

he'll never be stiffened up with any hop, because the juice will never be necessary in his case, and because, of course, for the most important reason, Keene's trainer would just about as lief chop off one of his hands as to buy any kind of horse.

"But sluggish, sultering horses of the middling good or even the overnight handi-cap kind, get the pick-me-up stuff simply because they won't do anything without it. They're like fellows that refuse to tackle the worst job pointed out to them before they get something to eat by way of a haught or a sit-down. A trainer who is not particularly conscientious gets to looking at some lazy old slug in his barn. The trainer knows that the horse has the goods along with him if he can only be made to chirk up.

"It's the daunted pity," says the trainer to himself, "that I can't get that old son of a gun to fetch something home for me. He's as fit as a fiddle, right up to concert pitch, can pick up a package, can stay, can sprint at the finish, can do any old thing. And yet he's a dud. He's eating his blossoming head off and not handing me a thing. I think it'll be that one for a pill the next time I ask anything of him." So a new hop horse is added to the list."

Continued on page 57.

**AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.**  
**GREAT NORTHERN STEEPLECHASE MEETING.**

**FIRST DAY.**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 30th, 1908.**  
First Race to Start at 12 Noon.  
**MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) of 150sovs;** about two miles and a-half.  
**JERVOIS HANDICAP of 100sovs;** five furlongs.  
**MAIDEN HURDLE RACE (Handicap) of 110sovs;** one mile and three-quarters.  
**GREAT NORTHERN HURDLE RACE (Handicap) of 650sovs;** distance, two miles and a-half.  
**CORNWALL HANDICAP of 325sovs;** one mile and a-quarter.  
**LADIES' BRACELET of 100sovs;** one mile and a-half.  
**MEMBERS' HANDICAP of 150sovs;** five furlongs.

**SECOND DAY.**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3rd, 1908.**  
(Prince of Wales Birthday.)  
First Race to Start at 12 Noon.  
**ORAKEI HURDLE RACE (Handicap) of 110 sovs.;** one mile and three-quarters.  
**RANFURLY WELTER HANDICAP of 100 sovs.;** one mile.  
**GREAT NORTHERN STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) of 850sovs;** distance about three miles and a-half.  
**REMERA HURDLE RACE (Handicap) of 200sovs;** two miles.  
**PRINCE OF WALES' HANDICAP of 325 sovs.;** seven furlongs.  
**TALLY-HO STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) of 150sovs;** about three miles.  
**THE JUMPERS' FLAT RACE HANDICAP of 150sovs;** one mile and a-half.

**THIRD DAY.**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 6th, 1908.**  
First Race to Start at 12 Noon.  
**LADIES' BRACELET of 50sovs;** one mile.  
**TAMAKI STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) of 110sovs;** about two miles and a-half.  
**YORK WELTER HANDICAP of 325sovs;** one mile.  
**WINTER STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) of 300sovs;** distance about three miles.  
**CAMPBELL HURDLE RACE (Handicap) of 200sovs;** two miles.  
**FITZROY WELTER HANDICAP of 100 sovs.;** six furlongs.  
**FAREWELL HANDICAP of 150sovs;** five furlongs.

**DATES OF NOMINATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, etc.**  
With amounts to be transmitted to Secretary, A.R.C.  
**FRIDAY, MAY 8th, GENERAL ENTRY,** by 9 p.m.  
**ACCEPTANCES.** — Great Northern Hurdle Handicap 3sovs, Great Northern Steeplechase Handicap 3sovs.  
**NOMINATIONS.** — Maiden Steeplechase Handicap 1sovs, Jervois Handicap 4sovs, Maiden Hurdle Handicap 2sovs, Cornwall Handicap 1sovs, Ladies' Bracelet (First Day) 2sovs, Members' Handicap 1sovs, Otakei Hurdle Handicap 1sovs, Ranfurlly Welter Handicap 1sovs, Remera Hurdle Handicap 1sovs, Prince of Wales Handicap 2sovs, Wives Handicap 1sovs, Tally-ho Steeplechase Handicap 1sovs, The Jumpers' Flat Race Handicap 1sovs, Ladies' Bracelet (Third Day) 1sovs, Tamaki Steeplechase Handicap 1sovs, York Welter Handicap 1sovs, Campbell Hurdle Handicap 1sovs, Fitzroy Welter Handicap 1sovs, Farewell Handicap 1sovs.  
**F. F. HARTLAND, Secretary.**

**Music and Drama**

"The Prisoner of Zenda," by far the best thing Mr Knight does, always saving and excepting "Beaucaire," drew phenomenal audiences in Auckland, but was withdrawn on Saturday to make room for "Claudian," which was somewhat of a pity, for the latter play cannot hold a candle in point of interest or smartness to the dramatisation of Anthony Hope's splendid novel. A description of some of the dresses worn in "Zenda" appears in our Auckland letter, and should be studied by lady readers.

Miss Catharine Aulsebrook, the Auckland contralto who left New Zealand to study under Madame Blanche Marchesi, appears to be doing well. That experienced teacher has obtained for her several good engagements, notably at Lady Brassey's, at Park Lane, and a festival in Somerset. Speaking of a concert at Brighton, the local "Herald" says:—"The concert served to introduce to Brighton a contralto of high accomplishment in Miss Catharine Aulsebrook. Her wide-compassed voice has peculiarly satisfying qualities of openness and fulness, strong and decided in attack, firm and even, and yet not without warmth and sympathy. She sang with quiet, unforced dignity in Liddle's "Abide With Me," and was heard to even greater advantage in Handel's stately, sonorous "Largo," here given its more correct but less popular title, "Ombra mai fu."

Enrico Caruso, who was so highly satisfied with the four years' contract that he made with Henrich Conried, of the New York Metropolitan Opera House, is now trying to dodge his obligations. Under his contract with Conried, which has three years more to run, Caruso gets £300 this year for each appearance, £400 next year and £500 the following year. He is assured of eighty appearances every season. Lately he has had to refuse an offer of £700 each for ten concerts in the States because of the contract.

May Moore Duprez, of the accent and the clogs, is back again at the London halls after an extended holiday in Monte Carlo and Paris.

The "Peter Pan" production at the Melbourne Princess, according to the critics, has proved a great success. Miss Tittell Brune, it would appear, admirably sustains the title role in Barrie's fanciful romance, and receives adequate support from the company.

The Royal Artillery Band of Newcastle left England on April 9th to make a tour of Australasia. The band's reputation extends to almost every corner of Great Britain.

Meynell and Gunn's first musical comedy production commenced its career at the Melbourne Royal a fortnight back. The piece was "Miss Hook of Holland," from the London Prince of Wales. In the English production G. P. Huntley is the Mr. Hook, and it is said that the Australian importation, Mr. Edwin Brett, is strongly reminiscent of the English comedian's very distinctive style. I notice that Huntley has been out of the London cast owing to ill-health, and that that excellent comedian of pleasant memory, George Giddens, has been filling his shoes.

Andrew Black is in Westralia. He gave a recital at the Queen's Hall, Perth, on Good Friday night.

The Kios Sisters, who are in the Rickards' touring variety show, are said to draw £100 a week. Speaking of Rickards and drawing salaries, the "Referee," after detailing some of the superstitions of that lucky manager, including a disinclination to sign contracts on Friday, expresses an opinion that no actor would allow himself to be

so far influenced by superstition as to refuse his pay on a Friday.

Talking of superstition—Bland Holt objects to an open umbrella on the stage, and in one play of his, in which there was a scene with the rain falling in torrents, two of the principals walked the stage with closed "gamps" under their arms!

Percy Dix who, in conjunction with Baker, provides the people of the coal town of Newcastle with permanent variety entertainment, has at present artists appearing most of whom are known to patrons of vaudeville on this side—Victor the Great, Ward Lear, "Rescued from an Eagle's Nest," moving picture, the Levartos, Maggie Frazer, Lucy Lavinia, Olive Carr, Maxwell and Roberts, Amy Blackie, Dawson and Rhodesbury, Chas. Pope, and Geo. Fogden.

Roy Redgrave, who appeared here with Tittell Brune's Co., is now leading man in the production of "Robbery Under Arms" at the Pavilion Theatre, London.

Dolly Castles is a member of one of the George Edwardes' touring companies at present producing "The Girls of Gotenberg."

Fred. Graham and his wife (Nellie Dent), at present with Fuller's company, will shortly leave on a trip to England and America.

How great was the fall thereof! The Queen's Theatre, down in Kensington, which for some years has catered for the intellectual interest more than any other London theatre, mainly with Bernard Shaw plays, has descended to a Courtneidge revival of "The Dairymaids." Carrie Moore, who was a bright particular star in the original production, would not be in the cast, having sailed for Australia to play the chief part in the Williamson production of "The Merry Widow." But even Carrie Moore would not be so much missed in view of the fact that Phyllis Dare was to play the heroine.

Mr. William Hawtrej, with his own company, is fulfilling engagements in far-off California, being at the Orpheum, in Oakland, not a great distance from San Francisco.

A smart valet was recently caught after obtaining considerable amounts from the well-known Paris actress, Mile. Lolita, in an extraordinary way. He went daily to her residence with a bouquet, which he represented to be the admiring tribute to the actress from his master, the Grand Duke Peter Nicholievitch of Servia. Each day the actress gave him a handsome tip, which, in fact, amounted to some two or three francs more than the price of the flowers. By obtaining the flowers himself Gaston added appreciably to his weekly wage by this fraud. But now the trick has been discovered, and he repines in gaol.

That very clever and attractive actress, Janet Achurch, has apparently fallen on bad times. She was sued recently by a firm of costumeres for £82. During the course of her evidence, she stated that she had been engaged only for four weeks during the last two and a half years.

"But you make £25 a week," remarked Judge Edge. "That is very handsome."

"But only for four weeks in two and a half years," Miss Achurch replied. "I am known chiefly for playing in Ibsen's

plays, but they are rarely performed nowadays. I would gladly pay this if I could; and I promise you that whenever I am in work I will pay whatever I can."

Mr R. G. Knowles has included Australia and New Zealand in his itinerary for a second tour of the world.


In England the number of actors and actresses playing upon the variety stage is steadily upon the increase. Among the latest names mentioned of those who are about to try their fortunes in the halls are those of Ellen Terry, Laurence Irving, Fanny Brough, and Seymour Hicks.

Regimental horses in Germany have been the subjects of musical tests, and nearly all enjoyed the experience, only a very small percentage of the animals remaining indifferent to sweet harmonies, while equally few showed active dislike. The great majority were soothed, in-spirited, or excited by music.

Most of the horses, like the war chargers one may suppose them to be, enjoyed the bugle above any other instrument, and neighed gallantly when it was sounded, but thoroughbreds and colts generally were found to prefer the shrill treble of the fife, which roused them to great, and sometimes unmanageable, enthusiasm. This was the more significant because the fife was an unfamiliar instrument to them, not being generally used as is the bugle in the French army.

Finally, all the musical horses particularly appreciated sweet sounds after a meal of oats, and before breakfast they showed restiveness when played to.

The boy stood on the school house step  
When the master opened the door.  
"Hello!" said the master. "You're first at last!  
You were always behind before!"  
"I'm early because," replied the lad,  
"I've taken the health renewer  
To cure the cough that was so bad—  
It's Woods' Great Peppermint Cure."

  
**Spencer Pianos**

HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED TO THE FOLLOWING

**MEN-OF-WAR.**

H.M.S. "Albatross"	H.M.S. "Hibernia"
"Albion"	"Indefatigable"
"Andromeda" (3)	"Irresistible"
"Argonaut"	"Jupiter"
"Aurora"	"Keen" (2)
"Barham"	"King Alfred"
"Berwick"	"Majestic"
"Canopus"	"Pembroke"
"Centurion"	"Pegasus"
"Commodore"	"Pioneer"
"Cressy"	"Powerful"
"Diadem"	"Prince of Wales"
"Drake"	"Prince George"
"Dread" (3)	"Rapide"
"Exmouth" (3)	"Russell"
"Gladstone"	"Spartiate"
"Glorious"	"Superb"
"Good Hope"	"Sulphur"
"Goliath"	"Terrible"
"Griffin"	"Thetis"
"Hood"	"Venerable"
"Hermes"	"Vindictive"

Also H.M.S. "DREADNOUGHT."

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