

Turf Gossip.

By WHALEBONE.

RACING FIXTURES.

May 31, June 3 and 5—Auckland R.C. Winter.
June 8 and 4—Dunedin J.C. Winter.
June 3 and 4—Otago Moor R.C. Winter.
June 25 and 26—Napier Park R.C. Winter.
July 4 and 5—Gisborne R.C. Steeplechase.

H. Hickey reached Auckland on Thursday with the Great Northern candidates Whakawera and Strathmoira.

The time, 6.13 1-2, recorded by Glenmore in the Wanganui Steeplechase is the narrowest since Moccasin won in 1909.

The soreness of Okahau was not so serious as at first feared, and the son of Salvadour was much better yesterday.

The Auckland secretaries, Messrs H. H. Hayr, R. Wynyard, and C. P. Marsh, were all present at the Wanganui Meeting.

The grey gelding Oliver Twist recently changed hands, and was shipped to Sydney by the Maheno on Monday.

The Birkenhead Billy Astral is to fulfil her engagements at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting.

Mr Selby visited Ellerslie last week with Tui Kina, which sprinted five furlongs on the sand, but did not put up any time.

The Stepiak mare Bliss, which went wrong on the eve of the Wellington Autumn Meeting, has resumed work again at Hastings.

The hurdle horse Golden Leap, which has been off the scene for some time, has been brought in again, and is to resume work at an early date.

When Woodland won the Grand National on Covent Coat Sir C. Assheton-Smith wrote him out a nice little cheque for £1000, and the trainer was similarly fortunate.

All going well in the meantime, Geo. Price will take theilly Adelleia to Auckland to contest the Avondale Gutinas in September next.

The Great Northern Hurdles candidate Elmgut has reached Ellerslie in charge of J. Deery, who will ride him in his engagements.

Council, who rode Bercola to victory in the Century Hurdles at Wanganui on Thursday, will have the mount on Lloyds in the Great Northern Hurdle Race.

T. Wilson has put in an appearance at Ellerslie with Powder Fox and Lady Georgia, both of which are engaged at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting.

C. Bird left for the South on Tuesday last with Mandarone, Kikirikiro, and Itadane, which are engaged at the Christchurch Trotting meeting next month.

Mr. Armstrong's horses The Spaniard and Morning were not accepted for on the second day of the Wanganui meeting, but were sent home after the first day's racing.

The Chatulak gelding in J. Williamson's stable, which was known at headquarters as Valtara, has had the name of Tini Mira claimed for him.

The ex-New Zealand J. Whitworth has been given Killeman to train by Mr E. J. Watts, but serious doubts are expressed as to the son of Killeman standing a preparation.

The Wanganui trainer A. Hall is due to leave home for Auckland at the end of the week with North-East, Double Orme, and Throso, all of which are engaged at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting.

Just before the Wanganui Steeplechase was run J. Williamson received a wire from Auckland, asking him to put a price on Hauere, but the reply was, "Not for sale."

The Auckland horsemen J. Conquest, R. E. Brown, C. Brown, A. J. McPhlin, J. O'Shea, F. Fitchin, and W. Porter were all riding at Wanganui, but none of them succeeded in steering a winner.

Consequent on his winning performance in the Wanganui Steeplechase, Glenmore

will have to put up 100lb extra in the Great Northern Steeplechase, which will make his poundage 11.3.

J. McLaughlin has been working his charges, Loch Mabin, Eocene, and Prince Eddie, the reverse way round at Napier Park, with a view to their fulfilling their engagements at Auckland.

The victory of Bercola in the Wanganui Century Hurdles has earned him a 7lb penalty for the Great Northern Hurdles, which brings his weight up to 10.8, or 6lb more than he won with on Thursday.

J. H. Prosser will only have two horses at Auckland, The Native and Fireworks. Salopian was to have formed one of the team, and also Tandra, which went amiss while working on the eve of the Wanganui meeting.

T. Quinlivan comes with Red Book and Sea Pink, both of which claim engagements at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting. Sea Pink did not take kindly to the jumping game, and the idea of making a hurdler of him has been abandoned for the present.

When Chief Marshal fell in the Century Hurdles he was going great guns, and although the mishap took place about a mile from home the general impression was that he would have been very hard to beat.

The ex-Auckland hunter Rebel was sent out a good third favourite in the Hack Steeplechase at Wanganui on Thursday, but was never near enough to the leaders to threaten danger, and eventually finished some distance back.

The honour of the biggest dividend paid of the season up to the present is now held by Otahu, which won the Connolly Handicap at Wanganui on Thursday. Otahu is by the Auckland-bred Nestor from Vapour.

The Auckland Trotting Club have started their building improvements, and already twenty-seven new boxes have been erected. The outside tote house will be commenced immediately, and also the work of enlarging the stewards' stand.

Sea Queen, which made her debut over hurdles in the Kaitoke Hack Hurdles, ran very creditably for a green one, and, with a little more experience, it would not be surprising if she picked up a decent race before the season ends.

The St. Ambrose colt Lockwood was recently purchased by a patron of Geo. Lang's stable from Mr. Highden, but his new owner had bad luck with him, for in his first start, the Parua Hack Plat, at Wanganui, he put out his near hind fetlock, and may have to be given a lengthy spell.

Postillon, which won the Borough Handicap at Wanganui on Thursday, is bearing out the high opinion formed of him, and promises to be a worthy son of his renowned sire, Advance, which he resembles greatly. In the Borough Handicap he came at the business end, and won very easily.

Although he was allowed to drop out of the Great Northern Hurdles, Denis Moranahan had hopes of getting a race out of Master Theory at the forthcoming A.R.C. Winter Meeting, but the son of Souit was a little worse than his trainer anticipated, and he will have to be indulged in a rest.

With the exception of Hawick, Leonard, Knutsford, and The Spaniard in the steeplechase, and Darby Paul, Allure, Silva, and Clemency in the hurdles, the rest of the horses which were engaged in the principal events at the Wanganui meeting also remain in the A.R.C. Great Northern.

The San Fran gelding Heranda should be greatly improved by his race in the Wanganui Steeplechase, and all going well in the meantime promises to be a hard horse to beat in the Great Northern, in which he meets Glenmore at a difference of 10lb, or 10lb better than at Wanganui.

The Auckland horse Okahau ran prominently for a little over two miles in the Wanganui Steeplechase, when he began to tire, and eventually finished some distance back out of a place. Okahau was

showing signs of soreness when he returned to the paddock after the event.

Mr. Parker's horses Multiply and Fort William both ran badly at Wanganui, and their Ellerslie prospects do not appear very high. Fort William carried a very bulky appearance when he went out to contest the opening event, the thorough Handicap, and whipped in the field.

The Napier people lost a lot of money on Mummer in the Parua Hack Plate at Wanganui on Thursday, the son of Gazely going out a very warm favourite. Mummer had very bad luck in the race, but finished very fast, and was unlucky not to give his supporters some of their money back.

The Auckland horses Blue Garment and Phosphorus were both out of a place in their engagements on the opening day of the Wanganui meeting. Blue Garment was never prominent in his race, but Phosphorus ran a decent race, although he never looked like winning.

Mr. Highden's private trainer, G. Price, has had Nyland at Wanganui during the past week, schooling him over the hurdles. The son of Finland was jumped on Thursday morning with A. Oliver in the saddle, when he gave a fine display. He will probably make his first appearance as a jumper at the Otaki meeting next month.

The Walkato gelding Ngatimaru was a very pronounced favourite for the Century Hurdles, and his connections made no secret of the fact that they expected the full brother to Domino to land the stakes. Ngatimaru was handy for about a mile and a-half, but was then beaten, and finished a long way back.

It was hard luck for J. Williamson to lose the services of Armagh on the eve of the Wanganui Meeting, for the son of Salvadour had been registering good work, and his prospects of picking up a stake were decidedly bright at the time of writing. There appears to be very little chance of Armagh being seen out at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting.

It was a big surprise to his trainer to see Watchchain sent out a good favourite for the Kaitoke Hack Hurdles at Wanganui on Thursday, for he did not have any particular fancy for the son of Cairnasser. Watchchain ran much better than Aucklanders who were present anticipated, eventually finishing third after being a long way back in the early stages.

A young horse that might develop into a useful hurdler is Morning, which is returned as being by Sylvia Park from Evening. There was not a great deal to enthuse over in his performance in the Kaitoke Hack Hurdles, which he won, but still, although he only had the minimum of 9.0, there was something pleasing about his style of galloping and jumping.

It is the general opinion in Melbourne that Mr J. D. Inglis, who was recently appointed starter to the V.A.T.C., will also receive the appointment to the same position for the V.R.C. Mr Inglis has acted as substitute recently for Mr Godfrey Watson, recently deceased, and is a prominent figure in Melbourne racing circles.

When Covercot returned to his training quarters at Finton after winning the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase last month, his stable companion, Jerry M. (last year's victor), was taken to the station to await his arrival, and the pair were subsequently led through the village amidst the cheering of the inhabitants, who turned out in large numbers to greet Mr Charles Assheton-Smith's famous "chasers."

Two prominent Marton residents recently matched their horses for £30 a-side, and permits for the race were obtained from both the Marton and Wanganui Racing Clubs for the event to be held. Someone on looking up the Act, however, found out if the race took place, both the clubs concerned would be liable to a fine of £200, and the spectators to a fine of £50 each, and the proposed match was soon abandoned.

The big disappointment of the Wanganui Steeplechase was The Native, which was sent out a very pronounced favourite. The Worry gelding looked in great heart, but though he feuced well, did not appear to be able to go the pace set, and was very tired at the finish. The Native may show to better advantage in the Great Northern, but did not give the impression that he would climb the Ellerslie hill three times.

The unlucky horse of the Connolly Handicap was Leontis, which was a very strong

order for the event. Leontis, which is by Conqueror, from Fairwield, is a big striding horse, and the short struggle at Wanganui did not suit him, in addition to which he got into all the trouble possible in the race. On a bigger course Leontis would probably have won easily, for he finished at a great rate, after being one of the last division to turn for home.

Mr. J. R. McDonald had a stroke of real bad luck in losing Salopian, which met with his death when contesting the Hack Steeplechase at Wanganui. The son of Turquoise was a fine big horse, and the Auckland horseman McFlinn, who rode him, told me that he was going very easily when he toppled over, and he was confident he would have caught the winner. McFlinn had a very narrow escape, but, fortunately for him, he was wearing a new skull cap, which was badly broken, but which got him out of the trouble with no more damage than a lump on the head, and he was able to ride Okahau in the next race.

Although he had to put up with second position in the Wanganui Century Hurdles, St. Kevin has to be given the credit of running a good race, and his prospects in the A.R.C. Great Northern Hurdles are not greatly dimmed. St. Kevin was out forcing the pace for the greater part of the journey, and had a go at everything that came along. Half-a-mile from home it looked any odds on his being well beaten, but he battled it out in great style, and finished almost as comfortably as the winner. A little more judiciously handled, and the son of Sant Harlo would have been more troublesome.

The mishap to Hoanga is bad luck for his connections, for the little son of Regal was bowling along in great style, and promised to run prominently in the big steeplechase. In a chat with his trainer he informed me that the trouble appeared to be in one of the hind fetlocks; but although it was at present pretty bad, it could not be gathered whether it was only a temporary injury or likely to be serious. For the sake of his owner it is to be hoped the accident will be slighter than at present anticipated.

The St. Paul gelding Prophet has been causing his trainer some anxiety of late, and it will take him all his time to get him to the post for the Great Northern Hurdles. Prophet worked on a recent morning, covering a couple of rounds of the sand, and was afterwards taken to the salt water at Onchunga. It would be hard luck for his connections were the little son of St. Paul to go wrong so close to the meeting, for he is at present in great heart, and his trainer confidently expected him to run well in the big Ellerslie race.

Mr R. H. Skipwith, who returned from Sydney on Monday, informed me that Sydney sportsmen are keenly looking forward to seeing Soltau, Nightwatch, and Cherubial contest the next A.J.C. Derby. Last week even money was betted to a considerable amount that a New Zealand-bred horse would win the blue riband at Randwick, for which Bronze's half-brother, Beau Souit, is a certain competitor. On the face of it the wager referred to seems to be all in favour of the taker, but as against this it is argued that Berragon has still to recover from his muscle soreness, that Athletic cannot stay, and that the remainder of the present two-year-olds are an inferior lot.

The big winter meeting at Ellerslie is, as usual, attracting a good deal of attention from Southern stables, a large number of boxes having been booked for visiting horses. Among others, Mr Prosser is bringing up three of his string. Mr Alec Hall being due soon to arrive with a similar number, while Mr Rayner will bring one from Christchurch, all of these horses being booked for accommodation at the Harp of Eden stables.

The recent death of the prominent Indian sportsman, Mr A. A. Apear, was very sudden. He was out on the racecourse on the morning of his death, and was apparently in the best of spirits. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon he started to write a letter to his brother, and, after finishing a few lines, walked into the next room, and collapsed. A doctor was quickly requisitioned, but death, it appears, was instantaneous, the cause being an apoplectic seizure. The "Asian" says it is difficult to forecast what effect the death of this well known sportsman will have upon the Turf in India, but expresses a hope that his brother, Mr Alec Apear, who has devoted all his time to the string for the past couple of years, may see his way to race the horses now in the stable.