

colours, his rider having no difficulty in gaining the post two clear lengths ahead of The Dove, Helena third. Time, 1.34. Dividend, £2 7s. In the Hurdle Race Helena and Butterfly were favourites. Both looked well, but Effie and Little Raven were not in the best of condition. This event proved an easy thing for that good mare Butterfly who romped away from her opponents, although it must be said that Helena's display was far from bad. Effie's condition beat her, and the first jump settled Maxim who came a cropper but quickly recovered himself and showed by his riderless race that he possesses both pace and fencing power. Jumping in capital style last year's winner passed the post half-a-dozen lengths in front of Helena, who was in advance of Effie. Time, 2.40. Dividend, £1 12s.

My colleague, "Nancy Hanks," delivers himself *re* the trotting events as under:— In the Maiden Trot of 30 sovs, a mile and a half, the state of the track was anything but pleasant. Mr Caulton made a good start. Duke C., the limit horse (18s), kept his lead for a furlong or so when Pioke (10s) cut down everything and took charge of affairs, a position he maintained right through the race. The winner was ridden by Sandall in that rider's usual careful manner, but the other contestants floundered along "anyhow." Ida, a much fancied mare ridden by W. Greenwood, loosing her feet repeatedly in the mud. Sandall's mount won in a jog, Fibre second, Otaru third. The official time was 5.2, but many made it 5.3, which is equal to 3.22 per mile. After this race was over I am informed the stewards held a meeting, the result of which was that the riders of the five horses who did not win were fined £1 each. The stewards, although requested to formulate a charge declined to do so, nor would they hear evidence for the defence of any of the riders. The latter, with the owners, were naturally sore over the matter and it certainly would not have weakened the dignity of the Club if the owners had been given a chance of hearing the charge laid against their representatives. On previous occasions the A.T.C. have pursued similar tactics, and a certain section of the owners have inveighed strongly against what they call the "autocratic bearing" of the governing party. In the Spring Trot of 75 sovs, 2 miles, seven toed the mark. Three Cheers (38s), ridden by M. Edwards, was a warm favourite, his fame having preceded him from the South. He proved to be a "dead snip," and from the word "go" the issue was never in doubt. The mud bothered him less than any of the others, and at no part of the journey could he be described as fully extended. Three Cheers is a powerful bay gelding by Victor, rather coarse in the legs, with an ability to trot like a piece of machinery. His gait, although far from pretty, enables him to get at top almost at once. His time, 5.48 = 2.54 per mile, was good enough, considering the state of the track and the ease of his win. Judy was second and Nellie third.

THE Harness Trot of 40 sovs, 2 miles, was looked upon as such a certainty for Three Cheers, even with his 10 seconds penalty, that only moderate betting took place upon any of the others. Just before the machine closed, a bit of a rush took place on Charlie, many thinking no doubt that "the boot was on the other leg." Dinah was scratched, leaving five to go to the post. Bit o' Blue, 40 sec, went off with her head in the air, and Sparrowhawk quickly passing her led until half a mile from home, where Charlie, who was trotting brilliantly, came up on Mr McBride's trotter's wheel. Three Cheers was close on Charlie, and Mr James Martin who was driving the latter put in his claim, but the chestnut got "rattled" and made a bad break, Three Cheers following suit. Charlie was quickly pulled to his feet again, and was off in chase of Sparrowhawk who was now eight or ten lengths ahead and going well. Coming into the straight the excitement was intense, Charlie, although on Sparrowhawk's wheel, being unable to gain the lead. Passing the grand stand Three Cheers opened out with a dash of pace rarely seen here, Charlie made an effort, but the Southerner passed the post a length ahead of him and four lengths ahead of Sparrowhawk. The time, 5.54, (= 2.51), was a meritorious performance in the mud. The Electric Trot, 1 mile, 35 sovs, the last event of the day, brought out six contestants, Mr M. Edwards riding the scratch mare Yum Yum, while Charlie (16 secs) was ridden by his owner, Mr James Martin. At the word "go" it was seen that Mr Martin

meant business, Charlie cutting down his field in the most brilliant manner, and gaining the lead at the quarter mile post. Yum Yum also went through them in a way that was a credit to her rider, and passing the grand stand the mare was gaining on Charlie at every stride. However, it would have required a Maxim flying machine to catch Charlie in the short distance he had to travel, and the best the mare could do was to get within a couple of lengths of his wheel. Judy was third and the others nowhere. Time, 2.44. This in my opinion was the best performance of the day considering the state of the track. Mr Knight's handicapping was received in the most favourable manner by owners and onlookers, and though the Southerner scored heavily one can hardly blame the handicapper for doubting the ability of the Victor gelding to do all that was recently whispered about him.

Rangitikei Racing Club.

THE Spring Meeting of the above mentioned Club took place on September 26th, when a most enjoyable day's racing was witnessed by those present. The finishes for most of the events were very close, the field for the Spring Handicap being in a cluster at the finish, the winner, Cyrus, just getting home by half a head from the New Zealand Cup candidate, Westmere, who came with a rush at the finish. The times for the different events were not very good, owing to the heavy state of the ground. Nevertheless, the racing was most exciting, and good fields started in all of the events with the exception of the Final Handicap, for which only four went to the post. Proceedings opened with the Flying Handicap, for which event eight contestants faced the starter's flag, the Hawke's Bay representative, Allan-a-dale, being the public fancy. He failed, however, to gain a situation, the winner turning up in Mr Calthrop's Castor—Nymph colt, Orion, who won with a bit to spare by two lengths, the ex-hack Kalmea being second with Lebel third. Westmere showed up prominently half way down the straight but he then fell back beaten. Orion then put in his claim and fairly smothered his field, being nicely ridden by Connop. The time for the race was 1min 23 2-5th secs. Dividend, £5 8s. The next race on the programme was the Hack Flying, which produced a field of twelve starters. Bloomsbury and Lady Ascot jumped away with the lead, but when half the journey had been covered The Artist went to the front and led into the straight with Bonovoree and Sylvia Park close handy. One hundred yards from home Sylvia Park made his effort, and just managed to get up with The Artist on the post, the judge being unable to separate them. Bonovoree was a good third. Had Sylvia Park made his effort sooner he would have got home and returned his backers a good dividend of £17 10s. The time for this event was the same as the big Flying, 1min 23 2-5th secs. The dividends were The Artist £2 7s, Sylvia Park £8 15s. The Hunters' Hurdles was an easy win for Ahua's son Awarua, who led all the way, winning as he liked, with Venture second and Kaffir third. Time, 3min 4sec. Dividend, £2 5s. All six acceptors for the Handicap Hurdles weighed out, Chatterbox being the public fancy. On the fall of the flag Pamoana and Chatterbox jumped to the front and led over the first hurdle with Unity, Oaklands, Nanakia and Sunbeam following. At the back of the course Chatterbox was in the van and remained there until a half mile from home when Nanakia ran up alongside him. They raced together till the quarter-mile post was reached when Sunbeam, who had been kept a long way out of it, came right through her field and led over the last jump. Her victory was loudly proclaimed, but half way down the straight Unity, on whom J. McTaggart had been riding a nice race was seen to be closing up, and about one hundred yards from the post he had the race won. If Sunbeam had not been rushed to the front all at once she would certainly have placed the race to her credit. She is a splendid jumper and is sure to be heard of later on in the season. The time for the race was 3min 9 2-5sec. Dividend, £11 16s. For the Hack Hurdles eight went to the post, and the race turned out to be a soft thing for Hopeful who is trained by Mr D. Knight of Hawera. Rangipai and Besant were the two that the public considered the race lay between, and they showed up prominently until coming to the last hurdle when Hopeful shot to the front and despite the efforts of Jack Anderson to keep him back to his field,

he romped home an easy winner by a dozen lengths. Lady Clare was second, and Rags, Cretonne's full brother, third. Time, 3min 7sec. Dividend, £16 7s. A protest was entered against the winner, the allegation being that he ran off, but after a lengthy consideration the objection was disallowed. The big event of the meeting brought out the following field: Johnny Faa 8.2, Westmere 8.2, Cordelia 7.10, Lebel 7.9, Stranger 7.3, King John 7.0, Allan-a-dale 7.0, Cyrus 6.11, and Pihanga 6.11. The ex-hack Cyrus was rumoured about as a good thing, and was therefore made one of the favourites, Cordelia and King John being also in big demand. When the word go was given Cyrus at once went to the front and appeared to be an easy winner, but eighty yards from the winning post Westmere and King John came with a terrific rush, and it looked as though the N. Z. Cup candidate was going to snatch the victory on the post. He just failed however and had to be content with a lose by a bare half head. King John was a length away third. Time, 2min 21 1-5th sec. Dividend, £3 12s. If Westmere had won he would have returned his backers over £20 of a dividend. The Hack Flat of one mile was another good race between The Artist and Sylvia Park, the first-named getting home by a length after a good race. Time, 1min 51sec. Dividend, £3. The Final Handicap produced a field of four, and Musket, 9.6, who is in splendid buckle, had no difficulty in disposing of his three opponents, King John, Cordelia, and Kalmea. Musket led from the fall of the flag, and won by two lengths from King John, with Cordelia third. Time, 1min 49sec. Dividend, £2 4s.

Coming Events.

[BY BORDERER.]

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB.

VERY satisfactory nominations have been received for the Spring Meeting of the Wanganui Jockey Club, to be held on Thursday and Friday, October 18th and 19th. For the first and second hack hurdle races and the first and second hack flat races a total of 63 was received last season. This year the total is 76, there being an appreciable increase in each of the four events named. The hack flat races account for 48 nominations out of the 76 received.

NAPIER PARK RACING CLUB.

THE handicaps in connection with the Napier Park Racing Club's Spring Meeting to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday next, will be found in another column. In the big mile and a quarter event, the Park Stakes Handicap of 200sovs, Dreamland heads the list with 8.3, Westmere being within a couple of pounds. The acceptances not being to hand at time of writing I can only indicate the racers that I consider would (with an acceptance) have anything like winning chances. Want of space prevents a preamble this week, so without the why and wherefore my idea is that in the big Handicap, Dreamland, North Atlantic, and Yattenfeldt are the most likely ones. In the Sapling Stakes the Castor colt Orion's Belt and Woodlander should beat the field, and in the six furlong Railway Handicap I like Blarney, Nixie and Zanella, particularly the last named. Kapua and Roscius at 12.0, a stone above Melinite, may be her superior on paper but I cannot accept that belief. On Hawke's Bay running she has no chance but for all that I would not be averse to picking this race in "one" with the seemingly disappointing mare as my support. After her I fancy Austral.

STRATFORD TROTting CLUB.

THE handicaps in connection with the first annual meeting of the Stratford Trotting Club, to be held on October 11th (this day week) will be found in another column. The timing was due to make its appearance on or about Friday last, so that if the advertised arrangements were adhered to, last Saturday's winner, Three Cheers, is liable to a 10sec penalty in the two mile Trial Harness Trot and a 15sec penalty in the Trotting Club Handicap of three miles. No doubt the handicapper will take into consideration the form displayed by Three Cheers at our local meeting on Saturday last. In the "big money" event, the Stratford Trotting Club Handicap (saddle) of 30sovs, three miles, Three Cheers, on scratch, concedes starts varying from

10secs to 60sec, at which measurement the Victor gelding is not out of it by a long way. In the Harness Trot of two miles he concedes a limit of 40sec, which may stop him, but if in proper nick the probability is that such stoppage will hardly be attained. A dozen trotters are timed for the Harness; 17 for the Trotting Club Handicap; 14 for the Pony Trot, in which Judy, on scratch, concedes starts from 4sec to 35sec; and five are handicapped for the Selling Saddle Trot.

"Nancy Hanks'" idea of Three Cheers is that if the penalty to which the gelding is liable were twice as much as it is he would pick him to win the double. My colleague writes:—"For instance in the Harness he gives Peter 10secs in two miles. I consider he can give him 35secs and a beating. In the Saddle Trot of three miles the greatest penalty Three Cheers can carry is 5secs per mile—15secs. Several of the contestants I don't know, and it is quite evident that the Stratford handicapper is in blissful ignorance of the sort of horse Three Cheers is when he made the handicaps. If Judy goes down for the Pony Trot I fancy she will win."

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

WELLINGTON.

September 29.

ON form this Spring I think Saracen holds every N. Z. Cup candidate that has appeared so far safe for the big race next November. In fact, good judges consider they have the winner in the St. George horse.

The proposal advocated by Mr Samuels, of New Plymouth, to pay out a dividend on the totalisator on the three placed horses in a race is in force in South Africa, and is very popular in that colony. Two totalisators are used at meetings in Johannesburg, one for paying out a dividend on the first horse only, and the other for placed horses. I would like to see this system given a trial at a metropolitan gathering in New Zealand, and am sure it would be a success. It would also act as an incentive to owners to run their horses out, instead of the present system of instructing riders not to gain a situation unless it is the first one.

I notice from Cape files that the Australian bred Arquebus, after running into a place on several occasions, got his nose in front in a mile and three furlong race at Johannesburg on the 22nd of last month. The stake was worth 300 sovs, with a sweepstake of 10 sovs added. The other Australian, Yarran, obtained second position in the principal event at the same meeting.

Splendid prizes are given at Johannesburg, ranging from 200 sovs to 1500 sovs, the Cup being worth 5000 sovs (?), and it is a wonder that more Australian horses are not sent there, as there appears to be a good field open to an enterprising man to make money.

Allan-a-dale was staunchly supported here for the double at Rangitikei, but J. Maher's bad luck has not deserted him yet, and the horse did not even obtain a situation in either place. I hope that Dame Fortune is more kind to Maher in the future as he deserves a better fate, being a very painstaking trainer.

Awarua's supporters in town got a "point" on to our local pencilers on Wednesday, obtaining 2 to 1 about the horse's chance in the Hunters' Hurdles. They thus profited 15s more on every pound invested than they would have done under the old "tote" prices.

Musket's victory in the Final Handicap was expected here, and the consistent grey gelding once more did a good turn to Wellington backers. He and old Liberator are, I think, the two best "poor man's horses" in the colony.

The strong hand shown by "Dave" Knight's team at Bulls—three firsts and two thirds—has caused enquiries to be made about Monte Carlo's chance for the N. Z. Cup.

Rumour says Kaffir, in R. Kingan's stable at Awahuri, will show he is no duffer before the season is over.

Lottie has many supporters in town for the thousand pounder in November, and she bids fair to see a short price before the day. Backers are taking 10 to 1 about her chance at the present time. For myself I fancy she will pay more than 10's on the machine.

There is every prospect of Handicapper Henry's opinion expressed some time ago that over 20 horses will go the post for the N. Z. Cup—which would establish