

Turf

By

WHALEBONE.

Gossip

TURF FIXTURES.

- May 18, 18—Ashburton County Racing Club
- May 18, 18—Dunedin Jockey Club May Meeting
- May 24, 24—Takapuna J.C.
- June 3, 4, 7—Auckland Racing Club
- June 3, 4, 7—Auckland Racing Club's North New Zealand Grand National Meeting

TURF NOTES.

Skobeloff is said to be jumping very well.

Goetzer will leave for Suva in about a fortnight's time.

Clanranald's full brother St. Andrew, sire of Jabber and other fast horses, is dead.

Coose, by Trenton, was fancied for a race at Lincoln, and supported, too, but finished last.

Geologist has been purchased by a patron of J. Thorpe's, and goes into that trainer's stable.

J. Chanfe, sen., has recovered from his illness of a fortnight since, and is, I am pleased to say, out and about again.

Races in future will commence at one o'clock at Piesington—that is, at all the big meetings.

The death is announced in England of Mrs W. R. Wilson, the widow of the late squire of St. Albans.

Haydn was scratched at 11.30 a.m. today for the North New Zealand Grand National Hurdle Race.

Australian Colours has just been taken up again after a long paddock spell, and is being backed about at Randwick.

J. Rae has been confined to his bed for several days past with congestion of the right lung, but is now doing all right.

Shannon Lass was ridden in the Grand National without spurs, and has never been punished with either whip or spur.

Imported Positano claimed a winner at the Sunbury (Victoria) races on April 23, in a two-year-old filly called Posca, who won by five lengths.

Regatta U. was engaged in the Sydney Turf Club Handicap, run last Saturday, and was weighted at 24, while the top weight, Lucknow, received 212.

Old Nelson, who was made a present of to his old trainer, E. Cuts, by Major George, is reported to have put on a lot of flesh in his home at Chokokee.

Mr E. Clarke, owner of Cleughbrae, runner-up to Fearless Footsteps in last year's Waterloo Cup, and owner of some good horses in England, died recently.

At a recent meeting at Wellington (New South Wales) the first three winners were got by the first New Zealand owned sire's grandson, Hunsley and Silver Prince respectively.

The Labourer, who proved a roguish wren racing in New Zealand, is racing again in West Australia, after a season at the stud. This horse could go fast, too—when he liked.

Hilzard, Stockfish and Lord Zealand, whose combined ages are 42 years, ran in a race at Beaufort, in Otago, recently. Stockfish is 15 years old, and it may be here mentioned during two seasons in his career was about the most raced horse in this colony.

The Hawks' Bay Jockey Club have decided to alter the first day of their winter meeting from June 25 to June 26, the latter date being the holiday to be observed for Coronation D. Z.

At Ellerslie the whole of the work is being done the left-handed way of the tracks, save that on which the jumpers are engaged. This is in view of the Takapuna meeting.

Mr R. Phillips is now the owner of Felicitous, who was reported lame some few weeks since, but was all right soon afterwards. Frank McGrath is to have the mare at Randwick.

Some time ago a colt called Windsor was killed by collision with a Dunlop Tyre Company's motor car in Melbourne. The owner recently sued the company for £400 damages, and was awarded a verdict for £250.

Formula, the full-stater to Multiform, has been purchased from the Hon. H. Messman by Mr Morrin for the Wellington Park stud. She is a good-tempered mare, shapely in line for a brood mare, and should be a great acquisition to the stud.

The trotting gelding Sierra has been taken South, and may possibly compete on the second day of the Wellington T.C. meeting. The colt, who was taken to Wellington on Sunday, may compete in the Waitara before he returns.

Tod Sloan was riding work at Newmarket in March, and fully expects the English Jockey Club to reinstate him in the ranks of jockeys, but it is thought that the American jockey will have to stand down for some time longer.

One of the hardest-raced thoroughbreds in America was a mare called The Imp. She was mated this season with Topgallant, and an American millionaire has offered £2000 for the foal if a colt and half that sum if a filly.

Mr Oxenham, the well known book-maker, owns a horse racing under the name of T.M.S. This gee-gee has been conspicuous, and all too often in second place, and a confere says he interprets the letters T.M.S. to mean "too many seconds." A change of name is suggested.

The Melbourne Cup winner Glenloth, who was trained by M. Carmody, at one time a trainer at Ellerslie, while bringing up for the Custer races at Tapanui, dropped dead on the training track from rupture of a blood vessel. Glenloth had previously seen service at the stud.

At Kenilworth, at the Cape, according to the Special Commissioner of the "Sportman," a novelty exists in the arrangements on the course for outside the weighing-room there are three enclosures, one of which is to receive the winner and placed horses. Not a bad idea, either.

In noticing the breeding of Sir Edgar Vincent's colt Plati, by Carbine, who ran second in the Two Thousand Guineas, I mentioned that he has the pedigree of a stayer, and at the moment I was under the impression that he was in the Derby; but "Ruff's" says no. Plati, however, claims some valuable engagements this season.

"Pentagraph," in a note in the "Referential" section, that owing to a typographical error the name returned at the head of the list of winning two-year-olds instead of Padua. The value of the Northern Champagne Stakes was taken as £300 instead of £500. Portua heads Oriol by 215.

Sam Loates, the well known English jockey who some time since met with an accident at Northampton, has been undergoing massage treatment, and is so much better that he is able to discard his crutches. It is feared, however (says an exchange), that it will be some time before he is thoroughly restored to health.

The death is announced of the veteran journalist, Mr W. H. Lanckey, who for many years contributed interesting racing articles in the columns of the "Morning Post" over the widely-known signature "Pavo." Mr Landey, who was born on November 23, 1822, and was, therefore, in his eightieth year, was, many years ago, editor of the "Ball Life," from which he retired in 1882, in order to fill the editorial chair of the "Sporting Gazette."

The rainfall on Monday morning, as experienced on the Ellerslie racecourse was the heaviest known there for years. Fortunately it did not last long. Trainers have been getting a deal of broken weather at Ellerslie, but, nevertheless, work has been progressing there, and with the jumpers and juveniles much in evidence the number of horses in commission on the track shows a diminution on previous winter seasons, and it may now be said that winter is fairly entered upon.

It would be a smart performance on the part of the owner of Sceptre to win the Blue Riband with his filly after having sold her stable companion Duke of Westminster to Mr G. Fisher, M.P., for £100 guineas. The "Working Gazette" says there is no secret that Mr Faber bought Duke of Westminster with a view to carrying off the Derby in the Coronation year, and the disappointment at Kingsclere would be bitter if Mr Siewer were to secure the prize.

Wakelul is believed to have a mortgage on the New Zealand racecourse in Australia in the spring of next season, and Mr Macdonald has declined to put a price on her. An English buyer wanted her. It would be interesting to see Wakelul and Crutform meet, and well, say, at a mile and a mile and a-half, on weight-for-age terms.

Tattersall's sweeps are said to be still running in Tasmania. Talk about running the proverbial race, and four through the laws of the land. Some of them are so fringed that they would afford an easy passage for an express train. It is, however, thought that Mr G. Adams may have to close his business very shortly.

When Leverator was sold in New Zealand a veterinary surgeon would not give a certificate of soundness, yet for racing purposes the old son of Captivity was practically sound, as the racing he has stood since proves. It was through putting his foot in a hole that he went lame on the eve of the Liverpool Grand National.

McCluskey has withdrawn his appeal to the Wellington Racing Club against their sentence of disqualification at the suggestion of his employer, Sir George Clifford, who has written the club on the lad's behalf. Sir George, in doing so, mentioned that as the nominator of the Appeal Court he was placed in a position of some delicacy, as any action of his might be liable to misconception.

Prompted by the feeling that it was his duty, a well-known bishop once remonstrated with one of his clerics for attending the meet of a local hunt. "Well, your lordship," replied the offender, "I really don't see that there is any more to be in hunting than going to a 'pre-sume,'" answered his lordship, "that you refer to having seen my name down among those who attended Lady A's—ball; but I assure you, throughout the whole of my career, on the same room as the dabbers." "That, my lord, is exactly how I stand—I was never once in the same field as the boys."

A cable in an American paper states that Mr W. C. Whitney has withdrawn Nasturtium from the Derby in consequence of that colt being sick. Nasturtium won three out of five races at two years old, and is described as a fine chestnut colt standing 25.5, with black and three white stockings. His breeding shows that he is bred in to Stockwell. His sire is Watercress, and dam Margerite, the last-named by Bend Or from Order. Imported to America, Nasturtium cost Mr Whitney 10,000,000s last year.

Nominations are due on Friday next for the following events of the Auckland and District Grand National Meeting: Maiden Steeplechase, Maiden Welter, Maiden Hurdles, Cornwall and Remuera Hurdles, Second Maiden Hurdles, Second Maiden Welter, Tally-ho Steeplechase, Ladies Steeplechase, Sling Steeplechase, Ladies' Bracelet, Second Maiden Steeplechase, Welter Hurdles, Third Maiden Welter, Hunters' Steeplechase, and Farewell Handicap; also for the Ladies' Bracelet. At the same time accounts will be due for the Grand National Hurdle Race and Great Northern Steeplechase.

The Bard, who held an unbeaten record in England at two years old, winning all 16 races, and in the United States Ormonde to a length and a-half in the Derby and won the Doncaster and Goodwood Cups, besides other races, at three years old, died in France on December 15th last, at the age of Mr and Mrs. The Lormoy stud, in France, 10,000 guineas, and has been a good winter-producer on the French turf. His progeny last year are credited with winning £28,000. One of the best performers by the great son of Patriarch is Mondour Amadee.

Should handicappers compare notes? It would appear that some have done so in Australia in the past, judging from press remarks. Mr R. R. Maitland, the newly-appointed Victorian Amateur Turf Club's handicapper, it is reported, is unlikely to compare with the Victorian Racing Club's official, and so we shall get independent work from each when the Caulfield Cup and Melbourne Cup weights appear simultaneously. It is said that Mr Maitland and Mr Dakin are sworn enemies. A Melbourne writer says both are taking the hands of the other, but not surprised to see a paper battle raging between the pair before many months have elapsed.

Dr. Bree, of Colchester, in 1855 sent the following instance of horse sagacity to the "Field":—Mr Higgs, Mayor of Sunbury, was the owner of the animal, and he told the story to Dr. Bree. This horse, he said, used to pump his own water, taking the handle of the pump in his mouth and working it like a human being. The other horses would take advantage of his skill, and when thirsty would bite and tease him to go and pump for them, and were generally successful in inducing him to do so. He would walk gravely up to the pump, take hold of the handle, and work away at it till water flowed; directly water appeared, however, he would let go the handle and drink himself. Mr Higgs had seen him do this.

The English amateur jockey, Mr H. Randall, who has had such successful professional season, has decided to join the professional ranks. In some measure this course may have been forced on Mr Randall, as it was understood that he had received a hint from the Jockey Club that it would be useless again applying for a license as an amateur.

Shannon Lass, who won the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase, came into the betting market on the night before the race, and was well backed at 25 to 1. Mathew, who was second, was also supported at 25 to 1, while the Jockey Club top weight, who was third, was in good demand at 100 to 1. The race, it is said, must have been a good one for the ring, as several candidates were heavily backed in preference to the winner.

In a selling race run recently in the Old Country the American horse Omaha II. was sold for 1200s, but on being submitted to auction he realized 1250s without change of ownership, the surplus of 1500s over selling price being divided between the club and the Jockey Club's good horse. At first sight this looks bad

business for the owner of Omaha II., but he was no doubt quite content with the afternoon's work, as he smokes the rug hip and thigh.

There is a rule of the English Jockey Club in regard to racecourse companies, which forbids a dividend of over 10 per cent per annum. The regulation, though it appears arbitrary at first sight, has been the means of raising the class of sport on these courses. In former days the racing clubs and companies paid huge dividends, but the temptation to make sport subservient to the treasury was one few executive bodies could resist, and the result of the rule was to produce a general increase in the value of stakes.

A New York writer states that a firm of tipsters have been conspicuous in America throughout the past season by the extensive advertising which they indulged in. Not only did they publish a paper of their own, containing racing items and their selections for the day, but they advertised to an unprecedented extent in sporting dailies, and had large banners bearing their name suspended over the tracks, high up in the air, by means of a system of kites, so that no one there who was not anxious to see them. They charged a daily subscription of £1 for their information, sent to subscribers.

In France, according to a writer in an exchange, the popular jockey finds temptations of every kind awaiting him, and more than one good rider's name could be traced to his present state of nature was wrecked through listening to the followers of racing. Every art and wile is brought into play, and a good dose of determination is required to resist the flatterers who are constantly mixing with the jockeys, doing their commissions for them, making them presents, and substituting themselves bosom friends and boon companions. The feeling which some time since against American jockeys was to produce constant worn off, and all friction will be avoided if the stewards decide to prevent any semblance of foul play on one part or the other.

In Germany the question of riding fees and of travelling expenses, etc., for jockeys, has (after exchange) been settled by the Union Club. "Pony's" could claim £2 10s for a ride, with £5 for a win on the flat; £3 for a ride over hurdles, with £6 for a win, and £3 10s for a ride in a steeplechase and £7 10s for a win. The remuneration for the jockeys is the same as on the English scale, and no difference is made between hurdle-racing and steeplechasing. The winning ride on the flat is paid for with 2s, and the lower gets the same in a steeplechase, and the same and burden the winning fee in the same as on the flat, with £3 for a simple losing mount. Travelling expenses are fixed at a pound a day, and are only to be received from owners who have retained the services of the jockey travelling, each owner paying his share.

The Japanese devote a good deal of attention to racing, pony racing being naturally most popular in a country of ponies (says a Home authority). The Imperial recourse at Tokio was laid out by the Emperor of Japan for his special race meeting, which lasts three days, and is held every year in his birthday week. The course is nearly a mile round, and is one of the best in Japan. To the spectators it is a most picturesque as it is with cherry trees, while in the centre is a lake with various decorative buildings about it. Many of the Japanese Royalty and the nobles keep racing studs, and give prizes to the prize of the birthday week meeting being the Imperial Cup. Count Ito, whose name is well known in Europe, has been the best pointer. The talker system of betting is the one most in vogue.

On the second day of the Wellington Racing Club's Autumn Meeting last month, Mr Evelt was ridden to uniform at 10.4 in the Pacific Handicap, running a distance of 6 furlongs. In the same race he gave Achilles 9.7, and Portua 9.12. Crutform was thus handicapped at 20lb over the weight for age; Achilles was assessed at 21lb over the weight for age, and Portua 23lb. In other words, Achilles was estimated 7lb better than Crutform on the weight for age computation, and Portua 2lb inferior to that filly, thus making Achilles out a top sawyer indeed. This, of course, is a matter of opinion. Achilles is generally given out as the very good colt, but can it be said that he had really earned the distinction of being classed so high as to have been equal to the task that was set him. Neither Crutform nor Achilles ran, so that it was not possible to lay over a race between the pair over six furlongs at the weights would have ended. I fancy, however, that most people would take Crutform at such a handicap, even allowing that the weights were high, for Crutform is regarded by our best judges as the best filly we have seen in this colony at her age. When we come to look back to the corresponding meeting last year, we find that in this race the then two year olds Nonette and San Patricia were handicapped at 7.6 and 7.3 respectively. Nonette had only been twice beaten at the time, and in only one of those races had beaten twelve 2 year olds with 10.5 on his back. San Patricia and Nonette ran first and second. Mr Evelt must have had this performance in his recollection, as he went to the other extreme.

Weights for the two big jumping races to be decided on the 3rd and 4th June at Ellerslie were issued on Friday. In the Great Northern Steeplechase Mr Evelt has twenty-six weight to adjust the weights for, and in the Grand National