

beat a retreat and made himself scarce as soon as he could after getting off the scales. It is true that some years have elapsed since Weston won his last race, some of our jockeys who have not ridden a winner for a long time should take heart from Weston's example, and, in the turn of the tide, Weston owes his success then to a turn of the tide.

During the hearing of a case recently against the Brisbane Newspaper Company, Limited, there were interesting definitions of some sporting phrases given. Here is one:—By Mr Lilly: What do you mean by the term "double ready"? It is this: Suppose you were the owner of a racehorse. I was a trainer, and Mr Bydes was a "punter." I would go to Mr Bydes and tell him I had a horse in a certain race that was bound to win, and I would send the "punter" back the horse for so much, and then say I had made it right with the starter to give the horse a good "shoot" out. After the horse had won, and the punter got his money, and I would be to the trainer and say: "That's the most stake money was the English Derby winner Sir Hugo, whose son, Sir Foote, took the Futurity Stakes. The following sires also had one winner each, viz.: Sir Oliver, Pell Mell, Maino, Alala, Lochiel, Padlock, Carlson, Birmahli, and Metal. Mr C. L. Macdonald's jockey, F. Dunn, with four wins (twice on Arous and once each on Wakeful and Revenue), was the most successful jockey. R. Manning, who was killed while riding a horse in the Newmarket Handicap, rode Moonbeam to victory twice, and C. Dickenson had two winning rides on Error, who was twice defeated by Kaimate at the V.R.C. Meeting.

On the morning after the Wanganui races I witnessed the departure of the early trains North and South. There were quite a number of stock and the attendants of horses. On the train for the South were Torowal and Sirius, The Shannon and Tradewind, Shrapnell Shell, and Nea, Fleksa and Darky, Toka and Redoubt, and Bonty. On the train for Tyrone and Flanagan, West Guard and Queen's Guard, Beau Ideal and Aquinaldo; and for the North Governors and Orade, Frost and Fair Jess, Durable and Lord, Crusoe and Mill, and the Heriot, Beddington and Grey Stear, Nonette and Royal Conqueror, Sylvia Park and Liable, Hautonga and Loch Erin. Some of the laugh-a-billigh, King Edward and Record, and others names I did not get. I don't remember so many racehorses leaving a New Zealand railway platform in one hour before. There were over forty of them, while accommodation had been engaged for a considerable number to proceed on Monday to Hawke's Bay. Everything comprised the bulk of those that competed at the Wanganui meeting.

The "Australasian Turf Register" for the half year ending January 31, has made its appearance, and a compilation therefrom shows the winning sires for that period. Gozo comes out on top with twenty winners of 34 races, 39 seconds, and a total of 141 in stakes. Trenton had but two winners, of four races and five second prizes, the total value being £2820; Lochiel had 23 winners of 43 races, 64 seconds, and they put together £4224. Earl of Portland claims the most winners, 27 in number, with 41 wins, and 338 seconds, £4315 being the total earnings. Wallace, with six; Far Niente, Eldersford, and Haut Brion, with five; Grafion, with eight, comes next on the score of stake earnings of their progeny; but Beaucheux has the most winners, 14; Light Artillery 10, Sunbird, Padlock 16, Metal and Invader each 12. Although New Zealand bred horses come out well in the list, as in addition to Trenton and Lochiel, the names of Ruseley, Medallion, Torpedo, Mermaid, Macdonald, Henry, Strathmore, Niagara, Escutcheon, Carbine, Tartar, Nordenfeldt, Fustler, Castor and Hova figure in the list, Hova, by the way, with but one winner.

Sir Foote, though trained at Randwick, was not backed here to any great extent by the general public until after he won the V.A.T.C. Futurity Stakes, says the Sydney "Morning Herald." Nothing was known of the horse publicly. Even frequenters of the track were slow to state if he was a fast horse, although on appearance favourable opinions were entertained of his capabilities. About a week before the horse's departure for Melbourne it was reported that he did a great trial, but nothing definite was known about it. All the long-priced money was obtained for the stable or those in close touch with it. Earnshaw has managed to bring off a very successful couple of bookmakers did not recognize that the horse was likely to play a prominent part in the betting until they had laid large sums against him at a long price, and the public was slow to follow the lead of those who got in first. "Ring" states that it has lost heavily over the race.

Referring to the accident that befel Revenue in the Australian Cup, the Sydney "Telegraph" says that when the field had passed the starting line, Revenue had met with a very serious accident, and general surprise was expressed that he had been able to last

out the race. F. Dunn, his rider, as soon as he could put the favourite up, dismounted and led him slowly back to the enclosure, the horse limping and plainly indicating that moving was a pain to him. Revenue, with anxiety reached the starting paddock, where it found that his near fore leg had been stripped from below the knee, and that his fetlock had been very badly injured. The full extent of the accident may not be known for a day or two, but when he was started the afternoon Mr Macdonald expressed a fear that the son of Revenue would not be able to race again. The cable has announced the scratching of both Revenue and another for Australian Jockey Club engagements. Aurore broke down in the Newmarket Handicap.

So far as appearances go, says an American writer, the get of Hamburg look likely to be among the best of the season in that country. Hamburg is a son of Hanover, and was a first class two and three year old in 1897 and 1898; in fact he was the best two year old. He was retired to the stud as a three year old, after winning the Brighton Cup (two miles and a quarter). His owner, Marcus Daly, had publicly announced that that was his intention before the horse started for his last race, which he won a time (thoroughly sound, and likely to campaign for some years to come. Daly had bought him for £6,000, the odd one dollar being paid to make his price the highest on record at that time in America. At the stud, in 1899, he sired eighteen mares, and out of seventeen foals has now thirteen living. At the Marcus Daly sale (which took place on January 30, 1901, after his death), Hamburg passed into the possession of Mr William C. Whitney of New York, for £6,000, and even at that looks to have been a good investment, judging from the promise of his first crop of two year olds.

The death of Castor, who has done duty as one of the leading sires at Wellington Park for ten seasons, was expected at any hour, since the horse was attacked by paralysis on Sunday, but he was deemed by his owner, Mr Halstead, to be worth a try to shoot him, and thus put him out of pain for he had in his struggles broken one of his hind fetlocks, and it was hopeless expecting to save him for further use. Mr Halstead, the well known veterinary surgeon, who was despatched to the colony of Zealot and Yardley, who has done the colony good service, for the blood he boasts is of the best, and will come out in his descendants. Though not so successful as many had expected him to be, Castor nevertheless sired some of the best horses in the colony, and was always prominent in the list of winning sires, though he was not accorded such liberal patronage as some of his competitors. Amongst his progeny were such horses as Record, Craven, and the late Sir George Clifford, who was a listener, and who has been doing his best to prevent what is known as the nomenclature nuisance, or in other words the duplication of the names of horses for years past, in his high office as Chairman of the Racing Conference, turning to me reflectively remarked, "This is one more illustration of the confusion that will occur even after the lapse of so long a time through the duplication of names." We are certainly improving in the matter of naming our horses, but owners in the country districts round Auckland are great sinners. They will keep naming their leather flappers after notable horses, some of them still figuring on the turf.

Bookmakers throughout the colony have been getting a very bad time of it during the greater part of the present season, and the chief cause of their laying heavily against the horses in a few stables, some through betting straight out over the Auckland Cup and Railway Handicap to a greater extent than business on horse racing warranted others through taking big risks at tall-seller odds on unimportant races. There is a suspicion that on several occasions there has been a combine at work to "take down" the accommodating nature of the bookmakers by means of made arrangements for "no reply" telegrams to be accepted up to a few minutes of the advertised time of starting

traced. One prominent layer, who has been doing an extensive business under this system, has found the game unprofitable of late. Only a short time ago he decided to limit his risk by curtailing the amounts he would accept from each of his clients, but amongst punters there is a great deal of freemasonry, and the backer has found in his cost that a great many of them have, singularly to say, been wiring at the last moment for investments on the same horse. Winner after winner has been backed with extraordinary frequency in this way, and there is a suspicion that races have been pre-arranged. A big business of a legitimate character would require to be done to stand against a combination of back-ers controlling a number of the horses racing. Altogether the betting business is in a bad way from one end of the colony to the other. From all accounts an immense amount of money is due to the large army of layers of the odds, whilst some of the layers are finding it a difficult matter to keep their end of the stick up, and some of them have lately been obliged to ask for time.

Blue Metal is not a proved figure horse, but the winner of the Australian Cup has plenty of good blood, and, like Nonetta, the Wanganui Cup winner, and Tortulia, winner of the New Zealand Cup, and other good ones, may be of pure origin and really belong to the figure line, though the sources from which they spring cannot be fully traced. Blue Metal is by Metal (imp.) from Eva, a Sonoma (imp.), and was bred by Charles Baldwin at Durham Court, the birthplace of so many good performers. The Sydney "Telegraph," in mentioning the fact, supplies the following particulars of his turf career. He won the A.C. Summary Cup two years in succession, namely, in 1898 and 1900, and went very close to it last year, only missing the "hat trick" by a very narrow margin. He commenced the present year by making a bold bid for Tattersall's Cup at Randwick, filling second place. The horse was sold for a small sum in the New England district, and showing pace was taken to Newcastle, where he first attracted attention by winning a double there in brilliant style. He was then secured by his present owner, and won Tattersall's Spring Handicap at Randwick in 1898.

In his articles dealing with the stud horses of the season, the "Special Commissioner" of the London "Sportsman" says: Next I reach Carbine, son of Musketeer, who has this year begun to give a return in the sense which I always anticipated for the Dukes of Portland's outlay in bringing him here. The Carbine stays; they keep on improving. They are not always attractive to look at, but there is a varminty worth in them which passes show, and does even better, as, for instance, in the case of Semper Vigilans, who always creates an unfavourable impression in the paddock, and can be backed, accordingly, at a point or two longer odds. Carbine is all right now in this country, and such as

Wallace and La Carbine have proved the worth of his stock in Australia. Trenton indeed not dilate on, except to reiterate the fact that he has twenty-seven yearlings this moment that will be two-year-olds in another hour or so, and most are in good stables. He is, I think, head of the list of winning stallions for the season now current in Australia, while he has again and again shown his capacity to get smashing good winners. If ever there was a safe thing to gamble on in the way of a sire for the coming season, it is Trenton, for, whatever he gets in 1902 will come in on the top of a "boom." In this we are not dealing with an untried horse, but with one who practically dropped two seasons after reaching England, and is only just about to begin.

A writer in the "New York Spirit of the Times" says: "There is evidently a strong feeling in England against the extreme racing of two-year-olds, and the ground that it is injurious to their ultimate matured perfection as three and four year olds, and also that the most important interests of the breeders are jeopardised by the ultimate injury to the breeding stock supply. It is suggested by a writer in the 'Field' that two-year-old prizes be cut down until the excessive racing of the youngsters is brought within due limits, and that the United States should be asked to act along parallel lines. This is scarcely likely to be the case at present. A move was made a year or so ago by a prominent horseman to limit the distance of the two-year-old races, but this was not enthusiastically received, and dropped into abeyance. Since then long strides forward have been taken in the matter of greater inducements for three-year-olds and upwards, and this has any effect it will be simply to limit the two-year-old performances of the highest-class two-year-olds which will be saved for the aged events. The rank and file of the two-year-olds will continue scurrying around week-weekly or more often so long as purses are offered, and smaller owners can scarcely afford to keep them simply developing until three years old, unless they show decided calibre. Much of the talk about over-racing two-year-olds is sensational gossip anyway. There are few good two-year-olds bred to go a distance which have not matured. In the case of dyed-in-the-wool sprinters on both sides of the paternal strain a different story may be told. It would not be easy to name off-hand a two-year-old having shown any disposition to scramble further than five furlongs in the past few years which did not realise expectations to a reasonable extent. Take the six leaders of last three years, and not one of them was ever raced. The champion of 1899, Mesmerist, was never expected to go three-year-old distance in 1900 by close students of racing. Statistics show that for some years past the two-year-old crop of each year has been showing consistency to form not equalled in any other division, and also that the number of winning favourites among the youngsters run much more evenly than in any other div-

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