

Coming Events.

[BY BORDERER.]

THE NEW ZEALAND CUP.

AN acceptance list of fifty names for the New Zealand Cup is a highly satisfactory result seeing that the nomination list only showed seventy horses. Last year there were 45 acceptors out of 71 nominations, and with another five left in this year the handicapper may fairly be congratulated on his work. At present the prospect is favourable to a good field for the race, and in view of the quality of the fifty acceptors the horse that is hailed the winner of the Cup of 1894 will have to be no sluggard. Evidently the Meganser people did not fancy the drop of a stone between the mare and Prime Warden, for her name is missing from the list. And so, by the way, is Goosander. I must say I felt rather confident that one of this pair would remain in. As I remarked in reviewing the handicap, Prime Warden is in my opinion more than fairly treated at 8.8, and although he has not shown up too well of late, I shall stick to what I said on July 5th, and name him as a dangerous horse. His performances show what he can do over distances, and if the fall of the Cup flag sees him in good form he will be a very hard horse to beat. At only 2lb less than Prime Warden, Au Revoir is not too comfortable, and I would not be inclined to place much reliance on the chance. I know many people fancy the chance, but I have my own opinion. Liberator has accepted his 8.4, and a sterling performer like him cannot be neglected. At the same weight Hippomenes looks decidedly well in, and unless something goes amiss, this candidate will have to be reckoned with. Rosefeldt has gone up a bit from her last year's weight, but many people are sanguine she can repeat her 1893 victory. Then she had 7.4, now her weight is 8.3, and although I am enamoured of the chance I won't say the mare is out of it. She is an honest, but generally an unfortunate racer, although last year the wheel of fortune took a good turn in her direction. In spite of rumours which are certainly unfavourable to him, Clanranald's name comes up as an acceptor, and with 3lb less than the weight allotted him last year he may give us a score, but I am inclined to think staying is not his forte. Some of the heavier weighted animals must beat him. The appearance of Skirmisher's name in the list does not look as though Caulfield will be his mission, and although that does not necessarily give the lie to the rumoured Australian visit, I am inclined to believe in view of recent developments, that Christchurch will see him run. [Since writing the above he has been scratched for the Caulfield.] And if in anything like his correct form he must run a big horse with 8.3. Of Saracen and Rangipuhi I prefer the latter, for I do not feel at all confident of the movements or intentions of the first named animal. When the Victorian pencil, Robt. Phillips, was in New Zealand he gave it as his opinion that Rangipuhi could more than hold his own on Australian courses, and I believe him. This horse's chance is by no means the worst in the Cup. Pegasus at 7.13 is favourably regarded by many, and, if well, is worth looking after. I hear he has not been going very well lately, but Harrison may be trusted to get the colt in thoroughly good order by the time of the race. Lady Zetland and Beadonwell are not such a good pair as the two next on the list, viz., Impulse and Lottie. I keep hearing whispers of Impulse being a good thing, but personally I know little of him, for his training is conducted in private. Regarding Lottie, her chance simply hangs upon her ability to stretch out the gallops we know she can do over a mile and a half to two miles. The weight is not an ounce too much for her, and from the quiet way her people are backing I her must conclude she has more than a fair chance of getting the required distance. The next acceptor is Royal Rose, and there's a bit of a puzzle surrounding this horse. He has gone over to Australia; but does his journey mean racing over there or only steady training on first-class tracks? The stable that shelters him is said to be depending on Three Star, and we know they have backed the roan colt. But then, someone has also been nibbling at Royal Rose, and he might prove the correct pea after all, but the puzzle is hard to solve. At any rate they both remain in the race, and they will be kept on my side as long as

they remain in the race. Not knowing the selected one I'll take them both. Lower in the list I like Monte Carlo and Dilemma, and Pinrose and Outpost are a pair of good ones. Fit and well the chance of the last named horse will be a great one. Casket is another one I fancy, and of the remaining lot I like none better than Grenadier. At this stage I do not feel justified in narrowing the issue further than taking six as the best. And that half-a-dozen I believe to be Hippomenes, Skirmisher, Rangipuhi, Impulse, Wright's best, and Casket.

CAULFIELD NATIONAL MEETING.

THE big Caulfield jumping meeting comes off on Saturday next, and as there will doubtless be a moderate amount of local betting on the meeting I shall give my views respecting the two principal events, the hurdles and steeplechase. In the former race Tim Swiveller heads a list of forty-one horses with 12.8 against his name. Last year he could not win with 6lb less than he will be called upon to carry next Saturday, but I do not think he will see the post. I fancy retirement will be his order until the Caulfield Cup. Apsley, the winner of the V.R.C. Hurdle Race, is only 1lb less than Tim Swiveller, which means that he has close on three stone more than he won with at Flemington. He will doubtless carry a lot of money despite his weighting, but I think that while he can take rank as one of the best half dozen he will not reach the winning post until one or two have preceded him. Ixion, Bill, and Goldreef are amongst the likely contingent, and Navarino is decidedly dangerous. A good six can be named as follows:—Apsley, Ixion, Bill, Goldreef, and Ebor, and to take three I like

IXION, APSEY, NAVARINO.

In the cross-country race Mikado II. and Busaco are together at 13.0, and as the Caulfield country is easier than Flemington, the weight will not seriously stop either of them. But the V.R.C. winner, Daimio, will trouble them badly. Corangamite went out favourite at Flemington, but did not score, but over Caulfield country a different result may be expected. Without further beating about the bush I may at once say I consider the horse that beats Daimio will win, and for the best three commend me to

DAIMIO, MIKADO II., CORANGAMITE.

NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

OUR Southern friends hold their big jumping meeting to-day, so I shall make a few further remarks respecting the prospects of the racing seeing that the scratching pen and mishaps have blotted out the chances of one or two of the candidates I named in last week's REVIEW. Taking the big race, the steeplechase, first, we find that final payments and bad track displays have resulted in only eight horses having been paid up for. Writing *re* this race last week I named Morag, Norton and Bombardier against the field for places, but that tip must now go by the board, for thanks to Morag's slovenly jumping, he came a cropper on Monday, and was escorted back to his box with one of his cannon bones badly stripped. After finally considering and keeping an open ear to reliable reports, I am going to replace Morag by including in the first three the name of Despised, and I shall not be surprised if the two to fight out the finish will be found to be

NORTON and DESPISED.

There will be only half a dozen hurdlers found at the post when the flag falls for the Grand National Hurdle Race, but there is a heap of quality bound up in that same half dozen, and a rattling race should be witnessed by those lucky enough to be present at the meeting. Liberator and Kulnine at 12.6 and 12.3 are a warm pair to pass by, but I feel inclined to do that foolhardy trick in view of the two lighter weighted candidates which I will name without further padding. Their names are

MELINITE and EMPIRE.

In naming the latter I am aware that I have suddenly woke up to excellence I was shutting my eyes to. But it is not a crime to acknowledge shortsightedness even at the eleventh hour. However, that is the pair I am now going to rely upon. Respecting the minor events I have nothing much to alter from last week's tipping. Then I took

PUMAU, PICCADILLY and GILLIE

for the First Hunters' Hurdles, and I still think the same, and believe that

Pumau is the best one to support. For the Winter Handicap my vote is still AWARUA ROSE, WARRINGTON and KING JOHN,

with a preference for the first named animal; and in the Enfield Steeplechase my three are

TIRITEA, ROSCIUS and ROBIN,

with a strong leaning towards the last named. For the Maiden Hurdles I consider

BARNARDO and JACOB FAITHFUL

the best two of the four acceptors, and for the Ladies' Bracelet I like

LEONTINE.

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

WELLINGTON.

July 30.

I HAVE often heard it said that the use of the totalisator in New Zealand drove the best of our horses out of the country, and the "croakers" have given the case of Mr Gollan taking his horses to Australia as an instance. It no doubt will be news to them to know that Mr Gollan is a firm believer in the totalisator, and holds the opinion that if it were introduced in Victoria and New South Wales, owners would get better prices about their horses, besides purifying the turf in those colonies to a large extent.

James Wright, who has been training Mr T. Waddington's trotters for some time past, is now residing in Christchurch, and has taken his pair of trotters—Tuesday and Buttercup—to that place.

Mr Gollan considers that although some of the English sportsmen have the pick of a stable containing 20 or 30 hunters, Norton will prove as good as the best of them in the hunting field. And I think so too.

Sporting matters are very quiet in town just now. Betting is stagnant, and the quotations for the N.Z. Cup are unchanged since last week. Backers are endeavouring to pick the National double to a limited extent, but have not been coupling Norton with anything in the Hurdles since the report got abroad that there was a likelihood of the horse not having the services of his old pilot, W. Clark. The general opinion is that both events are very open, and it would appear so by the "all round" betting that has taken place with the local books on the double.

Dan O'Brien's pair—Response and Loyalty—should, by what I hear, be "good goods" for the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups respectively. Dan is reported to be very sweet on Loyalty's chance.

A rumour is current that Marino (Nelson—Waitiri), who was given out as a good thing for the N.Z. Cup has gone lame, and Needlegun and Merganser are in "queer street."

The Gaming Bill passed its third reading in the House of Reps. on Thursday night, and will be brought on in the Legislative Council on the 10th August. It is almost certain to become law this session.

C. Eugene, who followed the occupation of a racecourse bookmaker at meetings along the West Coast a few years ago, and who has lately been "curing" people by dietary treatment, etc., has startled the peaceful citizens of the Empire City by a prophecy that New Zealand is to be blown up by an eruption before the end of the year, and Australia is to be devastated by a tidal wave. Eugene and his disciples (about forty) leave here on the 19th of this month for Cape Colony.

I notice Jacob Faithful, which gave old Liberator a great "go" in the Maiden Hurdles at the last National Meeting, is putting in good work under Paddy McGrath's care, and I expect him to go up one this year in the Maiden Hurdles.

Morag and Dainty arrived in town this afternoon from Hastings, and went on to Christchurch this afternoon by the Wairarapa. I understand Tiritea will not fulfil his engagements at Riccarton. The Morag party are very confident of victory in the Steeplechase, as the horse is very well and is such a sure fencer. Dainty is also expected to account for the Beaufort Steeple.

Percy Martin, private trainer to Mr S. H. Gollan in Australia, passed through Wellington a few days ago on a visit to Hawkes Bay.

Melinite is a strong Southern tip for the National Hurdles.

Swordbelt is going nicely in his new home in the Wairarapa, and the Messrs Cave Bros. expect to get a few runs out

of him next season. I fancy they will find him a "dicky" customer to deal with when they give him a few winding-up gallops. Sea Serpent, in the same stable, has been on the sick list for some time, but is to be taken up again next month.

Scotsman, owned by Mr David Scott, of Lower Rangitikei, broke his neck recently in jumping a fence of his own accord. He was not a success on the turf, only placing one win to his credit—the Stewards' Handicap at the Fielding Meeting last year.

It is quite probable that several layers of odds in this city will quit New Zealand if Sir Robert Stout's bill becomes law and try their fortunes on the Australian turf, while others intend to remain and go in for straight out betting on the different events throughout the colony.

Mr E. F. Yuille, the well-known bookmaker of this town, need not fear any dire results from the operations of the Gaming Bill, as he has purchased 915 acres of fine land up the Manawatu line, and if compelled to retire from "laying them," can then settle down quietly on his farm. I don't think, however, that Mr Yuille has any intentions of giving up business at present.

Mr F. Martin, the popular owner of Retina and several other horses, met with a painful accident last week. He was attending to some work connected with his extensive pork butchery business when his right hand got caught in the knives of a sausage machine, lacerating the flesh from the bones in a frightful manner. Luckily no fingers were cut off, but it will be months before the sufferer will be right again.

A good crowd of Wellington sports intend patronising the National Meeting, and they no doubt will witness some good racing. In the Steeple I like the chances of Despised and Norton, in the order named, while Liberator is my fancy for the Hurdle Race, with Melinite and Magazine next best.

[The above message arrived too late for insertion in last week's REVIEW.—Ed. S.R.]

[BY WIRE.]

August 7.

An English sport arrived by the Doric on Sunday, who had been having a good time on the voyage out. This lucky voyager commenced seeing Colonial life immediately on landing, and with two pals did the town in rare style. Yesterday two of them intended going to Christchurch in the Tarawera to attend the National Meeting. The vessel's officers, however, would not give them berths on account of their exhilarated condition, and a constable seeing they were being "shadowed" by several spiliers arrested them, and on searching them found one possessed £1,444 14s. in £100 Bank of England notes and £44 in gold and silver. They were fined 5s each this morning, and the Magistrate advised the one possessing the money to bank it at once unless he wished to be robbed. He followed this advice and sailed for Christchurch this afternoon by the Takapuna, none the worse for his adventure. The spiliers fraternity were in strong force to see him off, and several also shipped by the same boat. The young fellow was very penitent to-day, and recognised the narrow escape he had of losing his money.

Enquiries were made yesterday respecting Grenadier's price in the New Zealand Cup, but no business was transacted.

Rosefeldt is considered the most likely Hawke's Bay horse to win the Cup.

It is likely a deficit will be experienced in connection with the Palmerston Trotting Meeting, and it is improbable there will be any more trotting meetings in the Wairarapa.

DUNEDIN.

[BY WIRE.]

August 7th.

The weather is still very bad here, and the roads and the Ocean Beach are again used for training purposes. It has been the wettest season for many years.

Mariner, Jacob Faithful and Nenthorn were sent by the s. s. Flora yesterday, in company with five trotting horses engaged in Christchurch events.

Robin went by train last week, and James Cotton has gone up to ride him in his work. He is a good jumper, but, I think, too slow for the company in the big race.

Stewart Waddell is taking Empire by rail to-morrow (Wednesday morning).

Maribrnong travelled up by to-day's express, so our lot entered will be on the spot.

I fancy Norton or Despised for the Steeplechase, and Liberator or Empire for the Hurdles.