

Coming Events.

[BY BORDERER.]

HAWKE'S BAY WINTER MEETING.

The postponed meeting of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club will be held to-day, and as there will doubtless be a considerable amount of Auckland speculation over the meeting I shall take a final glance at the weights and give my opinion respecting them. Neither of the two principal jumping events, the Steeplechase of 300 sovs and the Hurdles of 100 sovs, have very satisfactory fields, for in the former event eighteen nominations have only brought forth seven acceptances, and in the Hurdles the name of Melnite with 10.3 allotted in weight has frightened eleven of the sixteen nominators. In this race Kulnine has accepted top burden 12.6, but with Melnite, with 27lbs advantage, the chance looks a very doubtful one. Kapua is the next acceptor with 11.5, and having named these three hurdlers, there should be no necessity to look further for the winner or the placed horses. As I wrote last week, the race should be a moral for her, and if she is beaten her failure should take a lot of understanding. If such a thing does come about, and the Nordenfelt mare may make a mistake, I think the race will fall to Kapua. Oaklands and T. Rose are the other two acceptors, and respecting the former I prefer to expect the cross country to bring out this candidate's excellence. To place them I cannot do better than again give last week's selection, and put the order thus—

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| MELNITE | 1 |
| KAPUA | 2 |
| KULNINE | 3 |

Even with the top impost of 12 11 Norton should, on latest reports, have a big say in the Steeplechase, although I think a lower weighted candidate will win. With Whalebone out, Trititea comes next, and at 11.3 the horse has a very fair chance of scoring. Victrix has a chance, but considered with Dainty and Oaklands the last-named appears to have the best chance. Of Morag and Repo I take the first-named to be the better, and if any thing upsets my placing it will be Morag. I place them—

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| OAKLANDS | 1 |
| NORTON | 2 |
| TRITEA | 3 |

Out of the eight horses in the Maiden Steeplechase of 80sovs, about two miles (weight-for-age). I should think Morag should be far and away the best, and to take two others I should fancy Pamoana and Worth. In the June Handicap of 50sovs, once round, I prefer the chances of Spinfeldt, King John and Musketeer, and in the Ladies' Bracelet my vote would be divided amongst Lobelia, Leontine and Sylvanus.

THE MELBOURNE CUP.

WHETHER New Zealand is or is not represented in the nominations for the Melbourne Cup there is always a lot of interest centered in the declaration of the weights for the biggest handicap race of the Southern hemisphere. For the last two years Mr Dakin has been steadily raising his handicap scale for this race, and with "Portsea the Potentate," as the well-known American turf writer "Hidalgo," calls Mr Purches' little wonder, in the list, it is only natural this year to see a further rise in the scale. Two years ago Mr Dakin started with Strathmore and Malvolio at 9.8; last year Strathmore was at the head of the list with 21b more, 9.10; this year Portsea comes first with 9.12. There is no doubt the winner of the Champion has fairly earned his burden, and I would not be willing to say he will not be able to successfully carry it. Remembering his blood, his gameness, and his Champion three miles with 131lbs up, the Melbourne Cup with 9.12 is not altogether out of his reach. He is a genuine stayer, and as game as a pebble, and with 9.12 may be regarded as a certain starter. Patron is also in the race, and may play for him the same pace-making game as was the case in the race for the Champion. Next in weight to Portsea comes Jeweller, who has been given 9.6—a tidy weight for him, and which may unfavourably affect the acceptance. Paris at 9.5 has 31b more than he was given last year, and 9lbs less than the weight he failed to carry into a place in the Cup of two years back. He is a game horse when well, and if accepted for and sent to the post in true

form should not disgrace himself. The Adelaide Cup winner, Port Admiral, is on the same mark, and Pilot Boy is also there. Both these horses have been running well of late, and should have to be reckoned with. Light Artillery left off racing well up to the top sawyers of the Australian side, and at 9.3 he looks pretty well. Carnage at 11b less will certainly be picked by the majority of punters as the most likely horse in the handicap, and he will undoubtedly have a big chance. When they left off racing there was very little between Light Artillery, Carnage and Loyalty, and respecting the first three Mr Dakin now thinks there is nothing between them, for he has placed Patron and Light Artillery together on the 9.3 mark, while Carnage has only 11b less. The Sydney running has evidently been taken into account, however, as regards Mr O'Brien's colt, for the other three racers are supposed to be 51bs superior to him. At the weights allotted them this quartette must still be very close to one another. Malvolio has 31bs less than he carried last year, but I do not fancy him. Cremorne has 71bs less, and requires it all. For his win last year Tarcoola has been raised 10lbs, and stands at 8.13, at which weight I certainly do not fancy his chance over much. Loyalty and Glenloth both have 8.12, at which placing the New Zealander should have all the best of it. Culloden and Lady Trenton have 8.11 and can hardly score at the figure, and the Newmarket winner, Hova, meets Oxide and Ascot Vale on the 8.10 mark. Can Hova get the distance? That is the point. If he can I would not pay too much attention to the weight. Of the quartette on the 8.7 mark, Sternchaser, Quality, The Trier and Mahee, my vote is for the first named, and of the three on the 8.5 mark, Elswick, The Sailor Prince and Aquarius, I have a decided preference for the second named. Sunshine, 8.4, I know nothing of, and of Newman, Donizetti, Jonathan, and Solanum I like Donizetti. Half-a-dozen have been given 8.2, and amongst them are two New Zealanders, Rosefeldt and Skirmisher. Launceston is a member of the half-dozen, and the remaining three are Little Bernie, Lord Randolph, and Delaware. If the Skirmisher be the Skirmisher of old, the weight is not too much for our representative, but the others are, I fancy, overshadowed by those names above. A quintette stand together on the 8.0 mark, viz., Swordbearer, Sainfoin, Greycown, Foxtail, and Gingham, and I would not care to support any of them for a win. I find I have passed over St. Albans II., who stands by himself on the 8.8 mark, at which he and Jonathan met in last year's handicap. St. Albans II. can stay, but I have heard nothing of his condition for some time. Oxide at 31b less than last year's impost has a fair chance. Little Bernie has last year's weight I notice, and with good strong work put into him he would by no means be out of the fair. Taking those weighted from Portsea down to the 8.0 mark I like the chances at first sight of Portsea, Light Artillery, Loyalty, Hova, Sternchaser, The Sailor Prince, and Skirmisher.

THE CAULFIELD CUP.

In framing his handicap for last year's Caulfield Cup Mr Barnard started at 9.13. This year he commences 31bs lower and places Cremorne, who last year started at 9.13, at 9.10. Mr Barnard makes out Cremorne to be 21bs better than Pilot Boy at a mile and a half. At the Melbourne Cup distance the handicapper's opinion is that Cremorne is 51bs inferior to Pilot Boy. That clipping miler, Marvel, has been given 9.7, a very fair weight for this candidate. Of Brockleigh 9.6, Jeweller 9.5, Patron 9.5, Paris 9.4, Port Admiral 9.3, Fortunatus 9.2, I like the last three, and Hova, 9.0, should be better than Culloden or Tarcoola. I have always regarded Glenloth's Melbourne Cup as a muddy fluke, so I shall not name him as better than Oxide, Sternchaser, and Loyalty, who are all within a couple of pounds of him. Respecting Hova I may say that according to recent Melbourne advice he is under a cloud, but notwithstanding this I would as soon support him thus early as anything else in the race. Cressy and Warpaint are fairly well in, and further down Little Bernie, Donizetti, Skirmisher, and Saracen look comfortable at the weights. Tim Swiveller has been given 7.12, and with his turn of foot should give a creditable account of himself. Down to him the best in the list appear to be Pilot Boy, Fortunatus, Hova, Oxide, Loyalty, Little Bernie, and Skirmisher, but I shall refrain from further

going into this handicap until a future issue.

V.R.O. GRAND NATIONAL HURDLES AND STEEPLECHASE.

THE scratching of the New Zealanders from the V.R.O. Grand National Hurdle Race and Steeplechase will have the effect of materially reducing the interest, on this side of the water, in those two events. After their Sydney opening our horses made a most favourable impression on the Sydneysiders, and a by no means indifferent judge, "Verax" of the Sydney Referee (Mr Nat. Gould, the sporting novelist), thought enough of their performances to include Kulnine and Couranto in the first half-dozen in the Hurdles and Waterbury and Mutiny in the Steeplechase. However, their owners know best, and we have to consider the Victorian National Meeting without thinking of what chances the New Zealanders Norton and Kulnine might have had. Taking the hurdle race first we find that Tim Swiveller has 21b more to carry along than when he triumphed last year. A great horse like T.S. undoubtedly requires a lot of weight, and the handicapper cannot be blamed for so highly estimating his capabilities. Besides being an accomplished jumper (he has shown awkwardness in recent jumping work, but that will soon pass off) he is a Caulfield Cup winner, and taking everything into consideration he must have a wonderfully big chance of scoring. Of Ebor and Captain Webb I incline most to the chances of the former, and of the N.S.W. seven, Anarrow, Cadet, Warbrook C.B., Proconsul and Associate, the best should be Warbrook and Proconsul, the former for choice. Polonius has a more than fair chance, and Bischoff may gain distinction for Tasmania. The New Zealander Ixion is said to be out of form, and Tom Hales' horse Trio is said to be a clever jumper and remarkably fast for a fencer. To take five as the best I should name Tim Swiveller, Cornanto, Polonius, Ebor and Trio, and I shall make a final selection from this quintette.

In the Steeplechase the weights are on a pretty high scale, there being no less than nine horses weighted above twelve stone. Knight of the Garter tops the list with 13.2, and as he has been on the shelf for some time owing to an accident it may be as well to pass him by. The next name Mikado II., 13.1, is one that stands out prominently, and it is more than likely that the accomplished cross-country rider Tommy Corrigan will have the mount, in which case the Mikado may rely upon his steerer making no mistakes. Busaco, 12.11, has a big reputation on this course, and with his stable companion Dondi will have to be watched. Trojan, about whom there is generally a suspicion of lameness, has so far stood the preparation, but I am not enamoured of the chance. The best of the eleven stone division should be Corangamite, and the best of the lighter weighted ones should be Mutiny and Medicine. I had quite forgotten Tayforth, who should have a rattling chance. He knows the course well, and has before been round it without making a single mistake. To take a half-dozen I name Mikado II., Busaco, Tayforth, Corangamite, Mutiny and Medicine.

GISBORNE PARK STEEPLECHASE CLUB.

THE weights for the Gisborne Park Steeplechase Club's meeting to be held on July 5th have made their appearance, and after looking through them one is readily brought to the belief that the Auckland acceptances will be decidedly thin. The handicaps have been framed rather high, and it is certain that Belmont 11.12 over hurdles and 12.5 on the flat, Fishmonger 11.5 over hurdles and 12.4 over country, and Crazy Kate 12.8 over country will not result in the club's receiving acceptance money from the owners of these animals. The only other Auckland horse is St. Kilda, who in the Winter Oats has been giving 13.13. At first sight this weight appears to be a crusher, but as the other horses have been weighted up to him, and as we know what St. Kilda can do in the matter of weight carrying, there is every reason to believe that he will be accepted for. But it is pretty certain that Gisborne Park will see no other Auckland horses. With Belmont and Fishmonger out of the Hurdles, as they doubtless will be, Disturbance will head the weights with 11.9, and next to him comes Worth at 11.7. Criminal and Raven are on the same

mark. Morag has 31b less, and Pamoana at 11.0 is decidedly dangerous. At least it so appears to me writing prior to the Hawke's Bay racing. Of the lighter weighted ones Alecto and The Turk at 9.7 and 9.0 look well in. We may reckon Crazy Kate, 12.7, and Fishmonger, 12.4, as out of the Steeplechase. I don't suppose they will be accepted for, and if they were they could not win. Raven will therefore be top weight with 11.10, and at 51b less Morag must prove a rod in pickle. Worth at 11.0 looks well, and Criminal 10.8 and Pani 10.7 appear likewise. Even at 13.13 I consider that St. Kilda with fair treatment in the matter of starting has a good chance of annexing the Winter Oats. Whether it be wise policy to run with such a weight is another matter. Pani, at 12.9, cannot beat him, and Belmont, 12.5, will hardly be an acceptor. Musketeer is fairly treated at 11.10 considering the weighting of the others, and Avis, Dangar and Zillah are in the same box. Forella, on the minimum of 10.0, is not out of it by a long way. St. Kilda has 13.10 in the Final Handicap, and should, if started, be the master of the field. Acceptances for the meeting are due this day week.

ADVERTISEMENTS

[COPY.]

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