

the direction of his association, written to the Minister of Railways, bringing under his notice several matters of great interest to horse-owners. The questions the Minister is asked to consider are: That horse-owners be allowed to take their horses provided that two days' previous notice be given, and that the applicant desiring to use the main train is a bona fide member of the North Island Racing Club's Association. That owners be allowed to carry in the horse-box a reasonable quantity of food, and that one lad to each horse be allowed to travel free. That owners be allowed to check the journey with their horses for the purpose of taking part in any races held at intermediate towns, provided that a certificate is produced from the secretary of the club where such horse is engaged. The letter also draws the Minister's attention to the considerable risk attached to valuable racehorses by the continuous unloading of horse-boxes at the various stations.

Says a writer in an English exchange: Six years ago a winner of the triple crown was brought to the notice of a handicapper, and he looked down for 27,500 guineas. We now hear that the whole of the stud of the late Sir Jas. Miller is to be sold, and we shall see the winner of another triple crown in the ring. The question arises, what is the value of Rock Sand? It may be said that Flying Fox, at three years of age, won two of the ten thousand pound races, whereas Rock Sand, in making the same attempt, was beaten; but what a contrast the two fields present. In the case of Flying Fox, in one race he had Royal Embroider to beat, and in the other Scintillant, whereas Rock Sand had for opponents such animals as Sceptre and Ard Patrick. Flying Fox, at four years of age, won five races out of six, two of which were ten thousand pounders. His record in all, therefore, was a remarkable one, winning sixteen races out of twenty starts, whereas Flying Fox never won an other race. The horses that beat Flying Fox were Captain and St. Gris, who will not compare with Sceptre, Ard Patrick, and Zinfandel, who beat Rock Sand. It may be, however, that Flying Fox never fought his best, and that the victories of St. Gris and Captain over him were stolen races. Still, in order to make Flying Fox the wonder as a racehorse, he the most undoubted was, we must look to his great private form rather than his public form. Of the private form of Rock Sand we know very little, and probably we saw the best of him in public. We notice in the sire list that he is full for 1906, at guineas, and such suspicions were settled for 1907 at the same price. It is not likely that any would be taken so far in advance, and therefore there will be nothing to prevent the horse from being sold this season.

A large and representative meeting of horse-owners was held at Wanganui last Thursday, when the North Island Horse-owners' Association was formed and officers elected for the coming year. The meeting was very strong one, and promises to become a power in the racing world. The following were the proposals submitted to the meeting:—

1. The officers shall consist of a president, vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer and eight other members of the association, and shall collectively form the managing committee. The officers shall be those appointed at the general meeting on the 1st of March next, and thereafter the officers shall be proposed, seconded, and elected by ballot at each annual general meeting, when they shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-election from year to year, and they shall have the entire management of the racing and affairs of the association, subject to the control of the members in general meeting.—Carried.
2. That draft rules be drawn up and submitted to the various owners as seen as possible for consideration, the said rules to be discussed at a meeting in three months' time.—Carried.
3. The committee shall from time to time make, repeal, and amend all such by-laws and regulations as they shall think expedient for the better management and well-being of the association.—Carried.
4. There shall be an entrance fee of such amount as the association may determine. All entrance fees shall be paid to the secretary on behalf of the association.—Carried.
5. The objects of the association shall be to guard the interests of owners generally, and to oppose any oppressive proposals, and to bring the same, as well as all matters deemed to be contrary to the interests of racing and the true advancement of sport, under the notice of the Racing Conference.—Carried.
6. To secure telegraph communications on all racetracks for the convenience of patrons and especially horse-owners.—Held over.
7. To secure from racing clubs the rights of owners to hand their commissions to the machine without being impeded by the general public, with the risk of being too late.—Held over.
8. To obtain from the Racing Conference official recognition of the association as representing horse-owners, so that all matters affecting their welfare will come before it and their views expressed with authority.—Held over.
9. To take steps to control and limit the number of permits now being granted, to secure the refusal of permits in programs of racing clubs which are below the value of 80 sovereigns.—Held over.
10. To promote the introduction of rules into racing whereby the behaviour and riding of jockeys shall be treated with greater firmness than hitherto.—Carried.
11. To secure reasonable reductions and concessions from the railway and shipping authorities.—Carried.
12. To secure the posting and publishing of weights and acceptances promptly.—Carried.
13. To endeavour to introduce a rule into racing clubs that where there are less than

10. To secure the payment of totalisator dividends to the odd money limited to sixpences.—Carried.
11. To secure the services of Judges and starters who shall be paid officers.—Carried.
12. To secure for owners, without exception, the right to witness the running of their horses, provided, of course, that this right shall be obtained by the owner, who refuses to comply with the conditions and rules of the club under which he is racing.—Carried.
13. To do generally all such acts and things as may from time to time be deemed to be for the benefit of the association.—Carried.

It was decided that the next meeting of the association be held at the Thompson Handicap meeting in Wellington, and the meeting then terminated.

A writer in "Baileys' Magazine" has given a very readable account of the great English thoroughbred Eclipse, from the time he was foaled in 1724, to the time he was sold in 1774, by Bartlett's children, who was got by the Darley Arabian out of Betty Leeds; his dam was Splinter (1749), by Regulus (1739), a son of the famous Godolphin Arabian. Eclipse ran his first race at Epsom on May 4, 1751. It was a 250 stake for horses that had never won £20, matches excepted, 5-year-olds to carry 8st and 6-year-olds 9st 3lb, four-year-olds Eclipse beat Gower, Gode, Trial, and Plume. In the second heat the horses were all together at the three-mile post; then Eclipse came away and distanced his field, though Oakley (who then had not the complete understanding of the horse which he now acquires) sold him as high as he could. The fact that Eclipse started at 4 to 1 on needs explanation. He had been highly rated beforehand, and the result of the trial was innocently made known to some tents, who then bought him for 100 guineas, and then he had won Eclipse and "another horse trying to catch him." The full tale of Eclipse's wonderful career is a lengthy one. After his victory at Epsom he won in succession the King's Plate at Manchester, Salisbury, Epsom, Lewes, and Lichfield; also a £50 plate at Ascot, another at Manchester, and the City Bowl—nine races and nine wins. In 1770 he began by beating Bucephalus over the same course, and won 8st 7lb. Bucephalus is said to be the only opponent who ever made the great horse gallop. In this year Eclipse won also the King's Plate on the Round Course (two heats, each 35 miles), the King's Plate at Newmarket, Salisbury, Lincoln, and another at Newmarket; also the Great Subscription Stakes at York (500s entrance), and a similar race at Newmarket (1000s entrance) after which he was sent to the stud. Mr. O'Kelly purchased him in 1774, a half-sister in the horse before he died at Winchester in June, 1789, paying 6500s for it, and he afterwards made himself whole owner for a further sum of 1000s. His success at Manchester and Epsom never started at less than 10 to 1 on, and on at least one occasion, at Lichfield, he started at 20 to 1 on. It must be borne in mind that the Royal Plates of these days were run over much shorter distances, and that the horses were very lightly. In 30 out of the 31 King's Plates (which Eclipse won) he carried the crushing weight of 12st. Eclipse stood at Clay Hill, Epsom, at 200s, after his retirement from the turf, but his value fell in subsequent years. In 1772-74 he covered at 250s; afterwards, by subscription, 40 mares, besides his owner's, at 200s; in 1778 his fee to all was 500s; in 1781-84 he covered 50 mares, besides his owner's, at 250s; in 1785 his fee stood at 300s. He was removed in a travelling van to Cammion, in Surrey, where he was advertised at this fee, and at Cammion he died on February 20, 1789. Mr. O'Kelly had good reason to congratulate himself on his purchase of Eclipse. He stated that he made £25,000 out of him as a stallion, apart from his wins on the turf, which would amount to a comparatively small sum beside the total of 1000 guineas he received in the sale of some 1400 children of the horse. The abnormal size of his heart is admirably referred to by old writers as "the extraordinary circumstance to which he was supposed to owe his great natural means whereby the Royal Veterinary College thought his horse's heart was 6lb, and the 14th which Eclipse's heart weighed was due to hypertrophy. It is a curious thing that Eclipse's carcass was indirectly the means whereby the Royal Veterinary College was founded. Mr. O'Kelly sent the young French veterinary surgeon Sainbel to dissect the carcass, and prepare the skeleton. Sainbel executed his task, and afterwards wrote an account on the anatomical features of Eclipse, which attracted so much and such favourable attention that the author's name was made as a veterinary anatomist. Sainbel had previously published proposals for the establishment of a veterinary school in England, but they had been ignored. Having made his mark with the pauper on Eclipse, he renewed his proposition, which was taken up by the Gilman Agricultural Society, and, in 1791, the scheme took shape in a building which cost 1000 guineas for 20 horses. The Royal Veterinary College is the very appropriate resting-place of Eclipse's skeleton, which was presented to it by Professor Gougeon in 1871.

Mauku Races.

The following weights have been declared for the Mauku Racing Club's meeting, which takes place on the 15th inst.:—
Hurdle Race.—Countess 9.7, Tamaiti 9.7, Kaitiaki 9.0.
Mauku Cup.—Bacchus 10.4, Paterewali

10.0, Lord Seaton 10.0, Harlow 11.12, Shrewsbury 9.7, The Duncie 9.0, Countess 8.7, St. Cyren 8.0, Lady Grattan 9.0, Tamaiti 8.0, Kaitiaki 8.0.
Pony Handicap.—Solitary 9.0, Shrewsbury 8.0, Harlow 8.7, Countess 8.0, Tamaiti 7.7, Campion 7.0, Waite 7.0.
Swards' Handicap.—Lord Seaton 9.0, Harlow 8.0, Lanetta 8.10, Shrewsbury 8.6, The Duncie 8.0, Countess 7.12, Lucy Wimple 7.7, Epsom 7.7, Portington 7.0, St. Cyren 7.0, Tamaiti 7.0, Lady Grattan 7.0, Kaitiaki 7.0, Don 7.0, Yalla 7.0. The Maiden Trot and Forced Handicaps are post entries.

Papakura Racing Club's Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Papakura Racing Club was held on Saturday last on the club's course at Papakura. The weather was splendid, and there was a record attendance, close on 1500 people being present, the majority of whom were conveyed by special train from Auckland. The arrangements for the home journey were as usual badly managed, and instead of patrons reaching town at 7.35 as advertised, it was close upon eight o'clock when the journey ended, a long wait at Orakau being the cause of the delay. Evidently the train authorities think that anything is good enough for racegoers, and it is on very rare occasions that special race trains keep to the times specified. Mr. J. C. O'Connor officiated as judge, and Mr. C. Rathford as starter, and although the latter gentleman is not so successful with the flag as with the barbet, still he gave very little cause for complaint. The afternoon's racing was interesting, Mr. Edwards, the handicapper, scoring a success. In the absence of the totalisator speculation was carried on per medium of the bookmakers, who had a trifle the best of the argument with the punters, only one first favourite being successful during the afternoon. The racing was well conducted by the secretary (Mr. F. D. Young), and the various officials, who are entitled to a word of praise for their efforts. Particulars of the racing are as follows:—
Maiden Plate of 1500s, six furlongs.—Mr. J. E. Thorne's 1/2 Sir Hector, by Lochness—Bellah, 8.10 (Seats); 1; Whiteley, 9.0 (Dress); 2; Miley, 8.10 (Integrity); 3. Also started: Tuakina, 8.4; Bueskin, 7.10; Shrewsbury, 7.12; Ross, 7.10; 1/2; 1/2; Lady Ellen, 7.7; Betting: 5 to 4 Integrity, 3 to 1 Sir Hector. Integrity was first away, followed by Sir Hector

for and Miley, and the former showed the way to the entrance to the straight, where Sir Hector put in his claim, and getting the best of it in the race home, won by three parts of a length. Time, 1.17. If Miley had just after the start, his rider (Deeley) being unhurt.
Flying Stakes Handicap of 2000s, five furlongs.—Mr. Robt. Dickie's 1/2 Don Light, by Don Light—Jas. Blair, 8.12 (Seats); 1; Luerece, 8.0 (Seats); 2; Discoverer, 9.5 (Phillips); 3. Also started: Luck's All (Seated 8.4), Betting: 5 to 4 on Luerece; 2 to 1 Don Light. Don Light shot to the front when the flag fell, and although Luerece made desperate effort in the straight, she was unable to reach the leader, which won by a length and a half. Time, 1.6.

Initiative Trot of 2000s, one mile and a half.—Mrs. S. Bird's 1/2 g Wattlekauri, by La Rio Yano Yano, 18s (Hind); 1; Harold Abuliah, 16s (Greenwood); 2; Colenso, 10s (Herbert); 3. Also started: Redfern, 10s; Parwell 11s; Little Paul, 21s; Special Light, 24s; Whittington, 25s; Palford, 28s; Ship, 21s; Betting: 2 to 1 Special Light, 5 to 1 Wattlekauri, 3 to 1 Little Paul, Whittington and Ship, 10 to 1 Harold Abuliah and Colenso. Ship was in command for about a mile, when Wattlekauri took charge, and the latter, putting a saddle won by a length and a half from Harold Abuliah, with Colenso ten lengths further back, (third, Time, 3.50. Special Light, the favourite, fell when they had gone a furlong.

Papakura Cup of 4000s, one mile.—Mr. A. Toomua's 1/2 g Bonumiani, by South-Bellah—Bullfinch, 7.7 (Blackman); 1; Neville, 9.0 (Kyan); 2; Defender, 7.10 (Deeley); 3. Also started: Koh Nip, 8.0; Seaton, 7.5; Paterewali, 7.0; South Maid, 7.0; Lord Seaton, 7.0; Little Michel, 6.7; Betting: 2 to 1 Neville and Defender, 6 to 1 Koh Nip and Bonumiani. Defender was out-kick on his feet, and joined by South Maid, the pair carried on the running two lengths clear of the rest of the field, which was headed by Bonumiani. Defender and a slight advantage as they moved across the top stretch, but entering the straight Bonumiani ran into the lead, and she was first to turn for home, with Neville, which had had luck through the race, coming fast. In the run to the post Neville made a great effort to catch Bonumiani, but he was unable to quite get up, and suffered defeat by a neck, with Defender three lengths away, third. Time, 1.17.
Hack Race of 500s, five furlongs.—Mr. H. B. MacKenzie's 1/2 g The Duncie, by Sylvia Park—Dalliance, carried 7.11 (Deeley); 1; Miley, 8.10 (Whittaker); 2; Integrity, 9.0 (Deeley); 3. Also started: Sir

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