



By WHALEBONE.)

RACING FIXTURES.

- March 24, 25 - South Canterbury J.C. Autumn
March 24, 25 - Teranaki J.C. Autumn
March 27, 31, April 3 - A.T.C. Autumn
April 1, 2 - Masterton R.C. Autumn
April 1, 3 - Nelson J.C. Autumn
April 3 - North Canterbury J.C. Hack
April 10, 12 - Wairarapa R.C. Autumn
April 10, 12, 13 - Auckland R.C. Autumn
April 10, 12, 14, 17 - A.J.C. Autumn
April 12 - Foston R.C. Autumn Meeting
April 12, 13 - Feilding J.C. Easter
April 12, 13 - C.J.C. Autumn
April 21, 24 - Wellington R.C. Autumn
April 24, 25 - Avondale J.C. Autumn
April 28, 29 - Manawatu R.C. Autumn
May 5, 6 - Hawke's Bay J.C. Autumn
May 22, 24 - Takapuna J.C. Winter

It is stated that Master South has been purchased for India.

An impression prevails that the two-year-olds in Australia this season are a moderate lot.

Word from the South states that Tan San is to fulfil his engagements at the A.R.C. Autumn meeting.

The yearlings already catalogued for the yearling sales to be held at Randwick next month number 430.

The Merrivale gelding Tamut is the favourite choice locally for the A.R.C. Easter Handicap.

The various relations in local racing circles are much disturbed at present, and feeling runs very high.

The Bluejacket mare Waiotahi, which accounted for a double at the Thames, is now trained by B. Winder.

The Obitario-Gwendal youngster, which has been added to the list, has gone into W. Hill's charge at Ellerslie.

The autumn meeting of the Avondale Jockey Club takes place on April 24 and 25. Full particulars will be advertised later.

The crack South Australian sprinter Lord Carlton was sold in Melbourne recently for 300 guineas, and it is understood goes to India.

The N.Z. bred horse Pilot, which is described in the Sydney papers as a back steppochaser, has been purchased by J. Scobie for 250 gns.

The Seaton Delaval mare Cantata changed hands recently through the agency of Mr. J. Chadwick, but the name of the purchaser has not yet transpired.

Two big dividends were paid at the Thames on Saturday by Kaitianga and Teahi, which ran second in the Hurdles and Hack race respectively.

The well known Russian owner of racehorses, Mr. Michael Russett, has no fewer than 148 horses in training. He employs three trainers.

Although the Waikato trainer, R. Hammon, has several horses at the Thames, only two - Master Paul and Waimutu - were produced to fulfil their engagements.

A. Oliver, one of New Zealand's foremost horsemen, left for Australia last week. Oliver is at present riding in splendid form, and should do well on the other side.

The mishap to young McMillan at the Thames is not so serious as once thought, and there is every probability of his being able to resume riding again shortly.

F. J. Speakman, who has been on the retired list for some considerable time, has been granted a three-month licence by the Auckland Metropolitan Committee.

All sorts of rumours are afloat in connection with the disqualifications of the Avondale Jockey Club, and if half one hears is true, some very sensational are promulgated.

Mr. J. L. Carl, the owner of Rossie, will be a visitor to the A.R.C. autumn meeting, in order to see his filly run in her engagements.

Mr. Morse makes Master Smit out to be 15th better for some considerable time, but of the local three-year-olds, which he picks as Waimanga.

Three boxes have been engaged at Green Lane for Mr. T. H. Lowry's horses, but so far the names of his representatives have not transpired.

There is every probability of the Avondale Jockey Club appealing against the decision of the Auckland Metropolitan Committee in the case of N. Cunningham.

The recent rains have proved very beneficial at Ellerslie, and with the near approach of the A.R.C. autumn meeting, trainers will be enabled to send their charges along.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond has disposed of the three-year-old St. Aidan to Mr. F. Neill, of Canterbury, and the son of Birkenhead will in future be trained by D. Moranaghan at Riccarton.

The Eton gelding Rarata scored his first victory in his new owner's (Mr. G. Mills) colours when he accounted for the St. Patrick's Handicap on the opening day of the Ohinemuri meeting.

It is anticipated that a loss of something like £2500 will be experienced over the V.R.C. Autumn meeting. This will not be so much as it appears, as the club increased the stakes on this occasion by £1250.

When running well forward in the Maiden Plate at the recent Thames meeting, Aristos broke a blood vessel in his head, and speedily dropped back. Had the mishap not occurred, Aristos may have troubled the winner.

It is stated that Mr. S. P. Mackay, the owner of Scintilla presented W. McLachlan, the rider, with £500 for winning the Newmarket Handicap, and that his three winning rides on the son of Smit brought him in £750.

The New Zealand horseman T. Cahill had a run of bad luck in the March Steeplechase at Flemington. He was fined £2 for disobedience at the post, and was also reprimanded for not riding his mount (Pilot) out.

The Eton gelding Notoerini was unlucky to have been beaten in the Welter Handicap at the Thames, and his defeat was mainly due to the riding of R. E. Brown on Waiotahi, who outrode his namesake, C. Brown, who made a very feeble attempt at a finish.

It is rumored that a sworn declaration of a startling nature has been made in connection with the Royal Scout disqualification, and that the same will come before the appeal judges of the N.Z. Racing Conference next Saturday.

Mr. T. H. Lowry has evidently a useful filly in Glissade, which won both two-year-old races at the Napier Park meeting. Glissade, it will be noticed, is very inbred, her sire (Scout) being by St. Simon, while her dam's sire (Bill of Portland) is also by St. Simon.

Most of the Southern, and the Napier writers in particular, were very exercised over the lenient treatment meted out to Woodley in the Napier Park Cup. The forecast was correct, as the Hon. J. D. Ormond's representative made a one-horse race of it.

The much-boomed Bobrikoff was produced on the first day of the Napier Park Meeting, but the best he could do was to run third in the Flying Handicap, being beaten by both Diamond Star and Stylis. Bobrikoff has not raced since the last A.R.C. Summer Meeting, and may need a race or two.

The old Muskapeer gelding Newtown, which it was thought one time would never race again, was seen out in two races at the Thames, and pulled up apparently soon after his efforts. If he was kept till the ground was softer, and then put to the work with a decent hurdle race, he would win a good race.

The Leolantis gelding Kapakapa looked big and luscious when he went out to contest the Hurdle Race at the Thames, and under the circumstances ran a very good race, but when he pulled up he seemed very tender in front, and on appearance it will take his trainer all his time to keep him on his feet.

In the eight events at the Thames only three riders succeeded in getting their names on to the winning list. R. E. Brown, who was in good form, rode four winners (Waiotahi (2), Jona, and Likuid), Ferrel won a fifth (Carnegie) and Freeman, and McKinnon rode Okaihu in the Hurdles and Steeplechase.

Says the Hawke's Bay 'Herald's' introductory notes on Wednesday's racing at the Park: The Flying Handicap was looked upon as a gift for Bobrikoff, and there was a decided rush to back him. The black horse was slow in getting away from the barrier, and never had a chance of reaching the leading division.

The victory of Manapouri on the concluding day of the Ohinemuri J.C. annual meeting was long overdue, but, according to the price paid, the connections could hardly be benefited by the victory. The owner, T. A. Williams, under whose charge the son of Smit has been for some time, is seriously thinking of giving the training game best.

The Auckland Trotting Club's acceptances are highly satisfactory, and everything points to a record gathering. For the special purse hung up by the club, Lord Elmo and Specialist are to attack the mile record, and Lord Elmo the two mile. Provided the track is in anything like decent order, lovers of trotting should witness an exhibition rarely seen in Auckland.

The question is being asked, 'What has been done by the Avondale Club in connection with the charges made against C. Cress, the rider of Naimal, last September?' It is understood that certain evidence has been taken, and there the matter stands, but, probably, when the disqualifications already imposed are disposed of the Naimal case will be proceeded with.

Jae Nutter, the top jockey of last season, has commenced this year well by riding five winners out of six in one day, including one of 15, and another of 1200. It really marvellous how these winning sequences crop up; but they are nothing to the losing ones, as one can remember Fred Ailsopp, quite in his prime, putting up a series of over sixty also runs.

The appeal in the Lucio disqualification case has been further adjourned by the Metropolitan committee, but it is understood a decision is to be given to-morrow (Thursday) evening. It is now six months since the alleged malpractice took place, and it seems it takes so long to come to a decision as a case in Chancery. If much more time is spent some of those charged with the commission of their sentence before the case is determined.

It is notified in the Calcutta Turf Club Calendar that the following addition has been made to the Rules of Betting, with effect from 1st January 1909. In the case of a dead heat for first place between two or more horses, the horses which run the dead heat shall be considered to be horses placed first by the judge within the meaning of the preceding rule, and the money betted shall be put together and equally divided, irrespective of whether the race be subsequently run off or not. Except where the prize-money is particularly liberal, it is improbable that any dead heat will occur under the run of where the C.T.C. rules are in force.

Says the 'Winning Post' on the New Zealand-bred horse Noctuliform's last performance is the only gratifying one throughout his contestable career in this country. Making his first and last appearance in a hurdle race, he broke a pastern and was shot. It will require no earth to fill up his grave; he has been covered with public money too often and too many burials. If American blood is to be taxed by the Jockey Club, as suggested in a certain quarter, but which it is more than probable will never be realised, then with Noctuliform as a precedent, the tax would certainly have to be extended to all importations.

It is stated that a visitor to the Napier Park meeting, who is looked upon as a lover of horse's addition, was appealed to for an expression of opinion as to Bobrikoff, when he was saddled up for the Flying Handicap on Wednesday, when his only opponent was Stylis. Diamond Star, and 'L'Amol. The questioner did not have long to wait for the information he was seeking. It was to this effect: 'He would stand a good chance of getting a first prize ticket at a show that his prospects would certainly appear to be somewhat remote of the speedy son of Finland being in good nick for Easter engagements.' - 'N.Z. Times.'

The performance of Okaihu. In winning both hurdles and steeplechase at the Thames, was a most meritorious one, and the son of Salvaud gives promise of developing into a useful lepper. In the steeplechase Okaihu fought a good race, and in conversation with his trainer-owner after the race, he informed me that beyond jumping a couple of stone walls in a paddock near the stables, the horse had never been schooled over a steeplechase fence. Under the circumstances, and considering he is only a four-year-old, it will be seen that Okaihu is evidently a natural jumper, and no one would begrudge his owner a victory over the 'fast' at one of the Nationals during the forthcoming season.

Thus an American writer: 'Two-year-old racing commenced promptly in California, both at Oakland and Los Angeles, and it is really remarkable the way in which the thick and muddy roll has been in these three-furlong sprints, which are responsible for the permanent ruin of so many youngsters. Savannah (Georgia) in presenting us with a meeting of the worst type over a difficult circuit, and where the promoters control the books, and are in league with the principal pool-rooms. It can be quite imagined the class of sport that is provided. Of course, the meeting is a success, but the spectators exist a class of gambling in this country who would venture his roll on a mouse race conducted round a roulette wheel.'

A meeting of the Auckland Metropolitan Committee has been held last week by Hon. B. Hutchinson presiding. Mr. E. A. Price and the secretary were appointed to represent the committee in the appeals to the conference of S. G. Lindsay, M. Ryan, and C. T. Bell, which are to be held at the Met on the 27th inst. Licenses were granted as follows: - Trainers: J. T. McGee, Jockeys: F. Burns, J. Butterworth, L. H. Coleman, H. Jones, J. S. Kelly, J. B. Flak.

er. P. Watkins, and F. L. Speakman (8 months). Apprentices: R. W. Brown and J. A. Fodgen. Gentleman rider: Mr. A. J. McFlinn. The date of the Waipa Racing Club's meeting was altered from March 24th to March 27th. The R. of Plenty Jockey Club's programme for March 25th was passed. The Jockey's license of W. H. Pearson was suspended pending his appeal against the life disqualification imposed by the Waiotahi Jockey Club. The appeal in the Lucio case was adjourned until Thursday evening.

In writing of the bookmaking trouble, a writer in the 'Evening Post' says: 'The racing clubs disclaim any responsibility whenever bookmakers repudiate their liabilities. This is merely a quibble, and the clubs would be studying their own interests by insisting upon some evidence of financial stability before issuing licenses to each and every applicant. It is astonishing how quickly a punter sickens of the racing game if he is balanced once or twice. The loss of the bag, and the loss of revenue to the clubs. It is not suggested that the safeguards should be so automatic as to prevent new fielders coming into the game. Competition is an excellent thing in bookmaking, and any proceeding a trust regulating the odds is to be strongly deprecated. Not that there is much fear of that, as the totalisator is always an active competitor for business. The Danneberg incident, where a bookmaker apparently took undue risks with Vi, ought to cause the whole question of the licensing of bookmakers to be taken up by the Racing Conference, with a view to the framing of suitable regulations, both in the interests of the public and the decent section of bookmakers.'

Mr. Morse's adjustments for the A.R.C. Handicap made their appearance on Friday, and, taken as a whole, give evidence of very careful consideration and a most aristocratic evincing as to which would head the list. Bobrikoff or All Red, and the former is awarded the pride of place, with 9.10, which is a pound less than Nonette carried to victory as a three-year-old in 1907. It will be interesting to see where Mr. Lowry elects to send his champion. All Red is nicely placed with 8.9 as is Master Smit with 9.3. Tamut (8.8) is, with Aborigine (7.13), Napanuka (7.14), Sir Tristram (7.10), and Watchpoe (7.8) given every inducement. Master Delaval (8.3) has nothing to complain of, and it is a question whether he will not find the mile journey more to his liking than the longer journey he has undertaken lately. Among the light-weight division are a number of probabilities, and the race promises to attract a large field. Mr. Morse does not appear to have been so careful in his adjustments in the case of the hurdle race, and Ben Jones (10.8) will probably frighten a lot of competitors out.



TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

CHRISTCHURCH, Friday.

Much-needed rain commenced to fall on Thursday evening, and at the time of writing it shows no signs of cessation. This has put training operations at a standstill, the tracks will benefit greatly, and should be in the best of order for next month's meeting.

St. Aidan, the three-year-old son of Birkenhead and Montread, has been purchased from the Hon. J. D. Ormond by the South Canterbury sportsman, Mr. F. Neilgan. The favorite selections locally for the Great Easter Handicap are Bobrikoff, Tamut, Penates, Gold Crest, Sea King, and Czar Kolokol, while in the Autumn Handicap Husbandman, Bobrikoff, Downfall, All Red, and Prim find most favour.

R. King, who sustains a nasty fall when riding Bulletin at the Akaroa meeting last week, was sufficiently recovered to ride Field Gun in the Waimate Cup.

Mr. Keith has been appointed starter for the Marlborough Racing Club's Autumn Meeting.

Trek, who is now owned by a Greyouth sportsman, broke a blood vessel in his head several times while doing a gallop. This will prevent him fulfilling any of his immediate engagements, which is bad luck for his owner, as the son of The Officer could hardly have missed picking up a stake or two at the West Coast autumn meetings.

It is a decided compliment to New Zealand horses to find them occupying posts of honour in such events as the Doncaster Handicap and Sydney Cup.

Pleasant reports of Artillerie's prospects in the Doncaster Handicap continue to arrive, and there is no getting away from the fact of her galloping abilities.

Field Gun scored a long overdue win in

AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB.

AUTUMN MEETING. FIRST DAY. SATURDAY, 27th INST.

Also, WEDNESDAY, 31st, and SATURDAY, 2nd APRIL.

FIRST RACE STARTS AT 1 P.M. MILE RECORD.

LORD ELMO (from Christchurch) and SPECIALIST (Auckland)

Will compete for a Purse of 10000s, to establish a Mile Record for the track. C. F. MARR, Secretary.