



By WHALEBONE.

The gelding Muskewal, which was badly galloped on at the recent A.R.C. Summer Meeting, is being backed about again.

F. McManuina is handling a three-year-old by Manuform—Native Rose, which looks like being useful.

Mr E. W. Edwards has been reappointed handicapper to the Te Anaha Jockey Club, but Mr C. O'Connor starter.

Duna was operated on during the week, and will probably not be seen under silk till the winter meetings roll round.

The hottest favourite to suffer defeat at the Wellington meeting was St. Felix in the January Weiler.

The Bluejacket mare Sphinx is making good progress in her schooling work at Ellerslie.

The Auckland colt Prince Soult was sent out second favourite for the Wellington stakes, in which his defeat was a big blow to his Auckland supporters.

The Conqueror gelding Naumal was the hottest favourite to win at the Wellington meeting up to the present, and the price he returned was very, very short.

Out of 100 horses handicapped by Mr. Pollock for the concluding day of the Wellington Summer Meeting, only 72 made the appearances.

A gelding by Spalpeen—Flying Fish, which bears the name of Spanish, has made its appearance at Ellerslie under Malcolm's charge.

Lloyd was schooled over five hurdles at Ellerslie yesterday morning, fencing well. Rakau jumped a couple of the big fences, and then did a round of the hurdles in good style.

The gelding Bon Jour has been a bit off colour of late. He has been treated to a dose of physic, and, as a consequence, is having an easy time of it.

A correspondent writes complaining of the law that prevents the publication of dividends, and states that this is the cause of lots of wagers being made that would not otherwise be. The matter, however, is one for Parliament to deal with.

The Billy Whakaruaia is to be taken to Opatiki to fulfil her engagement in the Produce Stakes at the Waikato Jockey Club's Annual Meeting. There is also a probability of the two-year-old Allworthy being taken down for the same race.

Mr H. R. McKenzie was at Ellerslie yesterday morning with Black Northern, which was schooled over the hurdles with Bon Cyr as a companion, Black Northern showing to most advantage.

In framing his weights for the Summer Handicap, one mile, on the concluding day of the Wellington meeting, Mr. J. H. Pollock assessed Equitas as the equal of Mohrikoff, awarding both 9.0.

The Te Anaha Jockey Club are out with the programme for the annual meeting, which is fixed for March 4 and 5. Nominations for all events close with the secretary (Mr. W. J. Parker), Te Anaha, on February 10.

The opening day's racing of the Takapuna J.C. Summer Meeting is being looked forward to with a lot of interest, and the gathering promises to be a record one. In the Cup, Electra and Sautoria still remain favourites, but there is plenty of room amongst the light-weights for a surprise, and one or two have exceptionally good chances of landing the stake.

The Auckland horseman J. Conquest failed to ride at the Foston meeting, but on the concluding day his mounts in two of the events were only beaten by the narrowest of margins. In the Carneron Weiler Handicap was beaten by a nose, and in the Newmarket Handicap Lady Motoua suffered defeat by half a head.

Sir George Clifford's brilliant filly Countess was as loudly treated by Mr. Pollock in the Wellington Handicap Handicaps that she started a good odd-on favourite, carrying more money than has been levied on a horse at Trentham. Countess is one of the most brilliant fillies yet seen in New Zealand, and it is hard to see how she could have been beaten in the Wellington Cup had she been started.

At the selection sale of the Glenora Park Stud last year, the mare Callie Ovi, with a colt foal by Soult, and served by Marble Arch, was disposed of for 10 guineas, Mr. J. Buckley being the purchaser. The mare found her way to the Waikato Stud, and at yesterday's sale the colt was sold

for 250 guineas, so that the mare has not only yielded the cheque of one of the bargains of the sale ring.

The gelding Blakeney, which won on both the first and second days of the Wellington R.C. Summer Meeting, is by Soult—Tremorah. As a two-year-old Blakeney, which is now three years old, only started once, in the Trial Plate at the Wellington Winter Meeting, but his trainer, Geo. Fricker, carried him round the country a lot in order to give him exercise, and had him in Auckland at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting.

The annual yearling sales of the Waikanae Stud Company were somewhat of a disappointment, and coming after the disappointing price realised at the Auckland sales, there does not appear to be much demand for bloodstock, while the fact that the big owners are for the most part breeding their own, is also a big factor in the poor prices ruling. According to reports the lots offered were on the whole above the average, and that the highest prices realised were only 270 guineas, gives plenty of food for reflection.

The defeat of Prince Soult in the Wellington Stakes gave Aucklanders a big surprise, which was the greater when the news came through that the Auckland owner had failed to place Prince Soult, although he got well away, does not appear to have been able to pace it with his opponents, and never had a look in at any part. The right-handed going in all probability affected his chance, but even allowing for this disadvantage it is safe to say that the defeat of an Auckland horse has never caused so much disappointment locally as the failure of the son of Soult.

The disqualification of Dearest for the Telegraph Handicap on the opening day of the Wellington meeting, was the sensation of the day's racing. Writing of the incident in the Wellington Times, Mr. DeWivre, says:—"He the Dearest incident on the opening day, Prosser, it seems, was not present when the mare weighed out, and it was DeWivre who declined to declare overweight. With the exception of a pair of rings which were attached to the martingale, no extra weight, it is stated, was added after DeWivre weighed out, and as the weight of gear referred to cannot be weighed more than 2oz, the gain in weight still remains unaccounted for, the more so as no rubber or towel was placed beneath the saddle. Mr. Hartgill tells me DeWivre weighed in but the scales only over 7 lb, or just sufficient to tilt the end of the beam down four inches. The exact amount of overweight was not determinable.

The fall in the Mangarua Weiler on the second day of the Wellington meeting was very close, and Mr. Hartgill's verdict in favour of Blakeney did not give universal satisfaction. In its report, the "New Zealand Times" says:—"The doubt raised over the correctness of the placing can be phrased the contention often raised by racing men that the judge's box should be placed further back from the course and should be more elevated. At present it is obvious that with the judge practically on the level with the horses, in a very close finish he can only see properly the horse nearest him, and the latter often gets the benefit of the doubt. In the present instance Blakeney was nearest the post, his tail being in the centre, and Turua farthest away, and they were placed in that order. It is more than probable Mr. Hartgill was absolutely correct in his verdict, but many of those in the stand behind him did not agree with it.

The victory of Undecided in the Wellington Cup came in the nature of a surprise, and commenting on his win a Wellington writer says:—"Undecided is a horse with a history. Originally his breeding was used to be given as by Menschloff of Szentou Delavay, but now he is accepted as by Menschloff. Formerly owned by W. H. E. he came into Mr. W. Smart's possession by means of an exchange, one of the terms of which was that Mr. Watt should receive Tapana, a mare by Medallion. Later Undecided was operated on for respiratory trouble, and soon commenced to show form when put into work. After winning various hack races, he carried off the Winter Cup (under a penalty) at Riccarton last August, and secured a second cup from the Waikato at a meeting this month. At one stage he was in favour for the Wellington Cup, but backers subsequently turned from him as recently as Wednesday last, when Mr. F. Crossley had to quote on him for better on the month. As it proved, however, the ailment did not interfere with his chance, and his party, who had an early bet about him at good odds, are handsome winners as the result of the race.

In connection with the comparison of stakes between the old days and the new, "Old Sport" writes to the "New Zealand Times":—"I notice that Mr. Pollock is giving evidence before the Racing Commission on Friday, and that the stakes before the days of the totalisator were small. Let

me refer him back to the time when horses were by appointment, over decent distances, and without the aid of the totalisator. The population was comparatively small in those days—about half what it is at present—and owners had to travel their charges about on foot over long distances. People had not the facilities for getting to the racetracks that they have in these luxurious days, and the freezing works and butter factories were not in full swing to make folk prosperous. Yet what do we find? With Mr. Pollock and those who think with him kindly run their eyes over these figures:—

Year 1870. Wellington Cup, gold trophy valued at 100 sovereigns presented by the club, added to 2500; second 50 sovereigns from the stakes; two miles.

Wellington Racing Club Handicap (second day), 200 sovereigns; second 25 sovereigns; one mile and a-half.

Waikato Jockey Club Handicap, 300 sovereigns; second 50 sovereigns; two miles and a-quarter.

Hawke's Bay Racing Club Cup, 250 sovereigns; second 30 sovereigns; two miles (one day meeting).

Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Handicap, 150 sovereigns; one mile and three-quarters. Tradesmen's Handicap, 100 sovereigns; one mile and a-half.

Year 1880. Marton Rangitikei Handicap, 200 sovereigns; second 25 sovereigns; two miles and a-half.

Hawke's Bay Racing Club Cup, 300 sovereigns; two miles.

Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Napier Handicap, 250 sovereigns; one mile and three-quarters. Tradesmen's Handicap, 125 sovereigns.

C.F.C. Great Autumn Handicap, 300 sovereigns; Champagne Stakes, 250 sovereigns.

Geraldine Cup, 100 sovereigns. C.F.C. Derby, 250 sovereigns; C. Handicap, 500 sovereigns; Welcomer Stakes, 200 sovereigns; Canterbury Cup, 500 sovereigns.

Year 1881. Dunedin Cup (autumn meeting), 500 sovereigns; D.C.C. Handicap, 250 sovereigns; Forbury Handicap, 150 sovereigns.

Wanganui Cup, 600 sovereigns; Wanganui Stakes, 250 sovereigns.

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH

CHRISTCHURCH, Friday. The Riccarton trainers are hurrying their charges along in great style now, and some attractive work is being done in view of next week's meeting.

Colleen Mary put up a pleasing performance yesterday, running five furlongs in 1.3, and she should be galloping in her best style when she is asked a question. Saint Basile, which is in the Midsummer Handicap at the minimum, is galloping particularly well, and made a lot of friends yesterday by covering nine furlongs in 2.1. Martini was going freely over a mile and a-quarter, which he covered in 2.13.5, and The Cornet and Coroniform, each galloped six furlongs in a tick over 1.16. Bonny Glen, which looks well, got to the end of seven furlongs in 1.29.4.5, and Stardancer did

well in covering six furlongs in 1.18 from almost a standing start.

Quarantine, the two-year-old colt by Treadmill—Fairhaven, has been eased in his work, and may not be set any more serious tasks until next season, by which time it is hoped he will have outgrown the attacks of lameness which have troubled him at times.

The two-year-old Triemer, by Treadmill—Chryseis, who was sent to Auckland some time ago to be operated on as a cure for roaring, has returned to Riccarton, and is being spelled.

All guns, winner of the Selling Plate at Trentham, has been a very consistent performer for the Riccarton trainer, W. McDonald for some time past, having won races on several South Island courses during the recent holiday meetings. He won a number of stakes on the West Coast. McDonald has had a very successful season, though he has no horses of particularly good class under his care, but they have all done their share during the last few months towards paying the expenses of the stable. The crack North Island hack sprinter Taff, after running badly once or twice, opened his winning account in the south on Wednesday by carrying off the Walter Handicap at Tapanui. He is stated to have won all out by a length, and as the field behind him was not of very much account, the performance did not impress.

The double winner at Trentham was Basso, a five-year-old gelding by Stepinack—Albena, and therefore a close relative of Petrus, Master Alx, and other good horses. The Killebran gelding Killeenny, which acted as runner-up to Basso at Trentham, was sold in November last at the Christchurch sales for 21 guineas. Killeenny was formerly in R. Mason's stable, and cost Mr. G. D. Greenwood 140 guineas as a yearling.

FISHING TACKLE THAT'S FIT FOR FISHING



Advertisement for C.A.C. 303 Soft Nose Sporting Cartridge. Text includes: "For Stalkers!", "C.A.C.", "303 Soft Nose Sporting Cartridge", "Exactly the same as the Military Cartridge with which world's records have been broken, excepting that the bullet point is not nicked.", "The Deer-Stalker's Safest Choice. Immediate Ignition—Terrific Smashing Force. This cartridge is one of the Colonial Ammunition Company's most signal triumphs. It never fails and never disappoints. Equally good for Wild Cattle, Pigs, or Goats. Always used by men who know.", "At the REDUCED PRICE this Cartridge is SPLENDID VALUE". Includes an illustration of a deer.