

SPORTING FIXTURES Etc.

COMING EVENTS.

NEW ZEALAND FIXTURES.

January 24 & 25—Tapanui R.C. Annual
 January 26—Ngaraowahia R.C. Annual
 January 26—Heretaunga Hack R.C.
 January 26, 29—Takapuna J.C. Summer
 January 29—Waipa E.C.
 January 30—Turakina Hack
 January 30—Wairoa J.C. Annual
 January 30—Danevirke J.C. Annual
 January 30 and 31—Tuapeka J.C. County Annual
 February 2—Canterbury J.C. Summer
 February 2—Onslow Trotting Club
 February 9—Avondale Jockey Club Summer
 February 13 & 14—Egmont R.C. Summer
 February 20 & 21—Taranaki J.C. Autumn
 February 20, 21, and 23—Dunedin J.C. Autumn
 February 21—Bay of Plenty J.C.
 February 23—Otahuhu Trotting Club
 February 26 and 27—Manawatu R.C. Autumn
 February 28—Palmerston Trotting Club
 March 7, 8—Wanganui J.C. Autumn
 March 9—Avondale Jockey Club Autumn
 March 17—Papakura R.C. Annual
 March 19, 20—Hawke's Bay J.C. Autumn
 March 23—Dunedin J.C. Anniversary
 March 26, 27—Napier Park R.C. Autumn
 April 15, 16—Canterbury J.C. Autumn
 April 15, 16—Wairarapa R.C. Autumn
 April 15, 16—Auckland R.C. Autumn
 April 15 & 16—Wairarapa R.C. Autumn
 April 25 & 26—South Canterbury J.C. Autumn
 April 26—Ashburton Trotting Club
 May 1, 3—Wellington R.C. Autumn and Steeplechase
 May 9—Egmont R.C. Winter
 May 18, 24—Takapuna J.C. Winter
 May 24—Otaki Maori R.C. Winter
 May 24—Town and Suburban Winter
 May 24—Wanganui J.C. Steeplechase
 May 24, 25—Dunedin J.C. Birthdays
 June 8, 10—Auckland R.C. Winter
 June 26—Hawke's Bay J.C. Steeplechase
 July 3—Napier Park R.C. Steeplechase

AUSTRALIAN FIXTURES.

January 26—Sydney Turf Club
 January 26—West Australian Turf Club Anniversary
 January 26—Queensland Turf Club
 February 2—Adelaide R.C. Summer
 February 6, 7, 8—Tasmania R.C. Summer

NOMINATIONS.

January 25—Avondale Jockey Club Summer
 February 6—Manawatu Racing Club Autumn
 February 6—Palmerston North Trotting Club Autumn
 April 19—Takapuna J.C. Winter

HANDICAPS.

January 26, February 11—Taranaki J.C. Autumn
 January 30—Avondale Jockey Club Summer
 February 1, 13—Egmont Racing Club Summer
 February 12—Palmerston North Trotting Club Autumn
 February 16—Manawatu Racing Club Autumn
 April 29 and May 20—Takapuna J.C. Winter

ACCEPTANCES.

January 25—Onslow Trotting Club
 February 1—Avondale Jockey Club Summer
 February 1, 13—Egmont R.C. Summer
 February 9, 16, 20, 21—Taranaki J.C. Autumn
 February 19 and 26—Manawatu Racing Club Autumn
 February 20—Palmerston North Trotting Club Autumn
 May 11, 21—Takapuna J.C. Winter

Sporting Review

WEEKLY STANDARD.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1895.

THE Committee of the Auckland Racing Club held an investigation last week into the matter of the Recovery Stakes run at the 'Xmas Meeting, in which it will be remembered one of the pony hurdles was left up instead of being removed from the course. As usual the inquiry was conducted with closed doors, but in addition to denying admission to Pressmen the Committeemen refused to admit their caretaker who was virtually on his trial! He was merely called in, asked a few questions, and then retired to learn later on that he had been adjudged wanting in the performance of his duty and discharged from his position. Whether the Committee were right or wrong in their conclusion, it is very certain they were decidedly at fault in refusing to let Ruddy hear the evidence on which he was convicted. We understand that Jackson, the employe whose duty it was to remove the hurdle in question, wrote a letter to the Club admitting his error and after tendering his resignation informed them that it was through no fault on the part of the caretaker that the mishap occurred. He (Jackson) was alone to blame, and he was prepared to forfeit his situation in recognition of his error. But the Committee apparently thought the public would demand some action on their part, and as Jackson's resignation balked them of action in his direction, they decided to dismiss the caretaker and clerk of the course as an indication to the public that they were alive to the necessity of punishing action on their part. But we venture to think that the public when fully seized of the facts of the case would have been better pleased had the A.R.C. refrained from attaching to Ruddy the stigma of a blunder of which he was entirely innocent. The employe Jackson was sent by the caretaker to remove the hurdles, and he returned to the paddock and informed Ruddy that the course was clear. Unless such intimation has been made to him it has always been Ruddy's custom in the past to ask one of the troopers on duty

to ride round the course, but in view of Jackson's statement, and as the trooper was not about, he did not make further inquiry in the matter. Considering the multifarious duties the caretaker has to perform on race days he may well be excused for having taken the statement of his underling as sufficient. But according to the decision of the A.R.C. Committee, it appears he should have got the trooper to ride round and see whether Jackson was not lying, then got the clerk of the course to ascertain that the trooper was not lying, then he should have walked round himself to see that there was no prevarication on the part of the clerk of the course, and finally Mr Percival should have walked round to see that the four of them—Jackson, the trooper, clerk of course, and caretaker—were not telling taradiddles. We understand petitions are being signed asking the Club to reconsider Ruddy's case, and trust that the A.R.C. will give the request the consideration it deserves.

NEWS was received by cable early in the week that another thoroughbred sire has been secured for Auckland, Mr N. A. Nathan having received a cablegram announcing that his brother, Mr L. D. Nathan, had purchased Seaton Delavel for the Sylvia Park stud. The horse in question is of the right age for a sire, viz., six years old, and is by the famous Melton, from Rosedale. Melton, who is by Master Kildare from Violet Melrose, was sold a short time back to the Italian Government for £16,000, and though efforts were made to bring him back to England his new owners thought too highly of the horse to part with him. As a yearling Seaton Delavel brought 760 guineas, and opened his two-year-old career by running twice unplaced. Then he scored a win in the Monument Stakes at the Great Yarmouth Meeting, beating a good field in clever fashion. During his three-year-old career he secured three good stakes, these being the Gosforth Park Spring Handicap Plate of 250 sovs when he scored under 6 8 in the straight mile; the Great Northern Handicap Plate of 500 sovs at the York Spring Meeting, in which he was weighted at 6.10; and the Thirsk Autumn Handicap Plate of 135 sovs, in which his burden was the respectable one of 9.2. When four years of age he had two good wins, viz., the Great West Riding Plate of 300 sovs at the Pontefract Summer Meeting, under 8.13; and the Northumberland Plate of 1000 sovs, under 7.5, at the Newcastle Summer Meeting. With such a famously bred sire the Sylvia Park studmasters will be independent of neighbouring stud in the matter of service, and no doubt the fine breeding lines of Seaton Delavel will secure for him a large measure of outside patronage.

Coming Events.

[BY BORDERER.]

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB SUMMER MEETING.

After a rest of a month we will take up the see-saw game again next Saturday, when the attractive Takapuna Jockey Club's Summer Meeting will be entered upon. This is one of the most attractive fixtures of the Auckland racing year, and given good weather there is no doubt respecting the prospects of the gathering. The most important matter in connection with a meeting—acceptances—has come out on the right side, and though there were complaints of indifferent wisdom in connection with some of the handicaps the hard fact remains that Mr Knight has secured really first-rate acceptances. I am aware that in one or two instances the handicapping was open to question, but the bulk of the owners have cried content so we, as outsiders, have small right to lift our voices in complaining. During the meeting which will engage two days, the course will be connected with town by telegraph, and as will be observed from the Club's advertisement in another column, speculators down South and along the Coast may forward their instructions re investments to the Secretary any time prior to 11 a.m. on the race-days. The last meeting of the Takapuna Club resulted in a financial success, and taking a line from the satisfactory sale of privileges, I have no doubt

that a further step along the road of Success will be made on Saturday and Tuesday next.

A few words now respecting the prospects of the racing. The event which will open the first day's programme, the Handicap Maiden Plate of 30sovs, one mile, has been replied to most satisfactorily by owners, for out of the nineteen animals entered only a pair have fallen out, viz., Anniversary and Lady Bird. The first-named had every right to fall out, for I am of opinion she had no claim to the 9.4 offered her by Mr Knight. Her capabilities might justify that weighting; but you handicap on known form, not hidden ability. Anita now heads the list with 8.10, and as anyone who reads my notes knows, I have a very high opinion of this mare. But like many of her sex she is uncertain and apt to throw stray cold douches on her ardent admirers. She is not a healthy feeder either, and of course uncertain feeders are uncertain runners. At 7.0 I hold she has a show in the Cup; and if a likely candidate in that she must be ditto in a field of maidens with 8.10. The Sharper has not as yet told us he is a stayer, and with no line as to his mileage I cannot recommend him. Edna 8.2 is as promising as any in this handicap, and if taken to the post in form she has a big say. Ma Boughal knows me not, but from the name I take this animal to be from Williamson's stable. If that be so I should be glad to see the animal win for "J.B." has had cruel luck lately and everyone would be pleased to see him score. The next acceptor is to my mind the most dangerous acceptor of the lot. This is Count La Mont who is weighted at 7.9. If Byers brings his horse to concert pitch, I think he will win with Anita and Edna close on his heels. St. Mary if brought to the meeting is worth backing. The light weights, Stanley and Glenlora commend themselves to me, and I shall not be surprised if they effect a prise. Stanley I don't remember having seen since the last Pakakura Meeting, but unless I am mistaken he shoots off the mark like lightning, and with the machine his quickness in this matter may give him an advantage. Crescent too is not a bad one if he would only run up to the trials he gives his connections at home, but when he was beaten in the President's Handicap the timing was two seconds slower than the trial he gave prior to the race. If he runs up to track form he has a chance. With a preparedness to find one of the light weights spoken of crop up I name

COUNT LA MONT and ANITA

as the two most likely to get home next Saturday. Five have fallen out of the two-mile hurdle race, viz., Bombardier, Viceroy, Deceiver, Pansy, and Beauty. I was not surprised to see Bombardier in the ranks of the seceders, and opine that his scratching was due to Warrior having been placed 4lbs below him. Mr Knight contends he can give Warrior the weight mentioned if not more, but I want to know why? He has never demonstrated such ability in public and though he may have a big slab of hurdling ability up his sleeve we cannot go on that. I should have been glad to see the Shore horse start to find out whether I am correct in my supposition that he was weighted too close to Warrior, but his non-acceptance places that out of the question. Ingorina unfortunately has been scratched by the Fire Fiend, and I have to deplore the loss of a fine hurdler that might have shown steeplechasing power had Fate proved kind to him. At 9.12 stands Marechal Neil, and if that disastrous fire at Williamson's has no unfavourable effect on his constitution he may prove the hardest horse to beat. That was a good race he ran behind Ebor and Fright when the former got home by a neck at the 'Xmas meeting, and quite good enough I fancy to land him a winner next Saturday. Molly Hawk and Kiora at 9.4 and 9.3 are not to be preferred to Villiers 9.3, who has a big chance at scoring.

MARECHAL NEIL and MAGPIE

are the best to support, with Villiers well worthy of backing should there be anything like a dividend hanging to his chance. In the five furlong race, the Zealandia Handicap, St. Kilda has, as I expected, declined the 10.4 offered him, for there are some smart sprinters below

him at a couple of stone advantage. Doris 8.6 and Eve 8.0 are a good pair, and I had a big fancy for the latter for this race until that fire occurred at Williamson's. On Sunday last I paid a visit to the scene of the disaster, and it required but a glance at Eve to see that the North Shore meeting will not trouble her. She had a narrow shave of sharing a like fate to that which befell her stable mates, Ingorina and Abel, and it was only the pluck of Mrs Williamson that saved the little mare. As it is she is very badly burnt about both hind legs and may not be seen out again this season. Hard luck that for Williamson, as Eve was just running into form. With her out of the way Doris has a very big chance of scoring for the Pakakura establishment, which will also have the services of the small and slippery Norina who stands out in very threatening fashion lower in the list. At 6.12, over five furlongs, and on a course like Takapuna where her conformation and size will be all in her favour, she should find many admirers and if in form is worth backing. The Sharper has a good burst of speed, and we know Linstock to be very speedy over this distance, but one must remember the barking he gave his shins in the 'Xmas Recovery Stakes, thanks to that hurdle blunder. He is a big raking horse too for a course like Takapuna. St. Patrick has a very likely look about him, and little Brown Mantle will be given another chance of slipping home in open company. With Doris and Norina to represent it, I fancy

THE PAKAKURA STABLE

holds the missing number to this race, and after Mr Walter's hard luck at 'Xmas I should be glad to see Doris get home. Now we come to the Cup, and for this mile and a-half race I fancy the punters task is the reverse of an easy one. The Workman 9.8 has a tremendous mortgage on the race if he be well on the day, but of late he has not been too good in his physical condition and it is a question whether the course will suit him. That he can stay, his trials prior to the Auckland Cup won by Pegasus prove, and as to his sprinting ability there can be no doubt after the performances placed to his credit at the Ellerslie 'Xmas gathering. He can carry the weight given him, lay behind them all the way, and then bury them in the last six furlongs, for how many members of this Cup field can shoot out a 1.15½ gait? If well on the day he is my straight-out selection. Ben Godfrey, a stone below him, cannot be well suited in the matter of weight if the big horse is well; besides Ben had a nasty turn during Williamson's fire. Prioress though 4lbs above her weight of last year, is held by many to be a very choice thing. For myself, I cannot see it, for last year she just got home. The Messrs. Burke's pair, Annabelle and Anita, have both been left in, and though it is said that the first-named will prove the selected, I am inclined to think that should she feed and train on all right the light weight Anita is the better of the pair. As to Ida, her recent form has been poor in the extreme, and if Thames running could be taken as a guide she has no chance. But I can't take that as a fair measure of her powers. At Otahuhu she reversed the Avondale form by smothering her conqueror Annabelle, and she may surprise us in similar fashion at Takapuna. If she be ridden well next Saturday, I shall expect her to run a big mare. It is said that Taylor is coming up from Wellington to ride Folly who is on Ida's mark, and that the former mare will inevitably beat Ida. Perhaps, but I don't think so. First Nelson, within 2lbs of Reynard, will be beaten by Prime Warden's relative who must have a fair sized chance if the C.J.C. Midsummer Handicap won by him was a true run race. He will, I suppose, be ridden by Davis, and will run a big horse. I do not think the light weights can score except Anita who has been referred to above and fancy

THE WORKMAN OF MR BURKE'S

selected will supply the winner with Reynard and Ida next likely ones. Hazlemere and Commodore have gone out of the six furlong Calliope Handicap for which the top weight, Dead Shot, looks a good thing. Kingsman, 4lbs below Fabulist has, I think, the better chance of the pair, and of the six stone odd division Miss Nelson and Dulce are