

head of stables, says: "No better instance of the difference between the way in which horses are backed now and what they were years ago could be had than the Nursery Handicap last Saturday at Rosehill. Here we have a filly starting, who is not only a good reputation, but whose name is almost unknown; in fact, was known to but few on the course. Starting against her were several well known ones, but the public did not back them. No, they waited, and, seeing such a money bet on the unknown one, followed the lead. Very keen, too, are the public at this. Occasionally they may make a little mistake, but it is rarely, and eight times out of ten they are right. In this instance Gratia was a good thing, and won. Now a few years ago that filly would only have been backed by the stable, and the others would have found such support that the race, in place of being a bad one for the book-makers, would have been a good one."

It has been an open secret for some time that the Hon. J. D. Ormonde was in search of a good stud sire, and he has secured Karamu. One of the horses submitted was Paleface, a son of St. Simon, but this horse was declined a few months ago. Now comes word that, accompanying the Messrs Nathan's race stud, San Francisco, one of the Karamu's from England was the five year old horse Birkenhead, by Orme from Tragedy, for the Hawke's Bay stud master. Birkenhead was nominated by Captain Greer, and had twelve valuable engagements for two years old, but did not run. His first essay at three years old was in the Two Thousand Guinea Stakes, won by Flying Fox, Calman second, and Trident third. His next appearance was in the Princess of Wales Stakes, won by Flying Fox, Royal Emblem second, and Nilus third. Was unplaced in the St. George's Stakes at Liverpool to Sweet Marjorie, Flambard second, and Heave-wo third. In the race odds of 9 to 4 were laid on Birkenhead, but he was unplaced, 84, in a field of twenty, in the Rivemead Handicap at Kempton Park, was again unplaced. At four years old at Kempton Park in the Stewards' Handicap, carrying 12, he finished second, and in the 114 2-5, and beating sixteen others, fourteen of the number in receipt of weight. In the Portland Plate at Doncaster, carrying 12, he finished a place in a field of fifteen, two other horses only being more heavily handicapped. Carrying 12, weight was unplaced in the Richmond Plate at Kempton Park in a field of thirteen runners. The way in which Birkenhead was started for important races and handicapped, rather than to be in form shown, is an indication that he was thought a good deal of.

The thoroughbred horse San Francisco intended for stud purposes at the Messrs Nathan's Sylvia Park stud, arrived by the s.s. Ellinghamite from Wellington on Sunday night, and was met by H. Wilson, who took him to the stable of Mr. C. D. Halstead's stable, and stayed overnight. This morning he was led to his future home. San Francisco is a well bred horse of medium size, and coming of a good family will be given opportunities of proving his worth as a sire, as there are no doubt in the collection of mares at Sylvia Park some that will be found to mate well with the new arrival, who was landed in excellent health. San Francisco appears to be a horse of fine disposition. He is a dark bay in color with a white star and streak and three white legs, suit nicely marked.

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

SPECIAL TO THE "GRAPHIC."

CHRISTCHURCH, February 11.

The Auckland-bred gelding Galileo, by Neilson—Fleeson, won the Naseby Cup, the principal event decided at the Maniototo (Otago) meeting last week.

A horse named Snider, which ran at the same meeting, seemed to have created a good deal of interest. Not long ago he ran in a maiden race at the Walkouaiti meeting as No Class (late Snider). At Naseby he appeared on the programme under the name of No Class (late Snider). It turned out that he is a North Island-bred horse by Brigadier, and that he has won races in Auckland. As a Southern writer says, that he should have been shipped from the North Island to the South without performing as a maiden, is a matter, to say the least of it, extremely careless on the part of somebody. It is only fair to the horse's nominator to add that directly he became aware that the horse was not a maiden he refused to take the stake for a maiden plate which he won. Still, it would be interesting to know how he came to be ignorant of his horse's performance.

Mr Stead has named his filly foal by Muliform from Bluebird's Asteria, and his filly foal by the same sire from Bellcent "Lady Lyonnors." Owners of racehorses and trainers, particularly the latter, have cherished a grievance against the Railway Department. Hitherto horses on their way from Christchurch to Dunedin have had to stay at Onnaru for some hours, and have not reached their southern destination until the morning after their departure. At length the Railway Department has decided that horse-boxes connected with the express shall go straight through in one day instead of being disconnected at Onnaru. Auckland, the New South Wales trotting man, writes to say that he will

not pay Christchurch a visit at the coming Easter. He may, however, send over a few horses to strengthen the team, which his trainer, Piper, has here.

At the Tuapeka Jockey Club's annual race meeting held at Lawrence (Otago) on Wednesday and Thursday, the Lawrence Handicap for two-year-olds, a maiden gelding Transpout. The same horse also won the principal event decided on the second day of the meeting.

Mr Stead announces that San Remo, Knight Errant, and Field Beauty are for private sale. The colts are disposed of privately they will be offered for sale by auction at Easter.

There is very little to add to what I telegraphed yesterday about the racing on the first day of the Canterbury Jockey Club's Summer Meeting. The racing was neither exciting nor dull. The finish for the Craven Plate was close enough to satisfy the most exacting racegoers, and a similar remark applies to the contest for the British Stakes, but the Midsummer Handicap and the Middle Park Plate were both runaway affairs. The latter event served to emphasize the wide gulf which separated the two-year-olds of the present season with those of last year. It has run in this juvenile event this year, and yet he could not extend Cruciform at a difference of 30lbs.

Firecross, one of the high-priced youngsters sold at the Elderslie sale last year, made his debut in a debut-looking colt race in time will win races, but he was green on Thursday and backward into the bargain.

Vogangang's half-sister, Greek Maid, confirmed the good impression she created in the spring, and no doubt she is a smart filly, but the other two-year-olds, of whom we have seen them this season, are below the average.

In the Midsummer Handicap Dundas repeated the performance he accomplished in the Great Autumn Handicap. The opposition was weak in quality and quantity, and the faint-hearted son of Perkin Waukeck was never once in the race. Evidently he appreciated Hewitt's style of riding, and evidently also he had benefited from a change of air and scene which he had last Christmas, when he made a visit to the best of the Fulmen ran a good race, and with the winner out of his way would have won in a canter; and Annie Chiel was not disgraced. The latter does not stay more than a mile after a quarter, and he must have been sorely taxed by the tremendous pace set by Dundas.

Glengie was unlucky in the Craven Plate. If he had made his effort a little later he might have won. As it was, he had finished it when Vandyke challenged him, and could not respond. Even then he was only beaten by a neck.

CHRISTCHURCH, February 13.

Local racing folk are much pleased with the decision of the Appeal Committee of the Racing Conference referring to the sentences passed on Mr G. Wilson, Donovan the jockey, and Rosemere.

Dundas was lame after running in the Midsummer Handicap. It appears that his forelegs had become so sore as to cause anxiety to his trainer before the meeting, and after the race they showed unmistakable signs of the contact with the hard ground. Hobbs, however, hopes that his horse will be able to fulfil his engagements at Dunedin next week.

Gold Spec's absence from the meeting was due to the fact that the horse bruised one of his feet on the eve thereof. Mr Stead did not start on the second day of the meeting, returning home on Friday.

After her victory in the Selling Race on Saturday, Battle Cry was purchased by Mr. Walter Clifford, a brother of her breeder, Sir Geo. Clifford. The daughter of Clanranald has returned to Cutt's stables, where she was located during the time she carried Sir Geo. Clifford's colt.

Wellbeck, the winner of the Richmond Plate, is a very promising colt. He is a full brother to Dundas and Marquis of Zealand, and follows the latter rather than the former in colour and conformation. He is in the right place, place he will take a high place with the three-year-olds of next season.

Fulmen returned home yesterday (Monday). The son of Castor ran a capital race in the Midsummer Handicap, but was chopped for speed in the St. Alban's Handicap. The handicaps for the Dunedin meeting appear to have given no dissatisfaction here. If Dundas reaches the post sound and well, he will carry a great deal of local money, but personally I would sooner stand a stouter hearted horse on the gradients at Wingatui. Fulmen has not been over weighted, but the distance is a trifle beyond Annie Chiel. Din Din may fairly be passed over in the present state of his feet, and a similar remark applies to Cameo and Calibre. This excludes the horses which ran at the Canterbury meeting. Of those which did not appear at the Riccarton, Verulmud and Lurgero read as well as anything. Jupiter, I suppose, is an unlikely starter, and Cantem may be troubled by the distance. As the representatives of a powerful stable, Skobeloff and San Remo are entitled to respect, albeit some people will say perhaps that the former is overweighted. Muscovite is at present enjoying a well earned rest at the Hutt, and may be disturbed when further forced to run at Nhill and Oxtail prefer shorter distances to a mile and a half. To me the race bears a wonderfully open appearance, and in selecting Tortullia, Pampero, Dundas, or Mr Stead's pair, I may yet have made the winner.

The following handicap has been declared for the principal event to be decided at the Hororato Jockey Club's annual race meeting on March 6.—Hororato Cup Handicap of 5000s, one mile and a quarter: Dundas 9.13, Huku 8.9, Terrapin 8.5, Medus 8.4, Calibre 7.13, Firecross 8.1, Doubt 7.7, Goud Spec 7.7, Flame 7.0, Fluke 6.7. Mr H. Mosman, the well-known racing man, arrived in Dunedin from your part of the world last week, and will remain in the Southern city for some weeks.

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C.J.C. MIDSUMMER MEETING.

FIRST DAY.

CHRISTCHURCH, Thursday.

In spite of the fact that the weather was lovely yesterday, and also that the usual weekly half-holiday is observed on Thursday, the attendance at Riccarton was small. The racing on the whole was not very interesting, but in defence of the handicapper it must be admitted that with the exception of the Midsummer Handicap he made the most of the indifferent material which he had to operate on. The Midsummer Handicap, a one-and-a-half mile race, was run in a way reproduced his track form in public, and accounted for the weak opposition without being called upon to exert himself. For the first time in his career he was ridden by Hewitt, and he was ridden by the most skilful and the hands of that rider. Hewitt handled his mount with rare discretion. He allowed him to stride along well clear of his opponents, with the result that the son of Perkin Warbeck was never checked, and Fulmen, after being ridden hard in the first half-mile, struggled into second place, and Annie Chiel finished third—a position which, considering the fact that he is not a race stayyer, was creditable to him. Motor was never dangerous, and neither was Djin-Djin; while Calibre, who was very sore, finished last. The winner pulled up very fresh, and his victory was well received.

After the race the latter event, at the top of the straight the daughter of Sheep-nak looked as if she were going to justify the faith of her supporters, but in the last furlong she was outstripped by Vandyke and Glengie, and Vandyke succeeded in holding the front. Sir Geo. Clifford's horse, Vandyke had previously started in the Hornby Welter Handicap, in which he had been practically left at the post. The features of the afternoon's sport were the successes which were achieved by Sir Geo. Clifford's horse, Vandyke had previously started in the Hornby Welter Handicap, in which he had been practically left at the post. The features of the afternoon's sport were the successes which were achieved by Sir Geo. Clifford's horse, Vandyke had previously started in the Hornby Welter Handicap, in which he had been practically left at the post.

Hornby Welter of 1000s, 7 furlongs.—Antigone, 8.1; Cora Linn, 10.12; 2, Battleyer, 8.3; 3, Savanna and Charlotter were scratched. Won by a length and a quarter. Time, 1m 30 1-5. Dividends, £8 17 and £1 6/4.

Middle Park Plate of 5000s, second 5000s, 6 furlongs.—Cruciform, 1; Imperator, 2; Pinar, 3. The only starters. Won easily. Time 1.17. Dividend £1 1/2.

Telegraph Stakes.—R. W. Franks' Reflex, 7.7 (Jones); 1, St. Elmo, 7.7; 2, Cannon-shot, 7.7, 3. Also started: Gawkarg, Norfolk, White May, Romanoff, and Grandeur. Won easily by a length and a half. Time, 51 1-5. Dividends, £3 13/6 and £3 2/2.

Midsummer Handicap of 2500s; 1 1/2 mile.—M. Hobbs' Dundas, 7.8 (L. Hewitt); 1, Fulmen, 8.2; 2, Annie Chiel, 8.1; 3, Starred Cameo, Motor, Djin-Djin, and Calibre. Dundas passed the post 10 lengths ahead of Fulmen, Annie Chiel being five lengths away. Time, 2m 38 3-5. Dividends, £2 9/ and £1 1/6.

Lyttelton Handicap of 2000s, 5 furlongs.—T. Sheenan's Greek Maid, 8.12 (Hewitt); 1, Stepdancer, 7.6; 2, Aberlow, 7.7, 3. Also started: King Stork, Wellbeck, Cerise and Blue, Valda. Won by half a length. Time, 1m 4 2-5. Dividend, £2 7/8.

SECOND DAY.

CHRISTCHURCH, Saturday.

The principal features of the second day's racing of the Canterbury Jockey Club's Summer Meeting were the successes of the progeny of Clanranald and the defeat of Cruciform in the Hampton Plate. Sir Geo. Clifford's stallion had quite a day out. Annie Chiel placed the Champion Plate to his credit, while Scottish Minstrel won the Linwood Welter Handicap, Whitehorse the Flying Handicap, and Battleyer the Selling Race, Aberlow finished second in the Richmond Plate, and Glengie carried top-weight into third position in the St. Alban's Handicap. The racing of the day was of a high standard. Cruciform cannot have been expected by his connections. The daughter of St. Leger looked well enough, and the weather was cool, if not actually cold. Half-way up the straight she appeared to have the vertigo in her keeping, but she failed to respond to Annie Chiel, and suffered defeat by a length. Possibly the

weight was too much for her in going that was a trifle holding after the heavy rain of the preceding night, and possibly also it was a case of the patcher going to the well once too often. The winner, weed his success partly to his indolent pluck—he was under punishment below the distance, while Cruciform was striding along without visible exertion. His victory was most enthusiastically received by the small band of spectators, and if snatching a victory in a race against overwhelming odds deserves recognition Annie Chiel certainly warranted the applause which greeted him on his return to the weighing enclosure. Tzarita, who was specially reserved for the St. Alban's Handicap, won that race, but not without difficulty. At the distance she appeared to be winning comfortably, but Cora Linn stuck to her task with the greatest determination, and Tzarita only struggled home a head in front of Hobbs' recent purchase. The Flying Handicap was another race which furnished an exciting struggle. Annie Chiel's stable companion, a full-sister, Whitehorse getting home only a short head in advance of the outsider Wepener. In the Richmond Plate Wellbeck, a good-looking brother to Dundas, made amends for the disappointment which he caused his connections on the first day, and won easily. He won pounds better for having his eyes opened, and no doubt shares the brilliancy of his relations, Marquis of Zealand and Dundas. Results:—

Champion Plate of 2500s, second 2500s, seven furlongs.—Annie Chiel, 1; Cruciform, 2. These were the only starters. Won by a length. Time, 1.33 2-5. Dividend: £3.

Linwood Welter Handicap.—Scottish Minstrel, 1; Huku, 2; Lady Lillian, 3. All started. Won by half a length. Time, 1.49 4-5. Dividends: £5 17 and £1 1/4.

St. Alban's Handicap.—Tzarita, 1; Cora Linn, 2; Glengie, 3. All started. Won by half a length. Time, 1.16 4-5. Dividends: £2 and 15/8.

Flying Handicap of 1200s, five furlongs.—Whitehorse, 8.3 (Pine), 1; Wepener, 8.12; 2, Lady Dundas, 7.7, 3. Also started: Whirlwind, Savanna and Pallas. Won by half a head. Time, 1.3 4-5. Dividend, £4 6/6.

Selling Race of 5000s, six furlongs.—Battleyer, 7.11 (T. Cahill); 1, Lupulady, 7.11; 2, Cannon-shot, 7.11, 3. Also started: Reflex, Bealey, St. Elmo. After a punishing finish up the straight Battleyer beat Lupulady by a length. Time, 1.20 4-5. Dividend, £2 10. The winner was bought by Mr. W. Clifford for £70.

Post Handicap of 5000s, one mile.—Lady Lillian, 7.13 (Manning); 1; Huku, 7.13; 2, Trefless, 7.6, 3. Also started: Vandyke, Fiferes and Lady Linn made all the running, the latter coming away at the half distance and winning very easily. Time, 1.47 1-5. Dividend, £1 6/6.

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