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Turf Gossip.

By WHALEBONE.

TURF FIXTURES.

March 22—Waipapu R.C. Annual March 25, 26, and April 1—Auckland R.C. Autumn March 31 and April 1—C.J.C. Autumn March 31 and April 1—Kumara R.C. March 31 and April 1—Riverton R.C. March 31 and April 1—Pelding J.C. March 31 and April 1—Waipara R.C. April 3 and 4—Westland R.C. April 5 and 10—Nelson J.C. April 9 and 10—South Canterbury. April 15 and 16—Marlborough R.C. April 16 and 17—Southland R.C. April 24 and 25—Wellington R.C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Wager, Parnell.—Yes; Musketry, to give you an instance, was one. Two years later than Stepiak, Musketry visited Australia. Wager, Thames.—Prior to the New Zealand Cup of 1900, the figures stood: Miss Delaval, £2104 9/; Rosella, £1674 7/."Query." Auckland.—Reporters present agree that Nonette won by a length. He caught Tortulia in the run home, but had to be ridden strongly to do so.

TURF NOTES.

The English racing season opened on Monday. Reclaimer has been sore since he returned from the Thames meeting. The Jockeys Heaps and Ross, injured at the Thames, are reported to be doing well. Ivan, the brother to Tolstol, won a race at a country meeting in New South Wales early in the present month.

Mr King has been appointed caterer to the Auckland Racing Club for their Autumn and Winter Meetings. Melwood is not quite himself just now, and may have to miss some of his engagements next month. Skobeloff was sent back to Christchurch on the day after the Wanganui Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting.

The Hawke's Bay Cup, run for on Saturday, attracted the smallest acceptance in the history of the race.

It is an open secret that Lady Avon is to change hands after the Auckland Racing Club's Autumn Meeting.

Nominations are due on Wednesday, March 26th, for the Wellington R.C. Autumn Meeting.

Huon Lea (can this be the horse that trotted in New Zealand as Huon Leigh?) won two trotting events recently at a country meeting in New South Wales.

Regalla II was last in the Kitchener Hurdle Race at Rosehill, carrying the reasonable weight of 100. He will do better later on.

The Egmont Racing Club have received 38 and 64 nominations respectively for the Egmont Hack Sires' Produce events of 1903 and 1904.

Star Pointer, the trotter, was sold yesterday for £15, in Messrs Auckland and Sons yards—a small sum for a useful harness horse.

£1000 will be given in stakes at the Autumn Meeting of the Manawatu Racing Club, which takes place on April 30th and May 1st.

It is alleged that the hurdles at the Coromandel meeting were 4ft. high. This was hardly fair to supporters of the meeting. The regulation height is 3ft 6in.

Sensation, by Hotchkiss from Oulda, whose sale was announced last week, has passed the veterinary surgeon, and will be shipped South during the week.

It was reported last week that Menschikoff was amiss, but there is now nothing wrong with the little champion. He struck himself while doing a gallop, and one of his legs swelled at the time, but the accident was not serious.

Our Dunedin correspondent wires:—It is Mr H. L. James, popular secretary of the Dunedin Jockey Club, and not Mr W. R. James, who drew Limer in Carter-sell's special sweep on the Australian Cup, and receives £900, Lucky Harry!

Weights are due on Thursday for the minor events on the first day of the Auckland Racing Club's Autumn Meeting, and on Friday for the Canterbury Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting.

The double, Ostiak for the Easter, and Tortulia for the Autumn Handicap, for

which the weights have yet to be declared, has been backed for a small amount.

The trotting horses Colenso and Hollywood were sold last week at the Haymarket. Mr G. Robertson re-purchased the last named, who may be given another trial on the tracks.

Teddy B. was shipped back to Sydney by his owner, Mr R. Beckett, on Monday last. A useful horse, and a very consistent one, the same Teddy B. proved during his short stay in Maoriand.

A Queensland jockey named Richard Lang was found dead some distance from a country town to which he was taking a horse to race. The conclusion arrived at was that Lang had perished from thirst.

It is now stated that Mr Donald Fraser has commenced an action for damages against Mr Douglas Gordon for having had the racehorse Advance, who was held under lease from Fraser, also suing for a return of the horse in consequence of alleged breach of contract.

Nominations for the Avondale Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting are due on the 25th March. The Avondale, Autumn, Railway and Steeplechase Handicaps will require attention on that day.

Right on top of the break down of Ambush II, comes word of the scratching also of the New Zealand bred Levanter from the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase. It may now be safely concluded that all hope of the Auckland winner winning the cross country Blue Riband is at an end.

Mr Eden George, who, it is stated, contemplated retiring from racing, may, since having a good win over Sir Footes in the Newmarket Handicap, alter his determination and continue on at the game.

It is stated that certain punters that planked their money on Getzer for the South Auckland Cup were much "needled" when they learned that that gelding's stable companion had beaten him by a head.

Wednesday is general entry day for the Canterbury Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, and acceptance day for the Great Easter and Great Autumn Handicaps. At the same time nominations for the Tenth Challenge Stakes are also due.

Battleaxe and Okoari are expected at Ellerslie for the Autumn Meeting of the Auckland Racing Club, boxes having been engaged by their trainer P. Johnstone at the Harp of Erin stables. Boxes have also been engaged for three members of the Porirua team.

Messrs L. D. and N. A. Nathan have not yet received a settlement of their claim against Lloyd's for the insurance money on their thoroughbred Fitzsimons, who died early in August last, after being landed from his long sea journey from England. The claim is being contested on various grounds.

Next to the connections of the stable, Mr Eden George, an erstwhile New Zealand (Canterbury) photographer, who was a progressive City Councillor in Christchurch and a live man of business, is said to have backed the Newmarket Handicap winner, Sir Footes, for most money.

Judging from the attendance of the public at the Coromandel meeting, the prospects of racing in the district are not bright, and it is considered by some of those who were present unwise for the Club to try and run a two days' meeting there in the autumn in future.

Two dividends were paid on the first day at Coromandel races, and the tickets were ten shillings, and no fractional parts or shillings were paid. The amount passed through the totalisators during the two days of the meeting amounted to £1072. Mr H. Hayr and Co. worked the totalisator.

Frank Ross pretty well cleared the board at the Coromandel races with four horses, winning no fewer than six events, including the two hurdle races, Red Lancer the two chief handicaps, Scout one short race, and Mara no fewer than four events, including the pony races.

McKay, the rider of Belfast, on the second day of the Coromandel meeting, received a nasty fall and broke his collarbone, and is now in the Hospital. It will be remembered that Belfast got badly kicked on the point of the shoulder just before the start of the race. The Auckland Racing Club's summer meeting, McKay was riding the horse at the time. Mr Cleland and his jockey, trainer, and horse seem to be very unlucky.

Lord James, a four-year-old by Trenton from Princess Tool, owned by Mr George

Edwardes, won a Maiden Hurdle Race of 3000vs, two miles, at Hurst Park, on 17th January. 13 starters. Lord James, Lord James going out at 7 to 1. At the same meeting Mr H. C. White started the Australian-bred Spark II. in the New Year Handicap Hurdle Race. Spark II., who carried top weight, 11 1/2, finished last.

In addition to the English brood mare Herbal and Rugs, who were recently mentioned in this column, a young one from Calcutta, consigned to Mr C. F. Glasscock, the steamer Euryalus, which is expected to reach Melbourne in a few days, is (says an exchange) bringing the bay English mare Follen, who by Belmont (son of Hampton from Hather, by Wisdom, sire of Sir Hugo, the sire of the Newmarket Handicap winner, Sir Footes.

Sir George Clifford was one of the owners who were dissatisfied with the treatment of their horses at the Wanganui meeting on the second day. Glenalbyn was then intended to compete in the Wanganui Stakes, and had been going nicely in his work, but Mr Evert did not treat the son of Clanrauld as he had previously done, and so it was decided not to start him.

After the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, Messrs Williams and Kettle will hold an important sale of thoroughbred stock, on account of the well known breeders, the Hon. J. D. Ormond and Mr S. H. Gollan. Both sales are unreserved, and the annual batch of yearlings from Mangata. There is no doubt that the yearlings in excellent condition, while the draft from Mr Ormond's stud are yearlings and two-year-olds from choice mares by The Officer, Pittock and St. Andrew.

Evert has been a long time finding his way to the front, but succeeded in the Maiden Plate at Coromandel, by leading two modern types in the shape of the son of Mr W. McCutcheon. The son of St. Leger and Eve has so far proved a great disappointment. He was galloping well in the spring until one morning he fell while galloping on the plough. An objection has been recorded against Evert getting the stakes, on the ground that he did not run in the nomination of his owner. The stakes have been impounded.

The Auckland Racing Club have cause to be satisfied with the acceptances received for their Great Easter Handicap, and also for the Hurdle Race. There is sure to be a big field in the mile race, and a good contest on the day may be anticipated. Several of the best horses have dropped out either through being amiss or claiming engagements elsewhere. Twenty is a fine acceptance for the mile race, a good response for the hurdle race. Nominations for each of the other races are really first-rate, though it seems unlikely that we shall have the usual number of visiting sportsmen at the good meeting, however, seems assured.

When the statistics are completed for the season, which is now getting on towards its last furlong, it will be found that a large number of new records have been established. Many clubs will have been able to give more money in stakes than previously, and many will have reported an increased turnover at the totalisator, while the record for big dividends has been broken, and the hitherto fastest times at some distances have been broken. Generally these records are due to the visiting sportsmen as well as that of racing, and the season when the curtain is rung down will no doubt prove to have been quite as successful as the very best of its predecessors, not only from a financial but a sportsman's point of view.

It is no good disguising the fact that nearly everyone is of the opinion that Ambush II. will win the Grand National again. His victory (says the Yorkshire Gazette) in 1900 was unique, because never before had a horse royally owned won the big steeplechase. Should he win the National this year, the March 26th race will win a memorable one. Ambush II. is undoubtedly a horse of great points and a splendid fencer. It will be fit and appropriate if King Edward's horse wins in Coronation year. New Zealanders are hoping to see a high score. Should that horse succeed there would be an inducement for us to send further representatives. [The break down and scratching of Ambush II. has just been announced by cable.]

Kalmate is trained by I. Earnshaw, who trained Sir Footes, the Newmarket Handicap winner. He gave a good exhibition of form in his opening effort at the V.R.C. Autumn Meeting, when he defeated Error in the March Steeplechase of 3000vs. When he again defeated the same horse when meeting him on the same day, he further demonstrated that he was well, and composed of tough material. A cable announcing the sale of Kalmate for 200 guineas makes it appear that the Maoriander was not over highly valued after his wins. Few geldings when they get up in weight increase in value, but Kalmate has paid his last owner well, and Mr Septimus Miller, his present owner, will likely put him to good use.

Meetings like that held at Coromandel on Monday and Tuesday are seldom without humorous incidents. Weston, the rider of Muriwai, the winner of the Local Hurdle Handicap, is known amongst his fellowmen as "the natural," owing to his having failed to win a race for many years. When Muriwai broke his spell of ill luck there was hearty cheering, and the crowd followed Weston, headed by a billinger, and much probably in error, to the shoulder high, and enlisted the services of a band to play "See the Conquering Hero Come," but Weston was quite unused to such demonstrations of delight, and