



TURF FIXTURES.

June 30 and July 1—Napier Park R.C. Winter Meeting
July 16 and 18—Wellington R.C. Winter Meeting
August 11, 13 and 15—N.Z. Grand National
November 7—C.J.C. Metropolitan (New Zealand Cup)

TURF NOTES.

F. Tilly, the Wanganui trainer, has over 20 horses in work at Furdell's now.

Merry Boy was amongst the horses engaged at Napier Park, but may not be raced there.

The Cup horses and their prospects, however, is a theme upon which much can be written, and can be left for the present.

Loch Erin has been taken up this week after a good spell at Hawera, and will be trained for spring events.

Moutanuka, a half brother to Iluekora, is said to have done service in harness before being tried with a view to racing.

Black Dust, whose name figures in the entry list at the Wellington meeting, has not been raced since he met with an accident about three years ago at Riccarton.

Hecoli, a double winner at Hastings, was nominated for races at Napier Park, for which he was ineligible, and was taken back to Hawera, where he is trained.

Australian Colours who was taken to England by J. Alcock, has arrived at his destination, and will be trained by W. Walters, sen.

Determinations were the order of the day at the Ashburton-Birtley meeting on Saturday. Three of the winners were Chassepot, Bonelli, and Fulmination.

In Meritville, the Melbourne Cup winner, Mr. E. J. Watt has a powerful, medium-sized horse who has been found at Auckland. Hawke's Bay four colts and three fillies that do him much credit.

W. Davis, the Wellington trainer, has purchased the Tappard-Lady's Maid yearling filly from F. Davis. She is on the small side, but evidently smart, judging from reports from the track-watches at Hastings.

Goody, engaged in Wellington, must not be confounded with Goordie in Auckland. He is by St. Andrew from Legassy, while the Auckland one is by Scion Delaval from Constellation.

Just after Merry Boy had completed in the big hurdle race at the Hawke's Bay meeting, the owner, Mr. Jefferson, received the sad intelligence that his father, a well-to-do and thoughtful settler, had died suddenly.

Mr. E. G. Broadbent, who gave pointers for Tiam as a two-year-old, and made himself famous for his planning on the turf in Australia some years ago, has died in England.

Kearfoot may have a representative at the next New Zealand Grand National meeting in Dunedin, a descendant of old Moding, who lived in the South with success 25 years ago.

Mr. D. O'Brien's New Zealand Cup candidate Hecoli was turned out for a spell at Hastings since he had galloped about a great deal, and it was deemed advisable to take him up again, and he is now doing steady exercise daily.

McLennan, the American 1-year-old, who came with a name for himself as a 3-year-old, has been bought by Mr. E. E. Smithers of New York, at a price said to be 3000 dollars, 1200 gu.

Asquith, who won the Chester Cup last month, was bred in America. He was handicapped at 65, and going out at 40 to 1 in a field of 17, won by a length from Throwaway, with the Turbine colt Caro three quarters of a length away third.

A hucker of Shrapnel for the New Zealand Cup was found last week, who was satisfied to take 500 to 35 from an Auckland penholder about the son of The Workman and Element for that race. So far Shrapnel has not been raced over a distance.

Royal Fastier, the Hotchkiss-Janez colt purchased by Mr. Lowry as a yearling at Wellington Park, has grown into a lengthy, fine colt, but gives one the impression that he is too backward at the present time to be seriously thought of in connection with the New Zealand Cup, in which race he claims an engagement.

Though racing matters in Hawke's Bay are not in a flourishing condition, there is no scarcity of thoroughbreds. The Hon. J. D. Ormond has forty three coming yearlings feeding on his estates, the Douglas brothers have about thirty, and those of

Messrs. Donnelly, Gollan, Richardson, Watt, and a few other breeders bring the number up considerably over one hundred.

Mr. E. Armstrong, owner of Evening, the full sister to Evening Wonder, informs me that he has decided not to race the mare in the "Hinders" steeplechase this season, though she had been the mare for events of that kind, and had at first intended racing her in such events.

Frost, who came out for the first time since the last season to compete in a cross-country event, pulled up very lame before half the journey had been traversed in the Trial Steeplechase at Hastings, and will not be seen out again for some time.

During the 10 days I have spent in Hawke's Bay, I have been particularly struck with the fine condition in which sheep, cattle, and horses generally are, the result of a fine season, when the settlers, however, say has been rather dry.

Mr. Sam Brown, the Ashburton owner of Hurricane, winner of the double on the first day of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club winter meeting, took the son of Gollan home the day after the meeting, declining Napier Park engagements.

There were 38 horses nominated for the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase, half a dozen of which went under the late of acceptance, when only half a dozen were left in. Of these Light broke a leg, and Frost went lame on the opening day of the meeting, with the result that there were only four runners for the 2000 yards, which is very disappointing to the Hawke's Bay Club, which has always entered well for cross-country sport. Jack O' Lantern scored a well-deserved win.

It is reported that another effort will be made during the present session of the N.Z. Parliament to have a bill legalising the totalisator, based on the fact that the slightest doubt but what the machine is gaining friends every day. Still, the opposition to it is very great. If the bill to be presented is drawn up on liberal lines, there is no doubt but what it will have a very good chance of passing.

Although the Attorney General was of opinion that there was no case to go to the jury in connection with the recent tampering of the scales at Newcastle, the Newcastle J.C. has gone further into the matter, and last week disqualified Kingsley, the owner of Goodman Jim, and the jockey, for the 2000 yards race. George Lorenz and a man named Bowen, were similarly dealt with by the committee. Kingsley and Moran have given notice of appeal to the A.J.C.

In Birkenhead, the Hon. J. D. Ormond's imported sire, I saw on Thursday morning last, I had the pleasure of looking over one of the finest types of the thoroughbred racehorse it has ever been my lot to set eyes upon. In Birkenhead there is size, substance, perfection of racing form, good legs and feet, and no end of quality. People would wonder why such a fine horse was allowed to leave England.

On the eve of the Hawke's Bay meeting a number of West Coastlers were travelling to Napier by train, and stopped over night at Dannevirke, where a gale of hurricane force was raging. One of the number took this to be a good omen, and dismounting to see the effect of the wind, he gave a free gift to his followers of the game, who are supposed to be up-to-date, backed the Ashburton horse Hurricane each time he started, and of course did well.

The hurdle racer Light, who broke his leg while running in the Trial Steeplechase at Hastings, was amongst the first of the New-zealanders to try his wings in England, and had been racing for a long time, though he had only been tried over country on a few occasions. Mr. Bristol had owned and raced the old boy throughout his career, and had on several occasions made splendid offers for him. He was very fond of the horse, and is to be sympathized with on losing him.

Mr. Thomas, who won the Trial Steeplechase at Hawke's Bay, the Hurdle Race on Hurricane, and the Corbarian Stakes Handicap on Revell on the opening day of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's winter meeting, is a capable horseman, and will be in request for coaching events, in which the services of amateur riders are required. He rides a patient race, and came out at the business end of his career with a resolute style of finish, though he nearly missed the Trial Steeplechase through over confidence.

An American authority deprecating a suggestion made to lower steeplechase fences, recently put the matter tersely, sensibly, and originally—in fact, he put it as an American might have been expected to put it, thus:—"A 15-foot fence is 7 1/2 high, and its body is two and a half feet from the ground; therefore, in order to clear a fence four and a half feet high, the horse would have to raise its body only two

feet. Now if you lower these jumps so that the horse may not have to raise it all to clear them, you actually make them dangerous."

There were several horses nominated for the trial of the new racing rules at the meeting that were ineligible under the conditions of the race, having won 4500s in one stake. The intentions of the framers of the conditions were that the race should be the same as that for the Auckland Cup. The other owners were appealed to by the secretary of the club, and generously agreed to allow all to compete, thus showing the spirit of sportsmen. It seems clear that owners generally were under the impression that the conditions for the Bracelet event were the same at both meetings.

The English Jockey Club is about to make stringent rules dealing with stipulations and unthorough characters in races. It is proposed to give the stewards "power to regulate, control, and take cognizance of the conduct of all officials, and all owners, nominators, trainers, jockeys, groom, persons attendant on horses, and of all persons frequenting the stands or other places used for the purpose of the meeting. Also, to empower the stewards to exclude from all places under their control all persons of a description of persons as they may from time to time be required to exclude by the stewards of the Jockey Club."

A table from the last edition of the English Stud Book gives the number of yearlings since 1885, when high prices first came into vogue, for which over 2000 was paid at public auction. The table shows that during the 18 years that covers 488 yearlings were sold at auction for £257,420, while the amounts they won left a deficit of £536,807. Of course, some of them had a commercial value for breeding purposes after their racing days were over, but the greater effect was the cost of training, and the heavy forfeits their purchasers were sure to incur for animals they considered so promising as to pay fancy prices for them when juveniles.

The Kararua foals this season are nearly all by The Officer and Sir Lancelot, and appear in well-grown promising lot. I was glad to get many foals by The Officer during the week, and I shall be surprised if the son of Robinson Crusoe does not have a number of useful representatives on our racing tracks before long. The greatest satisfaction, it will be remembered that at one of Mr. Ormond's dispensing sales, a lot of yearlings by The Officer were literally given away.

Of the 103 horses entered for this year's Melbourne Cup, no fewer than 16 were bred by the farmer in England, as represented in the event by 33, including Malster and United States. Grafton has eleven representatives, and Gozo and Wallace nine each, while the sire of another is returned as Erdsport or Wallace. The Wallaces, now in England, are by the sire of the Fair; while five of the others are nominated by Mr. C. L. Macdonald. There is a solitary representative of Carbine in the race. This is Mr. F. Fay's filly Playaway, who was foaled in England, her dam conceiving before by Sir Simon from Come Suez, by Petrarch from Fivoly, by Macaroon.

The latest in the way of starting machines was given a trial at St. Louis (America) last month, and worked very well. This is the Carr machine, consisting of a series of padded sections, which are worked on hinges and have parallel bars, flank high, separating each horse from its neighbor. These, as well as the main machine, in the rear of each horse are heavily padded, so that the animal cannot injure itself. In these padded sections a horse cannot break or be checked by any force on any horse as under the present system in use. A horse in the Carr gate cannot back or get "hung" in any webbing, because the webbing in front of each horse is only about five feet from the body, and is taught, and parted in the middle at the electric signal, each part instantly disappearing in pockets at the end of each section ring. There is absolutely nothing to "hang" on, the single strip of webbing being instantly drawn out of the way.

Australia is not the only place in which buying stockings is a hobby, as is shown by some curious statistics concerning several of the American two-year-olds of last year. Philo, the filly that won £1154, cost £12 as a yearling. Flocciline, winner of eight races, including the New Orleans Futurity, cost £14, and she never won over £1500, cost a mere 25 dollars. On the other side of the picture, W. C. Whitney paid £250 for the St. Simon Lady Reel filly, and she never won the starter's flag; and J. B. Haggin gave £3000 for the Abyssinian-Esclaire colt, which is still a maiden. J. H. and F. P. Keene gave £1350 and £1300 respectively for Futurita

and Doreal, and while each won a single different race neither was anywhere near even second class form. Other big disappointments at the American racing season, all of which are still unaltered, were: Thundershot, cost £200; Amarrilla, cost £250; Princelet, £200; Mowbray, £200; Karri C, £120; Melton Mowbray, £100; Passau, £100; and Water Spirit, £100.

The weights for the New Zealand Cup unexpectedly made their appearance on Friday morning. No serious flaws can be pointed to in the adjustments, which will no doubt be received with approval by owners who have horses engaged. By taking at most a few pounds off some, and putting a pound or two on others, it might possibly be improved, but the most hyper-critical will, I fancy, give Mr. Henry credit for having got off a piece of good work in his gradations. The weight adjuster has been most flattering to horses that have failed to stand the winding up process on previous occasions, or are now, or have been through the wind-up process, or has under the suspicion of mismanagement, since exhibiting form that they would only be able to reproduce before the day to cause their chances to be looked upon with considerable favour.

Half-brother, last year's winner, is the chief of that division of the Auckland horses. Mr. Friedlander's fillies, Jane Peur and Roseshoot, and Mr. Lynck's Golden Rose, are those I should prefer at their weights. If satisfied, they would be prepared for the race. It is a fine idea that Golden Rose will stay all right now she has age, and I doubt whether there is a faster filly in New Zealand than Sans Peur, who must be a bad one to beat if that leg of hers stands.

Jack O' Lantern, the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase winner, is probably the slowest horse that ever won that event, not counting The Baron, but he is a fine runner, and was ridden by a capable horseman in Alex. Hall.

Some people fancy that the Gryphon was unlucky to be beaten by him, declaring that had Watt not got on to bad going in the race, the race might have been turned. Jack O' Lantern may be improved by his race, as he was not able to work for some time after he fell at Wanganui. The Gryphon, too, was a bit short of work, owing to having a hurt leg, which it is hoped may now stand.

Group was unlucky in this race, as he nearly came down at the double the last time round, and was interfered with by Pip, who, when apparently string, toppled over. Pip looked a bit short of work. The four runners were much of a class, and all good jumpers. The field was about the smallest that has ever contested for this important stake, owing to various causes, and only once in the history of the race. However, the horses were only going at a nice hunting pace for part of the distance.

Says an English scribe:—"Tis not in mortals to command success" goes without saying in regard to racing, and possibly more so in connection with breeding, and an apt illustration occurred, when Mr. Leopold de Rothschild's race of work was successfully carried to victory in the Two Year Old Plate over the last five furlongs of the Ditch Mile at Newmarket by the colt of Bass Rock, a son of Grey leg and Voudi. As is well known, the Rothschilds, colts and fillies, in the Continent, have costly stud farms, and mostly breed their own racers. It, therefore, marks the uncertainty of the game when a man like "Mr. Leo" should bid his present best colt, a year old, a colt which was purchased at auction for £500, and came to him as a gift. The story of how Bass Rock came into the possession of his present owner is not without interest. When John Wood, who manages the Rothschild horses in England, was going into the sale paddocks last September, he asked Lord Rothschild to allow him to buy a grey. "Just to change the luck," which at that time was very indifferent. "An I'll ship assented," said Lord Rothschild, who gave him to Mr. Leo. Bass Rock, which was purchased by John Robinson, erstwhile book-maker, now High Sheriff of Nottingham, at Workop Manor, appeared first into the requirements, and he was sent to the stud farm of his brother, Mr. Leopold de Rothschild.

The well-known Victorian trainer Walter Hickenbotham was recently interviewed by a representative of the Ashburton "Observer." In the course of the interview Hickenbotham stated that he started his life as an apprentice to a shoe-maker, but his eyesight failed, and in a moment of wrath his employer told him to clear out, which must have accounted a lucky bit of anger for Hickenbotham. His shortly afterwards joined a racing stable, and it was not long before "Young" Hickenbotham had his first ride in a race. Later Hickenbotham threw in his lot with Mr. John Tait. He then went on to speak of racing in the seventies. "Mr. Tait was particularly strong team of horses in training. There was The Barb, The Quack, Florence, Titania, J.L. The Pearl, The Earl, and Fyrinus—not a bad string, seeing that it contained the Melbourne Cup winners, and one that won the Derby. The Barb was a wonderful horse, and stood out from the others of his time

PETER F. HEERING'S CHERRY BRANDY. The Favourite Liqueur. SWIFT & COMPANY, 7 Spring Street, SYDNEY, General Agents.