

tively for the year from April 1st, 1892, to March 31st, 1893, makes the total revenue out to be £10,800 11s 9d. Wellington contributed £2,509 5s 9d, Canterbury £2,129 1s 8d, Auckland £1,897 18s 5s, Otago £1,586 13s 4d, Hawke's Bay £1,425 9s 8d, Taranaki £449 15s 5d, Southland £303 6s, Westland £342 5s, Nelson £106 4s 10d, and Marlborough £50 11s 8d.

A REPORT of the Conference of racing delegates held in Wellington to consider the Gaming Bill shows that a resolution was passed asking Mr McLean to endeavour to have the following alterations made, viz., that Clause 2 of Sir P. 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 in the 18th line of Clause 5. It was also resolved that a reduction of one-third of the licenses granted for the use of the totalisator be made in each Metropolitan district, and that the delegates bring up a scheme for submission to the Racing Conference showing the reductions proposed in their several districts. This is a step in the right direction, and it will rest with the Conference to take the wind out of the sails of the parliamentary opponents of the machine by restricting the use of the totalisator without waiting for legislative action. The report of the Conference tells us that on the motion of Mr Maginnity 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 legislation referring to the gaming laws of the colony, and 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 McKay it was resolved "That a sub-committee be appointed to draw up a circular pointing out the reasons for the establishment of a New Zealand Jockey Club, and that the same be distributed to the various clubs." It will be noticed that with the exception of Otago, the motion of the New Zealand Jockey Club was carried unanimously. What about Auckland? As the representative of this Province Mr Lawry could not have been well advised of local wishes, for we understand the A.R.C. delegates are pledged to oppose the motion for the establishment of a New Zealand Jockey Club!

## Coming Events.

[By BORDERER.]

### NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

This day week the curtain will rise on the New Zealand Grand National Meeting, and with the close of the crack Christchurch jumping meeting the way will be clear for another Spring campaign. The National Meeting down South is always excellent, and everything points to this year's gathering being quite as successful as preceding ones. There will be a fair contingent of Northern sportsmen present, and the opinion is general amongst the men who leave by the steamer to-day that we have a more than fair chance of bringing at least one of the big prizes up North. Taking a final glance at the prospects of the racing, the Steeplechase is the first event to be considered. In this race, and the Hurdles also, the field secured is not a very large one, but if there be not quantity we are certainly well served in the matter of quality, and there should be a good fight before the National winners of 1894 are hoisted on the board. At the head of the acceptance list for the big cross-country event stands Norton, who recently became Mr S. H. Gollan's property. At £500 this horse was decidedly anything but a dear purchase, seeing that he has the chance of bringing a 500 sovs race to his new owner within a month of the transference of ownership. And as Norton accompanies his new master home the latter stands a very fair chance of getting a season's hunting out of him, and of then selling him to an English hunter for about the same sum as he paid for him. A very important question when summing up this horse's chance is, who will be his rider? Rumour says that Mr Gollan will have the mount on him, but rumour generally lies, and it would

not surprise me to hear of the jumper's old rider, W. Clark, carrying Mr Gollan's colours. No doubt Mr Gollan is a good horseman, but we cannot forget that Clark and Norton are very well acquainted with each other, and it is a question whether the horse in a close finish would not miss his old rider. Late Southern advices state that Mr Gollan has not definitely decided who shall have the mount, but I think when the numbers go up the owner will be found in the saddle. The horse must have a great chance, whoever steers him. Backers are very confident of his powers, and every pencil-er's book, whether straight-out or double, shows him in the position of favourite. Despised comes next with 11.3, and superstitious backers will probably stick to him because his name was not telegraphed North with the other acceptors. Collins will ride him, and should be well acquainted with the one-eyed chaser by this time, as he constantly rode him in his work before the Cap-a-pie horse left for the South. If in the form in which we saw him last Summer nothing could beat him; if in the form in which he went to the post for our Great Northern, he could beat nothing. I think, however he will be found to be a vastly improved horse to what he was at the Ellerslie winter meeting, and, although not quite up to the concert pitch which J.B. Williamson strung him to when he won the Summer treble, he will be in a fettle that should enable him to give a very good account of himself. Bombardier is third on the weight list with 10.11, and if one believed the unanimous voice of the North Shore one would name him straight out as the winner. Before leaving, his rider and trainer, Morrigan, asserted that he never threw his leg over the horse with the animal in better condition, and although many think the stiff Riccarton fences will bring the Great Northern winner down, I consider he has a great chance of being returned the winner. I am confident he will lead his field along the Christchurch flats at a terrible pace, which may knock several of them completely out of it. He will be well backed by Northerners, and will, barring accidents, give them a great run for their money. Tiritea at 10.10 is, I think, overshadowed by Morag, 10.7. The Hawke's Bay winner was backed by his party to win the double on the declaration of the weights, and, although I doubt him in the Hurdles, the support accorded him by the stable makes me confident that his injured leg is all right again. His chance is a very likely one indeed. Of the light weights I don't expect anything to score, unless it be Belle. At the North Shore she had 10.6, and we know how she slipped along when she dropped her weight. At Christchurch she will have 9.11, and on the flat going may put up a score. Last week I voted for Norton, Bombardier, Morag and Despised against the field, and to essay a place tip I name

- MORAG . . . . . 1
- NORTON . . . . . 2
- BOMBARDIER . . . . . 3

with Despised as the one most likely to upset my calculations. In the Hurdle Race, Liberator and Kulnine are very close together with only 3lbs between them, and I find it very hard to separate them. I am tempted to name the lighter weighted as one the better at the burden, but I am very much afraid of sterling old Liberator. We know from our last meeting what a winning run he can make, and although there was very little behind them then, one cannot forget the burden he carried and the terrible amount of ground he had to cover before he got within coo-ee of the leaders. Melinite, at 10.10, I place unbounded faith in, notwithstanding the Hawke's Bay victory registered by Kapua. She will be at the head of the field pretty well all the way, and the horse that beats her will win. Despised can run a sound hurdle race, and although his party have supported him for the double I fear the top weights will beat him. Musket and Magazine are favourites of mine, and the others I don't fancy. To try and place them I vote for

- MELINITE . . . . . 1
- LIBERATOR or KULNINE . . . . . 2
- MUSKET . . . . . 3

Magazine is the only other one I have a fancy for, as likely to get within dangerous distance. Of the hunters engaged in the Hunters Hurdles I must confess I know little, and that little prompts me to consider the three top weights, Pumau, Stockfish, and Gillie the best, with Piccadilly the best of the others. In the Winter Handicap I like Awarua Rose, Warrington, King John, with Busybody—a good light weight.

Tiritea, Roscius, and Austral are a good trio for the Enfield Steeplechase, and in the Maiden Hurdles a good pair can be found in Barnardo and Jacob Faithful. I think Leontine will win the Bracelet.

## Turf Topics.

By REVIEWER.

The Taieri jockey, R. George, has gone blind. Telford was 13 years of age at the time of his death. Final payments for the C.J.C. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase are due on the 6th inst. First acceptance for the New Zealand Cup falls due to-morrow (Friday). H. Pell has been again appointed starter by the Marton Jockey Club. W. Keith is trying to purchase Bradshaw for inclusion in his Australian team. Roscius, the jumper, stands 18 hands 1 inch high. Ultimatum's name comes from the Australian side as the winner of a pony 14.1 race. Mr S. H. Gollan has not definitely decided to ride Norton in the Christchurch Steeplechase. The stallion Izaak Walton has been sold to Mr W. McCaul of Otakeho. Sam Fergus rode Mutiny in the V.R.C. Grand National Steeplechase. It is said that Melinite's style of fencing does not please the Riccarton critics. They must be very hard to please. The death is announced of Sir Geo. Maude, the superintendent of the Royal Stud at Hampton Court, at the ripe age of seventy-seven. Some Wanganui people were negotiating for the use of Brigadier for the forthcoming season, but the deal did not come off. The Referee writes that Mrs Morrigan, mother of the jockey brothers of that name, is lying dangerously ill in the Christchurch Hospital. Scotsman, the five-year-old son of Ascot—Vera, has joined the majority. He was found in a paddock with his neck broken. The N.Z. Mail writes that the trotter Will o' the Wisp died of inflammation at Palmerston North a few days ago. Mr F. Simmons has been appointed starter for the South Canterbury Jockey Club. Mr Geo. Dowse is handicapper. Owing to the late delivery of the Southern mail our Taranaki and Wellington letters are held over until next week. Dunedin advices state that Jacob Faithful is doing excellent work. My opinion is he will win the Maiden Hurdles at Christchurch. Son of a Gun, the four-year-old son of Petronel—Ithona, won the Liverpool Cup on July 25th. The Hampton horse, Bushey Park, was second. A Wanganui dreamer is haunted with repeated midnight visions of Mostyn and Rangipipi winning the Caulfield and New Zealand Cup double. I have to acknowledge receipt from Mr S. M. Baker of a copy of the judgment in his suit against the Manawatu and West Coast Agricultural and Pastoral Association. From something I have heard respecting the A.R.C. Derby in which Pegasus followed Loyalty home, I am inclined to name Nelson's son as a very dangerous New Zealand Cup horse. Dan O'Brien has sold Ultimatum, who has joined the pony ranks in Sydney. O'Brien did not like Ultimatum's defeat by Acone. He had £100 on the horse then. The last Frisco mail brings news that Rey Santa Anita, a son of Cheviot, has won the 11th American Derby at Washington Park in 2min 36sec for the mile and a half. "Spectator" names Norton and Bombardier as the best in the Christchurch National Steeplechase and of the hurdlers, Melinite, Magazine, and Barnardo are named as the best. Capt. Russell admits that gambling "is the great crime and craze of New Zealand." I am not aware that we are such fearful gamblers. If we are, what about the people on the other side? Capt. Russell speaking on the gaming question—"Men are fools, woman are not always wise, and children are naturally foolish." Exactly, we are all fools. "The bookmakers in Auckland, in comparison with those who ply their trade in Australia, are as superior to the generality of those in Australia as an angel is to a fiend."—(Mr Lawry, M.H.R.). The stallion Eros, by St. George—Idalia, will be standing during the forthcoming season at the Epsom Hotel. The advertisement and some notes on the horse will appear in next week's REVIEW. Skirmisher, Hippomenes, Salvo and Prime Warden are being consistently supported down South for the N.Z. Cup. The last named has been backed for all the available money in Dunedin. Mr Thompson, M.H.R., explains Captain Russell's support of Sir R. Stout's Gaming Bill on the ground that Clause 5 really means the establishment of a racing monopoly for the large centres of the colony. "The instant you abolish the totalisator, by the very next steamer there will be troops of these gentlemen (bookmakers) coming from Australia to ply their trade here, and the temptation to gamble will be presented to an extent much greater than it is at present."—(Capt. Russell). The draught stallion, Nugget II., advertised for sale in this issue, is well known by his stock on the West Coast. His owner is offering to sell as he is going out of the stallion keeping line. Nugget II. should prove a profitable horse to anyone desiring a good draught stallion. Sir Robert Stout thus showed his hand when moving his Gaming Bill:—"I ask those who wish to see the totalisator in the end put an end to, to help me to get this amendment first, and perhaps in time we shall be able to get a Bill passed to abolish it altogether." Exactly, the present measure is only the thin edge of the wedge. Mr Kidd is among the candidates for election of the committee of the Auckland Racing Club. A better man could not have been nominated. He gives the most careful attention to the various trusts reposed in him, he is a man who is intimately connected with racing and being thoroughly conversant with the sport would make an admirable committee man. The sport would be well served were he elected. Mr Gorrie is another new candidate and like Mr Kidd he fills the bill admirably.

"The leaders of the anti-totalisator agitation—the bookmakers." (Mr Carncross, M.H.R.) The Ellerslie trainers are commencing to push along their charges now in view of the Spring racing. Mr J. F. Cruickshank's New Zealand Cup quotations appear in another column. Three Star is first favourite at 100 to 10. "The totalisator is the most innocent, the most honest, and the most harmless kind of gambling you can possibly conceive." (Mr Lawry, M.H.R.) During the debate on the totalisator in the House, Captain Russell denied that he ever said racing improved the breed of horses. "Castor" writes that trainer McGrath had a narrow escape recently of being savaged by Jacob Faithful. The Marlborough Times considers that the grey gelding Despised is the best treated horse in the Christchurch Steeplechase. I have to acknowledge receipt of Harry Ellison's price list with every horse's price quoted for the three Cups—Caulfield, Melbourne, and New Zealand. Government should not accept revenue from the evil of gambling, say parliamentarians. Then it should not receive revenue from the evil of drinking. "Take away the totalisator," says Mr Carncross, "and there will be races all over the country for the smallest imaginable stakes." And he's dead right. Clause 5 of the Stout Gaming Bill is a stealthy attempt, says Mr Thompson, M.H.R., to create a racing monopoly for the large centres of the colony to prevent the use of the totalisator except by the wealthy jockey clubs. Speaking against the abolition of the totalisator, Mr G. W. Russell, M.H.R., contended that the abolition of the machine would result in the establishment of gambling hells in every town of New Zealand. Parliamentary sages say that gambling is the crime and craze of New Zealand. Capt. Russell retorts by stating that the spirit of gambling is instilled into young New Zealanders by the land ballot system of his hon. friend the Minister of Lands. Mr Mitchelson asserted in Parliament that if a vote were taken throughout the whole colony a very large majority would be found against the totalisator. Which simply shows the hon. gentleman does not know what he is talking about. Sir Robert Stout said in the House that Parliament will pass no bill to abolish the machine, and that therefore it should be regulated. But before he resumed his seat the hon. gentleman said: "In time we shall be able to get a bill passed to abolish it altogether." "He was assured that legislation in South Australia, if it had not killed gambling, had, at least, effectually soothed it." Mr Hutchison, M.H.R., speaking against the totalisator. But my Parliamentary friend evidently forgets that South Australian legislation has soothed the bookmaker simply by legalising the machine. The owner of Bragela has got a most promising St. Leger colt growing at One Tree Hill. The youngster is a splendidly built and compact one, and gives every promise of growing into a regular racehorse. The union of Bragela with St. Leger has proved so successful that the mare is to be put again to Doncaster's son. Those members of Parliament who advocate the abolition, not the regulation, of gambling have now a plain course to pursue if they wish to be considered consistent. They must go in for prohibition. To abolish gaming and virtuously refuse to derive revenue from it and to regulate drinking and accept revenue from it certainly savours of inconsistency. The August Meeting of the Auckland Coursing Club will be held on Saturday and Wednesday, August 18th and 22nd. The events are Champion Collar Stakes for an unlimited number of all-aged dogs at £3 each; Puppy Stakes for an unlimited number of puppies at £2 each; and open Maiden Stakes for an unlimited number of all-aged dogs (that have never won money) at £2 each. In considering their programme for the forthcoming campaign the Auckland Trotting Club have taken a leaf out of the V.R.C.'s book, and have reduced the value of their Trotting Cup by one half. In future the cup will be worth 250 sovs. In the past it was 400sovs. When they decided to give that stake the club thought owners of Southern trotters would be tempted to compete, but our Southern friends religiously stood off. They no doubt thought we had something good bottled up to secure the prize. Yet it was captured by a butcher's horse! The committee of the Auckland Trotting Club have arranged the programme for their Spring Meeting. The prize money has been allocated as follows:—Maiden Trot of 30sovs, 1½ miles; Spring Trot of 75sovs, 2 miles; Electric Trot of 35sovs, one mile; Harness Trot of 40sovs, 2 miles; Flying Handicap of 25sovs, 5 furlongs; Tramway Handicap of 40sovs, 6½ furlongs; and Handicap Hurdles of 30sovs, 1½ miles. The best argument against the abolition of the totalisator made in the House was advanced by Mr Carncross. Speaking on the statement that it was the machine that made racing so general in New Zealand, the hon. member undoubtedly scored when he asked, "What about Victoria?" It was the sporting country par excellence—they had race meetings every day in the year—but there was no totalisator there. Nearly every member of Parliament who spoke on Sir Robert Stout's Gaming Bill was "happy to say" he had no knowledge of racing or gambling. What a wonderfully moral House! Yet the same men stated that gambling was the great craze of New Zealanders. That being so, how is it that the legislative representatives of New Zealanders know so little of the prevailing craze? A man is never so aggressively moral as when he has command of the floor of the House. Then a white-robed, winged angel is not a circumstance to him. Listen, friend Robert Blaikie! Mr Lawry, M.H.R., speaking on the Gaming Bill:—"I have the privilege of knowing a bookmaker in Auckland, who is a personal friend of mine. He is a man who has never gone back on his word, whose personal honour is above reproach, whose word would be taken by every man, woman and child in the provincial district of Auckland. I appeal to the hon. member for Eden, when I say that the man I am speaking of is Robert Blaikie, and ask him if he does not deserve all I say of him." To which "Reviewer" says emphatically Hear, Hear.