

Fion's stock, the oldest of which are two years, are promising indeed. His daughter, from Welcome, by The Dauphin, from Bangie, shows no end of quality. He is himself an upstanding commanding horse, and a horse by Castor from a sister to Carbine is bound to come to the front at the stud.

The Sylvia Park sires, Seaton Delaval and Explosion, are advertised to be at the service of breeders this season. Seaton Delaval has been remarkably successful during the seasons he has been at the stud in New Zealand. His progeny come early and gallop fast, and are good legged and sound footed lot. Sixteen of his progeny won in stakes last season £3206, and in three years his representatives have earned stakes amounting to £11,433, while the coming crop of two-year-olds are of good class. Explosion has yet to make his name at the stud, this being his second season; but he is a rare fine type of horse, and, bred as he is, should make a most servicable sire. The fee asked for Explosion's services is reasonable. By Curassier, full-brother to the champion sire Trenton, from Jadestone, half-sister to Nordenfeldt, no wonder Explosion inherited bulldog courage while on the turf.

A number of clubs down South are talking of following the Wellington Racing Club's lead by paying out on 1st and 2nd horses. It is to be hoped that the Auckland Racing Club will only have one totalisator worked upon the new system. If they adopt the 1-2 business as a general thing they will find that a lot of money will be put on with the bookmakers by those who fancy they can pick winners outright. It is not a fair thing to ask owners to bet just as a club may desire them to do. If they have their choice they will have no cause to complain, and the bookmaker who lays straight-out odds is less likely to be patronised so extensively by those who prefer the old style of betting for a win only, instead of a win or a place. Betting in England 1-2 only takes place on races in which six horses or more compose the field, and betting 1-2-3 in races where the starters are nine or over in number.

Our resident correspondent writes: The annual meeting of the Waihi Jockey Club was held in the Rob Roy Hotel on Wednesday night. Mr W. H. Phillips, president, occupied the chair. The balance-sheet showed a credit balance of £62 18/. The secretary, Mr T. Grant, stated that there was a deficiency of £25 for nomination fees. A discussion took place as to the title of the ground forming the racecourse. It was finally resolved to send a telegram re the matter to Messrs Jackson Palmer, J. McGowan, and Sir J. Ward. The election of officers took place as follows:—Patron, Mr Jackson Palmer, M.H.R.; president, Mr W. H. Phillips; vice-president, Messrs Crawford, Brown, D. Campbell, E. H. Pilling, Goldsworthy, and McLean; committee, Messrs R. S. Ryburn, G. Johnstone, D. Carnachan, W. Hume, J. Graham, A. Y. Ross, R. Loane, J. E. Taylor, D. G. Saunders, Joughin, W. Corbett, M. Keane, M. Power; secretary, T. Grant; treasurer, John Flett.

At the Auckland Racing Club's meetings this season it is thought unlikely that there will be an increase in the stake offerings. Would it not be well to increase second money prizes? A further increase of classic races just now would not be in the general interests of racing in Auckland, for there are too few owners who have the means to go in for high-priced yearlings. Auckland is occasionally revisited by owners who take away the choicest lots from the annual sales. This is satisfactory to some extent, as it keeps up the interest in racing, but the local owners who cannot afford to race on an extensive scale, and cannot go to big prices for their supply of horses, must not be overlooked in the distribution of stakes. I have heard it suggested that the Century Stakes might with advantage be discontinued, and the leading handicap races in the autumn increased in value. Should this suggestion be followed it would not surprise me.

What constitutes a place within the meaning of the Gaming and Lotteries Act in New Zealand? Cases innumerable have been tried in different parts of the world. To

stand on a box in one spot, to take up a position under an umbrella made a fixture in the ground, have been held to be offences to bring the betting man within the scope of the law in our sister colonies, but the latest attempt to reach the poor bookie by the authorities in Victoria has caused some surprise. An exchange has the following paragraph on the subject:—"Some of the flat bookmakers at Flemington wear heavy wooden boots or clogs, which are sufficiently high to give them a good view of the scenery. However, the magisterial authorities held the other day that such boots, like a box or stone, constituted a 'place' within the meaning of the law, and one layer of the odds named Gallagher, whose case was taken as a test, was fined £25 for adopting the practice." It now remains to be seen in which way the superior Court will review the magistrates' decision, as the case has been referred to the Appeal Court.

The annual general meeting of the Avondale Jockey Club was held at the Occidental Hotel on Friday afternoon. The report and balance-sheet, appearing in another column was read. The chairman, Mr. M. Foley, in moving its adoption, congratulated members on the success of last season, and expressed the opinion that if economy were observed in the future, as in the past, the success of the club would be assured, the present prospects of the institution being of a bright character. The appointments of the club were thoroughly up-to-date in every respect, and with care the debit balance incurred in the extraordinary expenditure in the way of improvements would soon be wiped off. The following officers were then elected: President and judge, Mr. John Bolland, M.H.R.; vice-president, Mr. T. Morrin; handicapper, Mr. J. Erett; starter, Mr. G. Cutts; stewards, Messrs J. Bolland, M.H.R., Robert Duder, H. T. Gorrie, M. Foley, Donald McLeod, J. R. Martin, A. Hanna, Joseph May, J. W. Russell and A. Davis; clerk of course, Mr. A. Selby; clerk of scales, Mr. F. W. Marks; hon. vet., E. D. Halstead; secretary, Mr. H. H. Hayr; auditor, Mr. C. H. McKinney.

The Wellington Park stud horses St. Leger, Hotchkiss, Castor, and Phoebus Apollo are advertised in this issue to be at the service of breeders this season. St. Leger has a great record as a winner producer, as a perusal of his advertisement will show. Only a few outside mares will be booked on the champion's list. Hotchkiss and Castor have each distinguished themselves at the stud, and are sure to be well patronised by breeders, while the continued success of the Galopin blood through St. Simon and in a remarkable manner through that horse's sons, for they all appear to beget winners, is all that is required to be mentioned when the claims of Phoebus Apollo, the latest acquisition to the Wellington Park Stud, are being advocated. A recent notice of "Sires of the Day" in an English paper put it thus: "The St. Simon family all along the line are an easy first, the rest nowhere." In eleven years St. Leger's progeny have won in New Zealand £59,751. In six years Hotchkiss' progeny have earned £25,828. In eight years Castor's gets put together £29,954. St. Leger's stock have won considerably more than the sum stated, but prior to 1890-1 the records were not complete. A stud in which three sires are located whose progeny have won well over £115,000 must needs be a notable institution, and Wellington Park enjoys the distinction.

On Monday afternoon the committee of the Auckland Racing Club met for the first time since their election. There was a full attendance. Mr. Thomas Morrin was re-elected chairman. The following officers were elected for the season: President, Mr. Alfred Buckland; vice-president, Mr. Alfred Kidd; stewards, Messrs L. D. Nathan, D. W. Duthie, F. Earl, H. O. Nolan, T. Sinclair, Seymour Thorne George, W. C. Somers, J. C. Smith, G. W. S. Patterson, A. Hanna, Dr. Reid and Major Dean Pitt; treasurer, Mr. H. T. Gorrie; handicapper, Mr. J. O. Erett; secretary, Mr. W. Percival. It was resolved to invite applications for the position of judge at 10 guineas per day, and for that of starter at £105 per annum. Messrs. McLaughlin, Mitchelson, Gorrie, Armitage and the chairman were appointed

a Works Committee; and Messrs. Mitchelson, Gorrie, Duder, McLeod and the chairman were elected a Programme Committee. It was resolved that Messrs. Reid, Mitchelson and McLeod act as a sub-committee for the purpose of revising the club's rules. It was resolved that disqualifications existing against owners, jockeys, trainers, officials, and ponies for having taken part at unregistered meetings be removed. The tender of Mr. Julian (£420) for alteration to the main grandstand was accepted. A bonus of ten guineas was voted to the publishers of the "Turf Register," and a donation of five guineas was made to the funds of the Society for the Protection of Women and Children and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Messrs. M. Foley, A. Davis and H. H. Hayr, as a deputation from the Avondale Jockey Club, waited on the committee with an application for the use of the Ellerslie racecourse for their spring meeting, owing to the Avondale course not being ready to race upon. It was decided to grant the necessary permission at £25 per day.

Quite a record attendance of members of the Auckland Racing Club was witnessed at the annual general meeting held at the Central Hotel last week, and if I am not mistaken, no racing institution in the colony has ever got such a representative audience together at a similar function. I have only once attended a meeting of members of a racing club in the colonies at which there was a larger assemblage. This was at Menzies' Hotel, in Melbourne, when 315 members of the Victoria Racing Club were accounted for. At the Auckland Racing Club's meeting under notice 148 heads were counted, and 141 members voted when the election of the committee was on. It was the interest evinced in this particular election that brought members together, and drew the hunting section of the members, who could not have come together better had the huntsmen tooted his horn and called them to give a rallying cheer at the finish of an exciting run. Yes, hunting enthusiasts were there in force, and, indeed, members from near and far put in an appearance. Considerable animation was shown up to the time business commenced, and it was expected that the proceedings would be of a lively character. The "man in the street" had it that a lot of important questions were to be asked when the balance-sheet came before the meeting, and I believe that quite a number of members fully intended to ask for enlightenment on matters in connection with the Club's affairs that they could not gather from the bare statement of figures submitted. No discussion was invited, however, and the business was hurried through in a somewhat informal manner, and only a few members took occasion to ask any questions at all. The opportunity for offering congratulations was not embraced, though surely the satisfactory position the Club is in, the pro-

gress made, the very liberal treatment supporters and patrons have received at the hands of the Club, were matters to which members might have referred; and it would have been paying a deserved compliment to those who have identified themselves with the institution so long and served the Club so well if some of the members had only voiced what must have been the almost general opinion of those present. It is not customary for the President of the Club to go into detail on occasions of this character, but members were looking forward to hearing something more from the throne, and were somewhat disappointed on that account. Mr. McLaughlin, however, was content to refer in a general way to the prosperous condition of the premier club of the North Island, and when he stated that they had earned much of their popularity through pursuing a liberal policy towards their horse-owning and visiting patrons, members were in accord with him. I understand that a number of gentlemen have been proposed for enrolment as new members during the week. The election of officials by the new committee will take place at their first meeting.

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AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB.

The Avondale Jockey Club's annual general meeting was held on Friday, when the committee's report and balance-sheet as under were submitted to members:—
Gentlemen,—Your committee have much pleasure in again presenting the annual report and balance-sheet for the year ending 31st July, 1891. It is gratifying to them to put before you a statement of receipts and expenditure, which clearly shows the great strides the club has made during the past few years, and more particularly the season just concluded. In perusing the figures in the balance-sheet, you will notice a considerable increase in revenue from all sources, notably totalisator, £501; nominations, £224; gate, £100; etc., £221; members' fees, etc., £130. During the season we have held our usual Spring and Autumn Meetings, the latter on the Ellerslie racecourse, giving added money to the amount of £2482 net, being an increase of £731 10/ over the previous season. The amount passed through the totalisator was £25,828, as against £22,345 last season. Since our last annual meeting we have purchased 15 acres of Mr. Bolland's property, for the purpose of erecting our buildings and enclosures, all of which are now on this portion of the club's grounds. Our improvement accounts show an expenditure of £2963 paid. We have built a new grandstand at a cost of £1657, and a contract is now in hand for a new stewards' stand at a cost of £367. Your committee feel certain that members will be more than pleased on paying a visit to the club's property, as all arrangements are quite up to date. Besides the new grandstand and stewards' stand, we have spent a considerable amount on new horse stalls, latrines, and fencing; while some £150 has been spent on drainage. Members will notice an item in the balance-sheet of £171 17/0. This amount was incurred through the action of Mr. Moss Davis, of Hancock and Co., Ltd., stopping our contractor from removing the old buildings, etc., from the property, leased from him. The dispute was referred to arbitration with the above result. We regret to inform members that we have been unable up to the present to obtain a totalisator permit for our Winter Meeting. Our secretary paid a visit to Wellington, and had an interview with Sir Joseph Ward,