant. The attendance was up to the average, and speculation fairly brisk, the sum of £5300 passing through the machines, making a grand total of £14,723 for the meeting, a decrease of £258 as compared with the corresponding gathering last season. Mr M. Foley officiated as judge, Mr A. Davis as timekeeper, and Mr E. H. Haukins as starter, the latter gentleman's work being up to his officers of the previous days. The racing throughout the day was fairly interesting, and Mr Evert was rewarded with several close finishes. The meeting was well conducted by the secretary, Mr H. H. Hays, and the various officials, the race being got off well to the tune. Hunter's Band was again in attendance, and Mr T. King attended to the catering in his intimate style.

The day's sport commenced with the Maiden Hurdle Race, from which Whakaiti and Lashard were withdrawn, leaving five to see the mark, and of these Lady Clara found most support. A surprise, however, was in store, as Vexation, the outsider of the party, after refusing to leave the barrier until the others had gone nearly a furlong, gradually made up her lost ground, and getting on terms with the leaders as they turned for home, went on and won easily by three lengths from Lady Clara, who was four lengths in front of Te Papa. Time, 3.42 4-5. Dividends, £9 2/.

War Cloud was the only defection from the New Lynn Handicap, for which Discoverer was sorted out as the correct new, but backers were again at fault, as Annetta, shooting to the front after they had gone a chain, never gave the rest of the field a look-in, winning at the finish by four lengths from the favourite, who was two lengths in front of Ben. Time, 2.45. Dividends, £4 7/6 and 12/6. Annetta and Fortification were bracketed on the machine.

Rookby, Trephine, General Average, and Southmud declined their engagements in the Welter Handicap, leaving eight to face the barrier, and Walkato was favourite. Walkato was quick to begin and he plied the field to the entrance to the straight, where Lucrece was on terms, and a good race home resulted in Walkato staying the longest and winning by half length. Callie Iris was third. Time, 1.22 4-5. Dividends, £2 3/ and 19/.

The whole of the acceptors came out for the Second Steeplechase, and Rana was made the medium of most support. Rana did not look nearly as bright as on her opening day, and did not move with the same freedom, while he fenced in a very slovenly manner, and was one of the first horses beaten. Huemora went to the front when the word was given to go, and led the whole journey, jumping faultlessly, and winning at the finish by five lengths from Major, with old Keneka third, just in front of Straybird. Swimmer fell when racing second, half a mile from home, while Raxton, who cut his stifles badly, pulled up. Time, 6.33. Dividends, £6 2/6 and £2 3/.

Seven saddled up for the Grandstand Handicap, Delania, Annoyed, and Sir Gilead dropping out. Avalanche was made an odds on favourite. Scotty was first to find his feet, but when the field settled down Avalanche was in charge, with Akarana and Walpua as her nearest attendants. Avalanche showed the way along the back and across the top stretch, and she was first to turn for home, where Walpua put in a claim. Avalanche, however, was not to be denied, and holding her own in the run to the post, won an interesting race by a bare length from Walpua, who was two lengths away third, just in front of Akarana. Time, 1.52 1-5. Dividends, £1 14/.

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