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SPORTS
NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.
AVONDALE RACES.
 25th and 26th SEPTEMBER, 1903.

In connection with the above, Special Trains will leave Auckland for Avondale at 11.15 a.m., 11.45 a.m., 12.20 p.m.; returning leaving Avondale at 5.40 p.m., 6.0 p.m., and 6.20 p.m. These trains will only stop at Newmarket and Mount Eden. A Train also leaves Auckland for Avondale at 1.20 p.m.
 The usual 3.15 p.m. Auckland train will leave Hlelensville at 4.25 p.m., Henderson 5.51, Avondale 6.55, arriving Auckland 7.12 p.m.
 Return Fares from Auckland, Newmarket and Mt. Eden to Avondale, including Admission to Course, 27; rail only 17.

Tahoe has returned to Waiuku for a month's spell. His owner rightly thinks that four weeks' good feeding and backing will benefit him before being put in work again.

Canongate, who is now enjoying a long spell, has been putting on beef while running out. It is not intended to put him in work again until after the next Christmas meeting.

Val Rosa and Rose Shield, who are in J. Thompson's stable, are the only two Aucklanders nominated in the King Edward Handicap, to be run at the Hawke's Bay Spring Meeting.

The Takapuna Jockey Club will hold a meeting on Friday next, at Devonport. Messrs Ford, Reynolds, and Holgate retire from the committee, and are eligible for re-election.

The proposed new trotting club was to hold a meeting on Thursday last. No advertisement appeared in respect to this meeting and what was done, if any meeting took place, I am not in a position to say.

I have to acknowledge receipt of Mr K. Baillie's useful compilation, known as the "Sporting Guide." This pamphlet is carefully compiled, and, being in handy form, is decidedly useful to sportsmen.

The V.R.C. committee have decided that in future there shall be no fence on the Flemington racecourse less than four feet high. Thus several of the existing fences will have to be raised, and in future only thoroughly seasoned jumpers will find the country negotiable.

Regatta 11, who won a couple of races in Sydney when trained by P. Nolan, was bought here by Gabelle in the Governor's Cup at Colombo. Gabelle, who is an English-bred mare, made all the running.

The proposition to take over all unclaimed moneys in connection with "Tattersall's" sweeps, and use it for the Hospital for Jussan in New Norfolk, came before the Tasmanian Parliament last week, and was negatived.

Mr F. Parker has had a most successful wind up of the winter season, winning six races right off the reel. Apart from that he was riding winners. Mr Parker's style of handling his mounts points to his being heard of in the ranks of amateur horsemen in the future.

The Kensington trainer, H. J. Robinson, has made arrangements to turn out Belle Cole and Loretta for a spell at Windsor. Both are New Zealand nags, and, while the former has already won several races around Sydney, the other has done nothing to bring her into prominence.

Kilmory (Imp.), by Kilmatha—Upton, has found a fine filly to Cyrenan (Imp.), and waits him again. This filly is a three-quarter sister to Kilmorock. There is a promising yearling colt full brother to this filly, which will be sold at the Christmas sale.

It is indeed hard luck for Mr Donnelly that his stepphaseur Avahuri should have broken down badly while contesting a hurdle race at Randwick. There is not much doubt that he would have shown some of them a clean pair of heels when the big obstacles had to be negotiated.

Lord Lonsdale, who paid a visit to Wellington Park, St. Paul, was interviewed by a member of our staff, and some of his conclusions will interest sportsmen. He was distinctly impressed with the farm, which he considers an ideal spot for the breeding of horses, and he was similarly impressed with the quality of the horse-flesh that he saw there. He said, indeed, that he had seen three foals there that would be a credit to any stud, and concerning one Hutchings' foal he was quite certain. He had noted down the paternity of the youngster, evidently for future reference.

BY ORDER.

TURF FIXTURES.

- September 19, 20, 25—Avondale J.C.
- September 23—Morton J.C.
- September 23, 24—Rangitikei J.C.
- September 24, 25—Geraldine R.C.
- October 1—Kurow J.C.
- October 1, 2—Wanganui J.C.
- October 1—Ohoro and Eyreton J.C.
- October 7, 8—Hawke's Bay J.C.
- October 13, 14—Napier Park J.C.
- October 14, 17—Otaki Maori R.C.
- October 14, 15—Dunedin J.C.
- October 15—North Canterbury J.C.
- October 21, 24—Wellington J.C.
- October 27, 28—Danevirke J.C.
- October 28, 29—Gore R.C.
- October 29, 30—Poverty Bay T.C.
- October 29, 30—Masterton R.C.
- November 7—C.J.C. Metropolitan (New Zealand Cup)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Sport."—You are quite correct. Ishglass finished 1st, but with 237,453, won 12 twelve races; Donovan is second with 255,153, the result of twenty-one wins.—Ashby.
 "Three Drinks."—The official time for the Avondale Handicap, won by The Needle, was 2min 30 3/5sec.—Ashby.

TURF NOTES.

Sataucia has gone up to Mr Walters', at Papakura, on a visit to Soult.
 Mr W. Kolgat has been appointed handicapper for the Whata Whata Racing Club.
 The Tairā Turf Club is about to erect a grand stand and other conveniences on its course.
 Mr T. Morrin left for the South in connection with the detention of Wellington Park Stud.
 Sabroctale, whom Aucklanders will remember as tucing here, is standing the season at Gisborne this year.
 The high jump at the Melbourne Show was won by Messrs Lyon and Rowe's Malouza, who cleared 6 feet.
 The Middy, who has been suffering from strangles, is now mending; he is getting over it wonderfully quickly.
 Colonel Shilinski pulled up lame after the V.A.T.C. Champion Steeplechase on Saturday, and will now be given a good rest.
 Albert Victor was in town on Friday, looking in tip-top fettle. This is one of the best looking trotting horses that I have seen in this country.
 Ambition has joined D. Moranghan's team. He came down from the Marais last week and is carrying plenty of condition. Moranghan intends jumping him.
 Tip, who it will be remembered is by Ingomar from Zip, and therefore half brother to Castashore, has joined J. Ruc's team to be prepared for hunting events.
 The Caulfield G.N. Steeplechase winner, My Mistake, was offered at auction in Melbourne the other day, and was passed in when bidding ceased at 35ags.
 The Wanganui Club have issued their programme in book form for the coming season. The first sum of £2000 is to be distributed amongst winners this season.

While sitting on the stand watching the early morning gallops, a bookmaker, who is well known as a "covey" thirty years before the public, remarked, as the train was making slow headway between Ellerslie and Greenlane, "Now listen to that, it is saying, 'back a double, back a double,' and it certainly sounded very much like it.

Mr L. Harris has sent his mare Raugturu, who was successful when racing among the public, down to Wellington Park to be mated with Hotchkiss.

The Otahuhu Racing Club, who intend holding a meeting on October 14 (Labour Day), have placed their programme before the Auckland Racing Club. The following officers have been elected for the coming season: Handicapper, Mr H. Johnson; starter, Mr G. Cuttis; secretary, Mr F. Young.

It is said that when My Mistake fell with A. Scott a fortnight ago the jockey had his neck dislocated for an instant, but the rebound shot it into place again. He certainly had a nasty lump on the side of his neck. One day a somewhat similar accident befel Benny Callinan, when a horse fell with him in Kirk's Hazard, Dr. L. L. Smith, however, happened to be standing close by, and simply slipped the bones back, making all plumb again, as it were.

An exchange says that Scott, who recently returned to India from France, says that in the race with Callinan he fell head on across the water perfectly, and just as suddenly pulled up dead lame, and hobbled a few strides on three legs. His leg had snapped just above the knee, and it was supposed at the time that there must have been a natural blemish in the bone in existence.

The Carbine horse Carabine, who won the Chester Cup last year and ran fourth this year, left England for India just before the last mail left, having been purchased by Mr W. Bass, the owner of Sceptre. Nuts, who has won a number of races, and an oval at Brighton, and Galloway R. Association, also became the property of Mr Bass, and accompanied Carabine on the voyage to India.

In connection with the times recorded in England, and referred to in another column, it is well to point out that the English courses are all measured in the centre of the race track. Thus on an oval, or circular course, the distance actually covered by a horse having the inside running all the way is considerably shorter than advertised. Against this it must be born in mind that many races are run over a straight course, when the measurement would, naturally, be correct.

An English paper, in commenting on Sceptre's defeat by Ard Patrick in the Eclipse Stakes, says that one drawback to Sceptre at Sandown was the number of levers she was compelled to hold in her box before she was saddled. The young bride, as it did an accompany her down to India, was naturally proud of the family colours being carried by such an animal, and she manifested much delight in showing her to her friends. As one of these horses there were three other ladies in the box, and this seemed to upset the mare, and to some extent would account for the nervous state she was in whilst being saddled.

Having received a communication from Mr Herries, M.L.R., that the club has been registered by the Government, and the proposal to hold a race meeting at Ohauupo has been revived, Mr Herries' generous efforts in the matter are greatly appreciated. It is now intended to convene a meeting as soon as possible of those interested, and, as the proposal has been taken up with great enthusiasm, there is no doubt that the initial race meeting will prove a great success. Various sites for the gathering have been promised, and it is highly probable that the races will be held upon Mr Greenslade's well known "Glenmariff" Estate.

From accounts of the race for the Craven Plate cabled from Sydney, it would read, to the uninitiated in turf matters, that had Hewitt come a little earlier with Cracraft, a win would have resulted, instead of Ibez being the first to catch the eye of the man in the box. That this may have been so I admit, but, until satisfactory proof is forthcoming that Hewitt was guilty of an error of judgment in waiting for Walford, I shall hold a very strong opinion of the matter. Ibez was undoubtedly sent out to make the most of his wonderful sprinting abilities with the hope of cracking his opponents up early in the journey, and in all probability Cracraft could not get to him before she did. To my mind, it is absurd to imagine that Hewitt would hang on to his mount and so give what he evidently thought was his most dangerous opponent a chance of getting on terms with him. When a horseman is riding against a combination of finishing powers such as Walford and her rider, Dunn, possess, he is not likely to forego any advantage he may have gained during the early stages of the contest.



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