

all the races—five, I think—and Sam Loates's nephew, Heapy, rode all the winners. Loates remembers it because he had promised the boy £1000 if ever he accomplished such a feat and he paid up with avuncular pride and pleasure.

The Auckland Racing Club's committee have issued licenses to the following:—Trainers: Pat Conway, R. Hall, H. Barr, K. O. Heaton, J. B. Deesley, J. Dennis, Morganhan, T. Greenwood, W. Gall, H. Gillespie, G. Wright, J. B. Williamson, W. Wilmot, R. G. Middlemas, E. J. Rae, B. Nichol, A. Butler, H. French, Jackeys: W. Mooney, W. Bird, Jas. Buchanan, B. Conway, B. Deesley, J. Gallacher, H. H. Galtford, F. Howard, R. Hall, Dennis Morganhan, H. Phillips, J. Pennell, Joe Pennell, M. Ryan, J. Stewart, F. Speakman, W. Saitman, R. Teddy, T. Jackson, G. Moore, R. Potts, J. McAuliffe, E. Pope, T. Taylor, Cal. Butler, D. Snodgrass. Apprentices: A. C. Percival, F. Porter.

The Wanganui Jockey Club have received splendid nominations for the spring meeting, and here are many Auckland-bred, though few Auckland-owned, ones set down as likely to compete. After the Avondale Guineas is decided the Wanganui Guineas may attract some of the Auckland-owners also. I believe it is the intention of the Messrs Nathan to send one, either Grey Seaton or Lavalette. Sir George Clifford, Mr G. G. Stead, and Mr J. Mouk are others that may be represented. In the future, to replace the names of a number of New Zealand Cup horses appear, and it will be interesting should any of them compete. Porfirus and Achilles are the best performed ones in the Guineas.

Racing in England is at times just as remarkable for reversals of form as in the colonies, as the following from Robin Goodfellow's paper in London, "Daily Mail" shows some dramatic alterations in form which besmirch the records of the past few weeks, and especially those of the two July meetings at Newmarket, where the stewards of the Jockey Club have the sport under their personal surveillance, and in the hands of the Solicitor successfully gave away lumps of weight in the Coombe Plate, for various reasons, not always, perhaps, entirely edifying. The Solicitor is one of the most interesting horses on the turf. The chapters in his history gave "strange, eventual history" have invariably been replete with incident and not infrequently with sensation. When beaten recently at Salisbury, with substantial odds betted on him, it was urged in explanation that the incident gave insufficient notice of his being wanted to run, and in consequence he was not rips. Another explanation is that he has suffered, or was suffering, from rheumatism, which made him stiff and unable to run. In either case he was quite a different horse on Saturday. His variegated antecedents naturally affected his market status, and there was a moment when, after he had been favourite, he was driven to 4 to 1, and although he rallied to 2 to 1, the odds with Wairiki and Theobald were preferred to him. Apparently there are two Solicitors, and it would be well if one of them were struck off the rolls. Something happened to Theobald half-way through the race, putting him out of action in front of the stand. The Solicitor stayed there to the finish.

The secretary of the A.J.C. (Mr T. S. Clibborn) has arrived in Sydney on his return from England, and appears to have been met by a local paper. The paper says that the greater part of his time away was spent in Ireland, but he attended a few race meetings in England, falling, however, to notice any improvements made since his previous visit. Mr Clibborn, an Irishman, and Lord Durham, explained to some of the members and the officials of the Jockey Club a number of the racing rules of the Australian Jockey Club, more especially those bearing on protests for incorrect entries and the nomination of a horse on the death of the owner. The working of the starting machine was also explained, and Mr Clibborn found that sportsmen generally were decided that the machine should have a fair trial. Mr Clibborn impressed on the officials of the English Jockey Club the importance of having the machines properly erected, so that the webbing could be drawn tight. It was the practice in England for the horses when lining up in front of the barrier to spread the ground between the rails of the course, keeping well apart. This, of course, made the task of despatching the field on even terms all the more difficult for the starter, as each horse had ample room in which to turn round at his will. Illustrations of a large field being sent away in Australia were submitted, and surprise expressed that such a result was possible. Mr Clibborn made it plain that if proper methods were adopted the same thing would, as a matter of course, follow in England. Speaking of the various racecourses and appointments, Mr Clibborn repeated what has been said before by colonial visitors to England. Although some of the English courses have elaborate grandstands, they are far behind Handcock or Flemington in other respects. The sanitary conditions being bad, and the lavatory arrangements insufficient. Generally speaking, the horses and jockeys are better than we have in Australia, but it is due to the fact that wealthy men follow the sport who would not stick to the horse as a hobby, but that would be likely to turn out a winner.

Talking of propny prads, a story from the South tells of two owners who were grieving together over the scarcity of competent jockeys. "My horse can win,

said the first owner. "I've backed him to win, and I want to make sure of it." "My horse can win, too," said the second owner, "but I haven't had time to run a bye, and I don't want to make sure of it." Then they both went searching round for suitable riders, and the first man, who wanted to win, put up a stable boy who was honest, but had no great skill. The other man, who wanted to run a bye, secured the services of an old, well-seasoned jockey, who knew every move on the board, and the results suited all parties concerned. The first man's horse won by a few lengths of the bye, and the second man's prad lost by many furlongs, so that the crowd shouted as the horse came ambling down the straight: "Stoards! Where's the bloomin' stoards?" And others instantly asked the clever rider: "What delayed you, sonny? Were you afraid of falling off?" But the "stoards" saw nothing that called for investigation; in fact, one suggested that all the best jockeys should get the ticket in the Cross, and then, making a desperate action. And it really does require some nerve to lose on a horse whose form has already been exposed.

The "Deutscher Sport" has been unwell-sounding for the gentlemen who advertise in the columns of certain German papers, and, without regard to the law of libel, which is so ridiculously absurd in Meercle England, where newspapers are not allowed to send a spad, has fairly put the cat among the pigeons. Betting is prohibited in Germany, the bookmaker is barely tolerated on the racecourse, and is compelled every now and then to answer for his sins to the police. The law is, of course, a possible manner, though the money has to be sent away "out of the country," not a day passes without betting being made at the "totalisator" offices. New industries have sprung up in the colonies who pick up and sell the old vouchers thrown away by losers, and who find customers among the agencies, who have to prove every now and again by vouchers that they have not been entrusted to them to the "totalisator." Another industry has sprung up among backers who have every interest in the return by the "totalisator" of the long-expected money, and regulating the bets entrusted to certain agencies. A few confederates assembled at the small gatherings, where there are only a few others for taking money, and block the way of the bookmaker, and prevent others, who would have put their money on the favourite from getting near until the signal for the start is given.

The Great Northern Guineas is an attractive spring event, the first of the classic races of the season in Auckland, of the value of 600sovs. On Friday, September 5th, the final forfeits were due, and the names of the twenty four were left in, some of the number. It is supposed, owing to neglect on the part of their owners. Under the forfeit system this sort of thing will always occur, but has been probably only a few that would have been voided. The names of the nearly all the horses are in commission, and two months may cause the race to wear a different complexion to what it does to-day. A fair proportion claim spring for assignments at Riccarton about the same time, and there are some engaged at Avondale, Wanganui and Hawke's Bay in the interval, so that we need not wonder at the full list. Those already proved winners and shown fair two-year-old form are Ida, Grey Seaton, Wairiki, Northumberland, Dodona, Spalpeen, Kelburn, Gladisa, Gold Puroe, Gold Dust, Laffity and Austerlitz; while the others are, in order of merit, and in promising young horses, Lavalette and Marshal Scout being a brace that come under the category for probable usefulness. The Avondale Guineas may throw some light on the matter, as we are to anticipate that Ida will take a prominent part in the settlement of that question, and go on and give a good account of herself in the more valuable stake. For some time past, however, it has been, however, there may not be much to be expected of the young horses at headquarters this season, and some of them have done searching preparations and must run prominently in the future. It is staying ability seems to be the forte of both Wairiki and Spalpeen, and at the moment I would take Lavalette, one of the untried divisions, as about as likely to be useful as any of them.

There are many racegoers in New Zealand who look upon 10 per cent. as a quite sufficient sum to be charged by clubs for investing their money through the medium of the totalisator, but they have to pay much more dearly in Queensland. The local correspondents of the "Town and Country Journal" has the following on the subject: The question of the totalisator betting in Queensland has been occupying a deal more attention in the public mind and at the hands of the local correspondents than it did under consideration by the Legislature. In fact, it needed practically no consideration whatever to direct its passage through both Houses of Parliament, for the reason that from the outset it was generally conceded that under the present circumstances the Treasurer was exceedingly moderate in his demand for a larger share of the profits derived from the betting machines. The public, or, at least, those of the racing public who are not entirely in matters of this kind, are concerned as to the justice from which the extra 2 1/2 per cent. is to be obtained, fearing that there may be truth in the statement which had been openly made to the effect that it was to be made an addition to the existing 12 1/2; while the committee of the Queensland Turf Club

have on their part been exercising their minds in endeavouring to discover how such a proposition would be regarded. By the latter the matter has evidently been gone into pretty thoroughly, and there is some reason to believe, after all that they are not too confident of what the result might be were they to throw the full burden upon the shoulders of the totalisator investors. Two shillings and sixpence deducted from every pound always seemed a pretty high premium to charge for the privilege of betting by machinery, especially when it is considered that in eight investments the pound became totally absorbed by the machine, and the investors were left with no arguments advanced in opposition to an extra impost upon the public. On the other hand, the committee do not relish the idea of losing sixpence in every pound which goes through the totalisator at their meetings, and thus having their customary profits curtailed to that extent; and as a way out of the difficulty a notice of motion has been tabled by the chairman, Mr W. W. Hood, to the effect that as soon as the new totalisator should be introduced (and it can hardly be doubted but that the extra 2 1/2 per cent. should be borne equally by the club and the investors. If this is carried, the distribution of the totalisator moneys will give 84 per cent. to the winning investors, 12 per cent. to the club, 2 per cent. to the Government, and 2 per cent. to the proprietors of the totalisator. That there will be some complaining against this is certain, but the totalisator medium of betting has taken too strong a hold on the public mind to be given up by the State for it to have any very disastrous effect.

That the backing of Lavalette for the New Zealand Cup has occasioned surprise at racing headquarters is shown by the track wagers can generally be gathered from the remarks of most of them. There was only one good three-year-old, namely, Lavalette, last season, and that was a mistake. At present, it is believed to belong to the common variety. Nonette could give them all lots of weight. He stood out by himself, as he did in his two-year-old career. During the season he was a member of the two-year-olds all so close to each other who kept winning in turns that it was really impossible to believe that there was actually one high class one amongst the lot, for they all happened to be of the same class, that the class can be of the best, useful though they may be. If we allow that the best of the two-year-olds we had racing here belong only to the two-year-olds class then it can't be said that we have assessed them fairly. That they were as a lot superior to the previous season's crop would be conceded by most people. It remains to be seen whether they will prove better than the crop of last year. For my own part, I feel sure they will be of better average, but at present Nonette looms in sight. Many thought that the last New Zealand Cup was a throw away because Nonette's owner did not send his colt down for it. Nonette had a penalty that brought his impost to a stiff weight for a three-year-old in the spring of the year, and I do not agree with those who think he would have won. Tortulla's owner had a nice impost, 52. This year she has 53, or 15lbs more, and yet we find her owners prefer her chance to that of his three-year-olds, and we are told prefer to trust her to give the younger ones a severe preparation. Now, if there is an ordinarily good three-year-old engaged this season this is surely the year for one to shine, for all the proved performers to trust her to give the younger and it is remarkable that horses with big weights do not succeed over this particular distance. During the past 19 years 8.8 is the highest weight borne to victory, and while three horses have been successful under that weight, only on two other occasions has over 8.0 been won with. Tasman, Vanguard and Lady Zetland each had 8.9, Valuku 8.6, and Tortulla 8.2, when they won. It is hard to agree with those who say that Nonette. There are croakers who declare every year that the Cup horses are the worst they have seen, and I admit that at times it would seem so, but I don't know of a pronounced bad one that has actually succeeded and depend upon it the one that wins in this year of grace will not disgrace the list. We are now within eight weeks of the event, and every week the interest will increase and candidates will be all no doubt find favour. Nonette and Slego Gun continue favourites.

The Avondale Jockey Club have received several acceptances for their spring meeting, which commences on Saturday next, for there are just a dozen in the Avondale Cup, and the same number in the Flying Stakes, and nearly thirty the candidates in each of these events have been going well, the double is one that may not prove easy to pick. The presence in the Cup race of The Shannon, the Napier mare, who is perhaps the best handicapped, and of the very good Durabill, will add interest to the race. Up-to-Date is not working at Ellerslie, but is said to be well, though it is just a question whether a horse can be got really fit on the Pukekohe course from what I have

heard of it. The other nine are trained at headquarters, and each having done pleasing gallops, the race wears a fairly open appearance. Most interest will centre in seeing how a three-year-old, Grey Seaton, and Kelburn, who they claim so many valuable engagements ahead, both being in the New Zealand Cup. The material is in the race to give the youngsters a severe trial. The Shannon, Formula, and Val Rosa may be the most formidable they will have to encounter. The Flying Handicap ought to be won by a three-year-old, if there is a good one amongst them, but Formula, specially prepared and fresh for this race, would have a very good trial candidate. The New Zealand Cup candidate Lavalette is engaged, and having been backed in doubles with Grey Seaton, is likely to compete, and he may be expected to race well. Wairiki has been eased in his work somewhat, and it is rumoured may not be just at his best. This colt has been the ruling fancy for some time past. I fancy a good race will result, in the Maiden Plate. Drugg and the top weights, La Valiere and Mechanic, can be looked upon as having the best chances. If Bellman is really well, he may race well in the Hurdies, but that race is fairly open, and the Steeplechase race is fairly open, and the Steeplechase race, the Avondale Stakes and Avondale Guineas, furnishing interesting races, as there are several fast two-year-olds at headquarters, and the meeting for the first time this season of 3-year-olds claiming important, an attraction for breeders and racegoers generally all over the colony.

STARTING RACEHORSES.

(To The Sporting Editor.)

Sir,—I write having noticed that the Auckland Racing Club are about to appoint a new starter. In the past Mr Cutts has had very tedious work in starting, and a lot of trouble has been done. On the Continent several courses have 20 yards from each barrier, with the words "Line up" on a signboard. When the starter is in his place he has a handbell, which he rings twice, once to line up and the next is to walk up from the line-up post to the barrier. He never has occasion to speak to the jockeys, only when he raises the barrier for starting. It is fair to the public, owners, trainers, and also to the jockeys, who are supposed to know their places before leaving the saddling paddock.—I am, etc.,

A FUNTER WHO HAS LOST HIS BIT AT THE POST.

AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.

The following acceptances were received last night by Mr H. H. Hayr in connection with the Avondale Jockey Club's Spring Meeting, which opens on Saturday next:—

AVONDALE CUP HANDICAP of 200sovs; second, 40sovs; third, 10sovs. One mile and a quarter.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Odds. Val Rosa 8.5, Matamatahakee 7.7, Formula 8.2, Up-to-Date 7.6, St. Olga 7.12, Sole 7.5, The Shannon 7.10, Seaton 7.4, Tresham 7.10, Kelburn 7.7, Durable 7.0.

FLYING STAKES HANDICAP of 100 sovs; second, 10sovs. Six furlongs.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Odds. Highlander 9.6, Landlock 7.7, Bluejacket 8.12, Lavalette 7.7, Formula 8.9, Durabill 7.6, St. Olga 8.7, Spalpeen 7.5, Jewellery 7.7, Gladisa 7.5, Wairiki 7.7, Orange and Blue 7.0.

Maiden Plate.—La Valeria 8.7, Mechanic 5.0, Rostphoe 7.12, Sly Miss 7.11, Drugg 7.11, Cygnet 7.10, Setosa 7.7, Waimuna 7.7, Gold Web 7.4, Romeo 7.4, Strathavon 7.0, Aureka 7.0, La Polish 6.12, Iota 6.10, Strathavon 6.10.

First Hurdle Handicap.—Mars 11.6, Tim 10.10, Cannonage 10.8, Bellman 10.4, Dingo 9.7, Commodore 9.0, Winsome 9.0, Moko-moko 9.0, Bird 8.9.

First Hack.—Lavalette 8.11, Marshal Scout 8.5, Hazy 7.12, Lingard 7.0, Ben Hinz 7.7, Hayers 7.7, Hippo 7.7, Romeo 7.4, Hipstone 7.3, Loch Fyne 7.3, Strathavon 6.10, Minna 6.0.

First Steeplechase Handicap.—Cannonage 12.4, Nor-west 11.10, Dingo 10.5, Taragon 10.4, Hinemoa 9.12, Stockman 9.10, Pungarehu 9.10, Matarawa 9.10, Kowhai 9.9, Pullack 9.7, Gipsy 9.7, Bird 9.7.

First Pony Handicap.—St. Loanda 8.10, Sentinel 8.5, First Whisper 8.0, Girtan Girl 7.8, Wherekino 7.5, Avallanche 7.5.

THE BEST ON THE MARKET. GORDON'S DRY CIN and OLD TOM. Established in the Year 1769. SWIFT & COMPANY, 7, SPRING ST., SYDNEY, AUSTRALIAN AGENTS.