

Sports and Pastimes.

TURF FIXTURES.

May 21 and 22—Takapuna J. C. Winter
 May 21 and 22—Dunedin J.C. Winter
 June 1—Auckland Racing Club Winter
 June 22—Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
 June 23—Gisborne Park Racing Club
 June 24, 25—Napier Park Racing Club
 July 15 and 20—Wellington R.C. Winter

DATES OF COMING EVENTS.

May 24—Wanganui Steeplechase
 May 26—Epsom Derby.
 June 1—The Oaks
 June 2—A.R.C. Grand National Hurdle Race
 June 11—Great Northern Steeplechase
 June 22—Hawke's Bay Steeplechase

NOTES BY MONITOR.

One of the most hostile demonstrations ever seen on a racecourse occurred at Avondale on Saturday last after the running of the Handicap Steeplechase. In this Dentist was an odds-on favourite, but Rae, who had the mount, after keeping his horse much too far back, allowed him to run off at the very easy obstacle opposite the stand. The public were of opinion that this was done intentionally, and it is probable that if Rae had not been escorted back to the enclosure by the police that he would have been severely dealt with by the disappointed punters. The stewards were dissatisfied with the running of the horse and decided to hold an inquiry. This took place on Monday, when the case was thoroughly investigated. Rae stated that Dentist ran off owing to Conscript swerving in front of him, and that he had also backed the horse for £45. Major George also said that he was a close witness to the occurrence, and in his opinion it was a pure accident. The stewards thereupon decided to exonerate Rae.

French's stable was in a fine winning vein at the Avondale meeting on the second day, when they secured four out of the seven events on the programme. The most notable performer was the chestnut gelding Solo, which, after dead-heating Telephone in the Flying Handicap, came out and easily accounted for the Waitakerei Handicap. Clansman put the pony race to his credit, while Donny Brook proved too good for the others in the Hack Handicap. Altogether the Papakura stable must have had a good day.

The running of Firefly in the Autumn Handicap was a remarkable instance of reversal of form. On the first day of the meeting the mare never once emerged from the rack in the Avondale Handicap, being one of the last to finish, yet on Saturday with a slightly bigger weight and against the same horses she led from start to finish, the race being not much more than an exercise gallop for her. At a subsequent meeting of the stewards to consider this extraordinary reversal of form the explanations tendered were deemed satisfactory. The stewards may have been convinced that all was right in the matter, but I am afraid it would be altogether an impossibility to convince the public who witnessed both races that this was the case. The stewards must have been remarkably short sighted in the Autumn Handicap, for there was at least one other horse whose running was, to say the least of it, suspicious in the highest degree, and this remark also applies to the performance of a well backed one in the Waitakerei Handicap.

Miss Delaval had hard luck in the Thompson Handicap, in which race she was virtually left at the post. She made up for this, however, on the second day by winning the N.Z. St. Leger of 500sovs from Skobeloff and St. Hario. Mr D. McLeod's filly has now won the C.J.C. Oaks, G.N. Derby, and N.Z. St. Leger, so that as a classic winner she stands out from others of her year. Messrs Nathan must have been pleased at the success of the Seaton Delaval mare.

Paria, which annexed the Maiden Hurdles at Avondale, showed considerable speed on the flat, but appears to be rather backward at

jumping the obstacles. The Gisborne gelding made a bad bungle at the hurdle in the straight in which he all but came to grief, but his rider (Williams) making a fine recovery landed the gelding home a fairly easy winner from the favourite Forty-seven.

As I predicted last week, Advance, good horse as he undoubtedly is, was unable to give away weight-for-age to Mr Stead's Formosan in the North Island Challenge Stakes. At this time of the year the weight-for-age scale is altogether in favour of the two-year-olds, and this was proved in the race in question, when three two-year-olds filled the places. Formosan is evidently a very speedy customer, and if he trains on looks like providing a Derby winner next year.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond's brown gelding Jabber was in good form at the Wellington Meeting, for, after winning the Thompson Handicap on the first day, he put the Suburban Handicap to his credit on the closing day. Curiously enough, the placings in both races, namely, Jabber, Oingo, and Okoro, were the same.

Mr H. Oxenham, the well-known Sydney bookmaker, has left that city for England, where he intends to reside altogether. At a banquet given to him prior to his departure the "Leviathan" stated that he was driven out of Sydney by the A.J.C. rule which prohibits the registration of a bookmaker who keeps a betting-shop. No doubt he will be much missed by Sydney sporting folk, for Mr Oxenham was always looked upon as a straight goer on the turf, and was always prepared to lay good prices about anything but his own, against which he never flinched.

The Scout altogether failed to run up to expectations at the Avondale meeting. On the first day he was served up as a very hot thing, but failed when the pinch came. On the second day, the race being shorter, he was again supported heavily, but collapsed at the distance. The unfavourable comment which Mr Evitt received for his lenient handicapping of the Southern horse, was thus proved to be totally unwarranted.

At Adelaide on Saturday a fine dividend was paid. This was in the Goodwood Handicap, the big event on the opening day of the South Australian Autumn Meeting. Twenty horses started in the race, the outsider, Sir R. Clark's bay horse Banbury, by Iridspore—Nina, with 9/4, getting home by two lengths, and paying the sensational dividend of £101 13/.

The cable has given us during the week the result of the Two Thousand Guineas and One Thousand Guineas, run at the Spring Meeting at Newmarket, England. In the former race the Prince of Wales' bay colt Diamond II, won from Sir E. Casels' chestnut colt Hona Rosa, by Bona Vista, out of Rose Modder. Third place was filled by Lord Cudgog's brown colt Sidus, by St. Simon—Star of Fortune. Diamond Jubilee, who is a full brother to that successful horse Persimmon, as a two-year-old displayed most shocking temper, and by no means ran up to expectations. He has improved, however, with age, and his last performance points to him having a great chance in the Derby. If the Prince's colours should be successful in this race there will be a great scene of enthusiasm at Epsom, equalling that when Persimmon was led in victorious.

In the One Thousand Guineas another St. Simon was successful, this being Mr L. Brassey's bay filly Winifred, which is by the great Ben O'R stallion out of Melody. Second place was filled by Lord Ellesmere's chestnut filly Inquisitiveness, by Hampton—None-the-Wiser, while third place went to Sir R. W. Griffiths' bay filly Vain Duchess, by Isisglass out of Sweet Duchess.

Winifred is evidently a very smart filly, as she, although only starting on one occasion as a two-year-old, easily landed the race—the Richmond Stakes of £782. She is engaged in the Oaks, an event which it seems probable she may win.

To-day (Wednesday) and to-morrow the Epsom Racing Club will hold their Winter Meeting. Quite a number of Auckland sportsmen have gone down to attend the fixture, which is generally a very pleasant reunion. In

the Railway Handicap Okoro should have a chance second to none, for she has been showing some fair form lately. The big race of the day—the Hawera Cup—may go to Jadoo, while in the Hurdle Race Silver Ray's chance is highly spoken of.

Another contingent of horses is to leave Sydney this week in the steamer Ninevah on their way to England. The most noted of these is the Grand Planour horse Parthian, who has shown some exceptional ability of late both at Eppington and Handwick. Other's of Mr Muir's string are The Tola, Sweetheart and Fifeshire.

The Wellington Racing Club paid away in stakes last week the respectable sum of £2764. The Hon. J. D. Ormond's name is at the top of the list with £722, which amount was won chiefly by the aid of Jabber. Mr Dan. McLeod comes next with £380. Mr G. G. Stead follows with £323; while Sir Geo. Clifford and Mr E. J. Watts each have exactly the same amount opposite their names, viz., £213 15s. Several other owners follow with less than £100 to their credit.

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WELLINGTON RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

The autumn fixture of the southern club took place on Wednesday and Friday last. On the opening day the principal event was the Thompson Handicap, in which Dundas was most heavily supported. The winner, however, turned up in the Hon. J. D. Ormond's brown gelding Jabber, which won fairly easily from Oingo and Okoro. In the North Island Challenge Stakes the victorious career of Advance was checked, as he finished out of a place, the winner turning up in the two-year-old Formosan. On the second day Okoro accounted for the Hunt Handicap, in which she led from start to finish. The Auckland, Miss Delaval was first home in the New Zealand St. Leger, in which she beat Mr Stead's pair, Skobeloff and Saco. Hario. The Pacific Handicap only drew four runners, the Shannon being most in demand. In a great finish Sir Geo. Clifford's Cattie Chief was just able to beat the favourite, with Paphos in third place. The Autumn Handicap fell to the Drend-naught mare Ideal, who somewhat easily defeated Volley and Dundas. Coin was strongly supported for the Hurdle race, but although at the distance he looked like winning he was unable to stall off the strong finishing run of Toppina, who beat him by a length. Jabber once more demonstrated his sprinting abilities in the Suburban Handicap, which the St. Andrew gelding somewhat easily annexed by a length from Oingo and Okoro, the placing in this race being exactly as in the Thompson Handicap. The Farewell Handicap terminated the meeting and in this race the favourite, St. Dennis, led from start to finish, and won somewhat comfortably from the next most fancied candidate, Chassecur.

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AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

SECOND DAY.

The Avondale Jockey Club concluded their autumn fixture on Saturday last, when a very large number went out to Avondale to witness the sport. The weather was fine and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent by those present, the only incident to mar the day's enjoyment being a very hostile demonstration made by the public against the jockey Rae, the rider of Dentist in the Steeplechase, otherwise all passed off pleasantly. Mr John Bolland, M.H.R., occupied the judge's box, and his decisions were unchallenged, while Mr George Cutts was fairly satisfactory at the starting barrier. During the afternoon Hunter's Artillery Band played on the lawn and considerably added to the enjoyment of those present. Speculation proved brisk, a sum of £6197 going through the totalisator, which brings up the amount passed through the machine in the two days to £10,843 for fourteen races, which the club must undoubtedly consider as highly satisfactory. The racing was commenced with the Maiden Hurdles, for which Forty-seven and Paria were singled out as

likely to do the trick. The latter was first away and although nearly coming to grief at the hurdle opposite the stand, he went on and won fairly comfortably from the favourite.

In the Flying Handicap Scout was picked out as a fairly good thing on the strength of his running on Wednesday, where he led to the distance, but in the four furlong race he was only able to repeat the performance, fading out of sight directly the whips were drawn. Old Telephone showed once again that he wants a lot of beating over half a mile, as he was able to make a dead heat of it with the light-weight Solo.

The Autumn Handicap, which followed, drew a field of thirteen starters, of which The Needle and St. Ursula carried most weight of money. Directly the barrier rose Firefly went to the front and remained there to the finish, winning by fully two lengths from Laetitia.

There were but five runners in the Handicap Steeplechase, in which Dentist was made a red-hot favourite. He however ran off at the jump in front of the stand, and Riout, which had been in the lead all the way, won very easily from St. Leonaris.

Twelve filed out to do battle in the Second Hack Handicap, and for this there was not much to choose between Nereid and Donnybrook. The latter assumed command four furlongs from home and despite a challenge by The Master won fairly comfortably by two lengths. During the race the favourite came to grief, and the rider (Sattman) was brought in apparently badly damaged.

The Waitakerei Handicap concluded the running, and for this Daynetree was made a strong favourite. The Blairgowrie gelding Solo proved that his good showing earlier in the day was no fluke, as he won from end to end, St. Peter chasing him home.

The particulars of the racing are as under:—

AUTUMN HANDICAP of 900sovs; second 150sovs out of the stake. One mile.
 146—Mr A. Robertson's blk m Firefly, by Artillery—Fair Maid, 6yrs, 7.12 (W. Stewart)..... 1
 133—Stewart's bay gelding Laetitia, 6 (J. Laetitia, 3yrs, 8.2 (J. Gallagher)..... 2
 20—Mr A. J. Edwards' br g Honesty, 6yrs, 7.5 (J. Stewart)..... 3

Also started:—302, The Needle, 0.6 (W. Clark), 8.07; St. Ursula, 8.2 (D'hanley); 1.9, Jim Kean, 7.4 (Thompson); 1.6, (Gate); 6.4, Knight of Arhol, 7.0 (Whitehouse); 4.2, Canopus, 7.0 (M. Scales); 1.5, G. G. Stead's bay gelding, 7.0 (Factor); 7.0 (Hops); 5.0, The Afghan, 7.0 (Sattman); 2.3, Brilliant, 6.7 (Abbott).

Firefly and The Needle were the first to move, and the latter part the stand and out of the straight, followed by Laetitia and St. Ursula. In the run up the back of the course Firefly was two lengths in front of Laetitia and St. Ursula, while Honesty made a move towards approaching the bend The Needle had dropped eight away, Firefly still holding her own in the head of the field. When the home turn was reached Laetitia, a couple of lengths in front of Laetitia, and then came Honesty; but the leader continued to win his own, and she had no difficulty in winning by two lengths, while second and third were separated by a length. The Labourer was close up fourth, and Knight of Arhol, who had Needle bring one of the last to finish. Time, 1.40. Dividend, £7 17s. Totalisator, 127s.

HANDICAP STEEPLCHASE of 70sovs. About 3 miles.

77—Mr R. Cook's br g Riout, by Huntman or Cup-a-lilly, aged, 10.0 (A. Phillips)..... 1
 17—Mr G. G. Stead's blk m St. Leonaris, aged, 9.7 (J. Pennell)..... 2
 333—Mr E. J. Rae's br g Dentist, aged, 11.0 (J. Rae)..... 3

Also started:—53, Conscript, 10.0 (A. Willmore); 21, Hops, 10.0 (J. Gallagher); Riout went off with the lead, and he headed the field throughout, winning easily by 30 lengths. Riout, who was running second, got rid of his rivals at the last furlong, enabling St. Leonaris to get second place on a preference, while Dentist was a poor third. On the last round Dentist ran off at the course fence, and Riout, who was 200 lbs in weight, was pulled up at the back of the course. No time was taken. Dividend, £6 4s. Totalisator, 23s.

SECOND HACK HANDICAP of 40sovs. Six furlongs.

102—Mr J. Arnold's br g Donnybrook, by Nereid—Dolly, 4yrs, 7.5 (Tait)..... 1
 2—Major F. N. George's br g The Master, 7.7 (Sattman)..... 2
 101—Mr W. Oliver's gr e Barchus, 8.6 (M. Ryan)..... 3

Also started:—62, Defender, 8.5 (C. Hodson); 218, Nereid, 7.10 (W. Sattman); 15, Radi-cial, 8.0 (Sattman); 86, Perseverance, 7.2 (Whitehouse); 42, Bold, 7.0 (Horsburgh); 4, Blairdrie, 7.0 (Conway); 22, Voyager, 8.10 (J. Pennell); 37, Jack Brown, 6.10 (Abbott); 5, Lightning, 6.7 (J. Pennell).

Donnybrook and The Master were first to get away, and they led for a couple of furlongs, when Donnybrook went to the front and won comfortably by three lengths, with Barchus a good third, and Lightning fourth. Time, 3.20. Dividend, £3 13s. Totalisator, 76s. Nereid fell at the entrance to the straight. W. Sattman, her rider, getting a severe fall.

WAITAKERE HANDICAP of 70sovs. Six furlongs.

148—Mr A. Morgan's ch g Solo, by Blairgowrie—Dolly, 4yrs, 7.5 and 8.0 (D. Hanley)..... 1
 187—Mr G. Chasels' br g St. Peter, 3yrs, 7.4 (D. Chasels, jun)..... 2
 84—Mr B. Gardner's b m Lady Dusk, 6yrs, 8.0 (J. Secotes)..... 3