

Turf Topics.

[By Reviewer.]

The late Martin Burke was 39 years of age. It is said on the Sydney side that Mrs James White has refused £25,000 for Abercorn.

Mr. W. Knight has been appointed handicapper for the Thames Jockey Club Summer Meeting.

The Musket—Ouida mare, Hilda, has presented the Wellington Park sire, Castor, with a colt foal.

J. Rae has purchased a Greenlane residence, and intends erecting suitable stabling at an early date.

The train arrangements in connection with to-morrow's racing at Ellerslie will be found in our business columns.

Several coupons in connection with the Review treble have been unavoidably held over until our next issue.

Acceptances in connection with the Gisborne Racing Club's Spring Meeting, to be held to-morrow, appear in another column.

The Waitara Jockey Club Committee have opened the programme of their hack meeting—to be held on December 8th—to ponies.

Racing in olden times:—Honor and glory, 1; sport, 2; stakes, 3. Nowadays:—Tatt's sweep, 1; stakes, 2; hang-the-public, 3.—*Bulletin.*

I hear that Lavinia hurt herself while doing a gallop on the course proper on Friday last. Her chance of seeing the Welcome Stakes is remote.

Acceptances in connection with the spring meeting of the Town and Suburban Racing Club, to be held to-morrow, appear in another column.

The successful sires on the opening day of the C.J.C. Meeting were Cadogan, Newminster, St. George, Wapiti, Total Eclipse, Stonyhurst, and Maxim.

The nominations in connection with the Wellington Racing Club's Spring Meeting, to be held on the 22nd and 24th of November, appear elsewhere.

The usual excuses are being made for the horses that did not get home in the Melbourne Cup, but I'll be bound the truth is the best horse won.

In view of the approaching sales of yearlings, it is a happy occurrence that a locally-stationed stallion should figure as the sire of the New Zealand Cup winner.

The following foalings are announced from Wellington Park:—Hilda (Musket—Ouida), colt to Castor; Antelope (Apremont—Miss Kate), colt to Castor.

The Referee states that Norton when he gets to England is to be placed in Arthur Yates's hands, and that Sternchaser may accompany Ascot's son to the Old World.

Norton takes a stone from the champion, Redleap, in the V.R.C. Steeplechase, to be run at Flemington on Saturday next. Norton at 13.2 will find Redleap, 14.2, a hard nut to crack.

The following nominations have been received for the Egmont Sires' Hack Produce Stakes, 1898:—Lebel, Foul Shot, Gipsy King, The Australian, Strenuous, Vanguard, Eros, Puriri, Morpheus, Patchwork, Tim Whiffler, Natator, Redwood.

A Melbourne friend of Bookmaker Joe Thompson has received a cable from the erst Melbourne levihan informing him that Thompson won £12,000 on the Cambridgeshire. A little time back he was low down, having had a big run of bad luck, but the turn of the tide has apparently set in.

There was a lot of Auckland money behind St. Clements in the C.J.C. Stewards Handicap, and those who lost over St. Leger's son may be advised to remember the Electric Plate, w.f.a., four furlongs, run on the concluding day of the Riccarton races. That event should be a good thing for St. Clements.

If anyone is desirous of touting the training at Ellerslie he may be informed that things are now wearing a very early aspect at our convincing ground. If you allow many streaks of dawn to broaden before reaching the ground you might as well stop in bed. The galloping in earnest is proceeded with very early.

Once more the favourite for the V.R.C. Derby has met with defeat. A reference to the history of the race since 1880 shows that only six favourites have justified their positions in the market since the date mentioned, viz., Navigator (1882), Nordenfeldt (1885), Trident (1886), Dreadnought (1889), Strathmore (1891), and Camoola (1892).

The picture of Impulse, exhibited in Queen-street, shows Jas. Kean holding the gelding by the bridle. After the Cup was run the veteran trainer had the second fiddle, Lottie, by the head. But a rare second violin is the daughter of Muscapeer. "Beaten, but not disgraced," is the legend placed against her name by the Cup of 1894.

Months ago Jas. Kean, Lottie's trainer, expressed the belief that Impulse was the only horse that would beat the Muscapeer mare; and the owner of Impulse was confident that he held Kean's charge safe. Both proved correct, but I don't think the party behind the Cup winner thought Lottie would run such a great race.

The Champion Trot of three miles, to be decided at the Lancaster Park Amateur Trotting Club's Meeting to-morrow, has the following horses engaged:—Norman 22s, Ruadan 35s, Little Bob 8s, Cowboy 38s, Ipswich 40s, Creole 40s, Blue Mountain 44s, Lady Warbeck 46s. I think the winner will be either Ruadan or Blue Mountain.

At a recent meeting of the Western Divisional Committee of the North Auckland Racing Association, a communication from the Eastern Divisional Committee, suggesting that clubs not using the totalisator at the race meetings be allowed to charge more than the usual five per cent for nominations and acceptances, came up for consideration. It was eventually decided that no alteration be made and that no club registered under the North Auckland Racing Association be allowed to charge more than five per cent on the value of the stakes as entrance money.

Messrs. Yuille and Co., the Melbourne auctioneers, advertise Loyalty, Philson, and Bob Ray for sale. If the animals are not sold privately they are to be submitted to auction at an early date.

Merganser is once more in work. Her trainer is confident the mare will get through a race preparation, and that his confidence may prove well founded will be the general wish of all admirers of a true racer.

Breeders of stock may be reminded that nominations for the Auckland Guineas of 1898 (for now yearlings) will close with Mr. Percival at the office of the A.R.C. at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 16th; or with the Secretary of the C.J.C., Canterbury; D.J.C., Dunedin; H.B.J.C., Napier; W.R.C., Wellington; and M.R.C., Blenheim.

The Tairi Amateur Turf Club Committee, after discussing the most effective means which could be adopted to suppress the laying of totalisator odds, decided recently that prosecutions should follow in the case of any metallician found indulging in "tote" betting. Under the Gaming Act passed during the last session the offence is punishable by imprisonment.

Mr W. Percival has a handsome yearling colt, by St. Leger—Satanelia, who should prove a worthy brother to St. Clements if looks are any criterion. The youngster is a bit small, perhaps, but of a very promising cut, and as neatly turned a piece of horseflesh as one could wish to see. Paris, Portsea, and Impulse are smallish horses; so size does not go for everything.

It has been decided that the head-quarters of the New Zealand Kennel Club will remain in Christchurch for a further period of twelve months. The question of subsequent removal will be decided at the annual meeting, to be held at the end of the present week. Mr W. H. Wynn-Williams has been re-elected president of the club, and Mr J. A. Connell treasurer and secretary.

A local paper comments on the fact that the first New Zealander Upshot (late Ultimatum) who won a 14.1 Galloway race in Sydney, suddenly developed a 15.1 appearance in Melbourne when he ran second to Escapade in one of the big races at Caulfield. Well, it is funny how well-bred racers get into the 14.1 class in Sydney, although they appear nearly a hand bigger. How it is done is a mystery.

The sum of £2,059 was put through the machine at the Eltham Hack Meeting, the results of which are given elsewhere. Kiora, by Mufti—Mockingbird, scored a meritorious win in the Hurdle Race, carrying 11.2 and winning easily. The Eltham Cup fell to Ireb, who carried his 7.4 over the mile-and-a-half in 2.5; and paid a dividend of £13 16s. My selection, Irish Twist, could only obtain third position.

At the time of writing there appears to be some uncertainty whether the starting-machine will be used at Ellerslie to-morrow. The requisite gear is not obtainable; and though the agent has been advised that it has been shipped from Sydney as per arrangement, the fact remains that it has not made its appearance up to date, so that there is a big probability of the man with the flag reappearing for the time being.

The result of the Melbourne and N.Z. Cups was far from satisfactory to members of the Auckland ring. Impulse was well supported early in the day for our Cup, and Paris and Patron were selected by several double punters of the £200 to 5s persuasion. Mr Bradley and his friends threw in for a considerable stake over the victory of the St. Leger gelding, and the local pencilers will have to find a fairish share of the money.

The fee for the services of Handsome Jack (St. Leger—Radiant) is five guineas, not three guineas as advertised in our last issue. Last year the sum of seven guineas was charged for the stud horse in question, and the intended alteration from the figure 7 to 5 was prevented through the customary typographical error. However, the correct figure is surely anything but out of the way when one considers that this handsome young stallion (his foaling year was 1890) claims Doncaster's great son for sire, and the daughter of Robinson Crusoe and Radiance as dam. By St. Leger out of a sister to Quadrant, is breeding calculated to satisfy any breeder and cause him to regard the fee charged for the horse's services as moderate indeed.

A feature of the racing on the opening day of the V.R.C. Spring Meeting was the difference in the times recorded to those experienced at the same meeting last year. Harvoc's 1min. 48sec. for the weight-for-age Maiden Plate mile is 2½sec. behind the time taken by Alpine last year; Ruenalf's 2min. 10½sec. for the Melbourne Stakes was beaten by nearly 2sec. by Loyalty; Foftail's 2min. 53½sec. for the Hotham Handicap, one mile and a-half and a distance, has to be placed against last year's 2min. 51 4-5th sec., cut out by Cressy and Straightfire, who ran a dead heat; and The Harvester's Derby time, 2min. 40½sec., was beaten by 1½sec. by Carnegie, the 1893 victor. The Malua fly, Arihi, winner of the Maribyrnong Plate gave a better performance than Dreamland, who took 1min. 4½sec. to win last year. Arihi beat that time on Saturday last by 2½sec.

The following programmes have been passed by the A.R.C.:—Lichfield Annual Meeting, January 1; Onehunga and Otahuhu Racing Club, December 8; Ngauruwhia Racing Club, December 22; Alexandra Annual Races, December 26; Drury Racing Club, December 28; Takapuna Jockey Club, January 26 and 29; Takapuna Jockey Club, May 18 and 24; Wairenga-a-Hika Jockey Club, December 26; Poverty Bay Turf Club, January 10 and 11. Licenses have been granted as follows:—Jockeys: Robert Waters, J. Slator, John Keane, William Gall, W. Barron, J. Griffiths, W. L. Fletcher, Alf Williams, J. Sceats, T. Sharp, W. Ashdown, H. Linnell. Trainers: A. H. Barron, W. L. Fletcher, Alfred Williams, James Sceats, H. Linnell, J. Egan, Duncan Hepburn (to train The Turk and Wool Queen). Disqualifications have been removed from Penguin, Butterfly, Kelvin Grove.

Inter-Colonial.

[OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

SYDNEY RACING NOTES.

The six-year old Auckland horse, Waltzer, who has disappointed his connections on a number of occasions at various meetings here, scored a meritorious win in the Place Welter, at Warwick Farm, when, with 10st in the saddle, he got home by about a length from Plain Bill, Killarney occupying the other position. He started at four, and beat eighteen others, including one Liehcol, which, spelt backwards, indicates his sire. Plain Bill, the runner up, won a race, the Auction Stakes, earlier in the day, pulling up, by two lengths. He belongs to S. Fielder, and was bought in for £50. The Warwick Farm Handicap saw a good finish from the distance, where Thespian (My Lord—Tragedy) looked all over a winner, but Magnus and Reconstruction wore him down, the first named winning by a head from the Grand Fleamer horse, who had 6.7, his conqueror carrying 7.9. The other starters were: Stanmore, Carnation, Mileos, Lustre, Burton, Glendennon, and Cadet. The once mighty Marvel, who had only 8.7, was not in it—rather a different performance to his old-time exhibitions, including the memorable day when he beat Carbine. One of his best wins was in the A.J.C. Waverley Handicap, 1½ miles, with 10.5 up, in 3min 6sec, and his victory in the Epsom Handicap, with 10.2, in 1min 40½sec. And now he has come down to 8.7, in a mile and a quarter, in which he was never prominent. Quadrant was one of the field in the Stewards' Mile, but, as usual, was not in it.

Mr. Gollan's trio, N. rion, Lascar, and Pumau, were stopped on the border (Albury) when going to Melbourne. D. Page, who was in charge, put the horses in the Melbourne train, which was about to start, when the customs officers interfered, and asked for the duty. No provision had been made for the payment of it, and Page promised to pay on arrival at the other end. The officers were obdurate, however, and although Page said he was not prepared to meet the demand then, and that stoppage would mean great inconvenience, they said the horses could not go on. The consequence was that they had to stop at Albury until the required cash was forthcoming.

H. Oxenham purchased Plain Bill for 100gs, and sent him to Melbourne. He backed him to beat Waltzer the same day for £950, and went down, so he bought the horse to win it back for him.

A couple more double-shop proprietors have had to pay a fine of £3 and costs for a breach of the Betting Houses Suppression Act. There are any quantity of these shops in the city, but the principal ones, who do business in the main streets and are crowded every day, are never interfered with. Why the authorities pick out some and leave others is an unfathomable mystery. There being racing pretty well high every day, the shops do a good business, laying any double not gone ten or five times as the case might be, or else straight out at various specified odds, at half-a-crown or five shillings. The "silver" shop business is without doubt a paying one, and flourishes despite the law.

The gaming laws of most countries are apparently a farce, and in this matter Maoriland about takes the cake, for it is sinful and illegal to bet one way, but quite lawful to bet to the same degree by another but almost similar process. The N.Z. Government is the paternal father of racing clubs by conserving their interests through sanctioning and protecting the tote, and having an eye to its own revenue at the same time.

Mr Hall has bestowed the name of Beau Seart on his two-year-old colt by Trident—Cumino, by Gemmy di Vergy, by Maltese Cross, and T. Payten has called his Australian Peer—Chrystal youngster The Squire.

The Auckland-bred Stanmoor, who is Nordenfeldt's half-brother, won his first race over here since he was disposed of by George Wright. It was at Moorefield on Saturday, when he showed the way in the mile-and-a-quarter handicap of 100 sovs. His weight was 7.8 and his starting price 4 to 1, Memah being favourite at 5 to 4. The field he beat was Rosstellan, Carnation, Ballater, Oxide, Dan O'Connor, Kilmore, Olive, and Lena. Rosstellan led into the straight, going well, but the Aucklander asserted himself at the distance and won with something in hand, Carnation being third. Oxide was last. Time, 2.11½. Stanmoor should win a number of good races for Mr Purdy, who gave 197 guineas—I think it was—for him.

Mr Oatley's Machinist was responsible for two of the other items on the programme, the first one being the Tramway Handicap, in which he beat Lena, Venice, The Marque, Thespian, Kilmore, Baldwin, Actor, Insignia, Broiga, and Captivity, starting at six's, and winning by a neck after a great finish. The other event was the Auction Stakes, which he won by a head from Hugo, and was bought in for £50.

Auctioneer started at evens, and had no difficulty in winning the Hurdles; Peeres got home in the Kogarah Sprint; and Assayer, a 5 to 1 chance, wound up the day in the Stewards' Mile by downing Lustre, The Marque, Actor, Aorilite, Broiga, Claverhouse, Brooklet, Sherbrooke, Sadur, The Raven, Sonny, Flycatcher, Konning, and Liehcol.

Bitter Sweet is to be mated with Correza. Both are out of Yattendon mares!

It is alleged that absence of "sweep money" was the reason for Ruenalf's withdrawal from the Caulfield Cup. Not a few bit their finger nails in dejection when his name was scored off the starting list. Trainers now-a-days want the stakes, all their own betting money, some of the owners, and a substantial slice out of the sweep pool, or else they won't start their horses. Anyhow, if Ruenalf could have won the Cup he should have had a go for it, because a two-mile Melbourne Cup takes precious sight more winning, take my word for it.

The Kensington Club has given a turf patron named King and his pony Riot a holiday for life for malpractice at its last meeting.

Paris' win sent the major portion of stake money to N.S.W., and there are a good crowd who had him going all ways in doubles. The syndicate pulled a lot of their Chest man money back with Escapade, who won the last race at Caulfield, starting at an outside price.

All There (Leolinus—Lyre) was entered to be sold at *nil* in a selling race at Canterbury Park this week, and he won easily, but the £65 he realised all went to the club.

On the same day Quadrant had 6.11 in the Flying—fancy that, Mr Eret!—but didn't start. Bel Giorno (Sunrise—Antelope) swept home. Quadrant came out later on and won the Welter (8.7) easily. It is about time he commenced to fill the chest.

MELBOURNE RACING NOTES.

At a suburban meeting last week J. Wilson, jun., walked into the jockeys' room and struck Saunders, who won a race on Egyptus, who beat Votaers in one of the races during the day. Whatever ground of complaint Wilson had he should not have acted as he did. Saunders at once complained to the stewards, who fined Wilson £50. It is now stated that the matter will find its way into the law courts. The fine imposed does not coincide altogether with the King and Ring affair, a statement of which I forwarded you, for, as you will remember, the aggressor in that case was disqualified for two years.

In one of the five-shilling tote shops Gale paid £68 5s, and in a place shop Devon returned £45 15s 3d, while Paris, who beat him, paid £1 5s 9d. This will give some idea how Mr. Taranaki Samuels' three-horse machine would work if adopted in New Zealand. Of course the above was on a five shilling basis, and if the tickets were a pound, as they generally are in Maoriland, the dividend would be so much more in proportion. However, things are so stagnant here that punters and people in general look eighteen times at a pound before parting with it, or they might look at it again and put it in their pockets.

Turfites are now subscribing towards the erection of a stone over the grave of "Unlucky," the late lamented Martin Burke.

The Sydney horse Eolus (Goldsborough—Whirlwind) who is in the same stable as Lady Trenton, furnished the winner of the October Handicap at Williamstown. The steeplechase saw a number of mishaps, Guardfish cantering in alone. The erst New Zealander started in a small race named the Disposal Stakes at 7 to 4, but did not finish in the first three. Yarmon (St. Albans) turned up the winner.

T. Hales is retiring from the ownership of horses for a time, and has leased Lady Love to Mr Purches, and Trio to Mr Brewer.

Paris' win in the Caulfield Cup, though not generally expected, did not let the pencil fraternity down light, for he had been in the market all through, and had been taken in doubles with nearly everything backed for the Melbourne Cup. The little son of Grandmaster was served at the right moment, not only by judicious riding, but by the good track preparation he had done. But there were others who had put up good performances without the colours, particularly Lady Trenton and Bruin. One tout said that if Bruin didn't win the Cup—and it was a moral for him—it was of no use touting horse; any more. A horse that had been pretty well backed was Elswick, and, although he was pretty prominent in the early stages of the race, he was not in it at the finish. He may have had a chance if he carried 7.5 instead of 8.5. The early favourite, Capstan, disappointed a large body of punters, his owner holding out very little hope of victory as he had been beaten in his trial. Chesterman did not attract much attention in the paddock, but Harvoc came in for plenty of criticism. Good judges opined that he hadn't done enough work, and it was said that he had been rushed into the market. The Possible was backed to a fair extent on his Randwick running, and Foftail was thought to be infinitely superior to his stable companion Devon, about whom 100 to 2 was going begging round the paddock. Had he not stumbled in the straight, Paris would not have got his nose in front on the post. Taranaki was about the nicest of the field to look at, but he was palpably short of work, and may be heard of to advantage in the not far distant future. Before Paris shot out from the field, Theodore had a prominent position, and flattered his backers somewhat, but he could not sustain his run when he went after Bruin and finished sixth, Straightfire being in front of him. The Melbourne Cup winner, Tarcoola, did not run as well as his trainer expected. The Sydney horse, Isaac, had been repeatedly bleeding at the nose. The aged Leyland was out of his element altogether, finishing a long way in the rear. I don't suppose he was started with the idea of winning anyway.

Malachite, who is Carlyon's brother, had half-a-dozen lengths to spare in the Maiden Plate. The Auckland-bred Gallant could not get a place. He wants time.

At the Oaklands Hunt Club, Scrip, a full brother to Malua, got home in the Wallaby Handicap. Jacob ran fourth in the Hurdle Race, won by Lady Wellington, and the stewards passed him and his rider, H. Cortis, out for three months. In another race it was noticed that Upshot (Ultimatum) was going to the post with his shoes on. Those immediately concerned were informed of the risk they might run, and they were pulled off in double quick time and plates substituted. Upshot then went to the post, but didn't figure in the race. J.O. (Malua—Thekla) accounted for the Two-year-old Selling Race, and Often, by Seldom, got home in the final event.

Gale, who ran a dead heat with Blue Cap in the Nursery, is in Miller's stable, and is by Nautilus—Cyclone. Sir George, who ran third, is by The Australian Peer—The Witch. Wallace, a son of Carbine, was made favourite, but no one could be found to tell the reason why.