

doctor lover by giving the foiled Colonel the alternative of being handed over to the law. So the piece ends happily, and Captain Fritz is rewarded with the hand of Lady Vereker's sister, a part charmingly sustained by Miss Dot Frederic. Miss Agnes Knights made a graceful Lady Vereker, and Mrs Walter Hill gave one of her famous "old woman" pictures. Little Jessie Meade was very good as the youthful baronet, but she may be advised not to present the back of her head to the audience when speaking. At times her voice was inaudible. Miss Ada Lee made an effective servant, a class of character in which this actress is especially good. Mr Thomas was a good but not too melodramatic a villain, and the other characters were well sustained by Messrs Matthews, Hill, Leonard, and Brough. During the piece Mr Arnold gave Private Tommy Atkins, a catchy song that has completely captured Londoners, and of course he had to reply to repeated encores. This evening and to-morrow night a new up-to-date version of Hans the Boatman will be produced, and on Saturday and Monday evenings Mr Frank Thornton will reappear in his never-to-be-forgotten Private Secretary. Our old friend the Rev. Robt. Spaulding will be as welcome as ever, but who will replace Mr Harwood as Cattermole?

THE audience that greeted the first appearance of the Sapio-Urso Concert Company was far below the merits of this talented combination. Auckland is called the musical town of New Zealand and yet, in comparison with the merits of the performance, a most meagre attendance resulted when a matchless concert company opened their doors! Aucklanders may love music; but I don't think they like paying for it. New Zealanders had the privilege of listening to Madame Urso's superb violin playing some years back, and, consequently, they were prepared for her great artistic power. But we were not prepared for the splendid singing of Madame De Vere Sapio. She is the fortunate possessor of a beautiful soprano voice of great power and range, and the art of the songstress is worthy of the splendid voice with which Nature has blessed her. The other members of the company are Signor Sapio and Herr Scherek, a pair of accomplished pianists. Dunedinites know what a brilliant pianist Herr Scherek is! A combination such as the Sapio-Urso Company deserve a big season, but I doubt them getting it in musical (?) Auckland.

BROUGH AND BOUCICAULT have booked a Christchurch visit extending from December 3rd to December 8th.

WILLIAMSON AND MUSGROVE'S next New Zealand operatic tour will open at Dunedin on Boxing night.

CYRIL TAYLER, the boy soprano who is the present rage of London, visits New Zealand at the end of the year.

WALTER BENTLEY has given up lecturing on Church and Stage, and has landed at the Bluff with a company which is booked right through New Zealand.

THE Invercargill Theatre is being overhauled. New stock scenery is to be provided, and the width between the "flies" is to be increased.

PHIL. NEWBURY, the Dunedin boy who has made a world famous name as a tenor singer, speaking at the reception given in his honour by the Mayor of Dunedin:—"I have not come back to Dunedin to make money. I have come back to see old friends and to see my dear old town again."

"LORNETTE" opens his drama column with the quotation from Hamlet,

"Here come the actors,  
Buz Buz."

Sydney Bulletin's reading of that quotation is,

"Here come the actors,  
Boose, Boose."

American people are endeavouring to secure Common's half-brother Goldfinch. The sum of £3000 has been offered for the son of Ormonde—Thistle.

Commenting on the appearance of Hybrid, the five-year-old son of Le Loup—Lady Emma, who is being whispered about as a good thing for the New Zealand Cup, "Castor," who has been paying a visit to Yaldhurst, writes: "He has thickened out a good deal since I last saw him. His joints have always been a source of trouble to him, and all his legs are in bandages. However, when the bandages are taken off, his legs appear clean, and there are no traces of enlargement on any of his joints."

Sires of the Season.

[By BORDERER.]

THERE will be four stallions standing at Wellington Park this season, viz., Castor, St. Leger, Cuirassier and Hotchkiss. The young stock growing at Mr Morrin's stud at the present time will be found a splendid advertisement for their sires, whose visiting lists are filling very rapidly. Cuirassier's stock will place him well in favour with breeders, for no one can look at his youngsters and doubt his power to transmit shape and bone. His fee has been fixed at 25 guineas a mare, or 20 guineas for two or more mares of the same owner. Castor has not given an unplaced runner yet, and should his roan son Three Star justify the stables' hopes and win the New Zealand Cup the descendant of Zealot—Lady Yardley will have a very big advertisement. Castor looks in great heart for his work, and anyone looking at him could not possibly wish for a handsomer type of horse. He's as pretty as a picture, and his elegant bearing reminds one of those old English engravings of impossibly beautiful quadrupeds. His fine kindly head is poised on a grandly shaped neck, and with a superb sloping shoulder and a billiard-like back, with every evidence of great driving power in the quarters, he looks every inch a racehorse and a decidedly likely racehorse getter. And whether he was a racehorse on the track may be judged by his performances. As a two-year-old he had six wins out of eight starts, and when another year had passed over his head he had ten wins out of thirteen starts, four of the victories being accomplished in succession. When four years of age he won the Liverpool Cup of 2000sovs, carrying 7.8; ran second at Newcastle in the Northumberland Plate; ran third in the City and Suburban at Epsom. Castor's sire Zealot was a Hermit horse, and his dam Zelle was by the great Stockwell from Babette, who was by Birdcatcher's brother Faugh-a-Ballagh out of Barbary. Castor's dam, Lady Yardley, was never raced, being put early to the stud. His pedigree bristles with the achieved results of running blood, for it contains twelve English Derby winners, six St. Legers, four Oaks, and four Two Thousand Guineas winners. Out of his twenty-six starts Castor scored seventeen firsts, four seconds, three thirds, and was only unplaced on two occasions. He proved himself a racehorse, and his stock are doing the same. Breeders will be attracted to Cuirassier when they see the kind of stock he is turning out. Full brother to Trenton is something like a recommendation! St. Leger, also, has failed to produce a questionable one, and now that this great horse is really getting a show he will produce racers who will always keep his name green on the turf. His record as a winner producing sire shows he was second on the list for 1891-92, first in 1892-93, and second again in 1893-94. Good steady work that, and something that should make breeders very favourable towards him. His fee has been fixed at 30 guineas, or 25 guineas for two or more mares, and his popularity is evident from the fact that only another 15 subscriptions are open to him. St. Leger's breeding is of the most aristocratic quality. By Doncaster out of Atlantis (sister to Atlantic), by Thormanby out of Hurricane, by Wild Dayrell out of Midia, by Scutari out of Marinella, by Soothsayer out of Bess, and away back to the Waxy blood. Hurricane, the dam of Atlantic, was also dam of Stromboli, who is worthily upholding Australian breeding in the land of the Stars and Stripes. And that St. Leger can transmit the blood given him by his great ancestors is shown by the winners he has already produced. Here is a rough list of them. St. Andrew, Impulse (whose party consider the New Zealand Cup is within their grasp) Regal (the sultan of the Motukorea harem), Town Moor, Legacy, Clanranald, Brown Bess, Hippomenes, Triton, the great St. Hippo, St. Clements the crack sprinter, St. Giles who was, before the accident that killed him, reputed to be the fastest miler in New Zealand, Retaliation, St. Kilda, St. Patrick, and Marquis of Tewkesbury. Not a bad list that! The remaining Wellington Park sire, Hotchkiss, has grown into a wonderfully fine horse. He will be limited to ten mares besides his owner's.

At Sylvia Park the fine son of St. Leger—Hippona, St. Hippo, will serve six approved mares, and breeders who intend mating him with their mares, had better seize this opportunity, for next season the chance will be indefinitely delayed, for

he will then be back on the racing track. His colours will, however, not be borne in New Zealand. Australia will be his battle-ground—at least, for some time. By the time he has served the six mares to whom he will be limited, his leg will have perfectly recovered, and then he will be taken in hand with a view to Australia. As all turfmen know, St. Hippo was the best horse of his year in New Zealand or Australia. When two years of age he won the A.R.C. Northern Champagne Stakes, beating his relative North Atlantic and Brown Alice. With another year over his head he won the September Handicap, beating Coalscuttle, Ida, Quadrant, etc., and captured the Hawkes Bay Guineas, beating Variety, St. Katherine, Stepniak, and North Atlantic. At the same meeting he won the Spring Handicap, beating the future N.Z. Cup winner Rosefeldt, and won the same event himself in 3min 30½sec with 7.7 on his back and the best horses in New Zealand behind him. He ran second in the Canterbury Derby, won the Auckland Cup, Auckland Plate, and Great Northern Derby. His mishap put him out of the running, but he will soon be back at it, and will put many another big win to his credit before the turf closes over him.

The Racing Conference.

MR. F. D. LUCKIE, the secretary of the Racing Conference, has supplied us with the following *precis* of the business transacted at the recent meeting of Conference delegates:—

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

In the absence of Captain Russell, the Hon. Geo. McLean was voted to the chair.

Dr. Newman moved, "That this Conference take into consideration any business that any representative may bring before it," and to effect this moved "That the Standing Orders under Rule 193 be suspended."

The Chairman ruled the motion out of order.

The Conference then adjourned till 7.30 p.m., when Captain Russell took the chair.

On the motion of the Hon. George McLean, Sir Robert Stout's Gaming Bill was then considered, and it was resolved, "That Mr McLean be asked by this Conference to endeavour to have the following alterations made: 'That clause 2 of Sir Patrick Buckley's Gaming and Lotteries Act Amendment Act be included in Sir Robert Stout's Bill, and that the words 'Any authorised officer of a racing club' be inserted after the word 'save,' in the 18th line of clause 5.'

It was resolved, "That the reduction of one-third of the licenses granted for the use of the totalisator be made in each Metropolitan district, and that the representatives of each Metropolitan district bring up a scheme for submission to the Conference showing the reductions proposed in their several districts."

Resolved, "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the reduction in the use of the totalisator should apply proportionately to racing and trotting, and exclude all proprietary clubs."

Dr. Newman raised a point of order with regard to his notice of motion, re the establishment of a New Zealand Jockey Club, not having been published in the Official Calendar.

The Chairman ruled that individuals could not advertise in the Official Calendar, and that all notices of motion must be forwarded to the Calendar through one of the clubs.

Mr J. G. Wilson moved, "That the year 1893-94 shall be the basis in each Metropolitan District for the reduction of the number of licenses."

Amendment moved by Mr G. M. Bell, and carried, "That 1893-94 be struck out, and 1892-93 inserted in its place."

On the motion of Mr Maginity, it was resolved, "That this conference is of opinion that the establishment of a New Zealand Jockey Club in the near future will be absolutely necessary, in consequence of the legislation referring to the gaming laws of the colony, and that this conference remit this question to the consideration of the various racing clubs throughout the colony."

In the absence of Mr McLean, Mr G. M. Bell said he was requested to record the opposition of the Metropolitan and Country Clubs of the Otago District.

With the exception of Otago, the motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr McVay, it was resolved, "That Captain Russell, Dr. Newman, Hon. J. D. Ormond, Messrs H. D. Bell, J. G. Wilson, Hon. L. Walker, Hon. G. McLean, and the mover be the

sub-committee to carry out the previous resolution."

It was resolved that in Rule 167A, the following clauses be added, "When an application for a license is refused, notice of such refusal shall be immediately forwarded to all the other Metropolitan Clubs."

Also, "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 gratuitously any horse that he may be interested in or have on partnership terms: Provided that no permit shall be granted to any person having received payment in consideration of work performed in connection with the training or riding of horses. A permit must be obtained for each and every horse so trained, such permit shall be renewed annually."

It was resolved, "That all further notices of motion shall stand over until the next Conference."

Moved by Mr Parsons, seconded by Mr G. M. Bell, "That the next Conference be held at Christchurch during the Spring Meeting, in November next."

Amendment moved by Mr Bauchope, seconded by Mr Wilson, "That the next Conference be held at Wellington, during the Spring Meeting."

The amendment was lost, and the original motion carried.

The Conference then adjourned.

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