

powerful journal has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the machine we may regard its Victorian prospects as being very considerably improved. The journal in question asserts that it has always believed that the totalisator had advantages over the bookmakers for those who will bet which render it worthy of being adopted on all racecourses. The fact that it gives a backer the exact odds as determined by public opinion at the start of a race is, of course, seized upon by our contemporary as a strong argument in the machine's favour, and stress is laid on the fact that under its working no money can be got out of a non-trier, and that clubs receive a revenue which they can devote to racing stakes. The big value of the machine is held to be that it builds up prizes for owners. Keeping a racehorse is within the reach of many men, provided there are big prizes to be sought after, and the possibility of getting your money on at an outside chance is a further inducement to men to run horses. The main argument against the totalisator is that it would weaken the Ring, and so deal a blow to the Turf. This is the view held by the machine's leading Victorian opponent, a large owner and breeder, and this view of the case is dealt with as under by the *Australasian*: "This gentleman asserts that England's greatness from a racing point of view is due mainly to the money power of her bookmakers. Without a strong ring you cannot, he says, attract the best horses, and he affirms with great earnestness that once the totalisator becomes law the glories of Flemington will depart. The main object of the 'strong ring' in this connection is, of course, to supply the wants of a few owners who may require huge amounts about their horses. To begin with, we doubt very much if the totalisator would decrease the 'strength' of the ring. We think, on the other hand, that it would reduce its numbers but increase its betting power. The ring of ten years ago, when there were not half as many bookmakers, was, we think, much stronger than the ring of to-day. This is a fact easy of demonstration." Another argument used against the machine by Victorians is that it would bring down the price of yearlings and thus discourage breeders. Our contemporary, after remarking that prices could not be worse than they are now, contends that the totalisator would, if anything, improve the price of blood stock. It holds the idea that the machine would bring more owners into the sport, consequently there would be more buyers and keener competition. And respecting the charge that the machine would popularise gambling, attention is drawn to the fact that while the machine never bets in less than half-sovereigns, Melbourne bookmakers can be found by the score anxious to bet in shillings and half-crowns. It is very evident the cause of the machine is steadily advancing in Victoria, and its adoption in that colony is, as we have always argued, only a matter of time.

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

TARANAKI.

July 13.

In the Grand National Steeplechase I like the chances of Bombardier, Victrix and Fishmonger, and in the Hurdles Musket, Melinite and Fright.

The dispute between two Taranaki racing men over accounts will be settled by the District Judge, if a compromise is not effected before next sittings of the District Court here. The winnings of a jumper now located in Auckland is one, and, I believe, the main item over which the dispute has arisen.

Two other parties residing here have had a dispute over accounts in connection with the jumper Dick, but this affair has, I hear, been settled by the interested parties out of Court.

Steadfast's win in the Winter Handicap at the V.R.C. Winter Meeting should improve his chance for the Caulfield Cup. The son of Nordenfeldt—Nellie Moore has been erratic and disappointing, but now he has started to win he may pull off some good races for Mr W. R. Wilson.

There has been a great deal of inquiry here as to the ownership and breeding of Taranaki, entered for the Melbourne and Caulfield Cups.

Mr A. Bishop, of Bell Block, the owner of The Australian, intends to leave this district and settle in Wanganui. I wish him success in his new sphere.

The restriction of the use of the totalisator would, I think, bring about the

amalgamation of several country racing clubs on this coast.

The Taranaki Trotting Association, the new name of the local club, will hold its next meeting in September on the Taranaki racecourse. A total of £120 will be given away in stakes. The programme will be published in the Review in due course.

Mr Gollan's Bonnie Scotland is a likely colt to win a big Spring event over the water.

WANGANUI.

July 13th.

The Rangitikei Hunt Club held their Point-to-Point Steeplechase yesterday, when a large number of contestants entered the field, the winner turning up in Mr T. Simpson's black gelding Hop Bitters, who showed fair form both in the Hunters' Steeplechase and Final Steeplechase at the late Wanganui Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Wanganui Jockey Club is to be held at the Rutland Hotel on Friday, July 27th, when the annual report and balance-sheet will be submitted, and the officers elected for the ensuing year.

Kai Iwi Lady, who was looked upon here as having a big say in the Great Northern National Hurdles, but had to be withdrawn owing to having injured her ligaments through striking a hurdle while schooling, has been turned out by her trainer, Charlie Woodley, at Okoia. The handsome daughter of Natator will be treated to a spell until Christmas, when she will be taken in hand again, and most likely race in the autumn.

Nanakia, who made the dead heat with Bootles in the Wanganui Steeplechase, is nicely treated in the C.J.C. National Steeplechase at the impost of 9.8, and as the horse is doing well, I consider that he will have more than an outside chance of placing that event to his credit. He is bound to carry a bit of our local punters' money. It is also Belcher's intention to take down Nanakia's stable companions, Goodwood and Rags, the first-named to compete in the welter events, while Rags (Ascot—Leonessa), who is a full brother to Cretonne, will take part in the Ladies' Bracelet.

The first club on this coast to issue their programme for the coming season is the Marton Jockey Club, whose gathering is set down for decision on the 9th November. There are eight events on the programme the principal ones being York Farm Handicap, 1½ miles, of 75 sovs, and Flying Handicap of 50 sovs.

W. Butler's National Hurdle candidates, viz., Stranger, Strayshot and Splitink, are being sent along in their schooling. Yesterday Stranger evidently was not in the humour, as he did not care about facing the jumps, and after being sent at them he fell, giving George Laing a buster. Strayshot jumps clean, but I should say is a long way from winning a National Hurdle Race. The full brother to Swivel, Splitink, is a most determined jumper, but generally raps them very hard, although it does not seem to make any difference to him. Of the three he is a long way the best, and I fancy that he will be the only representative for that event from Wanganui. Amalgam, who is also under Butler's care, will, I believe, also make the journey. He is engaged in the Steeplechase and Hunter events, and he should show up prominently in the latter races.

The weights for the C.J.C. Grand National Meeting have caused a bit of interest to be taken in the events, and I should say good fields will go to the post. I like best at present in the Steeplechase—Norton, Morag, Despised, Bombardier and Nanakia; Hurdles—Liberator, Kapua, Melinite and Empire.

Mr W. H. Keith arrived from Hawera to-day, and intends to make his headquarters here for three or four months, as he is getting a team of horses together which he intends to put into work before taking them over to the other side.

NAPIER.

[BY WIRE.]

July 17.

Kempenfeldt has changed hands, Mr G. Willan, of Redcliffe, having bought him from Mr Gollan for stud purposes. The price paid was, I hear, 65 guineas, and at this price he should be considered dirt cheap. Kempenfeldt, who is by Nordenfeldt from Bianca, will be at the service of owners at a moderate figure.

On the publication of the weights for the Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase, Morag was backed by his connections to win the double. I am not very favourably disposed to his chance

in the Hurdle Race, but, bar accidents, he will make them all travel in the Steeplechase.

The Hawke's Bay Jockey Club hold their annual meeting shortly, when, I hear, a very satisfactory balance-sheet will be laid before the members.

Mr F. Collins has now got Brigand under his charge.

Coming Events.

[BY BORDERER.]

THE MELBOURNE CUP.

(CONTINUED.)

COMMENTING upon this handicap in a previous issue I left off at the 8.0 mark, and to sum up I find the first horse to come under consideration is Saracen, 7.13. If he can stay the weight is a very likely one. Nightingale, also, has been weighted at 7.13. She is a good mare as witness her Tattersall's Cup win in 3min 30sec, and, amongst other scores, it will be found she took third place in Lady Trenton's Sydney Cup. She can stay, but they say a mare is a bad quantity for a Melbourne Cup. Pulvil's accident to his shoulder will put him out of consideration. Burton stands at the same weight, and Sydney reports speak well of him, although he has not much to point to in the way of performances, for he has only run four times. His principal effort so far was his win in the Trial Stakes at the Summer Meeting of the Australian Jockey Club when he carried 8.0, and led Stanmore, 8.8, and The Trier, 8.0, past the post. He is a Trenton horse, being by Trenton out of Ringdove. September will probably see him racing, and it will then be time enough to size up this, comparatively speaking, unknown one's chance. Alpine is the first weighted at 7.12. This candidate has not done much, but his weight is a nice handy burden. Bessie McCarthy and Ronda are at the same weight, and this pair take my fancy very much indeed. The latter had 8.6 last year when he was a four-year-old, and now when he is supposed to have improved, the handicapper sizes him up as worse, and lets him in on 8lbs better terms. When a three-year-old he took second place in a Melbourne Cup, and respecting his condition I am informed by Melbourne advices that he is decidedly improved horse. I should say his chance in the Cup is a decidedly bright one. Donation has 1lb less, and he must have a chance, and of Tridentate, Memah, and Verax, the other three on the 7.11 mark, I must confess I know very little. In Queensland Tridentate failed when his chance was very highly estimated; Memah I hear is a useful mare that can stay; and Verax is a brother to Jeweller, who has not yet performed. Tim Swiveller and Havoc are bracketed together at 7.10, and I am afraid Tim Swiveller cannot stay two miles at Melbourne Cup pace. Havoc is well enough as regards weight, but in the past bad hocks have interfered with his preparations. Still his nomination shows his people are hopeful of bringing him to the post in proper order, and on his breeding I shall give him a chance. There are five on the 7.9 mark, viz., The Captain, Brotherton, Saliert, Tellus and The Possible. The first named I hear is a non-stayer, but the others should be able to get the distance, and they are nicely treated in the matter of weight. Straightfire I pass by, and that brings me to Bruin, 7.8. On breeding this candidate should certainly be favoured for a Melbourne Cup. He is by Neckergat from Ursula, who was by Gang Forward from Hebe by Lucifer by Zenobia. Bruin's dam, Ursula, is a full sister to Ada, who is the dam of Lady Lovelace, Portsea's dam, consequently the runner-up to Hova in last year's Newmarket is a blood relation to the champion Portsea. Bruin's pedigree shows great staying blood, and on that I shall name him as a likely one. Dreamland is also on the 7.8 mark, and he is also a likely one. Being a three-year-old, Dreamland should have had luck in the big Flemington handicap, but I shall not be surprised to see him change the verdict that has generally followed the three-year-olds' Cup efforts. Moorite and Selim do not strike my fancy, but I have a great leaning towards Capstan. He is a fine big stamp of a horse, with great quarters, and on breeding he should commend himself to one's fancy, seeing he is by a Cup winner, Sheet Anchor, and that stock is doing well just now. His dam is Commerce, a full sister to Skirmisher's dam, Ouida. Commerce should give staying power, seeing

she is by Tubal Cain from Angony, who was by the Hermit horse Free-trader. Capstan's Newmarket Handicap fourth with 7.12 shows he has pace, and his pedigree should give him heaps of stamina. He is also a likely one. Bonnie Scotland is on the improve, and may have a chance with 7.5, and lower down nothing strikes me so well as Cobbitty and Warfare. I see by recent Australian exchanges that although it is believed that Portsea will be at his best this spring, his weight will make a win an impossibility. I'll take all that in and still give him a show. Next to him in the top weights I like Light Artillery, Loyalty, Sternchaser, Elswick, and The Sailor Prince. Then I take Saracen, Ronda, Bruin, Capstan, Havoc, and Dreamland. That makes twelve, and my subsequent selections will come out of that dozen.

AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' OPINIONS.

The following are additional selections of Australian turf writers respecting the Melbourne and the Caulfield Cups. "Terlinga" of the *Australasian* fancies Light Artillery, Brockleigh, Hova, Mahee, Elswick, The Sailor Prince, Ronda, Burton, The Possible, Capstan, Royal Master, Izaac, and Climax. His preference is Ronda. "Verax" (Mr Nat Gould), of the *Sydney Referee*, considers the best dozen horses in the Melbourne Cup are Port Admiral, Carnage, Loyalty, Light Artillery, Sainfoin, Dreamland, Moorite, Newman, Ronda, Elswick, Lady Trenton, and Patron, and to reduce them to four he selects Sainfoin, Dreamland, Carnage, and Port Admiral. The best Caulfield Cup dozen are Paris, Port Admiral, Oxide, Lady Trenton, Loyalty, Sainfoin, Mahee, Hova, Division, Moscow, Response and Foxtail. To take four as the best he names Paris, Lady Trenton, Oxide and Sainfoin. "Ribbleden," of the *Australasian*, names as the best of the Caulfield Cup horses, Mostyn, Capstan, Tellus, The Captain, Royal Master, Shotbelt, or Alec Tayler's best. "Nunquam Dormio," of Melbourne *Punch*, who divides his time between picking winners and cracking jokes at his own exceeding girth of body, comes to the conclusion that the best dozen in the Melbourne Cup are Tarcoola, Loyalty, Sternchaser, The Sailor Prince, Skirmisher, Burton, Ronda, Donation, Tridentate, Havoc, Tellus and Cobbitty, and if he were compelled to nominate three out of that dozen he would plump for Tarcoola, Loyalty and Skirmisher. Respecting the Caulfield Cup he takes as the best dozen Paris, Fortunatus, Launceston, Skirmisher, Ronda, Donation, Havoc, Tellus, The Captain, The Dauphine, Mostyn and Moscow, and the most likely three are, he considers, The Dauphine, Mostyn and Moscow.

NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

MR HENRY brought out his handicaps for the two big jumping events of the New Zealand Grand National Meeting last week, and on all sides the opinion is expressed that the adjustments are very equitable. With that expression of opinion I may say I entirely concur. Taking the Steeplechase first, we, of course, find Norton at the head of the list with 12.8, which weight is 4lb less than he carried into second place last year. He must be very dangerous, and it is very probable that his name at the weight mentioned will frighten many owners, and prevent them figuring as acceptors. His chance must be as good as any. Liberator we know as a sterling good jumper, and although he has never demonstrated his ability to get over country, it was a foregone conclusion that he would be well weighted. He deserved a lot of weight, but I fancy the 12.3 awarded will stop him from going to the post. Waterbury, 11.3, on Norton's weighting cannot have much chance, but Despised at 11.3 ought to be good. In the form in which he went to the post last Summer he would be as good as anything. In the form we saw him in at the last Winter Meeting he would not, on the other hand, stand a ghost of a chance. However, I saw him a few days ago, and Stenning is certainly getting the beef off him and he may be reckoned a certain starter. He will be piloted by Collins, but I must say I am not enamoured of his chance. Bombardier, at 6lb. less than Despised, is what is known in the classics as a "hummer," and he will, bar accidents, certainly see the fall of the flag. He will jump the Christchurch country like a bird, and along the flat country he will out out a