

case, that the money should be retained. Under the rules of racing the stewards undoubtedly had the power to act as they did, but while their decision may have been warranted by the regulations under which racing is carried on we certainly think that on the equity of the case the money should have been returned. The public back a horse on the understanding that the animal is to have a start, and although under the rules a horse is held to be a starter from the time his rider leaves the clerk of the scales, he cannot be considered one from an investors standpoint until the starter drops the flag.

THEN there is the lesson taught by the breakdown of the telegraphic system in connection with the nominations for the Great Autumn and Great Easter Handicaps, run at the Autumn meeting of the Canterbury Jockey Club. It will be remembered that through no fault of their owners seven racehorses were excluded from the Great Easter Handicap, and a quartette were debarred from taking part in the Great Autumn Handicap. The Rules of Racing contained no provision to meet the case, the only regulations bearing upon the subject being as follows:—"The list of entries shall be closed at the advertised time, and no entry shall be permitted in any case or on any terms to be made after that time, and if no time be fixed for closing, the list shall not be closed till midnight of the advertised day." Such regulations are all very well for ordinary cases, but, as has been shown more than once, extraordinary cases occur, and we think there should be some provision to meet these. To reject entries which arrive too late through no fault of the nominators, but solely through the fault of the Telegraph Department, is neither fair to owners nor the racing clubs. A clause should be inserted in the rule relating to nominations which would enable racing clubs to exercise their discretion in cases where nominations are delayed in transmission through no fault of the nominator. Certainly one way out of this difficulty would be for the Metropolitan Clubs to appoint agents in every big centre for the lodging of nominations. No vagaries of the telegraph would then affect owners.

THE Napier people are girding up their loins for the Conference, and have instructed their representatives to propose the following amendments to the Rules of Racing:—Rule 2 to be altered to read "Race includes plate or sweepstake, but does not include or refer to a steeplechase, hurdle race, or hunter's race on the flat." Rule 39, the following words be added, "and no steeplechase shall be run from the 15th November to the 30th April." Rule 167A, that the following clauses be added, "When an applicant for a license is refused, notice of such refusal shall be forwarded to all the other Metropolitan Clubs." "Provided, however, that notwithstanding the terms of Rule 167A, clause (1), the committee of the Metropolitan Jockey Club can, in their discretion, grant permission to any person other than a licensed trainer to train a horse he may be interested in or have on partnership terms. A permit must be obtained for each and every horse so trained, and such permit must be renewed annually." Now this alteration of Rule 39, "and no steeplechase shall be run from the 15th November to the 30th April," sounds very unpleasant to an Auckland ear. If such an alteration were carried what would become of our summer cross-country races. The promoters of this alteration do not go in for summer steeplechasing. We do, and our delegates will know how to vote in the interest of the province.

Now that the racing season is over a review of the two-year-olds that figured in the racing shows that some fairly good youngsters are abroad, and that next year we should see some interesting three-year-old racing. Amongst the Aucklanders Three Star would appear to be the "boss" of the lot, but I must say I have some doubts on the matter, and when Castor's roan son comes out with three summers over his head I will be quite prepared to see Grenadier, for instance, take his number down. And the Papakura filly Doris is also entitled to a place of merit. In the Northern Champagne Stakes Three Star won that six furlong event in 1min 18sec, and he was in an "allout" condition when the post was passed. Doris could not be compared with him in that contest, for she had a six furlong bolt taken out of her before

the start. But next day she won the Eilerslie Handicap, and won that six furlong event in 1min 18sec, and triumphed in a canter. According to that run she could not be far behind Three Star, who won his Champagne run in only half a second better time, but in an "allout" state. Amongst the Southerners the Challenge Stakes winner Bluefire stands out very prominently, and there is no doubt this racer is a "cut" above the average. Then there is a decidedly good one in Casket and Blarney, who won the Wanganui Two-year-old Stakes, and covered the six furlongs in 1min 17sec cannot be a bad one. And there are many others in the North and South who have shown glimpses of racing ability which should result in some good times being put up next season. The fact that the North was not pitted against the South should make the problems attaching to the Hawke's Bay Guineas, Auckland, Canterbury, and Dunedin Derbys very interesting ones. If one were asked to pick a budding Loyalty we think the voices of the South would unanimously answer Bluefire.

THE *Witness* writer "Mazepa," after reprinting the REVIEW'S remarks re Mr Samuel's motion respecting paying out on second horses as well as firsts, answers our query, "Would it be fair to pay out on a second horse who was beaten hopelessly by half-a-dozen lengths or so?" as follows:—"Decidedly not, I should answer. Nor do I see how it would be possible to recognise in any form the principle of giving part of the dividend to a defeated horse. Would it be proper to make it a rule that a horse beaten by just enough to swear by, say by less than a length, should receive consideration in this manner. That would never do. Races are seen at nearly every meeting where a winner gets home by only a neck or thereabouts, but with any amount to spare. The second horse is as badly beaten as if he were distanced. Instances of this sort are so common that if it were seriously proposed to compensate for 'dashed hard luck' by giving the second horse a slice of the dividend, some other plan of reckoning up the relative merits of the leaders would have to be adopted. It would never do to leave it a question of so many inches. There would need to be a special officer to decide what is 'hard luck' and what isn't. And how often he would be sold by appearances. Can any man pretend to say for certain about every race all through a meeting that this winner was all out and that that one had a bit to spare? It seems to me that it would not be fair to introduce this sort of consideration at all. It is, of course, annoying—beastly annoying, if you like—to lose a dividend by a short head; but that is one of the risks you run in backing a horse. Would it not be still more annoying to find that, after putting your pieces down, say, to level money about your fancy, it got home by only a head, and you discovered that you just got your money back? That is what would happen when a winner went out at what, under present arrangements would be a 30s dividend. Moreover, if the dividend is to be split up so as to afford consolation for hard luck, why stop at consoling the second horse? We do sometimes see a third so close up as to be beaten by only a head; and, once the principle of solatium is admitted, we might have it argued that the second horse, even though beaten by but a nose, has not really had such hard luck as another horse in the race which has perhaps not finished at all. In a hurdle race, for instance, a horse actually a neck in front at the last fence, and winning easily, may be pushed off. It seems to me that the arguments in the preceding paragraph in favour of the Taranaki proposal are really of very little weight as against the writer's own contentions on the other side, and the more I think of the proposition the less I like it." Precisely, we merely put forward one or two arguments relating to the proposition without stating we were in favour or against the proposal. Further consideration of the matter brings us exactly to our contemporary's conclusion, viz., that the arguments against the proposal are stronger than those for it.

THE Auckland Racing Club are to be complimented upon their action in instituting the new race for two and three-year-olds which will in future occupy a space on the programme as the Royal Stakes. The distance of the race will be six furlongs, its value will be 500 sovs, and it will be to Auckland what the Challenge Stakes is to Christchurch, but with this difference—that whereas the Christchurch people take all, the Auck-

landers will give all, as a prominent provision of the race is as follows:—"Should there be any surplus arising from the subscriptions it will be given to the race." The club guarantees that 500 sovs will be given, and if the subscriptions do not amount to that figure they will provide the shortage. If on the other side the subscriptions make the race of the value of £600 or £700 the race will be given the full amount. The further provisions of the race are:—Of 500sovs, the owner of the second horse to receive 20 per cent., and the owner of the third horse 10 per cent. out of the stake. For two and three-year-olds; weight for age. Winners after August 1, 1895, of any race or races collectively of the value of 250sovs 3lb, of 500sovs 5lb, of 750sovs 7lb, of 1000sovs 10lb. Maiden three-year-olds at time of starting, allowed 10lb; two-year-olds 7lb. Six furlongs. By subscription of 10 sovs, each, payable to the Secretary of the A.R.C. on general entry day, Summer Meeting, 1895, unless forfeits are declared and paid as follows:—"Yearlings (foals of 1892) may be struck out upon payment of 2 sovs by the second Friday in January, 1895; or upon payment of 4 sovs by the first Friday in September, 1895; or upon payment of 6 sovs by first Friday in December, 1895. Foals of 1893 may be struck out upon payment of 2 sovs by the second Friday in January, 1895; or upon payment of 4 sovs by the first Friday in September, 1895; or upon payment of 6 sovs by the first Friday in December, 1895." And then follows this absurd, we were tempted to say idiotic, clause:—"Should there not be 25 horses left in on first Friday in September, 1895, the committee reserve the right to reduce the stakes." The committee must think the prospects of the race are encouraging when they find it wise to insert such a provision. If they thought it possible that there might not be 25 horses left in on the date of the second payment they should not have instituted the race. Had the clause in question been dated to take effect on the first Friday in December, 1895, we could have understood the matter. But there should not be any reason to consider the clause if, as the secretary of the club states, there are 100 Auckland nominations as good as received. A very important inducement will be held out by the race to visiting owners. Being for two-year and three-year-olds, owners of the former racers will have, in addition to the Royal 500 sovs, the Foal Staks 300 sovs to look to, and for three year-olds there will be the further inducement of the Derby 500 sovs.

AFTER considerable foreshadowing the American Jockey Club is an accomplished fact. The bringing into being of the club is doubtless the result of the recent stoppage of racing in New Jersey by the Legislature. It was seen that what had been done in New Jersey would be done in other states unless racing authorities put their shoulder to the wheel and formed a governing club to control affairs, purify the turf, and remedy the existing evils which had raised the overwhelming opposition to racing shown by the New Jersey people. One of the promoters of the Jockey Club in the course of a speech to the delegates remarked that without doubt the turf was suffering from the overtaxing of bookmakers by the various clubs for revenue purposes. Such exorbitant fees were charged the ring men that they found it impossible to live by fair dealing and consequently were compelled to get their money by crooked means, resulting, of course, in a plentiful crop of turf scandals. This, it was stated, was to be abolished by the Jockey Clubs preventing the metallicians being placed under the burden of paying impossible betting fees. A suggestion has been made to the newly formed club to follow the English precedent and decline to recognise betting, but at the same time to charge admission to the betting ring as is the case at home. This would give clubs a handsome revenue, and would press not only on the bookmaker but on the backer as well. A further suggestion is made that the club should adopt the totalisator. The premier racing journal in the States is the *Spirit of the Times*, and a writer who advocates the adoption of the instrument that never lies (in the hands of honest agents) argues that the adoption of the French *mutuel* system would be a great step towards the purification of the turf. The incentive to wrong doing, he argues, would be reduced to a minimum. "Under our present system trainers, owners, and bookmakers who are not over scrupulous have every opportunity to reap dishonest gains. A trainer or owner can ask a bookmaker to lay up

against his horse, and so win at least a moderate amount on a certainty. This would be impossible under the French system. The difficulty in the way of the general introduction of the French machines in this country has been the opposition of the bookmakers. The machines have never had a fair trial on a large scale except at Brighton Beach, and there it has been proven beyond all question that they have the capacity to handle a large volume of business. It is simply a matter of getting enough of them. The *mutuel* machines have now been perfected until they afford a well nigh perfect system of betting. They establish legitimate market quotations and protect the public in every way, while the usual five per cent. commission would undoubtedly provide the associations with revenues that would average throughout the season quite as much as is now derived from the assessment of bookmakers." The journal quoted has also been attracted by the blind totalisator proposition sketched in the columns of the *Australasian* some little time back, and recommends it as a means whereby the advantages of the French system might be obtained without placing owners under the disadvantage which the ordinary totalisator provides for their behoof.

ONE of the new rules of racing adopted in Victoria is somewhat confusing. The rule is number 52, and runs "No entry will be accepted in respect of any horse over one year old for any race unless such horse be described by a name." And following out that rule the V.R.C. officials have insisted upon owners describing horses, although only yearlings, by name. The framers of the rule could surely not have intended this, for there is no such thing as a horse fifteen months old. He is either a yearling, two, three, four, five, six years, or aged. Race horses birthdays are August 1st, no matter when they were foaled, and a horse may have been twenty-three months in this world and still be a yearling. The framers of the rule intended their regulation to apply to two-year-olds, but by some means or other the officials of the Victoria Racing Club appear to have taken an entirely different construction. Yearling races are not allowed, so why should racing authorities compel owners to name their horses before they are eligible to run?

ANTICIPATIONS.

HAWKE'S BAY WINTER MEETING.

[By BORDERER.]

Handicap Hurdles of 200 sovs, two miles:—

- MELINITE .. .. 1
- KAPUA .. .. 2
- KULNINE .. .. 3

Hawke's Bay Steeplechase Handicap of 300 sovs, three and a half miles:—

- OAKLANDS .. .. 1
- MORAG .. .. 2
- TIRITEA .. .. 3

June Handicap of 50 sovs, one round. —Spinfeldt 1, King John 2, Link 3.

[By OUR WANGANUI CORRESPONDENT.]

Hurdles—Melinite 1, Kapua 2, Oaklands 3.

Steeplechase—Timothy 1, Raven 2, Kapua 3. Elk for a boil over.

[By OUR TARANAKI CORRESPONDENT.]

Hurdles. Melinite or Unity. Steeplechase.—Victrix or Bootles.

[By OUR WELLINGTON CORRESPONDENT.]

Hurdles.—Melinite 1, Kulnine 2, Kapua 3.

Steeplechase.—Tiritea 1, Morag 2, Norton 3.

Owners, Note!

GISBORNE PARK STEEPLECHASE CLUB.

On Thursday, June 28th, by 9 p.m., acceptances for the following events will close with the secretary, Mr M. G. Nasmith, at the Argyll Hotel, Gisborne:—  
Handicap Hurdle Race, 2 miles, 35s.  
Ladies' Bracelet, 1 mile and a distance, 1/2 sov  
Winter Oats, 6 furlongs, 1sov.  
Gisborne Park Steeplechase, 3 1/2 miles, 2 1/2 sov  
Hunters' Steeplechase, 2 1/2 miles, 1/2 sov  
Final Handicap, 1 mile and a distance, 1 sov

The report that Ormonde is impotent owes its origin to the fact that only one of the nine mares taken to America with him and covered by him in England last spring, has proved to be in foal, the travelling and changes it involved having evidently had a prejudicial effect on the foaling prospects of the mares.