

The Manawatu Club have decided not to hold their proposed Steeplechase meeting.

A full brother to Portsea named Kirkby won the Cup at Gawler, South Australia, recently.

Kai Iwi Lady returns to Wanganui to-day. Liberator and Mr Butler also return home to-day.

Tipsters may win £25 by tipping the REVIEW Caulfield, New Zealand, and Melbourne Cup treble.

Sportsmen will be catered for by the Auckland Coursing Club at the Avondale Plumpton next Saturday.

Melinite's travelling companion, Jacobite, was never prominent in either of the races for which he started.

Two chestnut Perfection geldings will be put up to auction at Buckland's on Friday. One of them is a fine massively built animal.

A few remaining copies of the New Zealand Stud Book may be had at the office of the SPORTING REVIEW for 10s 6d.

The Crazy Kate people were very confident of their chance in the Great Northern Steeplechase and backed the mare for a very fair amount.

The Government obtain a percentage from the totalisator, so why do they not undertake the working of it.

Mr Tom McEwin, who had the catering for the A.R.C. Meeting, discharged himself of his duties in the most satisfactory manner.

Melinite should be a certainty for the Hawke's Bay Hurdles unless she is reserved for the Steeplechase. Whichever she is sent for she will win.

Last year J. B. Williamson was at the top of the A.R.C. Winter meeting tree. This year he had a different turn in Fortune's wheel. Mr J. Lennard was pretty much in the same box.

A new race will be given at the Summer meeting of the A.R.C. in the shape of the Royal Stakes of 500 sovs, for two and three-year-olds. The distance is six furlongs.

Although Adam Byers won the First A.R.C. Welter Race, I believe he made very little out of it. The backing was all done by two patrons of the St. Kilda stable.

Despised cut a very different figure in this year's Great Northern Steeplechase to what he did in the same race last year. He was beaten two minutes after the flag fell.

I hear that St. Kilda will be put to the jumping game next season. Report says he jumps like a deer, and if he gets in hurdle races with a light weight he should be a clinker.

The Canterbury Jockey Club are going to run the totalisators themselves in future. Quite right. They will then have machines which backers may expect will not break down. The A.R.C. might well follow suit.

Kai Iwi Lady people had hard luck in not being able to start the mare at the A.R.C. meeting. No doubt Melinite would have beaten her in the Grand National, although report hath it that the Lady is a clinker. She certainly would have paid her expenses in one of the other races.

An equine hero breathed his last the other day, up in the Waikato, in the shape of Panic's son Lone Hand. The old grey was well advanced in years, and his death was due, I think, to old age. Lone Hand was a conspicuous figure in many a jumping and flat race, and his name conjures up old time memories in the minds of sportsmen.

Mr Edwards cannot be congratulated upon his working of the flag at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting. On Monday he may be said to have had only one race to start, the Welter, and in that the riders were all well-grown sensible men. Yet he made a start which would be hard to beat for wretchedness.

Report says that Melinite ran a trial with Couranto over hurdles before deciding on making the trip to Auckland, with the result that the daughter of Nordenfeldt and Pearl Ash smothered Mr Douglas' gallant jumper. If this be true the party behind her should have had a good win over her Grand National victory last Saturday.

I believe the Messrs Duder Bros. reckoned the Steeplechase a moral for Bombardier if he stood up. To guard against accident, they had a man stationed at every obstacle on the course, so that if the Brigadier gelding came down the jockey had someone to help him back in the saddle. The win was a popular one, and everyone was glad to see the North Shore sportsmen score.

Owners of racehorses will have an opportunity of buying St. Michael at noon to-morrow. The sale will take place at the Durham saleyard. St. Michael is an excellent performer on the flat, and his fight with Cyrus in the Hurdles at Ellerslie on Monday shows what sort of a performer he is over the sticks. I think owners who attend the sale will have an opportunity of purchasing a very cheap horse.

Mr Bell had very hard luck with St. Michael. He has had may seconds of late, and fortune has been the reverse of kind to him. In the second Maiden Hurdles on Monday, which was won by Cyrus, the visiting horse had the luck to get to the break in the last hurdle first, and as St. Michael had to jump, the advantage was all in favour of Cyres. Yet St. Michael made the finish a very close thing.

The payments over the A.R.C. Meeting are as follows:—Mr R. Burke, Great Northern Steeplechase, £313 10s; Mr M. A. Robertson, Grand National Hurdles, £204 5s; Mr R. Henwood, Maiden Steeple, £47 10s, 3rd Great Northern Steeple, £19, Tally-ho Steeplechase £80 15s—total £147 5s; Mr P. Butler, Handicap Hurdles, £85 10s; Mr J. McGuinness, Pony Hurdles, first and second day, £76; Mr F. McManamin, 2nd Grand National Hurdles £23 15s, 2nd Handicap Hurdles £9 10s, and Welter £38—total £71 5s; Mr J. Gallagher, Maiden Steeple, £66 10s; Mr E. Calthrop, 2nd Welter £9 10s, Maiden Hurdles £47 10s—total £57; Mr Curiton, Selling Steeple, £57; Mr G. H. Lawrence, 2nd Great Northern Steeple, £47 10s; Mr A. G. Byers, Welter £38, 2nd Second Welter £9 10s; Mr J. Cartwright, 2nd Tally-ho Steeple £14 5s; Mr F. Stenning, 3rd Grand National Hurdles £9 10s, 2nd Maiden Hurdles £9 10s, and Second Maiden Steeple £9 10s, total £28 10s; Mr J. Rowe, 2nd Pony Hurdles, £9 10s; Mr J. Gordon, 2nd Second Pony Hurdles, £9 10s; and Mr T. B. Bell, 2nd Maiden Hurdles, £9 10s. Grand total, £1244 10s.

My tip for the Hawke's Bay Hurdle and Steeple double is Melinite and Morag.

Jack Rae rode a masterly race when Liberator won the hurdles, and judged his winning run to a nicety.

The card on the Grand National Hurdle Race was called over at Tattersall's Club on Friday evening last, but only one wager was booked.

It is believed that Mr Murray, a sporting member of the Victorian Parliament, will carry his totalisator bill this session.

Scots Grey, who has been doing stud work since he left New Zealand, has been put into work at Sydney again.

I think Major Banks made an error in placing the horses in the Welter Handicap, as he gave the third place to Stamford, whereas Mrs Lennard's Acacia finished in that position.

The Napier mare Melinite started a strong favourite in the North New Zealand Grand National Hurdle Race, having an investment in the totalisators of 309 out of a total of 1049.

The Australasian reports that Mr S. H. Gollan had the misfortune to lose Tirallier's foal (by Malua) this season. The youngster dropped dead, and was a bit of a monstrosity, having molars several inches long.

Cingalee's old owner would like to know what justification Mr Evett had for asking the mare to carry level weights with Fishmonger in the Tally-ho Steeplechase. The Takapuna running was no argument in the handicapper's favour.

Judging by the finish in the Pony Hurdle Race on the first day of the A.R.C. Meeting, I think the backers of Kathleen had a bit of luck in being able to collect the £7 2s dividend. If Little Tom had been out of the way I fancy I could have picked the winner, which would not have been Kathleen.

Fright's running in the Grand National Hurdle Race must have come as a surprise to the followers of George Wright's stable, as I know his party considered his chance second to none. The son of Newminster—Coolyrie ran very disappointingly, not being prominent in any part of the race.

It is wonderful what luck follows the public at times. In the last race on Monday St. Patrick's stable thought they had a good show, and with luck their horse might get home. Yet the public thought he could not lose, and sent him out first favourite. As it happened he got half a dozen lengths the best of the start, but if he had not got that he would never have won.

I think had Mr Caltrap's gelding Cyrus not have bungled at the hurdle a quarter of a mile from the winning post, he would have got home comfortably in the Maiden Hurdle Race on the first day of the A.R.C. Winter Meeting. It was a treat to witness the fine run he made from the back of the course, cutting down his field in great style.

McKinnon showed great cleverness by the way he recovered his seat when Fishmonger blundered at the sod wall in the Great Northern Steeplechase. At the hill jump which brought the Izaak Walton gelding down his rider got a nasty cut on the knee, but he pluckily rode Pansy in the next race. Then came the Tally-ho Steeple in which McKinnon was rendered insensible.

"Mr Dan O'Brien informs us he will not carry his case against the C.J.C. (New Zealand) to the Privy Council. He is satisfied that law is a more expensive game even than horseracing, although he says he acted on the best possible advice he could obtain in going to law over the Challenge Stakes."—Sydney Referee.

It is not often an old hand at the jumping game like Chester starts in a steeplechase without getting over some of the obstacles. The son of Southern Chief went out a hot favourite in the Selling Steeplechase last Saturday, but stuck up at the sod bank (the first jump in the race), and after his jockey, Geo. Smith, had tried every possible means of inducing him to negotiate the jump, without success, he had to be brought back to the paddock.

Thus argues "Ribbleden," the Australasian writer, in favour of the totalisator:—"The totalisator is not half as bad as it is painted. It does not offer bribes to jockeys; it does not tempt you with having once upon a time won a bet off it and ask you to bet again; it offers no opportunity to an unscrupulous and impetuous owner to 'get a bit out of the bag'; it does not 'noble' horses; it makes no wagers that are likely to be disputed; it is the best possible friend to the racing clubs, because without it they could not make stakes; it does not importune you if you are disinclined to bet; it does its work without annoying anyone in its neighbourhood; its terms are cash and prompt payment; and the person who bets with it has the gratification of knowing that he has contributed something toward the welfare of the national sport."

"A Long Suffering Owner" writes to the Australasian re the starting difficulty, and declares that the majority of owners would be glad to see the man with the flag replaced by the starting machine. He writes:—"The present style of despatching horses from a standing start is opposed to common sense, for, as anybody with the slightest knowledge of the subject must be aware, it is almost impossible to get high spirited horses, 'eager for the fray,' to stand like stuffed effigies on a chalk line. Yet this is what is expected, for the starter at our suburban meetings tell the jockeys that 'once over the mark fined £1, twice a fiver, and the third time up before the stewards,' and, what is more, they rigidly enforce this dictum. Is it any wonder, sir, that the boys have long ago lost all confidence in the starter? To show that this wholesale fining and suspension has not the slightest effect, as far as improving the starting is concerned, we have only to take last week's Epsom meeting for a case in point. In the hurdle and selling races every rider, with one exception, was fined (query, if all the boys were trying to get away why fine them?)"

Commenting on the presence of the totalisator at Adelaide races and the absence of the bookmaker, "Ribbleden," of the Australasian, thus breaks into verse:—

Not a sound was heard, not a bookie's note
As round the enclosure I hurried,
The only note was the tick of the tote,
The bookies were dead—and buried.

Nominations for the C.J.C. Champagne Stakes appear in another column.

Beadonwell's yearling sister, by St. Clair—Dione, has been named Clarissa.

The Dunedin Jockey Club intend reducing the salaries paid to the handicapper and secretary.

The Totalisator Bill is to be re-introduced into the Victorian Legislature this session.

Sir George Clifford has nominated Weather Eye and Safe Guard for the V.R.C. St. Leger.

The nominations for the New Zealand Cup number seventy. A correct list will be found elsewhere.

Mr Martin Taylor, a well-known Christchurch metalician and coursing enthusiast, is on a visit to Auckland.

Couranto, Waterbury, Mutiny and Zaccho have been scratched for the Hawke's Bay Winter meeting.

The reason why Jack Rae was asked to ride Liberator was that Free Holmes missed his passage by the steamer at Lyttelton.

Mr S. G. Cook, the Victorian owner, says that the totalisator has turned Adelaide into a city full of liars.

St. Patrick's three recent wins adds Steel All to the list of successful Musket matrons. St. Patrick's dam was by Musket—All Steel.

The totalisator percentages at the recent Adelaide Racing Club's Meeting amounted to £233 more than the club gave in stakes.

The last number of the Australasian has a photo of Ladas in it. According to the picture the Derby winner is a grandly shaped colt.

In the last race on Monday at Ellerslie W. Smith was fined £5 for breaking away. Even then the rider caught the starter napping badly.

James Kean, Lottie's trainer, made his first re-appearance after his recent indisposition on the second day of the A.R.C. meeting.

I believe some Waikato sport gave 80 guineas for Cingalee prior to the start for the Great Northern Steeplechase. I fancy the mare was a dear purchase.

In the REVIEW of May 31st the Napier correspondent unhesitatingly plumped for Melinite and Bombardier for the double. Many will wish they had followed his tip.

The well-known high jumper Cedric, who was purchased by a French sportsman some little time back, has been shipped at Melbourne for France.

The two youngsters which Mr Mossman bought in Auckland, by Hotchkiss—Tasmania, and Nelson—Tres Deuce, are to be shipped to Queensland.

I see by an Australian exchange that the St. Albans (Melb.) Stud has produced 59 winners this racing season. They won 111 races of the aggregate value of £23,882.

As showing what sort of prices blood stock brings in Melbourne just now I may mention that a Musket horse was recently sold for 9gns and a Newminster for 5gns!

Penance was recently sold on the Victorian side for 32gns. His new owner is going to put him to stud work in N.S.W. He cost 2,500gns. as a two-year-old.

The appearance of Grenadier's name in the Melbourne Cup nominations has given rise to a belief that the Auckland owned colt of that name is engaged in the big Victorian handicap. This is not so. The Grenadier in question is a Victorian horse.

Victor, who was killed on the Randwick course, on the 26th ult., was one of Australia's foremost long jumpers. He had a record of 33ft. 5in. The "boss" big jump was Chandler's 37ft. in England.

The Melbourne jockey Hayes has decided to leave the Australasian alone. When the date arrived for the rehearing of the libel action it was struck out, as a settlement had been arrived at, both parties agreeing to pay their own costs.

The V.R.C. authorities are of opinion that selling races are undesirable additions to racing programmes, and the Sportsman writes it is not unlikely that practical expression will be given to this opinion ere long.

In writing of the V.R.C. Grand National, "Terlinga," of the Australasian, considers the New Zealand lot look very strong on paper. We can only hope they will prove equally as strong on the turf.

Mr J. McHugh's Brigadier colt Grenadier has been nominated for the Victoria Derby. Mr Nathan's Three Star and Mr Budge's Brown Mantle have been entered for the same race.

The Napier correspondent of the REVIEW who picked the Grand National Hurdle and Steeplechase double wires that Melinite and Morag should win the Hawke's Bay Hurdle and Steeple double.

The nominations for next New Zealand Cup compare very favourably with past records. The number, 70, has only been beaten four times since 1883. Since that year the figures have been as follows: '83 66, '84 70, '85 61, '86 81, '87 70, '88 62, '89 54, '90 60, '91 76, '92 71, '93 71, '94 70.

"A man might search Australia without finding a better-looking mare than Florrie. For some time after D. O'Brien sold her she was under a cloud, but she is herself again now, and after she has won another race or two Mr Hall will be able to send her to the stud, and pride himself upon owning one of the loveliest brood mares in Australasia."—"Terlinga's" opinion of Florrie.

The following par. is from the Melbourne Sportsman:—"It is whispered that a change of trainers will be made in connection with one of the most successful stables in Australia. If the report be authentic, a trainer who has made a reputation for himself in Maoriland will shortly take up his residence in Victoria." Who is the trainer?

An Australian exchange writes that bookmakers in Adelaide are moving in the most determined fashion towards getting repealed that section of the Totalisator Act which makes open wagering illegal and substituting a clause permitting bookmakers to bet under proper supervision. A bill has been drafted on their behalf dealing with the betting question, and an attempt will be made to have it recognised in the proper quarter.

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

TARANAKI.

June 8th.

In last week's notes I reported that a writ had been issued claiming £500 damages for an alleged libel said to have been contained in certain declarations made by a witness during a sporting enquiry at Wanganui. The writ was issued, but the person on whom it was to be served left New Plymouth the other day, and as it is probable that the writ will not be served in time for the case to be heard at the next sitting of the District Court here on June 20th, the proceedings will have to be bung up for some three months.

Puella, who won the Hack Flat Race at the Wanganui Winter Meeting, was a difficult mare to get fit, and once she had the habit of crossing her forelegs and giving somersaults to her trainer Brough.

The Taranaki Jockey Club intend to carry out several improvements on the course before next Boxing Day Meeting.

I hear that Evening Star, the full-sister to the expatriated Torpedo, is furnishing into a nice looking animal.

Mr W. Elliot's Hack Derby candidate, Navigator (Cruiser—Speculation), looks a bit backwards, and it will take the owner all his time to get fit for the event. Quid (Sovereign—Patriarch mare) in the same stable is also a Derby candidate, and he looks better than his stable mate.

June 12th.

THE weights for the two principal events at the Hawke's Bay Winter Meeting might with advantage have been kept back till the first day of the Great Northern Meeting was over. As it is the Hurdles looks a moral for Melinite with 10.3, considering she has no penalty for the Great Northern Hurdles. I can see nothing in the race but her, and in the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase she must also have a say if reserved for this event. Of the others in the Steeplechase I like Victrix and Lonely.

Mr J. J. Russell has had good luck this year in having his horses in good nick, yet he has had bad luck in losing so many events that looked like morals. He started the winter season at the Egmont Meeting, when Belle won the Trial Steeple, Union Jack the Egmont Steeple, and Waiuku the Hack Flat. The last-named was disqualified for the stakes through his rider being unable to pull 5lbs overweight that the clerk of the scales had credited him with. Belle and Union Jack were then taken to Auckland for the Takapuna Meeting. The former made a dead heat with Bombardier in the First Steeple when she should have won, and in the Second Steeple fourteen pounds of lead were lost, which disqualified her for the stakes. Union Jack developed a leg, and in consequence could not be started for anything at Takapuna or the Great Northern Meeting. At the last named meeting Belle also experienced bad luck, falling in the Tally-ho Steeple while having the lead near home. "Jay" omitted to nominate for the Wanganui meeting, where he would have had a good innings, instead of going to Takapuna.

Kathleen, the winner of the two Pony Hurdles at the Great Northern Meeting, was bred by Mr R. Cunningham, of Tikorangi, who won hack races in Taranaki with her dam Sleeve-link. At the Bell Block meeting of 1893 Kathleen ran third in the Farmers' Plate, and second in the Hack Scurry, which was won by Lord Onslow by a head. Towards the end of last year Mr Cunningham sold the mare to Mr McGuinness for £25. Although Mother Shipton appears to have shaped well in the same events there is no doubt but that the stable had to rely on Kathleen as the sheet anchor.

I hear that a Hawera syndicate have offered £600 for the colt Waiuku, but I cannot vouch for the report.

Mr Douglas' campaign in Australia with his jumping team has opened very badly. It is to be hoped that he will have better luck later on. What an unfortunate animal Mutiny has been to Mr Douglas since he bought him back at such a big advance after the Great Northern Hurdles twelve months ago.

WELLINGTON.

June 9th.

As I anticipated, more has been heard of the Timothy affair. This horse, it will be remembered, ran third in the Open Steeplechase at the last United Hunt Club's race meeting at the Hutt, won by Dick, Dromedary being second. The way in which Timothy ran led a great