



BY WHALEBONE.

RACING FIXTURES

Feb. 17 and 19 - Woodville District J.C. Autumn
Feb. 24, 25, and 27 - Danedra J.C. Autumn
Feb. 26 and 27 - South Auckland R.C.'s Autumn
March 4 and 5 - Wanganui J.C. Autumn
March 17 and 18 - Napier Park R.C. Autumn

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Wager." Parnell.—Defender won the Maiden Hurdle Race at the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting of 1908, and at the Winter Meeting of the same year...

A. McMillan, the Auckland trainer, purchased Kaitahara during the progress of the Gisborne meeting.

The South-Allinga filly, purchased at the recent yearling sale by Mr. G. Mills, has gone into S. Lodge's charge.

The Explosion mare Pohutu has been sent back to his owner, and was shipped South by the Waimera last week.

W. Evans, who won the Melbourne Cup on Apology, rode 14 winners out of 19 mounts at a meeting recently held at Manara.

The Merrivale colt Merriva is reported to have struck himself while working, but it is not anticipated that the injury is anything serious.

The South mare Waikohu, which has been off the scene for some time, is to be put in commission again. She is still an inmate of F. Hill's stable.

There were a lot of sleepers at Alexandra Park last Wednesday; but this does not apply to the racing, but to the piles stacked there for use on the tramway lines.

The South colt Snowfoot was shipped to Sydney on Monday last by the Victoria, and on the other side will go into T. Newbould's stable.

The Explosion mare Zinola was stated to have gone into O'Connell's charge, but this is an error, as it is D. Moraghan who is to have the future welfare of the filly to look after.

Says a Southern writer: A feature of Thursday's racing at Riccarton was the excellence of Mr. H. Piper's starting. In no single instance did a horse get badly away.

It is reported that a considerable amount of double-event betting has taken place in Sydney over the Newmarket and Australian Cup. The most fancied selection is Maltice and Signor.

Poseidon is moving along freely at Randwick, and looks as well as ever he did. Whether he will stand a preparation is another matter, but present appearances are as if he would do so.

Mr. J. H. Pollock, the well-known Wellington handicapper, is at present enjoying a visit to Auckland, and has spent a pleasant time renewing acquaintances with his many friends.

Judy Hume has been nominated for a number of the country meetings around Auckland, and evidently an attempt is to be made to get another race out of the daughter of Currier.

Advices to hand from Melbourne credit the Auckland-bred Seidon with galloping attractively at Caulfield. The son of South is nicely in the Newmarket Handicap with 7.9, and he has received 41b less in the Australian Cup.

The Wellington Pony and Gallopai Club evidently do not intend to license anyone who cares to apply for permission to ride at their meetings, and the committee have refused several riders who applied for licenses for the new year.

The name of Echo has been claimed for the youngster from Ohihiko - Kitiroa, and that of Prince for the youngster from Ohihiko - Gwendol, both of which were disposed of at the recent Caubria Park yearling sale.

Nominations for all events at the Ohinemuri Jockey Club's annual meeting close on Saturday next, February 26th, at 2 p.m. Nominations can be made either with the secretary (Mr. H. Poland, Duxton) or Mr. H. B. Massey, Auckland.

When Theodore won the Wellington Stakes at Trentham last month, he was voted a high-class colt, and when Mr. P. E. Neagle mentioned 800 guineas as the figure at which he would sell, the price was not thought exorbitant. The sale of the colt is now reported, Mr. E. J. Watt being the purchaser at the price above mentioned, and the son of Merrivale has gone into T. Gulderson's charge.

Mr. Morse has given Denis Moraghan every encouragement to take Master Debut to Wanganui for the Cup, and the weight he is asked to carry (8.0) is the highest he has been asked for a long time. The South - Harpist colt, which was sold at the recent Caubria Park yearling sale, and which was thought to be permanently crippled, is making a good recovery under

Mr Halstead, who is confident of getting the colt perfectly sound again.

Mr. Marshall had the misfortune to lose Waikite, the half-brother to Cannongate recently. Waikite, at the time of his death, was in work at Mr Marshall's place at Manku, and was reported to be coming on nicely, and promised to emulate the deeds of his illustrious relative.

It was hardly to be expected that with the A.R.C. autumn meeting proceeding at the same time, the nominations for the principal events of the C.A.C. autumn meeting would attract any Auckland horses, and such proved to be the case, not one of the local-owned brigade appearing in the list.

The victory of Ngapuka in the Hawera Cup was well anticipated in Auckland, and the son of South was strongly supported locally. Ngapuka put up a very fair performance in the event, routing the mile and a-half in 2.37, and winning by a little over a length. Mr. Morse has not been unduly harsh on Ngapuka, who was a Cup, and in letting him off with 7.5 has given him every chance to add further to his winning record.

Nominations for all events at the Ohinemuri Jockey Club's annual meeting, which takes place on March 17th and 18th, close with the secretary (Mr. H. Poland, Duxton) or with Mr. D. B. Massey (Auckland) on Saturday, February 20th, at 2 p.m.

Edna's famous English sportsman, arrived in Wellington from Sydney by the Mokoi last week. If he fancies any of the racing stock now in work in the Dominion, he will probably "talk business" with a view to trying them in English races.

The Auckland Racing Club invite tenders for 1000 loads of soil and 1000 loads of manure. Probably, tenders for the laying of water round the course, in order to allow of the tracks being watered, will be called for shortly.

Needlework, who has been enjoying a lengthy spell on the Messrs Douglas Bros. station, in order to make a recovery from the injury he received when racing at Handwick, has again been put into collar by J. Cameron. Merival, another of the same mentor's jumping brigade, struck himself the other morning, but no serious trouble is anticipated from the injury.

The Manukau Racing Club advertise the programme for their annual meeting, which is fixed for Saturday, March 13th. In all seven events are set down for decision, the total amount of which is the Waitaki Cup of 20sovs. Nominations for all events close on February 23rd, at 9 p.m., and can be made either with the secretary, Mr. F. E. Simpson, Tukikohe, or with Mr. F. D. Young, Auckland. Mr. F. W. Edwards will frame the handicaps.

The death is reported from Fielding of the well-known sire The Officer, by The Admiral, Mat. Louise. Last season he won eighth on the winning sire list, with twenty-four wins and place money aggregating £3175. He had practically just concluded another successful season at the stud, and his death will prove a substantial loss to the racing world, and a heavy insurance effected. Lyriat and Full Rate may be quoted as two well-known performers sired by The Officer, while Longue, who during the present season has won the English stakes, and who also claimed the son of The Admiral as his sire.

The majority of the people who attend racing will have forgotten "Bricky" Williams (says a Sydney writer), who served his apprenticeship with the late W. Kelso, and who won one of our best handicap stakes on horses trained by the master of Orville Lodge. Williams was upon Too Noon when he won the Challenge Stakes. Miscellaneous was another good one in the stable at that time. A well-known lad was Williams, as I remember him, and in after years he was the same. Unfortunately he contracted that fell disease cancer, and after a lingering illness, died on the 25th. He was behind him a wife and son. Williams will be remembered as having ridden in Auckland a number of years ago, for the late George Wright.

An enthusiastic admirer of horse-racing in New Zealand is Mr. H. J. Hall, proprietor of English some breed of horses is trained by Mr. R. Wootton, and young Wootton, who has had such a brilliant career in silks, rides for him. The English squire, while expressing to a representative of "The Daily Telegraph" his appreciation of the kindness extended to him by the Australian racing authorities, said that the arrangements on the various points of view, and in the different States were far in advance of anything of the kind in England. On many of the English courses—important courses, too—the arrangements for the convenience and information of the public would seem very primitive to an Australian visiting the Old Country. Then the charges of admission and the fees for entries in Australia were much lower than in England. There was only one thing that an Englishman missed in connection with racing, and that was that there were no long straight courses, but that there were many short straight courses from six furlongs to a mile. That was the only drawback in Australia—if it was a drawback.

Mr. R. D. Green-Price, writing to the "Live Stock Journal Almanac" last week in the occasion of the meeting of the Government, says: "The Government are doing their best, considering whether they will give any further, and if so, what encouragement to light horse breeding. And hunting men and women, who are greatly interested in this question, are doing their utmost, by the Hunters' Improvement Society and by prize-giving throughout the provinces, to bolster up this decaying industry. Another breeding season if at hand; are we to endure seeing for yet another year the miserable sum of £2500 distributed among 28 thoroughbred sires to supply military as well as hunting requirements throughout England, Wales, and Scotland? Is it an acknowledged disgrace to us as a nation, and although the remedy is so simple, we wait in vain for its application?"

"Touching on stall and street betting in Melbourne," "Terlinga" writes: "I thought the House had been stamped out by the Gaming Bill, but apparently the souls of gamblers are not so easily stamped out. I think so, too. Probably there is a little starting-price wagering going on, but very little. One of the suburban proprietors is allowed a very insignificant amount of money for his attendances. This gentleman should let well alone. The proprietors are doing quite nicely, and as long as they are racing there will be a certain amount of starting-price betting. There is only one way of stopping it, and that way would not please proprietary owners. Shut up all suburban racecourses and there would be a temporary stoppage of starting-price betting. But is this the only way of coping with the alleged evil?"

The Otahuhu Trotting Club's summer meeting opened on Saturday last, when the club had a record day's sport. Trotting is making good in Auckland, but there are one or two matters that require talking in hand at once, or the sport is sure to get a set-back, and although both clubs are to blame in the first instance, the Otahuhu Trotting Club are to be held in fender in the other. The first cause to be in a grow-over is the present conditions in connection with the main handicaps. As things are now, horses are handicapped in a very arbitrary manner, but in events out of ten one horse usually gets about this time, while the others generally manage to do about 5 minutes, and one is treated to the unedifying spectacle of horses running in a line, or even four or five away when the winning horse passes the post. This is not as it should be, and although one is prepared to allow for all sorts of marvellous improvement in horses, one is not particularly prepared to allow an unwholesome favour about the whole thing when one sees a horse which could not trot 5 minutes, say, in December, come out in February and spread-angle a field in about 40. If anything there is something radically wrong, and we suggest that in all maiden events competitors that do not get inside a certain limit be either fined or else their entry refused, for any horse that is not fit to race, and that is not fit to race, cannot trot 3 minutes ought not to be allowed to race, and it would be a charity to their owners to prevent them from doing so. In the second instance the Auckland Club are solely to blame, and are sure when the matter is pointed out they will see their error. This is in respect to the limits. The Auckland Club have for some time past been running the 1/4 mts in a somewhat haphazard manner, with the result that we are gradually getting a better class of horse in Auckland; but what is the use of one club aiming for this end if the other does not assist. With long handicaps, however, this matter is overtaxed, and there is no judgement to owners to go in for the best, but with a short limit the "cave de la creme" compete, and the public are treated to some excellent trotting. With the sale of the sport, it is to be hoped that the Otahuhu Club will grasp the situation with a firm hand, and assist the Metropolitan Club in bringing about the fulfilment of their desires.

The resignation of the London "Sportsman" exception is taken by "Vigilant" to Mr. Corlett's statement that Newhaven was the best Australian horse ever sent to England to race. In "Vigilant's" opinion Australia has the best, but as the matter never started in England, the writer is basing his ideas on Australian form, and out here I dare say more people would vote for Newhaven than Australia, notwithstanding that the latter at his last appearance, was third with 9.3 in an Australian Cup—remarkably good form for any three-year-old. Continuing his remarks, "Vigilant" says: "Holburn, who had Arran in training at Foxhill, found out enough to know that he was a wonder, and, even when it was certain he would not stand training, an offer of 500 guineas for him was refused. Newhaven was a very good horse, better than he showed in this country, where, as a yearling, he proved to some extent in training. Chalmers, before anyone knew what a stayer he was, was bought to lead Newhaven in his Asser Cup work, and such a value did he put on him that he was a pup; had had enough of it long before the day of the race came. Newhaven looked a gross horse, but all the same, he ran best on a light preparation, and hence it was that he was so successful in the Asser Cup at the beginning of the season. Morahan and Malina were really the most successful pair ever imported to England, and the mare was just as good as the horse that year, but she unfortunately met with a death, but there have been many other good ones, such as Moss, Meg, Harry Hill, George, Australian Star, The Grafter, etc., and the curious point is that while

the Australian-bred ones have with very few exceptions done well, those from New Zealand have almost invariably proved failures. If this phenomenon has never been able to find any satisfactory explanation.

The "obnoxious uncertainties" of the 1908 season in the Old Country have elicited from London's "Sportsman" the following: "We are doing our best to do some reason 'superstition' or 'devil' about horses being 'devil-possessed'. The mischief of the matter is that so many of them through the past season were 'possessed' of the wrong kind, and it is not so much that is unexpected as to use an Irishism—generally anticipated. The trouble through 1908 was that prominent horses did so little when they were thought at their best, and so much when they were not seriously regarded. William Waugh no more expected Primer to beat Vanouse in the Derby than he for any other trainer, authorized among trainers a lunch set out in Mr. H. M. Dorring's private room. None the less, save for the intervention of Mignori-ette, Primer would have won the Derby. When at Asser and at Newmarket in October Primer was fully expected to win, he knuckled under to, first Santo Strato and next to Siberia. Nobody expects horses to run with unwholesome precision, but there should at least be some reason in their running. After all, it is said and done, racing is largely a matter of form and weights—plus, of course, condition. By this procedure—the only one possible—matters are, so to speak, reduced to an arithmetical problem. In other years the scheme has worked fairly well. This season, however, the answers—that is to say, the results—have been a flat contradiction of the postulates. I am sending an apology for those who prophesy upon races. The prophet scorns apology. He merely indulges in fresh prophecies. I am regretting matters from the point of view of owners and trainers, and in the light of the previous and subsequent running of the extraordinary winners. To work at arithmetical problems and find the figures supplied, one does not furnish a second—that way madness lies. And that way madness we have been working all through the topsy-turvy season of 1908."

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

CHRISTCHURCH, Friday.

In spite of very unsettled weather, the first day of the N.Z. Metropolitan Trotting Club's February meeting attracted a very good attendance yesterday, and there was some splendid racing.

Perhaps one of the most promising candidates seen on during the day was the three-year-old colt Crossin, by the well-known Palm Bell, owned by the well-known Greyhound sportsman, Mr. H. W. Kitchingham. He won the first race of one mile and a-half in good style in 3.6.75, and followed this up by running second in the Queen's Handicap, one mile and a-half, in which he was penalised 5.

The principal race of the day, the Parliamentary Handicap, of two miles, in harness, produced one of the best finishes yet seen on the Aullington track, and Terra Nova's win in 4.42 proved that he is in good form at present. At the same time he was a trifling loser in winning, as Lord Elmo, the scratch horse, had a very hard passage, but finished up a close third. It was left to the well-known gelding Redchill to furnish the surprise dividend of the day by his win in the two-mile saddle race, which he carried off in 2.10.

Before the last race very heavy showers fell, and the effect they had on the track was shown by the fact that in the last race Tuxedo chief took 2.30 to do a mile.

At the close of the Canterbury Jockey Club's summer meeting Priso, the disappointing son of Stepiak and Rainbow, was sold to Mr. D. McLenan for £70.

One of the most striking features of the summer meeting at Christchurch was the excellent starting of Harry Piper, and the veteran has never been in better form.

Nominations for the Great Easter and Autumn Handicaps closed this evening, and for the former event the list shows fifty entries, while for the mile and a-half race thirty-nine have been nominated. Practically all the best horses in the Dominion have been nominated, but perhaps the most striking name appearing in that of Bond form, the unbeaten son of Montferr and Otterda.

OTAHUHU TROTTING CLUB MEETING.

SECOND DAY.

The second day's racing in connection with the Otahuhu Trotting Club's summer meeting took place on Saturday, the 13th day. The weather was fine and attendance good. Mr. R. Absolon officiated as judge. Messrs A. Selby and F. W. Edwards as timekeepers, and Mr. E. Macmillan made up the official substitutes. That of Bond form, who was absent at the Hawera meeting.

Speculation was brisk, and during the afternoon the staff of Messrs W. Humphreys and Co. were busy with the exchange of bets, which is an increase of £400 in the corresponding day last year. In addition 14 bookmakers were licensed, the receipts from this source amounting to £105. The following results were obtained in connection with the last race, which caused a lot of impatience, and necessitated the Telegraph Trot Handicap being

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