

# Sports and Pastimes.

## TURF FIXTURES.

August 14, 15 and 18—New Zealand Grand National Meeting

### NOTES BY MONITOR.

It is a pity that the Northern Trotting Club were not allotted any totalisator permits this season, but instead were "placed on probation." This seems to me to mean nothing at all, for without the permit it is hardly possible that a meeting will be held, and if no meeting is held how can the club justify its probation. The powers that be evidently are not going to lend a hand to help the new institution in its attempt to purify the sport in Auckland. At present there seems to be a chance of a complete deadlock, for the Tramway Company have stated that they will no longer lend the ground to the old club, which is now in the position of holding three permits without any ground to race on.

The Racing Conference which was held last week in Wellington was as usual full of interest to racing men. Quite a lot of business was disposed of, the two most important being possibly the new restrictions in the issue of jockey's licences and the adoption of a uniform hurdle throughout the colony, the height being fixed at 2ft 6in. The bracketing of all horses running under the same ownership is now made compulsory. Sir Geo. Clifford presided on each day of the meeting, and his address showed that an improvement had been made in purifying turf affairs during the season. In going through the totalisator recommendations I was sorry to see that the Avondale Jockey Club were only placed fourth on the list in their application for another permit. This is a pity as the club is a very deserving one, and it will mean that the proposed winter fixture will have to be abandoned.

The weights for the big events of the Canterbury Jockey Club's Grand National Meeting have been declared by Mr Henry.

In the Steeplechase Plain Bill stands at the top of the poll, this position being due to his easy win at Wellington, and even with 12.8 the son of Flintlock will require to be reckoned with. Others which catch the eye on a cursory glimpse through the list are Nor-west, Dr. Bill, Morag, Roller, and Backberry.

The Winter Cup shows Record Reign with a stone more than his nearest opponent, and it seems to me that Castor's son has been somewhat bashfully treated. Horses to strike me as having chances are Crusoe, Ruamahunga, Bush Rose, Ideal, Strait-rain and Lasting.

In the Hurdle Race the well-performed Chevalier (or whatever his name may happen to be at the time of racing) has been allotted 12.8, conceding his stable mate Record Reign 3lbs. When Mr Evett awarded 11.10 to Record Reign the scratching pen was promptly put through the horse's name, so that to be consistent the horse can hardly be started with 12.5 in a more important fixture. If he does see the post, he must be counted as dangerous, while of others Plain Bill, Nor-west, Roller, Torpina, and The Guard should show prominently.

Late advices state that the aptly-named Wait-a-Bit and the Auckland-bred horse Lancaster are favourites for the Melbourne Cup. The first-named recently placed a maiden hurdle race to his credit at Flemington, which event he won, carrying top weight, in a very easy fashion.

The followers of the Malua horse evidently seem very sanguine of him winning the big race this year by the number of large wagers that have been written about his chance. Great deeds were expected of Lancaster last year, but they did not come to anything, the only race falling to his lot being a maiden plate at the V.A.T.C. Spring Meeting, in which he just squeezed home a head of Mazza-

tina, who got away very badly. The son of Hotchkiss also ran in the V.R.C. Derby and Melbourne Cup, but did not show to any advantage in either races.

The cable brings word of the result of the Eclipse Stakes of 10,000sovs., run at Sandown Park. This valuable stake went to the Prince of Wales' colt Diamond Jubilee, who beat Mr. J. H. Musker's Orion colt Chevening, while the Australian sportsman, Mr. H. C. White, got a third with his four-year-old horse Skopos, by St. Serf. The winner, which Guineas, Newmarket Stakes and Derby, has up to date earned in stakes no less a sum than £26,425.

The date of the sale of St. Albans' racehorses, in the estate of the late W. A. Wilson, has been fixed for August 10th. The lot include the speedy Bobadil, La Carabine, Kinglike, Debutant, Hona (sister to Bobadil), Songbird, Revenue, Autous, etc., and six two-year olds by Bill of Portland, Wallace and Light Artillery. The executors have given instructions to have these horses prepared in quite the same manner as if they were not to enter the sale ring.

Since Record Reign's arrival at the Hutt he has been apportioned long, slow work every day, and he is reported to be looking well on it. The Wellington folks who have seen the Castor horse speak very highly of him.

There is every probability of the crack Queensland colt, Dundonald, being seen out under silk before very long. The injured pastern, caused through slipping, which has been the means of keeping Dundonald in retirement during the past twelve months, is said to be fast mending, and the swelling has almost entirely disappeared.

The jumper, Plain Bill, who has been on the retired list for close upon two years, made his reappearance under silk in the Wellington Hurdle Race, in which event he finished well up with the field. On the concluding day of the meeting he showed an improvement on this by winning the big steeplechase easily by ten lengths. Although apportioned a big weight at the Canterbury Jockey Club's Grand National Meeting, the son of Flintlock will go very close to putting one of the plums of the meeting to his credit.

The new sire for Wellington Park, Phoebus Apollo, has arrived in Dunedin by the steamer Paparua. From a private wire to hand it would appear that the new importation is in capital health, and his arrival in Auckland will be welcomed.

I notice that the Wanganui Jockey Club, at its meeting to-night, intend discussing the question of appointing a paid judge to act at all future meetings. This question also comes on for decision at the next meeting of the Auckland Racing Club, when it is probable that such a judge will be appointed. Of course in the Old Country the thing has obtained for many years, when the late Judge Clark acted all over the country. It is entirely unfair to expect any gentleman to constantly act in this position in an honorary capacity, and it is to be hoped that the senior club will definitely decide the point at its next meeting. Should this be done there can be very little doubt that both Avondale and Takapuna will follow the good example set them.

That good little battler Crusoe showed a return to form in the Winter Oats, at Wellington. The Cruiser gelding has been off the scene for some time past, and his reappearance was in the Parliamentary Handicap on the opening day of the meeting, when he managed to squeeze into third place, while he followed this up by defeating a large field in the Oats, which event he won after a great battle by a neck.

During the week wagering on the New Zealand Cup has been fairly brisk, although most attention has been paid to the Wellington meeting. Advance's price was required after and quoted at 10 to 1, but I have not heard whether any business resulted at that figure. Malua and Record Reign are each quoted at 10 to 1, one wager of 1000 to 80 going on the son of Malua, while 1000 to 50 was written about his

stable mate, Military. Strathmairn was supported at 1000 to 15, Tortulla at 1000 to 30, while Explosion was backed to win the big southern race at 1000 to 20.

It appears that Mr Lou. Harris' fine Hurdler will not be able to retain the name of Chevalier, which he was recently rechristened. As this name is already in the Stud Book it is, of course, inadmissible under rule 51. Mr Wauklyn, the secretary to the New Zealand Racing Conference, says in a letter to the "N.Z. Referee": "There is really no excuse for giving illegal names, and it will save owners a great deal of trouble and possibly expense in the shape of fines, if they will submit the names in accordance with the rules. All the secretaries of important clubs have been supplied with forms for claiming names, and I have no doubt will give any necessary assistance."

The Sydney "Bulletin" says:—"If Dan O'Brien crosses the Tasman Sea on lucre bent this spring his pair (Malatua and Military), both Australian bred, will likely keep their opponents' feet warm. The first-named, like his sire, Malua, improves with age, and makes a good handicap moke, while the Light Artillery youngster is speedy and full of promise. The pair figure in the Sydney Metropolitan and Melbourne Cup, and Military will likely show his paces in the A.J.C. Derby. The two M.L. cracks, Sealhorse and Advance, are also in the big Flemington event, and Sealhorse is almost bound to go across, ambitious Major George being impatient to show Australian turf critics that Nelson's son is nearly as good as his sire, and that the colt was out of sorts in the autumn. As Hon. Hugh Mosman also contemplates representation in Sydney and Melbourne, Maoriland's invading force will be strong."

The Auckland Coursing Club concluded their July meeting on Wednesday last, the Bracelet Stakes and Wai-takere Cup finals being decided. The latter event fell to the Napier-owned dog Rory O'Moore, who put up a really fine performance. The hares were in good trim and ran very stoutly, only two kills being recorded during the day. One of the finest courses witnessed on the Plumpton was between Sweet Packet and Fire-lock, the former after a grueling tussle getting the best of it. Another good contest was that between Highwater and Miss Flirt. The judging was in the capable hands of Mr E. W. Coombes, and his decisions in every case gave entire satisfaction, while no complaints could be found with the slipping, which was effected by Mr D. Brennan.

Several Australian writers express the opinion that if the Melbourne Cup was to come up for decision this month La Carabine, who is top weight, would just about win the big race. As the daughter of Carbine is under offer to an English sportsman backers would do well to hold off a while until it is decided what her mission will be.

St. Peter's chance of earning a winning bracket at the Wellington meeting was very highly thought of in Auckland last week, and punters fell in rather heavy, for they were all looking to the gelding scoring a win on one of the days of the meeting. By the account given of the first race he started in, it would appear that St. Peter's son was never once dangerous, although he made a fast run home. In the Hutt Handicap St. Peter was again made favourite, and in this event he filled exactly the same position as on the opening day by running into third place behind Quilina and Sundial.

### WELLINGTON RACING CLUBS WINTER MEETING. SECOND DAY.

Very disagreeable weather was again experienced for the second day's sport of the Wellington Racing Club. After the running of the first race a terrific hailstorm broke over the course and a heavy downpour set in, which lasted for close on two hours. Towards three o'clock, however, it cleared off, although the course was left in a sloppy state, which made the going very heavy for the horses. Although the weather was so boisterous it did not prevent a large muster of

gree, studied the logic of Porphyry and Boethius, something of Aristotle, and enough of arithmetic to enable him to find Easter. Three years more were usually spent in studying Aristotle, Boethius, geometry, astronomy, and astrology. He lived in college. His allowance of money was one shilling a week. His breakfast was a piece of bread, and a pot of beer at dawn. His dinner was eaten at ten in the morning. He was given one suit of clothes yearly. Three times a year each student was required secretly to tell the masters of all the misbehaviour of his fellows, who then "received competent castigation." The rules laid down by De Wykeham prohibited visits to taverns or "speccacles," the keeping of dogs, the playing of chess and other "noxious and illicit sports, shooting with arrows, or other missiles, dancing, running, wrestling, or other incontinent and inordinate amusements." The only recreation permitted was the assembling around the fire on winter nights to indulge in "singing, or the reading of poems and chronicles of the realm, and of the wonders of the world." The college was summoned to dinner by two poor scholars who ran around the "quadrangles shouting in bad Latin and worse French, "Tempus est vocandi a mungo, O seigneurs!" But the seigneurs were obliged to eat in absolute silence. How would the American college boy like the undergraduate life of De Wykeham's day?

### A Visitor from the Pole.

The township of Opunake was honoured last week by a visit from a distinguished stranger from a far-off country (the South Pole, to wit). Whether he had seen anything of M. Borzhgrevinck or not, the visitor did not say. His stay here was short, as he had business, I understand, in the vicinity of the equator, and was most anxious to be off. His name is Hali-coerhus Grypus, or Grey Seal, and he is a very true specimen of that family. His entertainer, the Maori, took the liberty of measuring him, when he was found to measure 7ft, while his weight was estimated at 3cwt. He took his departure at a pace that literally astonished the natives, through the surf without waiting to say good-bye. The school children had an opportunity of inspecting this rare visitor, and they made the most of it.

### Appropriate Music.

The Opotiki "Herald" tells the following, which comes from the Maori settlement of Ruatoki, inland from Whakatane. It reminds one of Mark Twain's piano man, who, when the picture of Adam and Eve was thrown on the screen, played "There's Only One-Girl in the World For Me." A native girl had died, and after the customary tangi the funeral party started for the grave, headed by a native band playing the no doubt inspiring, but scarcely appropriate air, "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay!" The ceremony over, the mourners started for home, again led by the band, which doubtless, with a view to recompense for its previous inappropriateness, startled the echoes with the strains of "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

### The Need for Cycle Paths.

A number of prominent citizens of Timaru were prosecuted yesterday for cycling on footpaths, contrary to a borough by-law. They pleaded guilty, and were fined 5/ each and costs. One of those who were summoned, Mr W. Marchant, pleaded "Not guilty," and raised the defence that the Borough Council had appointed two members of the police to see that the by-law was respected, and that he was not prosecuted by one of these officers. This was over-ruled. He then pleaded that the street at a certain spot was unfit to ride on, and it was unfair for the Council to make a street unfit for cycling, and to then prosecute people for avoiding it. The constable said he thought that the road was passable, and defendant was fined 5/ and costs. The Magistrate remarked that cyclists were now a numerous and influential body, and if they made proper representations on the subject, the Borough Council would probably form proper tracks for them, and thus do away with riding on footpaths.

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