



OXY WHALEBONE.]

RACING FIXTURES.

July 18, 22, and 25 — Wellington R.C. Winter
July 20 — Hawke's Bay Hunt Club Annual
July 30 — North Canterbury J.C. Winter
Aug. 12 — Fife Meeting, Ellerslie.
August 11, 13, and 15 — Canterbury J.C. Grand National Meeting
September 9 and 10 — Horowhenua Hack R.C. Annual
September 13 and 17 — Rangitikei R.C. Spring

The Hon. J. D. Ormond is stated to have 27 horses actually in training at the present time.

The Bradgate Park Plate, run at the Leicester meeting, resulted: Nocturniform 1, Cardiff 2, Vanquackell 3.

With the conclusion of the Wellington Racing Club's Winter Meeting, the N. Z. racing season of 1908 closes.

Mr John Rowe, vice president of the Auckland Trotting Club, has been elected vice-president of the N.Z. Trotting Association.

No fewer than 60,000 people are officially recorded as having been present at Hunt races recently. This is a record for the course.

The hunter Anna Lombard, which claims engagements at the forthcoming Fleet Meeting, is now an inmate of C. Coleman's stable.

A prominent American owner, in E. Corigan, of Chicago, is retiring from the turf, and will shortly sell all his horses, including mares and foals, they total 200.

Cadence has been purchased by Mr. Geo. Hyde, and has gone into G. Irwin's hands. Lochbuie has commenced work again under the same trainer, and looks well.

It is reported that Waipu ricked his shoulder in the early stages of the V.R.C. Grand National Hurdle Race, and it is doubtful if the Torpedo gelding will be able to race at Caulfield.

It is stated that what led up to the debacle in the Oaks was that French Partidge struck a cab horse, which had his head over the rails, and, coming down, Rhodora fell over her.

The Papakura Racing Club's application for a totalisator permit had to be refused by the N.Z. Racing Conference on account of all the available permits having been allotted.

A special meeting of the Auckland Racing Club committee will be held on Thursday, the 30th inst., for the purpose of granting trainers' and jockeys' licenses for the ensuing season.

I have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of Mr. J. J. Miller's annual sporting painter, and for using the little volume contains a vast fund of information of an up-to-date character, and should be in the hands of all sportsmen.

When the latest mail to hand left England on June 5th, E. Woodton was second in this season's winter Jockey's Hat, having passed Maher, who was out of the saddle for nearly three weeks owing to varicose veins.

Volume, which went to India with a New Zealand St. Leger and other races to his credit, has proved a failure there. His show of abundance of pace in the early stages of his races, but failed to stay, and in all instances finished last.

Says a Melbourne exchange: "It opened the eyes of some of the New Zealanders at the amount of money to be won over a minor handicap, and it is likely some of them will send a horse or two along to be faced here in the near future."

The following, from a Victorian writer's notes, is worth bearing in mind. He says: "The two-year-old who beat the old horse in the V.R.C. Lawn Handicap, but who was lucky. Pink 'Un came with a tremendous rush when it was all over. If his rider had got to work a little earlier, it would have been all over with Bobbit."

Says a Southern writer: There was not much merit in Golden Gate's second to Martyrium in the Stewards' Handicap, on the opening day of the Wellington R.C. Meeting, for several boys plainly disregarded the riding out rule when pursued of Martyrium was found hopeless.

The sum of £528 10/- was contributed by bookmakers to the funds of the W.R.C. for the privilege of exposing themselves for some few hours to a biting southerly, accompanied by driving showers, which would penetrate anything but a railway tarpaulin. — "N.Z. Times."

The Thames Jockey Club have protested against the Auckland Racing Club holding the second day of their summer meeting on the day after the country club's second day's racing, and it is understood the matter is to be threshed out at the forthcoming N.Z. Conference.

Not a single Auckland-owned three-year-old has been allowed to remain in the Hawke's Bay Guineas, but Elystan, by Sout — Dreamland, Tetrazzini, by Sout — Miss Annie, and the colt by Etou — Lute, all of which are owned in Auckland, claim engagements in the Hastings Stakes.

The Daystar horse Starline, which broke down during the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting, and which was left behind in E. Hill's charge to be patched up, has been disposed of to Mr G. Hill, of Matahura, and he was shipped to his new home last week, where he will take up stud duties next season.

After a long run of bad luck, the ex-New Zealand horseman, L. H. Hewitt, managed to secure a dead heat at the recent Manchester meeting, riding Byeway, which finished level with Young Packhurst in the John O' Gaunt Plate. The latter was a very warm favourite. Now that Hewitt has broken the ice, it is to be hoped that he will manage to steer a few winners.

It transpires that the announcement that the trustees of the late Mrs Coombe were to continue to race the horses owned by that lady at the time of her death is a bit incorrect. What is intended, I am credibly informed, is that the horses will be kept in training, and will fulfil their engagements until the trustees see their way clear to dispose of them satisfactorily.

Putty, the ancient son of St. Leger, which won the Auckland Cup of 1906, and which, according to a writer in the "Sporting Chronicle," says: "Virrix, the winner, is but a pony, for she stands only about 13.2. But her length and her great wide quarters are of all proportion to her height, and in galloping she is a perfect model. Hence the effectiveness of her work. She is one of the first progeny of the Melbourne Cup winner The Victory, for which, as a sire, she is a capital advertisement."

Signorina, dam of the Derby winner Signorinetta, was one of the most brilliant two-year-olds this world ever saw. "Come into this bank here," said Mr Crabam, of Yardsley, to the Chevalier Glustrelli, and contented himself with saying "Foreign, and you shall have them for ever." The bank, relates Mr John Corbett, in the "Sporting Times," was Diamond's, at Newmarket. The Chevalier "loved his children," and would not sell.

In commenting on the running of the Redfern Two-year-old Plate, run in England recently, a writer in the "Sporting Chronicle" says: "Virrix, the winner, is but a pony, for she stands only about 13.2. But her length and her great wide quarters are of all proportion to her height, and in galloping she is a perfect model. Hence the effectiveness of her work. She is one of the first progeny of the Melbourne Cup winner The Victory, for which, as a sire, she is a capital advertisement."

The dual success of Signorinetta at Epsom, has naturally been hailed with great delight in this country. In the "Sporting Chronicle" says: "Virrix, the winner, is but a pony, for she stands only about 13.2. But her length and her great wide quarters are of all proportion to her height, and in galloping she is a perfect model. Hence the effectiveness of her work. She is one of the first progeny of the Melbourne Cup winner The Victory, for which, as a sire, she is a capital advertisement."

The Auckland Racing Club's dates for the ensuing season have been approved by the N.Z. Racing Conference, but a recommendation was passed that the Club hold their second day on December 30, instead of the 29th, on account of the Sunday intervening. This is on account of the objection lodged by the Thames Jockey Club that the dates suggested clashed with the second day of their gathering. The Conference regretted that the Thames Club did not make its objection direct to the Metropolitan Club.

The St. Leger gelding Scotty made a creditable first attempt over hurdles at the Wellington Racing Club's Winter Meeting, and his performance in running second to Compass in the Winter Hurdles, although nothing extraordinary, is sufficiently good to encourage the belief that, with practice, he may be useful over the small

fences. Although nothing definite has yet been decided, it is understood that, all going well in the meantime, Scotty will be sent out to Christchurch to fulfil his engagements at the C.J.C. Winter Meeting.

The richest jumping race in the world, Grand Steeplechase in Paris, was run a few weeks ago. It was 4 1/2 miles in length, and had 5000sovs added to a work of art of the value of 400sovs, and is a weight-for-age event. The English horse, the Duke Prince and Albura were sent over to run, but the former was injured and had to be withdrawn. There were only 10 starters, and victory rested with Dauphin, who won the corresponding event four years ago, and in the interim has done remarkably well over other tracks. He carried the top-weight, 12.0, which is the highest ever successfully handled in the French Grand National.

The Australian jockey W. Evans, had a mount in the English Derby, and took the trophy home, however, had done racing when he had finished pulling. "Angur" was not very complimentary to the starters, but his view will probably be generally endorsed. He writes that Signorinetta was the only real stayer in the race, and perhaps the Derby has seldom been contested by a greater number of rank non-stayers.

An idea of how much money leading jockeys in England can make, will be gathered from the fact that H. Randall was recently retained as first mount on the Klugsriere stable at £2000 a year, and the engagements extend over the next three years. The Klugsriere stable is a limited liability company, its registered title being "Klugsriere, Limited," and it is expected it probably stands unique throughout the racing world. Randall is a younger son of Sir Henry Randall, and an offer of the amount of his retainer was refused some months ago by Mr R. Woodton for first call on the services of his son Frank.

In a training establishment such as that presided over by Richard Marsh, everything (says an English writer) is well done, and those who can claim the privilege of going to the private chapel on a Sunday evening and hearing some of the lads sing will know that the spirit pervading the stable is not one of mere display. One of the most satisfactory indications of the turf of the present day is the greatly improved social status of those connected with a training stable, and Mr Marsh has done a great deal to put a spirit of emulation in all the lads who have come under his care. And (says the writer) that many of the youngsters take the master of Egerton House as a pretty good model on which to mould themselves is a pleasing fact to be noted.

Mr. W. Ryan, who returned from his trip to Australia, has had a look at Mahutonga while he was in Sydney. The Auckland Cup winner went amiss soon after his arrival in Australia, and on examination by Mr McGrath it was found to be in a state of decay, and had to be cut right away. The horse was then turned out in a swamp, and on being brought in a few days ago for Mr Ryan's inspection, the horse was found to have grown down splendidly, and McGrath confidently expects to have Mahutonga in work again shortly, and has no doubt about his standing a preparation. An New Zealand rider would be pleased to see the horse go to the post again thoroughly wound up.

According to the New York correspondent of the London "Sportsman," the jockeys in that city are making an effort to draw the colour-line. A young Western negro, J. Lee, recently went to New York to ride, and it was announced that the white jockeys intended giving him a bad time of it. However, the stewards and the Pinkertons got hold of the little conspiracy, and so far Lee, who is a fine rider, has not been interfered with. Personally he seems to be taking care of himself, as meeting Jockey Nicolli, he said: "See, heah, you Nicolli, I beat as how you 'se going to put me over de rails. Wall, I don't want no trouble on the track, but if you or any of you white boys try to hurt dis heah coon, he meet you outside and twist every bone in you' body, see."

Readers of racehorse history have often been mentioned under of "The Prophet's Mares," but perhaps have not happened across their origin. It is said in the East that Mahommed set great store by the readiness of horses to obey any signal to which they had become accustomed, and he selected mares for breeding purposes by a test of their obedience. He shut up a drove of mares within sight of water, and kept them without drink till they were almost famished with thirst. Then the drove was released, and naturally started at a gallop for the water. When they were in full flight a trumpet sounded the bell. Only five, some say three, obeyed the call and drank from the water. The obedient ones were chosen as dams, and honoured by the title, "The Prophet's Mares."

The following items about the recent English Derby are from the "Sporting Life": "Very few people were 'out' the winner of the Derby, but one of the lucky ones we hear, was Dr. McChie, who was used to train Mr Croker's horse. A member of a well known club drew Signorinetta at the annual sweepstake, but so little did he fancy Chevalier Glustrelli's mare that he presented the ticket to the mail porter before leaving the club. He was very sorry his feelings when witnessing the ready victory of Signorinetta can be easier imagined than described. W. Bullock, who rode such an excellent race on Signorinetta, would have been on the previous year's winner, Orby, but for Mr McChie's (Croker) against Dr. McChie's advice, selecting J. Reiff to wear the Yale blue jacket, and it must have been doubly gratifying to the Irish lad to have so well justified his present employer's good opinion.

Considerable complaint was voiced regarding the loan given to the bookmaker at the recent Wellington meeting, and a writer in the "N.Z. Times" says: "If the bookmaker had been given a little more than the usual amount of complimentary tickets on Saturday. Some one remarked that those at the back were different, but it is difficult to believe that one fence would be 3ft and the next 8ft. The fact that with very greasy going there were no mishaps, and that an indifferently schooled horse like Scotty flew the lot, and showed no disposition to shirk the task, speaks for itself. With many New Zealand steeplechase courses, and with the fact that there is a commensurate reduction in the height of the battens. The regulation height of the latter should not be tampered with, and the owner with a prudent jumper would be fully justified in protesting.

The question of complimentary tickets for race meetings seems to be exercising the minds of racing officials in the Wellington district, and it is perhaps in the "Orion" in the "N.Z. Times" says: "The latest evil in connection with the turf has just come under the writer's notice in Wellington in the shape of the very dishonest practice of complimentary tickets for race meetings admitting to the lawn enclosures. The cost of these for the three days of the forthcoming meeting, if purchased in the ordinary way at Trentham, would be £1 10/-, being at the rate of 1/- per dem. The writer will probably be accused of a breach of confidence in disclosing the fact that a 'complimentary' for the three days' meeting of the Wellington Racing Club was offered and accepted by a writer to Wellington a day or two ago for the sum of fifteen shillings, less than half-price. Such trafficking is most reprehensible, and the individual who will stoop to such meanness and flagrant abuse of generosity richly deserves being severely dealt with."

Mr. Wm. Ryan returned from his trip to Australia on the 19th, after having had a pleasant time. Mr Ryan's visit was principally in connection with the V.R.C. National Meeting, at which Caduca, owned by that gentleman and his partner, was a contestant. Caduca was solidly supported for the Kellor Hurdle Race on the second day of the gathering, but his luck during the race, being almost down on all occasions. The gelding was left behind in F. McGrath's charge, and is to compete at the V.A. Meeting, which was not very far removed from the form of the jumping horse in Australia, which he stated, with one or two exceptions, was poor, and he thought Klatsere would have little difficulty, and well to hold his own. McGrath gave promise of being useful over the hurdles, but Tatterdemallion would probably have been returned the winner of the Grand National, but for the fact that he broke down in the running of the race. Although impressed with the racing in Australia, the Auckland pender expressed the opinion that he was satisfied at present to remain in New Zealand.

The following reference to the licensing of bookmakers appears in the annual report of the Thames Jockey Club: "It is with feelings of regret that the committee view the retrograde step taken by Parliament last session, by including in the Gaming Act a provision compelling racing clubs to play their calling of the various racetracks in the Dominion. The clubs from experience found that the presence of bookmakers on racecourses was pernicious, and had decided to exclude them, and did so, by a combination of the 'fraternity' with the 'unco guid,' who desire the abolition of the totalisator, an unholy alliance was formed, which with united efforts secured the passing of a measure which all straight shooters deplore. However, it is confidently expected that with the experience that will be gained, the provision will be repealed during the next session of Parliament, and the business management of racecourses left untrammelled in the hands of those who know how they should be managed in the best interests of the public."

In writing of amateur riders an English exchange quotes an anecdote which happened in Ireland. A certain crowd had a mare in a race, and she had so much in hand that in order to get a price about her the Curragh division decided to run the risk of putting up the "Barou," an amateur

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