

# Turf Gossip.

By WHALEBONE.

## TURF FIXTURES.

August 12, 14, 16—C.J.C. Grand National  
September 3, 4—South Canterbury J.C.  
September 4, 5—Marion J.C.  
September 13, 14—Rangitikei R.C.  
September 20, 24, 27—Avondale J.C.

## TURF NOTES.

Nominations will be taken for the Avondale Jockey Club's spring meeting on Friday, August 15th.

Another notable New South Wales breeder and sportsman in Mr T. H. Smith, M.L.C., died recently in Sydney.

The minutes of the recent Racing Conference have reached me from the secretary.

Mr J. Marshall, owner of Cannongate, is on a visit to Canterbury. He left for Riccarton on Thursday.

The value of the American Derby this year was £5025, of which sum £200 went to the second horse and £400 to the third.

Slego Gun is now favourite for the New Zealand Cup in Auckland at 8 to 1; Nonette is quoted at 10 to 1, and Tortulla at 12 to 1.

Wakeful, Revenue, and the rest of Mr C. L. McDonald's horses in training have been removed to Caulfield to be trained there.

Mr M. Friedlander is on a visit to Auckland for a few days. He was out yesterday to have a look at his brother's horses at Ellerslie.

"Form at a Glance," Messrs Barnett and Grant's annual publication, a handy little work of reference for sportsmen, has reached me.

The two-year-old Ben Godfrey-Santana colt, in Charge, sea's team, is to be called Stubbington, not Chanticleer, as previously intended.

The Australian Jockey Club will give £1000 for their next Derby, £200 for the Metropolitan Handicap, and £500 to the St. Ledger.

As it became necessary for the Hon. H. Mosman to change the name of Hestrig, son of St. Ledger and Hilda, that of Hilda has been bestowed on the horse.

The Idler, who is mentioned as a likely winner of the Caulfield Cup, is to run at Randwick next month, and may give a good account of himself there.

It is rumored that a racing partnership in Auckland will locate some horses in the South this season, and keep two stables going in New Zealand in future instead of one.

One of Mr H. Friedlander's fillies, by Muskapeer from Eve, died about a year ago, but through some mistake her name figures in some of the classic events which closed recently.

Mr T. Wylie, owner of Royal Conqueror, leaves Auckland to-morrow (Thursday) to attend the New Zealand Grand National Meeting. Mr T. H. Gorrle will also be a visitor.

I have to acknowledge from the secretary (Mr Wanklyn) the receipt of the book programme of the Canterbury Jockey Club for the coming season—a volume that has grown to 84 pages.

Mr A. A. Woods, long-time Judge for the Victoria Amateur Turf Club and numerous suburban clubs near Melbourne, succumbed to paralysis of the brain during the last week in July in Melbourne, where he had been an invalid for about 12 months.

The Canterbury Jockey Club will give in stakes this season £20,500. The Auckland Racing Club will give £21,200. These clubs stand out a head and shoulders above other New Zealand racing institutions in the matter of stake disbursements.

Betting over the New Zealand Grand National meeting continues. The latest steeplechase candidate to come in for support has been the Natator horse Molfaa, who has been coupled in doubles with several horses believed to have good chances of succeeding in the big hurdle race.

I mentioned in my last that Mr E. N. Simson, who intends contesting a city seat at the coming elections, is a nephew of the late Mr Hector Norman Simson, a prominent horse breeder in Victoria, who I might have added bred the Flying Buck, winner of the First Champion Stakes in Australia, and that he who is

to be an entrant for Parliamentary Stakes rode Flying Buck in many of his winding up gallops. That was in 1850.

Writing last week before the statistics were available, a conference in a Sydney paper figured it out that Mr C. L. Macdonald, with a small team of about four horses, of which Wakeful and Revenue were the particular bright stars, had won in stakes £12,222. If these figures are correct, Mr G. G. Stead comes out this year as the biggest winning owner in the colonies, as his total is just £3 more than that of the Australian owner.

The annual report and balance sheet of New Zealand Tattersall's Club has been circulated amongst members, and will be presented on Wednesday, at the annual meeting. The Chairman will be in the happy position to show that the assets over liabilities will now total £1075, being an increase for the year of 4.50 M/s. There is £786 in the Savings Bank, and £114 in the National Bank; furniture and stock making up the assets. Amongst the receipts there is an amount of £190 for a license for a new bookmaker member, granted last year.

The form shown by Colonel Shilldale, Lowland Chief, and Hawdon, the raised trip in the Caulfield Grand National Hurdle Race, was consistent with their running at the Victoria Racing Club's G.N. Meeting, where all three figured prominently. Probably Lowland Chief was fitter than previously, but the form displayed by Zalkinski's son stamps that horse as about the best hurdler in the colonies, as he came at the right end of the long journey and won cleverly, and probably with something to spare. Colonel Shilldale has proved a great bargain to Mr A. Miller, for whom he has won at each time of asking since he went into that owner's hands.

Racing in Hawke's Bay is not in such a progressive condition as lovers of the sport could wish, and this is somewhat strange, seeing that there are so many breeders and well-to-do owners racing. What appears to be the cause is a racing population, with the means to spend extensively. As it is, race meetings are not nearly so largely patronised at Hastings as they should be to ensure complete success. Last year the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club increased their stakes by £475, but finished up the season with an overdraft increased by £50. Some day when the country there becomes more settled, when the broad acres are carrying more people to the square mile, racing may boom.

Betting on the New Zealand Grand National meeting continues steadily, and the double has been laid to the extent of about 1500 in Auckland, several people having got nearly round. Cannongate, Cavallero, Molfaa, Haydn, The Swimmer, are those most supported for the Steeplechase, and for the Hurdle Race, published, Mars, Cavaliero, Strathairn, Scottish Minister, and a number of others have been taken with the horses mentioned for nearly all the available money in the market.

The Avondale Jockey Club have made substantial progress during the year, evidence of which visitors to the autumn meeting of that club had ocular demonstration of, when one of the most up-to-date racing properties in the colony came under their notice. The report and balance sheet, which were before members of the club to-day, at the annual meeting, and which have already been published, disclose a most satisfactory condition of affairs, and it is safe to predict that in time the suburban club will take a still higher place amongst the racing clubs of the colony than it at present occupies, and that in such a club can be very proud of. The Avondale Jockey Club is one of few suburban racing clubs that aims at providing classic races, and the Avondale Stakes for two-year-olds, and the Avondale Guineas for three-year-olds, are races which are well patronised, and this spring give promise of furnishing most interesting contests on this club's course.

The worst policy for horse-breeders to pursue is to keep a number of useless animals (says an exchange). These not only consume the food which could be reserved for better ones, but their presence is not only calculated to lower the prestige of a stud in the eyes of visitors, but is also source of danger to other stock, as it is obvious that the greater number of animals in a stud the greater the risks of injuries from kicks and other accidents. It is, therefore, a common weakness of mankind to cling to animals which have been bred upon a place, first, because there is a natural, though most unfortunate, disposition to think better of one's own productions than facts justify; and,

secondly, from the hope that the animals may improve with age, and so grow into more money. There are occasional instances where this occurs, it is true, but for one case of the kind there are twenty where it is just the reverse, and, beyond all doubt, the profits on one will not compensate for the losses on the other, and a periodical clearance of all misfits and detrimentals is, therefore, the wisest policy for all owners to pursue.

The Auckland Racing Club's annual general meeting, held at the Central Hotel on Monday, was a remarkable one in many ways. First of all, the attendance of members was by far the largest known in the history of the club, or of any similar institution in the colony, no fewer than 183 members being accounted for. To seven these who were aware members had during a few preceding days been freely canvassed for their votes on behalf of members standing for election on the committee. The large muster occasioned some surprise, but the members addressed themselves to discussing the balance-sheet from a critical standpoint was a subject that was freely commented on outside. There were members present who had expressed their dissatisfaction, asking some questions on certain items appearing in the statement of accounts, but the vice-president (Mr A. Kidd), acting as chairman in the absence of the president (Mr A. Eickel), who was unable to attend through illness, handled the business along, and as those present could but imperfectly hear the speech delivered by Mr L. D. Nathan owing to the hammering of carpenters in a building adjacent, there was some excuse for any sceptical remissness. It would, however, better were members to embrace the opportunity of asking for details upon points not made sufficiently clear to them at the right time, than by their silence afterwards to be able to stand aloof and show discontent. There are some members who, not able to address themselves to such subjects as racing finance, would nevertheless like those they place in responsible positions to take them into their confidence. It is their duty, therefore, more into detail, and after all, members who hold it to be the duty of the outgoing committee to afford the fullest information concerning the business of the year are not looking for any more than they have a reasonable right to expect. The Auckland Racing Club is in a highly flourishing condition as regards its racing property and accessories, and its prosperity has been remarkable. At one time it was a hard matter to get a quorum of fifty members, and a seat on the committee was a much coveted honour. Now, however, it would appear that the annual election makes largely in the minds of members, many of whom apparently take the keenest interest in being able to record their votes. It is generally admitted that they made a very good selection from the number of candidates that came forward. The friends of some of the defeated ones were disappointed, but, being seen in a disposition that the honours of office shall go round, and it must so be that good men are at times left out. After all, it is well that changes do take place. Many appointments are made owing to the absence of members, and it is to be hoped that this comes in. When there are large committees we shall always see members elected out of compliment, but I think it can be safely said that the committee of the Auckland Racing Club at present constituted will be found workers, and it is hoped that many suggested reforms and improvements will receive their prompt attention, and that the proposal to that instruction is imparted to young lads in the various stables, for whom a school-house or hall is to be furnished, will soon be given effect to.

Strangely enough, though there was a general discussion on matters affecting the welfare of the club, no mention at all was made at the meeting of the Queensland Turf Club, says a correspondent of the "Referee." Of the proposal which is now before Parliament to increase the Government tax upon totalisators. Perhaps it was not deemed advisable to touch upon this question until after the Bill has been introduced into the Legislature, but a discussion on the subject might easily have led to a good suggestion of two being thrown out by way of recommendation as to what form the proposed increase of the tax should take. It is understood that one provision of the Bill will be that not more than 12 1/2 per cent, as at present will be allowed to be taken off the total investments, and that in whatever way the thing is fixed up the club will be the loser. It might not be a bad suggestion that instead of adding another 2 1/2 per cent. on to the tax, the Government might take over the fractions. If this were done, probably more than the proposed increase would be obtained, while at the same time a matter about which there has been a lot of acrimonious discussion would be effectually and satisfactorily disposed of. A charge of 10 per cent. on some months' profit is a wonder the people do not object to it.

A meeting of the newly elected committee of the Auckland Racing Club was held at the club's offices, Durham-street,

last week. Mr T. Morris was elected chairman of all committees, and officers for the ensuing twelve months were elected as follows:—President, His Worship the Mayor (Mr A. Kidd); vice-president, Mr H. A. Thompson; stewards, Messrs G. W. B. Patterson, L. D. Nathan (committee representative), E. D. O'Rourke, T. Sinclair, D. W. Dublin, W. S. Somers, M. Foley, J. C. Smith, F. Earl, Geo. Nicoll, Major Pitt, and Dr. Kelly; judges, Mr R. H. Gorrle and Mr H. T. Gorrle; clerk of scales, Mr F. W. Marks; clerk of course, Mr Selby; handicapper, Mr J. O. Kevitt; auditor, Mr R. E. Isaacs; works committee, Messrs M. McLean, H. T. Gorrle, and W. McLaughlin. A sub-committee was appointed to obtain information and report as to the employment of a starter. It was decided to vote 25 guineas towards the fund for the erection of a veterans' home. A petition was received from trainers and jockeys asking the club to consider the opening of a club and social rooms for jockeys. Consideration of the matter was deferred till next meeting of committee. The Programme Committee dealt with the programme for the coming season, and the acceptance of a few slight alterations in the nature of events, chiefly in the winter meeting, the programmes are practically the same as those last season.

Particulars of the American Derby are to hand. The winner, Wyeth, is owned by a Mr Drake, who is said to have won £20,000 over the race at an outside price. Sixty-five thousand persons witnessed the event. The favourite, Heno, was badly worsted, and his rider said, would not try. A correspondent of the "Referee," in speaking of the Derby, says it is well-nigh impossible to get down from Mr E. J. ("Crazy") Baldwin. This veteran turfman is having a most remarkable streak of ill-fortune of late, which bids fair to make his sobriquet a bitter sarcasm. It was hard enough for him to see his Derby colt, Cruzados, cut down in the race at Harlem, but on the very day of the Derby he came even closer to being him. The colt had just returned from an easy gallop, and was being led up and down in the lane before the Baldwin stable to cool out, when a runaway milk wagon dashed round the corner, and all but ran the colt down. Two other of the Baldwin colts were out at the same time, and the attendants leading them had to let them run loose to get out of the way of the frightened horse. No serious damage was done by the runaway, but it nearly had the narrowest kind of an escape. "I don't know what is the matter," said Mr Baldwin shortly after the runaway, "but it's getting so I don't dare to take Cruzados out of the stable. Of course, a misadventure as good as a mile, but in cases like that I prefer to err on the side of caution, and not to take any too much." After the special race at Harlem, in which Cruzados was cut down, it was said by several turf writers here that the Baldwin colt was a quitter. Mr Baldwin took exception to this statement, and offered to put his colt against any horse in the country, weight for age, at a mile, for \$20,000 a-side. Mr Hildreth announced several days ago that he would take up Mr Baldwin's offer and catch McCrurran against Cruzados. Such a race may be arranged later in the season, when the colts in question are ready to race again.

A most interesting article appears in the Sydney "Town and Country Journal" on the subject of the past racing season, the writer confining himself chiefly to dealing with racing in New South Wales, which, he says, has been one of the most prosperous experienced there for some years. Why this has been so, he cannot say, for Australia has been passing through one of the most severe droughts in its history, and he says he knows. To quote from the article, the writer says: "Everything in the shape of horse feed is at an extravagant price; yet we find the stables not only full, but the horses are in better condition than in any other part of the country, and the people make a living, much the same as in any other. Some do well, others go insolvent, but the majority engaged in it make a decent living. The amount of money which changes hands by just a single racing is something enormous. This is clearly shown when we tell that the prize money paid away within the metropolitan radius by the registered clubs amounts to over £45,000. Of this sum the Auckland Jockey Club disbursed £24,775. Of this £2900 was paid away over the last autumn meeting at Randwick, and £2200 was the amount handed over to the owners of successful horses after the last spring meeting. The other clubs racing

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