

him down. Prioress 8.2, Annabelle 7.8, Retaliation 7.0, First Nelson 7.2, are however not to be despised. Romeo has 10.5 placed against his name in the Pony Handicap of six and a half furlongs, and good as he undoubtedly is the weight will test him severely. His owner has a second string to his bow, however, in Cupid who has 9.7. Pearl II. has had bad luck lately, but given a fair start she should make a big bid for victory with 9.9 up. Silkworm is well in at 8.3, and the same remark applies to Sweet Lavender 7.9, Kathleen 7.8, and Carbuncle 7.2.

THE NGARUAWAHIA RACES.

Fairly good acceptances have been received for the above races to be held on Saturday next. The principal events will be the Ngaruawhia Cup and Plate, for which there are nine and ten acceptances respectively. In the Cup of 50 sovs, one mile and a half, the top weight Annabelle, 9.0, looks like a winner, but Folly at 8.9 will trouble Mr Burke's mare. Minnie can run a good mile and a half with 7.7, but I think the two top weights hold the field safe. The Ngaruawhia Plate of 20 sovs, about a mile and a quarter, should be won by Minnie, 7.8, or whichever of the Cup top weights escape penalty. Tattler, 11.4, or Potentate, 9.6, should furnish the winner of the Hurdle Race, and in the Flying Stakes, three quarters of a mile, Minnie, 8.0, or Te Kooti, 7.11, should fill first place. Rodney should win the Pony Race. Pansy or Decoy appear to be the best in the Maiden Plate, and Viceroy should win the Novel Race.

OTAHUHU TROTting CLUB'S MEETING.

THE above Club hold their Summer Meeting at Potter's Paddock on Saturday next. The acceptances show that very good fields will face the starter, and given fair weather a pleasant day's racing should be experienced. My anticipations are as follows:—
Handicap Harness Trot, two miles.—Sparrowhawk 46s, or the Broker 45s.
Handicap Flying Stakes, six furlongs.—Robin 8.7, La Grippe 9.7, The Dove 8.2.
Maiden Pony Race, five furlongs.—Circus Girl 8.7, The Lark 7.0, and Little Dick 7.0.
Otahuhu Trotting Club Cup Handicap, two miles.—Peggy 20s, Schoolgirl 18s, and Charlie 5s.
Maiden Trot Handicap, one mile and a half.—Corina 12s, Nat 20s, and Gwendoline 20s.
Electric Trot Handicap, one mile.—Mascotte scr, or Black Oats 10s.
Handicap Hurdles, one mile and a half.—Little Raven 11.1, or Butterfly 11.10.

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

THE acceptances for the Wellington Cup of 400sovs, one mile and a half, came to hand on Tuesday last, and what a falling off was experienced! Out of fifty-six nominations only twelve horses remain in the list. I certainly expected that there would be a considerable number of defections, but I was not prepared to see the list reduced to a dozen names. An acceptance list of about twenty horses appeared probable enough. Hippomenes at 8.3 had nothing to complain of, but as he is a bad traveller and is probably being reserved for the Dunedin Cup, his non-acceptance is not difficult to understand. I considered him the best treated horse in the handiaap. St. Anthony at 7.7 looked well in, and Lakeshell on her Middle Park Plate win should have been good enough to carry her 7.6 comfortably. From that weight down to the minimum of 6.7 only two horses remain in out of the 33 that were nominated. On the form displayed by Prime Warden at the D.J.C.'s Spring Meeting he must, if in similar condition on the 22nd inst., have a big chance against the eleven opposed to him. At the weights he should beat Rosefeldt 8.8, Clanranald 8.7, but St. Katherine at 8.5 may be found a hard nut to crack. If she returns to the form which won the Anniversary Handicap at Wellington last summer with 7.11, when she did her mile against good company in 1min 44 3/5sec she will make the leaders run for it. Her two-mile win at Egmont in 3min 44 1/2sec, and mile and three-quarter victory in 3min 5sec at Wanganui last autumn should not be forgotten. It is said she is suffering from bleeding at the nose, but I nevertheless hold she will run a fine race. Pegasus at 8.0 will be a thorn in someone's side, and North Atlantic

with 7.8 should beat Musket and Vogengang over the distance. Revolution at 7.8 has nothing to complain of, but he is said to have a 'leg,' although Freeth's action in withdrawing Revolt and leaving Revolution in the race does not give much support to such a suspicion. Retina has the same weight as she successfully carried last year, and if in favourable condition will run close up. The light weight Kent has been showing an improving form amongst second-class company lately, and from what I hear from the seat of war this candidate may effect a surprise. To give the best five of the horses left in the race I name Pegasus, St. Katherine, Rosefeldt, Prime Warden and North Atlantic, and to give a place tip I take

- PEGASUS 1
- ST. KATHERINE 2
- ROSEFELDT 3

With North Atlantic as the next best.

Liberator, 9.3, heads the list in the Anniversary Handicap of one mile, but there are some, however, in the list whom I prefer. Dreamland has declined 9.2, but Johnny Faa has accepted 8.4 and would have a very big say if Vogengang who has been running into form were not so close up. VOGENGANG OR JOHNNY FAA is my selection and the next best I take to be Krina.

Cajolery and Harkaway have dropped out of the Hurdle Handicap, two miles, for which Clarence, 11.1, now heads the list. Dromedary is next at 10.2, and was to give weight to Oaklands, 10.0, and Langley the Devil, 9.10, both of whom should beat Dromedary. The two candidates that I think will supply the winner are Langley the Devil and the top weight.

The field for the Nursery Handicap has dwindled down from ten to six. Pom Pom, 8.10, has declined the journey, and so have Foreshore 7.12, Planet 7.5 and Miss Madge 7.0. Lyrebird, top weight with 8.5, will be beaten by Tartan, who will find most danger from King Wai, 7.12.

Eight have been scratched for the Welter Handicap, one mile and a quarter. Musket's withdrawal leaves Dreamland at the top of the weights with 10.10. Violence looks as well as anything in the race, and with Kent should supply the winner. For the Telegraph Handicap nine withdrawals have left a field of seven, out of which I take the best two to be Krina, 8.2, and Rebellion, who is top weight, 9.5.

My knowledge of the hacks entered is too limited to warrant my attempting the task of picking winners. I can, however, strongly recommend the selection of our Wellington correspondent, who I see takes Meddler or Brookfield to supply the winner of the Hack Flat and Tenby to win the Hack Hurdles.

NEWMARKET HANDICAP AND AUSTRALIAN CUP.

THE appearance of the weights for the above events shows that the handicapper has got through his laborious task with decided credit. To frame a handicap which includes 108 horses is no easy matter, and although there are flaws—which is only natural in such a piece of work—there appears to be little wrong with the weighting for the Newmarket. The weighting of Merganser may, however, be taken exception to. As regards the entries for the events they are most satisfactory, and serve to show that a reduction in stakes does not necessarily spell a reduction in nominations. Last year the Newmarket Handicap was worth 2,641 sovs and the Australian Cup 2,080 sovs. This year both races are of a fixed value of 1000 sovs, yet the list for the Newmarket shows an increase of nineteen names compared with last year's, and in the Cup there is an increase of sixteen. New Zealand is strongly represented in both events, and with such good ones as Loyalty, Merganser, Stepniak, Pounamu, Bessie McCarthy, Launceston, Whakawatea entered, there should be a very fair prospect of at least one of the prizes falling to New Zealand breeding. In the six furlong race New South Wales has a strong contingent in the victor of Carbine, Marvel, and Brockleigh, Jeweller, Newman, &c., and Victoria has a big hand in with Ascot Vale, Fortunatus, Titan, Wild Rose, Lord Hopetoun, The Captain and her other representatives. In the Newmarket Handicap of six furlongs, Marvel heads the weights with 10.4, which is just 3lb less than the conqueror of Carbine failed to carry home to victory in the six furlong race for the Carrington Stakes. I hear he was a bit big in his Sydney run, and as he showed a glimpse of his old pace during part of the

race, it is quite on the cards that he may run a vastly different horse on the third of March. Jeweller has 2lb less than the top-weight, and the rapidly-improving Titan with 1lb less, stands out well amongst the heavy guns. Merganser is decidedly overweighted with 9.10 in such company, and both Loyalty, 9.8, and Stepniak, 9.7, look better investments than Mr Rathbone's mare. Ascot Vale on the 9.7 mark is a good one, and Mahee with 9.3 will give the field trouble. He ran well in the Carrington Stakes, in which he ran second with 8.12 up to Stanmore, who cut out the six furlongs in 1min 14 1/2sec. Even with the additional weight I regard Mahee as a very likely winner. The opinion of 'Terlinga,' the Australasian writer, is that Mahee will turn out the best horse ever credited to Martini-Henry, whom he greatly resembles. Whakawatea, who has 8.9, is another dangerous nomination. He finished behind Mahee in the Carrington, and as his Newmarket weight is only 3lb above that carried by him in the former race he may be considered as well in the Victorian sprint. Shamrock, who was left at the post in the Carrington Stakes, must have a good show with 8.10, and Pounamu at the same weight is another name which looks well. In the Australian Cup Portsea should carry 9.9 fairly comfortably, but the New Zealander Stepniak, who has 8.12, has rather too much weight. Carnage in giving 4lb to Loyalty has a big contract before him, and as Mr O'Brien's colt is on the improving grade I shall not be surprised to see the 'chestnut Carbine,' as Carnage is called, put down by St. George's son. Sainfoin is well in at 8.4, and Lady Trenton, 7.8, and the Sailor Prince, 7.11, are a dangerous pair. There is bound to be a great change in the list and chances of the horses by the time the acceptances are to hand, and I will defer going further into the matter until a later issue of the REVIEW.

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

WELLINGTON.

January 12th.

THERE is every appearance of the Wellington Racing Club's Summer Meeting, being one of the best ever held by the Club. We shall have a better idea of prospects when acceptances are declared on Monday next, but already we know that there is sure to be a field of from fifteen to twenty in the Cup. Those most enquired for at present are Pegasus, Hippomenes, Lady Zetland, Ich Dien and Clanranald. These have been backed at prices shortening from 10 to 1 to 100 to 14, which is the price now offered on the field. Retina, Prime Warden, Rosefeldt, Musket, Krina, Thame, My Jack and Kent have also received support. At present exactly a dozen out of the fifty-six nominated have been scratched, viz., Rangipuhi, Boulanger, Au Revoir, Rangiatea, Skirmisher, Westmere, Lakeshell, Noyade, Dilemma, Purepo (Mr Donnelly's), Haeata and Awarua Rose. The weights for the minor events of the first day were declared on Tuesday evening. I cannot compliment Mr Evett on his work. The local horses have been mixed up in the most terrible way, without the slightest regard to recent performances. To give examples. At the Wairarapa R.C. Meeting Violence, 8.3, was second in the Cup, while Senator, 7.11, was unplaced. In the Anniversary Handicap they are placed on the same mark, and in the Welter Senator receives only one pound. In the Hurdle Handicap Langley the Devil is given 9.10 to Dromedary's 10.2, whereas recent running shows Langley to be the better of the two. In the Nursery Handicap Mr Tancred's King's Bowman, a youngster who has not started, is put on the same mark with King Mac and Epilogue, and only receives 2lbs from Tartan, all three good winners. Then in the Welter Musket is set to give Vogengang 19lbs. I may be wrong but it strikes me that if the two were to run a match with 11.0 up on each I should be inclined to back Vogengang. Still in spite of these eccentricities the nominations are so numerous that there are sure to be more than sufficient acceptances to produce large fields. I shall be able to telegraph my final selection for the Cup and other races, but at present my fancy is Lady Zetland, Hippomenes, and Pegasus for the Cup in that order; and for the minor races the following:— Anniversary Handicap: Vogengang 7.10, and Krina 7.9. Hurdle

Handicap: Langley the Devil 9.10 and Clarence 11.1. Nursery Handicap: King Wai 7.12, and Pompom 8.10. Welter Handicap—Vogengang 9.6, Violence 8.10, and Prince Cole 8.9. Telegraph Handicap—Swordbelt 8.5, and My Jack 7.8. In the Hack Flat Race there are so many well-bred maidens opposed to the known public performers, that a most interesting race is expected. Among the dark division are Curio, by St. George—Charm; Sylvanus, by The Dauphin—Inisthona; Meddler, by Tattler—Medora; Inverness, by Master Agnes—Mischief (dam of Rebellion and Revolution); and Panea-Hinemoa, by Rama Rama—Hinemoa. These pedigrees read much more like racehorse pedigrees than hacks. The course is in excellent condition at present, but unless we get a day or two's rain before the meeting it will be very hard. Retina has taken up quarters at McNab's gardens, and G. Matthews will superintend her final preparations for the Cup. She has a good many friends who fully expect her to repeat her last year's victory. The trophy, which is to be given to the owner of the winner in addition to the money prize, has been on view in Batkin's, the tobacconist's window, in Lambton Quay, during the last week. It is a capacious two-handed punch-bowl with its lid surmounted by a racehorse and jockey. It stands 20 inches high, weighs 140 ounces, and is handsomely embossed and chased, with a shield in front to receive the inscription when it is won. Altogether it is a very fine specimen of the silversmith's art, and well worth winning.

[BY WIRE.]

January 16th.

The acceptances for the Cup were declared on Monday evening and are very disappointing. It was generally expected that from fifteen to eighteen owners would pay up, but only a dozen were forthcoming. Great surprise was experienced at the non-appearance of Lady Zetland in the acceptance list as she had been freely backed and was regarded as the most likely representative of the stable. Hippomenes who was in great favour some days ago was not fancied at the end of last week when it began to be whispered that he would be kept for the Dunedin Cup. Pegasus had a splendid passage down, the water being like a mill pond nearly all the way. He looks in great heart. Prime Warden and Palliser arrived from the South and both look well. The Hawke's Bay contingent will comprise St. Katherine, North Atlantic, and Rosefeldt. The last named is not much fancied but St. Katherine is in great favour with those who follow Captain Russell, and North Atlantic commands respect as being the only one of Mr Ormond's four to accept. It is known that this stable generally give their horses a good go together shortly before a big race and send the best for the event. Thame, Queen of Trumps, and St. Anthony were all more or less fancied before the acceptances appeared. Regret is expressed that Mr George Hunter, whose name is so strongly connected with the Wellington Cup through his mare Cynisca, the triple winner, is not represented this year. Clanranald and Vogengang are expected from the South tomorrow when we shall also probably see Captain Russell's pair and Mr Ormond's representative. The local contingent according to all accounts are doing well and Retina is freely backed at anything over 8 to 1. Kent is also being quietly backed by his owners and is the one that might effect a surprise if one is in store. The present prices are: 4 to 1 Clanranald, 5 to 1 Pegasus 6 to 1 Prime Warden, 100 to 12 Retina, 10 to 1 Vogengang, St. Katherine, Rosefeldt and North Atlantic, 100 to 8 to 5 others. Pegasus and Prime Warden are at present most in request. My tip for the Cup is PEGASUS 1st, PRIME WARDEN 2ND, ST. KATHERINE 3RD.

The general acceptances were also disappointing but there are plenty of entries to provide interesting racing. In the Anniversary Handicap I pick Johnny Faa 8.4, and Krina 7.9. In the Hurdles Clarence 1st, Langley the Devil 2nd; in the Nursery King Wai 1st, Tartan 2nd; in the Welter Palliser and Kent; in the Telegraph Handicap Rebellion 1st, Persuasion 2nd. The Hack Flat should go to Meddler 7.7, or Brookfield 8.12, and the Hack Hurdles to Tenby 9.10.

Hippomenes is in great request here for the Dunedin Cup, 5 to 1 being wanted.

Mr A. King has been appointed handicapper to the Wairarapa Racing Club for the coming Autumn Meeting.

The weather is still hot and dry and rain is badly wanted on the course, which is very hard. Instructions have been