



(BY WHALEBONE.)

RACING FIXTURES.

April 20 and May 2 - Wellington, R.C. Autumn
April 29, May 2 - Avondale J.C. Autumn
May 6 and 7 - Hawke's Bay J.C. Autumn
May 6 and 7 - Manabourne R.C. Autumn
May 12 and 14 - Ashburton County R.C. Autumn
May 23 and 25 - North Otago J.C. Winter
May 29, 30 - Takapuna J.C. Winter
May 30 June 3, 5 - A.R.C. Winter

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Argument. - We are unable to publish the figures on each horse but Haldane was favourite, with Miss Wynn's next in demand.

TURF NOTES.

Uranium still in winning form.
The hunting season in Auckland opens on Saturday next, May 9th.
The W.B.C. Thompson Handicap run today.

The jumping mare Cinque is now under the charge of W. G. Irwin at Ellerslie.

The gelding Freemount changed hands recently, and is now in charge of F. Sturling.

G. Irwin has had Ubbando and a colt by St. Hilda - Complete, placed in his charge to prepare for future engagements.

H. Gray is appealing to the N.Z. Racing Conference against the disqualification recently inflicted upon him.

There are some funny tales in circulation in connection with one of the races on the opening day of the Avondale Jockey Club's meeting.

The ex-New Zealander Maratu started a strong second favourite for the A.J.C. Danvers Handicap. Bright Steel, which was favourite, was one of the last to finish.

The yearling filly by Eton - Kiltren, purchased at the late Cambria Park sale by the Hon. J. Carroll, has been handed over to D. Moranau to receive her early education.

Reports from Australia state that the New Zealand-bred horse Dan Patch had something in reserve when he put up the new Australian record of 2:10 for the mile.

French owners intend to make a big bid for the English Ascot Gold Cup this year. Mordant, Querida in Chester Cup winner, and Sans Souci are to undergo special preparations for the race.

The New Zealand-bred Nightfall is engaged in the Chester Cup, which is to be run on the 13th prox. Her weight is 7.11, with Bridge of Coony, 9.10, at the top of the list.

The amount of Mr. Draffin's tender for the refreshment booth at the Huntly Racing Club's meeting was £10, not £7 10/6 as previously stated.

The Hotchkiss horse Advocate was running very forward in the early stages of the Avondale Handicap on Wednesday, but failed to go on with it, and could get no nearer than fourth at the finish.

At the Goulburn (Vic.) meet recently the January A. Hood was dazed by not wearing a velvet cap. Hood would not wear a particular cap because the last boy who used it was killed, and no other cap was available.

Mr. F. Macmanamin, who acted as honorary starter for the Otahuhu Trotting Club at their recent Summer Meeting, is to be presented by the club with a handsome clock as a slight recognition of his efforts.

The Jew, a gelding by the ex-New Zealander Pygmalion (which it will be remembered started a very warm favourite in the Caulfield Cup) won by a good margin the two hurdle races at the recent Broken Hill Meeting.

Although the Auckland-owned horses Te Atua and Longana were withdrawn from all engagements at the Wellington meeting on the 23rd inst., the fact was not telegraphed through by the Press Association agent.

A Southern writer credits Mr. T. H. Lowry with the ownership of Clochette. As is well known, the Southern sportsman disposed of the Serton Delaval mare during the progress of the last A.R.C. Summer Meeting.

J. McHugh is handling the first colt sired by Waikiki from the Serton Delaval mare Leo Delaval. The youngster is almost an exact counterpart of his sire, and if he turns out as good, Mr. Bradley, his owner, will be a proud man.

The Maiden Plate at Avondale brought out a decidedly useful sort of mare in Tauriki, which was returned as being by St. Celsin from a Freedom mare. Tauriki comes from the Bay of Plenty district, and it is stated that her connections were fully prepared for her victory.

If the nominations for the Auckland R.C. Hurdles and Strephechase are poor, those received by the Wanganui Club are doubly so, and the list is probably the weakest yet received by the Southern body. Lady Hine is the only Auckland horse nominated.

According to the "Dominion," Mr. G. W. McDougal, owner of Acolus, has written to the committee of the Wellington Racing Club asking for an explanation as to the manner in which his horse has been handicapped in the First Hurdles.

Steve Howie, who is well-known in Auckland, had the mount on Tarpon, which won the Great Eastern Strephechase at the recent Otago meeting. There is every probability of Howie paying a visit to New Zealand shortly.

F. Hill made a visit to Te Atua during the week, for the purpose of bringing down the four-year-old sister to Carl Rosa, which was recently purchased from Mrs. Leonard by the well-known punter, Mr. A. E. Hopewell. The filly is to remain in F. Hill's charge.

Southern sportsmen who were present at the recent C.J.C. Easter Meeting, say that Lupulle must be easily the best beginner from the barrier in New Zealand, but numbers will be found contending that Southline would head him over two furlongs.

A handicapper's life is anything but a bed of roses. At the recent Wairarapa meeting a number of owners entered a written protest to the club against the handicapper appointed to frame the weights for the second day, but the stewards rightly refused to entertain it. The response to the handicaps framed by the gentleman protested against, fully vindicated his reputation.

According to the Taranaki correspondent of the "Star," the withdrawal of Paritutu from his engagements at the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting was owing to the state of the going. This may be true of the concluding day, but on the opening day a track on which a three-year-old could carry 9.0, and a mile in 1:40, could not have much the matter with it. I am afraid some other cause but the track must be assigned for his non-appearance at the gathering.

The Hotchkiss gelding Haldane seems to be striking form again, and has apparently thrown off the soreness that affected him earlier in the season. Haldane was made a warm favourite for the half-way Handicap at Avondale on Wednesday, but the accident to his rider affected his chance, and though he was building very fast, he could not quite get up, eventually finishing fourth.

In conversation with an Auckland visitor who was present at the Autumn Meeting of the Australian Jockey Club he informed me that the hostile demonstration against Poseidon when he returned to scull after winning the Cumberland Stakes on the third day of the gathering was beyond description. The demonstrations that have taken place at Ellerslie from time to time were he says, simply child's play to that witnessed at Randwick.

"It's the cursed gambler by juveniles on 'orse-race' that's the ruin of young boys nowadays," cried an indignant Shewby, returning from Hunt Park. "Look at my son 'Chevins' - the indiarivest and in London. Between him' Monday mornin' an' Thursday night, he'd run three cigarette coupons into a pile of field glasses an' a new'ly bought an' I did afternoon suit; he does the whole blamed lot on what thing of 'Arv 'E'mann's - Ballywill'!"

Occasionally more than usually astute owners make a good thing out of the suspicious minds of the public, says an English writer, "The horse race, he; they wanna believe there," once said Mr. Fred Swindells when someone asked him what he should do about a horse whose merits he did not want to be known.

Ted Sloan threatens to put racing for ever on the "chink" as he phrased it, by telling of the evil and demoralizing examples which young persons who wander to the tracks are afforded. Knowing something in a general way of Ted's race-track history, we would suggest that he should stipulate matters with an fully disastrous effects to the enterprise of racing by printing his autobiography. He was perhaps by far the worst example the younger jockeys had.

Mr. A. E. Hopewell, who has re-located in Auckland from Dunedin, leaves for a business visit to England on Monday next. Mr. Hopewell, who expects to be away about six months, informs me that it is his intention to try to pick up a distinguished station in the Old Country that will mate with St. Simon mares. Mr. Hopewell recognises the fact that only a high-class horse would be patronised, and he intends to spare no effort to get the very best.

Although Argentine breeders have paid big prices in England and France for stallions, they have paid very little attention to mares. However, there may be an alteration in this state of affairs, as Mr. Allison, of the London Sportsman, who was recently in South America, has been informed that if he personally selects up to 50 mares, and sends them out in batches from July to November, there will be ready buyers for them. A proviso is that all the mares must be English-bred, and be animals, and must be landed in local sale condition.

For the first time since the early 'nineties, Jacob Pincus, one of the most famous trainers of the old school, and the man who prepared Froppius, the only American horse who ever won the English Derby, for his victory at Epsom, has applied for a trainer's license in America. He has not needed the money (says the "New York Telegraph"), and he is not hard up now. But he simply cannot find any money. He feels that he must have some incentive to get up early mornings, and occupation to keep him out of mischief in the middle of the day. Mr. Pincus will get his license of course.

Charles Grainger and Matt Wynn, who, with W. E. Appleton, owned the two race-tracks at Louisville (Kentucky), have completed arrangements for a system of parimutuel and auction pool betting in Kentucky next season. They went to New York, and were to see how they could not get the machines and tables used by local tracks when that system of betting was in vogue there. They found that the old machines were too rusty to be used, and that it would be necessary to have new ones made. This will be done, and fifteen machines are to be put in service at Churchhill Downs and Douglass Park in the spring.

Interest in King Edward VII's colt Perrier for the English Derby has increased since the late March meeting, but only a few weeks back, when he saw the horse at work. In the opinion of good judges, Perrier will not be really at his best until the autumn. He has started his Derby preparation last March (his trainer) is not likely to hurry him if he thinks it will have an injurious effect upon the colt. Perrier is a big horse, and will require a vast amount of work to get him fit. If the above is correct, Perrier must be something but an ordinary, as the cable informs us that he has already won the Biennial Stakes.

Mr. W. Lyons is having real bad luck with Walpuna, which ran second in the City Handicap on the third day of the A.J.C. meeting, and again second in the Peace Handicap on the second day. The efforts of the son of Saut in these events have completely exposed his form, and Mr. Lyons will probably have to wait some time before he gets another opportunity. Walpuna was well supported by his connections in both his races, and his defeat will be pretty costly. According to a private telegram received by Mr. D. Twofold, Walpuna got away very badly, and was only defeated by a neck at the finish, so with ordinary luck he would have won. Walpuna is engaged at City Tattersall's meeting next Saturday.

At the annual meeting of the Pukaranga Hunt Club, held last Friday, the Master, Mr. H. G. Gorrin, struck a winning note in reference to the annual donation made to the club by the Auckland Racing Club. It could hardly be expected, said Mr. Gorrin, that the A.R.C. would continue the donation unless the members of the club nominated more freely for the hunting events. In this connection, the master has struck the nail on the head, and it seems strange that, with a club boasting in all 100 members, that there should only be three starters in each event on the day. Mr. Gorrin was sincerely hoped that the members will take the warning.

J. H. Prosser, the Porirua trainer, in a chat with a Wellington writer after his return from Auckland, said that when he Auckland the meeting he was approached by an old sportsman who asked him what chance Marguerite had in the Autumn Handicap. Mr. Prosser, adopting the Scotch method, parried the question by asking, "What do you think she would have a chance to which the old man retorted, 'No, don't trouble about a horse that has had a fall in a flat race, they're never any good after wards.' This set the genial Porirua trainer thinking, and he advised a number of horses that were never any good after the shock of a fall on the flat, and among them he mentioned Cleonchish, Master Delaval, and Achilles. The last named, although only fall in the Great Easter at Riccarton, never had much heart for racing.

When experts differ who is to decide is an old saying. A writer in the "Wellington Post" recently got a few opinions as to the best horse to back for the autumn in New Zealand at present. Young, the rider of Gold Crest in the Easter Handicap, gave the palm to Southline. P. D. Jones, first horseman to the Hon. J. P. O'Rourke, gave for Layouille. G. P. Jones, fourth runner, while the writer himself puts Maudlin in the pride of position, and classes Aborigine as the smartest of the two-year-olds. Not having seen Nannini, Gosh Thruval or Laputa perform, I cannot advise on the matter, but certainly cannot agree with him over Aborigine without going through the list. I would pick Armit to give him a fall start over two or three furlongs.

Thus a correspondent in the "Australasian" on the suppression of betting laws, and the prohibition of the sale of horses, says that such an iniquitous provision was ever introduced, and it only needs a little spilt on the part of the sportsman of Australia to have all such despotism measures erased from the statute. The sportsman of Australia place their names upon the electoral rolls of the States, and keep them there, and when Parliamentary elections take place let them do their duty as members of the body politic at the first ballot. He will soon be in a position to throw off the yoke imposed upon them by those who wear tonstone faces and billy-goat beards.

An example of the disadvantage of having a case before a magistrate without any expert knowledge of the circumstances was seen at Bombay recently (says the "Asian"), when Mr. Ben Smith, a book-maker, presented (Hornbill) Ruston for attempting to cheat. According to the complaint's evidence, the accused backed a horse, who won, for ten rupees at 3 to 1, but when the ticket was presented for payment the figures had been altered from Rs. 30 to 10 to Rs. 200 to 100. In giving judgment the magistrate observed that the Parsi Presidecy magistrate, stated that the court had only Mr. Smith's evidence that the original figure was 30 to 10 and not 200 to 100. On the other hand, the accused said that the ticket was for 200 to 100. This was one man's word against that of another, and as both were interested parties to the transaction, the Court, before considering the accused of a serious offence, made equity strong consideration of the complainant's story. The magistrate then went on to say he could not help remarking that these so-called Parsi accountants, who were regarded as the most respectable and honest tradesmen or business people, and did not appear to be supported by the police. It would have been therefore much better if the responsible officers of the police in this case had refused to take cognizance of the case, and referred the complainant to the Turf Club for whatever redress he might obtain from its members. All of which would have been a very likely case of business if they were not honest in their dealings with their clients.

A writer in the "Preston Times" pens a long article on the breeding of horses, in the course of which he says, "While we are on this let me make it as plain as I can. There are some horses a plenty - far too many of them. But it takes a man who has been finding ground in the market for a long time to tell you what the horses get out on to the track from the paddock when a horse has been hopped or not. At that, I wouldn't trust my judgment in such a matter so absolutely that I'd be willing to go into a court of law and testify either way."

As a rule, the horses that get the hop just before going to the post are naturally sluggish animals that won't extend themselves in races unless they are thoroughly warmed up to. Such horses may have the brooding, the brawn, the conformation, the stamina to do any old thing in the way of racing, but they'reuffers, shirkers, and their inherent disposition is to soldier on the job. Why do you think that the greatest horse of our modern racing time, no less a lay than Keene's unbeaten Colla, is a born loafer? That's what he is, a lazy, loushy, lummocky beaver of the worst description. He hasn't been extended yet, although he won his thirteen straight races this year from the best horses of his age in training. The answer is that Colla is so enormously superior to anything else of his age, that he can afford to be a born loafer, and still win a brooding. Probably Colla always will be a loafer, but, of course,

A STRONG FAVOURITE.
PETER F. HEERING, COPENHAGEN
CHERRY BRANDY.
Special Appointment Purveyors to the King of England; The Royal Danish and Imperial Russian Courts.
SWIFT & COY., 52 O'Connell St., Sydney, General Agents.