



By WHALEBONE.

FIXTURES.

July 16, 20 and 23—Wellington H.C. Winter Aug. 9, 11 and 13—C.J.C. Grand National Oct. 12, 15—Auckland Trotting Club Spring Dec. 27, 31, Jan. 7—A.T.C. Summer Sept. 17, 21, and 24—Avondale J. C. Spring Nov. 19, 23—Otahuhu T.C. Spring.

The Thames trainer M. Deebie has arrived at Treatham with Cupitol.

The Waikarapa Racing Club have an estimated debit balance of \$1029 7/3.

The hurdle horse Okakau has been sent to Mr. G. Currier's stallion at Waingaiti for a lengthy spell.

Word from the South states that Crinella is to be shipped to Sydney shortly, in charge of her trainer, M. Gardiner.

The Stepiak horse Diabolo is at the head of quotations for the New Zealand Cup, being equal favourite with Master South.

Mr. Henry's adjustments for the principal events at the C.J.C. Grand National Meeting are due on Friday next, the 9th inst.

The Auckland pony Mashina appears amongst the nominations for the Ascot Steeplechase.

The Papakura Racing Club have applied for March 25, 1911, as the date for their annual race meeting.

The Auckland horses, Whatahot, King Hippo, and Caruso, were successful at the Gisborne Meeting.

It is stated that Koran and a colt by Handsome Jack, will accompany Crinella on the trip to Sydney.

Mr. J. H. Prosser, the Pukekohe trainer, will have ten horses competing at the Wellington Winter Meeting.

The Thames gelding Electrakoff has arrived at Pukekohe to fulfil his engagements at the Wellington Meeting.

Mark Ryan left for the South on Friday with Ngapua and Dogger Bank, which claim engagements at the Wellington Winter Meeting.

The Wellington Racing Club's Winter Meeting, which winds up the season of 1909-10, commences at Treatham on Saturday next.

The directors of the Cambria Park Stud Company have decided to limit Obigado's services to 40 mares this season, and his list is already nearly full.

The steeplechase horse Nero, which was reported to be unwell after the Napier Park meeting, has resumed work again at Hastings.

The winner of last year's Grand National Hurdle Race, Compass, is reported to be striking along in good style in his work in the South.

The Auckland horse Tai Cakoban was scratched for all engagements at the Wellington Racing Club's Winter Meeting on Friday last.

In addition to being in the handicap events, Master South is to be nominated for all the weight-for-age races at the A.J.C. Spring Meeting.

It is reported from New Plymouth that Wallam and Paritutu are both progressing nicely in their preparations, and are getting through a lot of useful work.

With the exception of Tai Cakoban and Le Beau, all the Auckland horses nominated for the Wellington Winter Meeting have accepted for their various engagements.

The victory of Te Anui in the Gisborne Park Steeplechase puts him in the same position as Patsun in regard to penalties for the C.J.C. National Meeting.

The gelding Minister has retained P. MacMinnon's stable, the same trainer having an addition to his string in the gelding King William.

The Otahuhu Trotting Club have fixed November 19 and 23 for their Spring Meeting, and February 11, 15, 19 as the dates for their Summer Meeting.

The Auckland horses, Le Beau and Explosion, are still at Greenwinds, and during the past week have been treated to walking exercise on the roads.

J. Hercock, who rode King Hippo to victory in the Trial Steeplechase, on the opening day of the Gisborne Meeting, has ridden six winners over country in succession.

Mr. Selby's pair, Tua Kitua and Mozart, did not run up to expectations at the Gisborne Meeting, and the probabilities are that they will not be taken on to Wellington.

Trainers and jockeys should remember that applications for licenses for the coming season must be in the hands of the metropolitan secretaries not later than the 15th inst.

A start was to have been made last week with the laying of the water around the course at Ellerslie, and trainers have been advised that the sand track will not be available after 6 a.m. each day.

Mr. R. H. McKenzie will represent the Otahuhu Trotting Club at the forthcoming Trotting Conference at Wellington. Mr. E. H. Young, secretary of the club, will also be in attendance.

The Avondale Jockey Club's Spring Meeting is fixed for September 17, 21, 24. The club have issued a very attractive programme, the added money for which is £2745, an increase of just over £600 on last year.

The light-weight horseman, L. Wilson, has so far recovered from the accident which befell him last month, that he was able last week to leave the private hospital, of which he has been an inmate for the past month.

Mr. W. Montgomery left for Sydney by the Waimoni on Monday, with Hoanga and Nellus. A. Whitaker, the local light-weight, accompanied the pair, which will probably go into P. Nolan's charge when they arrive on the other side.

Mr. E. A. Price arrived back from a trip to the Islands and Sydney on Sunday last. During his visit to the Islands, Mr. Price disposed of the gelding Echo, but the son of Obigado will remain in P. MacMinnon's charge for the meantime.

Aberbrothock, which went amiss just before the last Auckland Cup, is reported to be progressing as well as can be expected in his preparation, but whether he will stand a thorough wind-up is as yet doubtful.

The Eton gelding Irish, which was neglected some time ago by Mr. Lyons, Government vet., is making splendid progress. He is reported to be sound again, but whether he will be asked to undergo another preparation has not yet been decided.

A long list of New Zealand-bred horses has been nominated for the A.J.C. Derby of 1911. Sir George Clifford has six, Mr. E. J. Watt four, Mr. J. A. Cook three, Mr. F. H. Loder one, while a number of New Zealand sportsmen are represented by single nominations.

The Auckland horse Le Beau has been allowed to drop out of the Wellington Steeplechase. Le Beau was reported to have lightened up considerably, as a result of his efforts at Napier Park, and evidently R. McMichael has deemed it advisable to scratch him up, in view of the C.J.C. National Meeting.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond has not yet received any advice regarding the ages, breeding, &c., of the two mares who are accompanying his recently-acquired Warfield stallion, Hymettus. The trio are on board the Hymettus, which is expected to arrive in Wellington about the 20th of this month.

Mr. Henry has not risked anything to chance in swaying Patsun III in the C.J.C. National Hurdle race, and the son of Strowan has received more than he is entitled to on his public performances. He has been consistently booked as a champion, and it will be interesting to see if he bears out the good opinion formed of him.

An excellent illustration of how hand-cappers sometimes differ is provided by the treatment meted out to two New Zealand-bred horses for the Metropolitan Handicap and the Standard Cup, each race extending to a mile and a-half. In the Metropolitan Handicap, Artifice is handicapped at 8st 7lb and Broadwood at 8st 10lb, and in the Standard Cup Artifice has 7st 13lb and Broadwood 7st 11lb.

During the week the committee of the Auckland Racing Club have had under inspection the Juffin patent totalisator. The machine is a very beautiful invention, and it is deemed that, if necessary, it can have 118 tickets a minute. Experts who have

examined it, while admitting it to be a very clever invention, are divided in their opinions as to its suitability for racing courses. It is understood the A.R.C. Committee will consider the question of adopting it at Ellerslie at an early date.

The victory of Patsun in the Hurdle race at Ellerslie gives him a six-month penalty for the C.J.C. National Meeting. The position in respect to Patsun is rather interesting. According to the conditions, winners after the declaration of weights incur penalties. The official form for a declaration of weights is advertised as July 8, but they made their appearance on the day before the Ellerslie Meeting, so the question arises, did Patsun win after the declaration of weights?

The local owner who races under the name of Mr. C. Thebe, experienced a stroke of bad luck during the week, his gelding Loch Fyne striding a muscle of the forearm, which will prevent his fulfilling his engagements at the Wellington Meeting, and probably also at the C.J.C. National Meeting in August. Loch Fyne had improved considerably since the A.R.C. Winter Meeting, and with ordinary luck would have added to his winning account before the season closed. Owing to Loch Fyne's mishap, Kremlin will not be taken South.

The defeat of Atahua in the V.R.C. Grand National came as a bit of a surprise, for private information from the other side stated that the son of Mahaki was back to his very best form, and that his connections were very sanguine of his winning. Atahua had only a weak field to beat, but after being well up with the leaders for the greater part of the journey died out of it at the finish, eventually being outside a place. Oh, the wailer, won a hurdle race at Williamsdown a week before the meeting and was well supported for the event, as was The Reckoning, which ran second.

At a meeting of the New Zealand Trotting Association which was received for registration from the Manawatu Trotting Club, with headquarters at Palmerston North. The present membership of the club is 200, and it is proposed to give £200 in stakes at a one-day meeting on 23rd for two days. It was agreed, after discussion, that consideration be postponed until after the election of the new board. T. H. How, who had been disqualified for life 30 years ago by the Hawke's Bay Trotting Club (now defunct), applied for the removal of his disqualification. After discussion the application was granted.

The committee of the Canterbury Jockey Club approved of the report of the Programme Committee for next season's events. The Stewards' Handicap was increased to 150000s, the addition being divided between the second and third horses, which will now receive 25000s and 15000s in place of 12500s and 7500s last year. The added money for next season will be 60000s in excess of the amount distributed this season, the increase being made up of 40000s added to the Grand National programme, 25000s to the Stewards' Handicap, 35000s to the Derby, 15000s to the Oaks, and 10000s to the Challenge Stakes.

An instance of King Edward's kindly nature occurred at Longbush in May, 1903, when he and President Loubet were at the

race together. Just before the big event of the day the King lowered the glasses through which he had been examining the horses at the starting post, and turning to one of the officials in the tribune said: "A poor woman over there seems to be having a bad time with the police. I wish you would do me the favour to go and see her, and order them to handle her more gently." The object of the King's sympathy proved to be a hawker, who had inadvertently strayed into one of the reserved enclosures, and was being hustled out with unnecessary violence. Thanks to the King's intervention, she was allowed to remain until after the race, and then took her departure in peace.

Says a southern writer: The Stamp Tax collected by the Treasury from the Napier Park Racing Club in connection with their late winter meeting, in regard to the totalisator, amounted to £301 13/9. Under the old order of things, the club would only have had to contribute £150 18/9. In addition, 2 1/2 per cent will have to be paid by the club upon bookmakers' fees, gate receipts, sale of race cards, and privileges. The only remedy the executive of racing clubs will have in the future, to balance matters will be to cut down the stakes, increase the nomination and acceptance fees, or make an extra charge in connection with the admittance to the enclosure and grounds. Whichever course is pursued, the good old public will bear the brunt of the battle, for racing clubs cannot carry on business at a loss.

News of the scratching of El Dorado for the Wellington Steeple and Grand National Steeple did not come as a surprise, for it has been known for some time that Mr. G. P. Donnelly's horse was in a bad way. At one stage of his illness, it is said that the veterinary surgeon who attended him held out but little hope for his recovery. The "Hawke's Bay Herald" states that El Dorado has been turned out, and will not be raced again this winter.

"What have you backed?" asked a very pretty lady of a tall, can't-help-being-philosophical-looking man just before the Victoria Cup at Hurst Park recently.

"Oh, I've backed Steeple," he replied. "As the horse dashed first past the post, she clutched his arm, saying, 'What a good judge you are! Whatever made you back it?'"

"Well, you see," he replied with a philosophy quite his own, "Senseless is a grey, and by backing a grey in a race one need never get mixed by the confounded colours."

Says a Wellington writer: When the committee of the Wellington Racing Club met recently to consider what steps, if any, should be taken in connection with the Winter Meeting, in order to meet the altered conditions brought about by increased taxation, it was reluctantly concluded that the situation demanded a slight reduction in stakes. Instead, however, of rearranging the programme already framed, it was determined to merely add a few notes thereto, to the effect that stakes would be paid less a reduction of 10 per cent. The question has now arisen as to the validity of such action, which, in fact, appears to be in direct contravention to Rule 13, part vii. of the Rules of Racing, herewith quoted: "Except as otherwise specially provided for in these rules, no deduction shall be made from the stakes as advertised." The special provisions above alluded to refer, no doubt, to

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