

sion. Among the fourth and fifth grade youngsters there is, and will be, too much racing, and the only legitimate line of progress is that of greater inducements for the three-year-olds, and the 'upwards' division. Cutting down two-year-old purses would simply discriminate against the highest class youngsters, and leave the mob hustling as usual."

The Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, which commenced on Saturday, was not largely attended by visitors, but the sport appears to have been fairly good. Though there were but five runners in the chief handicap, the Hawke's Bay Cup, there was a good race between Mr Watson's gelding Battlease and the Hon. J. D. Ormond's pony Ideal, who was later year than the weight only securing a win by the narrowest margin. Ideal ran very well at Wanganui—better than in any race this season—and I quite expected her to run well at Hawke's Bay, but the little daughter of Dromedary has not yet got back to her best form; while Battlease appears to have put up one of his best performances. Okoari was reported unlucky in her first essay at the meeting when beaten by Menuma; but there was no disgrace in getting beaten by Tradewind in the March Handicap on the second day. Tradewind did not require to be a first-class three-year-old to beat a mare of Okoari's class when in receipt of 22 lbs. Royal Artillery, who was later year than the weight, was the only horse to have been bred at Wellington. Park continued his winning career by scoring in the Hawke's Bay Stakes from Porirua and five others. It is a great pity that we are not to have this colt at the Auckland Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting after all. The Century Stakes will be robbed of much interest in consequence of its chief interest, in fact, Tortulla will in all probability be Nonette's most formidable opponent now. Both have incurred the extreme penalties provided in the conditions of the race. Tortulla will have 9.10 to carry, Nonette 8.12. Mason, who trains for Mr Stead, could not well be spared from Christchurch in view of the fact that the Canterbury Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting and Mr Stead's sale come on about the same time as the Autumn Meeting here, and Royal Artillery claims some Southern engagements in which he may possibly be bettered by himself. The Sylvia Park-bred colt Porirua beat Sir George Clifford's colt Tercelet for second place in the Hawke's Bay Stakes, which we are told was won by Royal Artillery in record time for the race, viz. 1m 20s. Mr Stead had won the Hawke's Bay Stakes five times in seven years—with Bloodshot in 1895, Multiform in 1897, Screwgun (full brother to Royal Artillery) in 1900, and with Cruciform last year. Screwgun's time for the race was 1m 20 2-5s.

Mr Evett's adjustments for the Easter and Hurdle Handicaps at the Auckland Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, which commences on March 23, were issued on Tuesday, too late for our last issue. There is so much difference in the quality of the horses engaged that it would have been necessary to have started the handicap for the mile race much higher to have given the rag-tag and bobtail division any chance with the best of those engaged. Mr Evett has sought to try and attract the better class of horses in starting the handicap at no more than 22 lbs; but things considered, he should have started higher. There are so many horses engaged that have achieved distinction as weight-carriers over short courses that there was some speculation as to which would be at the top of the list and what the weight would be. Remembering that Mr Evett had at Christmas and New Year time, and more recently seen fit to apportion substantial imposts to such horses as Hohoro, Blazer, and other horses, that have won under much heavier weights, it would not have come as any surprise had that gentleman commenced on a higher scale than he has done. The handicaps will not bear searching examination. There is not much wrong with the apportionments so far as the first four horses are concerned. On form Blazer first and then Hohoro appear to me top well treated through the four top weights. They are certainly

not in their right places, but Hohoro having a wind trouble may not be as fit to run and do himself justice as some of those that have been performing lately, and Blazer is not really in commission. Bluejacket, like the four top weights, has been trained to run a distance, and his pace may not be so brilliant on that account, but through the best of those top he has received about his right weight Rosella has received a little more than I expected by comparison with some of those above and below her. Okoari on her best form, for instance, Beddington badly handicapped through Tortulla on Wanganui running. Tortulla won handily at a mile and a quarter there and carried 9.12; Beddington, unplaced, 8.3. Beddington now has 8 lbs more; Tortulla the same weight as before. Coronet is about rightly placed; and in view of his running of late Val Rosa could not have well been asked to carry more, though I regard him as a likely winner should he be landed well at the post. Formula on actual form is not too well used.

The Shannon has enough on her most recent form, but ideal on Wanganui running I should regard as not unlikely to carry 8.4 well over the distance. The Needle, dressed right in his horse, may have an outside chance, but making due allowance for loss of form during the spring, Ostiak has been let off light at 8.0, and on autumn running last season must be regarded as possessing an excellent chance. Ostiak and Rose, between whom there is now 19 lbs, were then treated as of about the same capacity. Laetitia and Mars are about in their right places, but Military, who on Friday week received 22 lbs from Tortulla, and a promise being over a mile and a quarter, is surely badly used at now being asked to meet Tortulla on 7 lbs worse terms, and if we go back to the running of Battlease and Military a few weeks since at Taranaki, when Military got home by a head in receipt of 22 lbs, over a mile and a quarter. Mr O'Brien's gelding has been none too favourably placed. Looking at the running of Hohoro and St. Olga, a glance at the respective weights carried by these horses when they last met it is hard to believe that St. Olga can have any chance. San Patricia is treated favourably enough, and so are Jewellery, Lady Avon, Highlander, Scotty and Ragabrah, on their best showing; but why Glasgow should be up where he is, conceding weight to eight or ten of those below him, I cannot understand. He is set to give 12 lbs, for instance, to Ragabrah. Space will not permit of a more detailed notice, but too many horses are quite out of the order in the list that they should be placed in for the handicap to be called a good one. It certainly could be improved upon by raising the weights of some, and dropping others. On paper Blazer, Ostiak, Hohoro, Tortulla, Val Rosa, San Patricia, Nonette, Ragabrah, Jewellery and Scotty are amongst those that look best in; as before stated, however, Blazer is an unlikely starter, San Patricia has not recovered her accident, and it is just questionable whether the three last named will be forward enough to run out the distance, and whether Hohoro will be ready. Then there is a doubt as to whether Tortulla and Ostiak, or other, will come North, so that trying to select a probable winner just now is a matter of guesswork. Val Rosa may be found the most likely to do battle with the opposition in the day, and Nonette being on the ground, fit and well and seasoned, cannot be ignored. Princess of Thule reads as well as any of the hurdlers to my mind, and Khama may be worth following. Since writing the above, the acceptances have come to hand, and are very satisfactory.

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The following acceptances have been received in connection with the Auckland Racing Club's Autumn Meeting:—

EASTER HANDICAP of 6000s. One mile.

	st lb	st lb	
Tortulla	9 12	Laetitia	7 10
Nonette	9 11	Military	7 10
Hohoro	9 10	St. Olga	7 8
Bluejacket	9 7	Defender	7 8
Rosella	9 6	Reclamer	7 8
Okoari	9 4	Lady Avon	7 8
Val Rosa	9 3	Highlander	7 8
Formula	8 3	Float	7 5
The Needle	8 2	Jewellery	7 4
Ostiak	8 0	Hikipona	7 7

HANDICAP HURDLES of 13000s. Two miles.

	st lb	st lb	
Haydn	11 7	Dingo	10 4
R. Conqueror	11 3	Rufus	10 0
Pokomoko	11 0	Khama	9 7
Tim	10 9	Boxer	9 0
Princess Thule	10 7	Hippowal	9 0

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