

Wairongomai (in J. Kean's stable) is the name bestowed on the half-sister to The Shrew.

A perusal of our trotting columns this week will be found interesting reading. "Someone is gwine ter get inter trouble, foh sure."

Mr Herbert Jackson, of Hawkes Bay, has named the Crusader (Arab)—Swindle gelding, the half-brother to Roscius, which he recently purchased, Barbarossa.

It is with extreme regret that we have to chronicle the death of the well-known English financier and racing man, Baron Hirsch. His charitable nature was known all over the world.

The Northern Steamship Company have arranged to book passengers right through from Onehunga to Hawera, at the excursion rates of £2 10s return. The Gairloch will leave Onehunga for New Plymouth on Monday at one o'clock.

Messrs. Huddart, Parker, and Co. (Ltd.) announce that the s.s. Borrombeet (which has taken up the Anglian's running for a time) will sail for Gisborne, Napier, Wellington, Lyttelton, and Dunedin on Tuesday, May 5th, at 12 noon. The s.s. Tasmania will sail for Sydney (returning to Auckland direct) on Monday, May 4th, at 4 p.m.

The Railway Department announce the train arrangements for the Avondale Races on Saturday. Special trains will run to Avondale racecourse crossing, leaving town at 12.10 and 1.10 p.m., Newmarket at 12.20 and 1.20 p.m., Mount Eden at 12.27 and 1.27, reaching the racecourse crossing at 12.40 and 1.40 p.m., returning after the last race. Fares—First class, 1s 6d; second class, 1s 2d.

It is some time now since we had a good imported Variety Company playing in Auckland, and the public will be glad to know that the Opera House has been leased for a season, and that Mr Alf. Lawton's Novelty Company opened there last night to a splendid house. We have not space to go down the lengthy programme that was got through last night, amidst frequent encores, but we honestly advise all those who like high-class variety business not to miss seeing this company. The items are so varied and well arranged that the curtain falls all too soon. The latest sensation, "The Trilby Ballet," should not be missed. A perusal of the advertisement will show the variety and excellence of the programme. The prices are within everyone's reach, and are 3s, 2s, and 1s.

The Levin people are determined not to be outdone by their neighbours at Shannon, and they have amalgamated themselves with the Horowhenua Racing Club, which used formerly to hold very enjoyable little meetings on the other side of the Horowhenua Lake from Levin. The new club is to be called the Horowhenua Hack Racing Club, and as they have a membership roll already of between 60 and 70 members, it will not be long before they have the first meeting under the management of the new club. There is a nice flat of about 40 or 50 acres at Levin, vested in the Domain Board and set apart for racing purposes. This can soon be put in order, and then the new club will soon announce the first meeting. Levin is a rising township on the Wellington-Manawatu railway line. Mr F. Roe has been appointed secretary.

At Wakefield (England) the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to animals, prosecuted two horse dealers, Arthur Crossley, of Brierly Hall Stud Farm, Chevet, near Wakefield, and Robert Smith, of York, for "nicking" two hackneys and a chestnut mare, the latter being a well-known prize-winner. It was alleged that Mr Crossley intended to exhibit the animal during the coming summer, and in order to make their tails erect and more fashionable, he paid Smith £6 to "nick" the muscles under their tails. To do this, several incisions had to be made, and a rope was then attached to each horse's tail, passed over a pulley fixed to the ceiling of the stable, and weighted at the other end to keep the tail in position. It was further alleged that Smith ordered the animals to stand in this position for three weeks, but at the end of a week two stud grooms gave information to the Society. For the defence, it was contended that it was a surgical operation properly performed, and with a lawful object. Defendants were each fined £6, and £7 1s costs. Notice of appeal was given. These two cruel wretches should have been given "six months hard" without the option of a fine.

An electric saddle is the latest device brought into play in America so as to make slow horses run fast, and it has got several people into trouble at New Orleans. It appears that a coup was contemplated by means of this new-fashioned saddle, but the scheme fell through by reason of somebody stealing the saddle, and substituting another in its place. For this he was arrested. In the meantime the racing governors, getting wind of the affair, held an inquiry, after which they made known the following edict:—"A person known as Charles Tichnor is ruled off the turf for bringing on to the grounds of the club an implement of swindling, called an electric saddle, for the purpose of defrauding the patrons of the track, and for confederating with and for aiding and abetting the said Tichnor in his efforts to get a jockey to use the electric saddle for the purpose of defrauding the patrons of this club, and to their own gain, and for having used the saddle on horses at exercise, to see if the same would increase their speed and enhance their chance of winning, all of which was done with a fraudulent intent. Nate Hill, jockey, is also ruled off the turf, and for procuring the said Tichnor a badge of entry to the grounds of the club, which facilitated his efforts to put the electric saddle in use, and for aiding and abetting, and for having guilty knowledge of the fraudulent purpose of the said Tichnor, M. English is ruled off." This is nearly as cruel as the electric spur that was tried in Yankee land, but the inhuman wretches mixed up in this were also promptly bowled out.

## Coming Events.

[By REVIEWER.]

### AVONDALE MEETING.

THE Avondale Jockey Club's meeting takes place on Saturday, and if the present fine weather continues, there should be a large attendance and large fields. The train arrangements in connection with the meeting are advertised, and duly noticed elsewhere. It should be recollected that this meeting is being held with the totalisator. A number of "double" books in town have assisted to infuse some interest into the meeting, and the many different ways punters have been trying to pick them, makes me think that "Gipsy King," who is always "railing" against tipping, and thinks it should be a punishable offence, has an unenviable task.

### EGMONT MEETING.

The steeplechase season proper will be inaugurated at the Egmont meeting on Thursday and Friday next. The Club are for the first time trying the experiment of a winter two days' meeting, and judging by the splendid list of nominations, there is every likelihood of a successful meeting. The acceptances are not due till to-morrow night, so that we are in the dark as to probable starters. If racing clubs would close their entries, especially acceptances, earlier in the week, all the weekly papers would give them, by publishing the list, a free advertisement as it were, while if a man, especially those living out of town, does not see the the acceptances, he loses interest in that particular meeting. A free "ad." at the end of the week, and just before the meeting, would be a big help to a club in many ways. In connection with the Egmont meeting, the Northern Steamship Company have arranged return excursion fares by the favourite s.s. Gairloch, from Auckland to Hawera, fares, £2 10s. return. Local sports could leave here Monday afternoon, "do" the meeting, and return by Friday night's boat, reaching Auckland on Saturday afternoon. Splendid hotel accommodation will be found at Hawera, at the Empire, Egmont, Commercial, Hawera, and Royal hotels. "Gipsy King" will give his fancies from the handicaps.

## Anticipations.

[By GIPSY KING.]

### AVONDALE.

- Handicap Hurdles—DONALD MCKINNON OR CAPTIVITY.
- Autumn Handicap—TIT OR LADY MARION.
- Avondale Stakes—ANTARES.
- Pony Handicap—ROMP.
- Waitakere Handicap—LILLIE.
- Steeplechase—IKA OR CARBUNCLE.
- Shorts Handicap—ST. KILDA.

### EGMONT.

- Hurdles—WAITUNA.
- Hack Hurdles—CONSPIRACY.
- Hawera Stakes—SWIFT.
- Hack Flat—NOVELTY OR LIGHT.
- Egmont Steeplechase—LORD VIVIAN.
- Stewards' Stakes—SEDGEBROOK.

### CYCLING.

The Wellington to Napier record broken — E. A. Wakeman (Manawatu Club) does the smashing.

Our Napier correspondent sends the following:—Fabian's bicycle record of 22hrs 40min for the 232 miles that separate Wellington from Napier got a very severe shaking on Saturday evening by Mr E. A. Wakeman, of the Manawatu Cycling Club. The latter left the Empire City at 10 p.m. on Friday night, and at precisely two minutes past seven on Saturday night he appeared at the post-office, Napier, thus having accomplished the distance in 21hrs 2min; and this fact must be borne in mind that between the Upper Hutt (10 miles from Wellington) and Pakipaki (20 miles from Napier) he was unassisted by pacemakers. At the latter place, Messrs. Symonds and McDowell, of the Hastings Cash Club, met the smasher and piloted him into Napier. Mr Wakeman, who only started riding last September, is 27 years of age, weighs 10st 7lb, and rides a machine geared to 68in.

## SUCCESSFUL "ROARERS."

The remarkable success, at the last Manchester races, of three horses which had silver tubes fitted in their throats, as a means of relief from the infirmity of "roaring," is the subject of an interesting, though somewhat technical, article in the *British Medical Journal*. Although the animals in question had been subjected to the operation of tracheotomy and carried in their throats an artificial outlet for the wind-pipe, which might be supposed to cause them some inconvenience, they outstripped their competitors in the race, taking the first, second, and fourth places. A quarter of a century ago this city boasted a surgeon who had so far improved upon the provision made for him by Nature as to wear not only a wig, but a glass eye, a set of artificial teeth, a cork arm, and a wooden leg. It is upon record that that gentleman achieved more success in his profession than many of its members who might have been more satisfactorily equipped for the battle of life. Doubtless it was some advantage to him to be able to preside in his own person undeniable proofs of the success with which surgical art can be applied to the supplementing of corporeal defects. But even his case must yield the palm to that of "roaring" race-horses, whose wind, and therefore "going powers," are actually improved by the use of an artificial subglottis. It is not recorded that the doctor's wooden leg rendered him a speedier pedestrian than Nature had qualified him to be, or that he ever trusted the performance of surgical operations to his artificial arm, in preference to its fellow of flesh and blood. It is in the actual improvement of natural provision by artificial appliances that veterinary science seems to have outstripped the branch of the healing art which occupies itself with bipeds only. The general public may be surprised to learn that it has become no uncommon thing for carriage horses to be furnished with silver tubes in their throats, and that even "in the hunting field, in certain instances, horses which, without them, could not have galloped a mile without the greatest discomfort to themselves and danger to their riders, have, with the aid of tubes, been hunted for five seasons." These results must be highly satisfactory to the owners of "roarers," but if they continue to develop "roaring" will be in danger of being promoted from the status of an infirmity to that of a merit, and the proprietors of racehorses born with properly fitting arytenoid cartilages may have something to say on the subject to handicappers, if, indeed, they are not tempted to risk proceedings by the Anti-Vivisection Section in order to qualify their steeds for the Order of the Silver Tube. This is Darwin's great doctrine of the survival of the fittest thwarted and contradicted in what ought to be the best house of its friends. The fact that "roaring" is hereditary suggests truly disquieting consideration in this connection. It would seem as if only one thing still remained to be done. It may be rash to affirm that the resources of veterinary science, co-operating with those of mechanical skill, are not capable of producing a twentieth-century Pegasus which will spur the ground with fifty bicycle swiftness, and mount the clouds on wings of Mr Hiram Maxim's manufacture.

## SMILES.

Justice (severely): "How could you, sir, be so mean as to swindle people that put confidence in you?" Prisoner: "Well, judge, I'll make it worth something to yer, if you'll tell me how to work them as don't."

Here is a warning to preachers who deal with the theory subject of betting and gambling. According to the *Record*, Canon Whitely, the veteran vicar of Bedlington, who was senior wrangler as long ago as 1830, preached a sermon in which he showed the foolishness of staking money when the chances of winning were so small. Two pitmen, discussing the subject afterwards, were heard to say they felt sure "the vicar must have betted a lot hissel in his time, or he wouldna ha knowed sa much about it." The canon is very fond of telling the story against himself.

Wife: "I don't care if you did win; you know I told you not to bet on the races." Husband (apologetically): "But, my dear, I was just getting repaired." Wife: "Getting repaired?" Husband: "Yes, love; I was broke."

Jim: "Honesty is the best policy, arter all." Bill: "How?" "Remember that dog I stole?" "Yes." "Well, I tried two hull days to sell 'im an' no one offered more'n five shillings, so I went like a honest man, an' guv him to th' ole lady what owned 'im, an' she guv me a suvrin."

## "THAT IS BUSINESS?"

When the grocer stirs the sand amongst his sugar, if you please,  
Or he waters his tobacco, or makes pepper out of peas,  
Or puts roasted bread in coffee, or dried willow in his teas—  
That is business, simply business, so it is.  
But when at length he's collared at his clever little game,  
And is fined a tidy figure, and is put to loss and shame—  
That is business—that is darned good biz!

When an owner enters horses—which are known to go the pace  
By a public which will back them for a win or for a place—  
Quite resolved to have them finish at the wrong end of the race,  
That is business, simply business, so it is.  
When we've got a law to put these cheerful owners in a fix,  
And we send them picking oakum for their festive little tricks,  
'Twill be business—'twill be real good biz!  
Melbourne Punch.

## Sporting Items.

[By GIPSY KING.]

Some time ago I mentioned that a resident of Wanganui had received a letter from a friend at Coolgardie, announcing the death of Mr Frank Palmer. Meeting Mr Palmer's son, Harry, at Palmerston North a few days afterwards, I learnt that he was not aware that his father was reported to be dead, so I discredited the announcement, and am now pleased to hear from Harry that his father, one of the old-time sporting men on the Wanganui coast, is still alive and living at Coolgardie.

Some time ago, Mr W. H. Chitham, of Palmerston North, told me he thought, principally for health purposes, that he would remove to Auckland, and if he did make the journey, he would bring his racing stock with him, including First Sight (a four-year-old half-sister to Flying Shot), Bavaria (a two-year-old filly by Forerunner—Starwater), and Marvellous (a two-year-old sister to Flying Shot). I notice that First Sight, Bavaria, and Marvellous are nominated for the Takapuna Meeting, so that the "humorous and sporting barber" may have decided to come north.

Perhaps the cheapest "hack" sold for many a day in the Auckland saleyards was the up-country hurdle horse Viceroy, aged, by Gilderoy. He was sold for the paltry sum of three guineas. "He has a near fore leg," a beauty, it is true, but plenty of good horses have given way in the front ligaments, and after careful nursing, then a good blistering, and turned out for six or eight months, they come up smiling again as if nothing had happened. But looking at Viceroy standing amongst a lot of "crocks" in the yards, it caused me to reflect, but to publish my reflections would cause bloodshed. It was quite apparent that Viceroy's leg had not been touched, bar fomentations, and if his new owner gets to work on the horse properly, he will have a cheap hack. Had Viceroy not broken down in the First Handicap Hurdle Race at the A.R.C. meeting, he would certainly have been second to Donald McKinnon, and he would have made the latter go a bit faster than he had to do to win. He broke down less than half a mile from home. Last season Viceroy won the First Handicap Hurdles, the Thames Handicap Hurdles (second day), and Free Handicap at the Thames J.C. Summer Meeting. Won Ngirua-wahia Cup, one mile and a half, Handicap Hurdle Race, two miles, at Rotorua, and the Handicap Hurdles, two miles, at Te Aroha J.C. Autumn Meeting.

In connection with Mr L. D. Nathan's request to the A.R.C. committee that the club's handicapper might be asked to give some explanation of the handicapping of his mare Stepfeldt at the Easter Meeting, someone, locally, has done a great injustice to Mr Evett. First of all, before he received any official intimation from the club that they would like Mr Evett to give the explanation desired by Mr Nathan, the particulars of the complaint appeared in both the local daily papers and in a southern sporting journal. However, that is a matter of little consequence, but certainly is a strange proceeding for the same papers to publish that Mr Evett declines to answer Mr Nathan's complaint or give the explanation asked for. Mr Evett is a servant of the Auckland Racing Club, and he is responsible for that body, and if he receives instructions to supply certain information, he has to do the same as anyone else would have to do when occupying a similar position. I have Mr Evett's authority for saying that he has not declined to answer the club's communication in connection with the handicapping of Stepfeldt, and never had any intention of being so discourteous to the club that employs him. He further informs me that the explanation required by the club, on behalf of Mr Nathan, will duly appear before the next committee meeting. Now, I think it is rather rough on Mr Evett that this falsehood should be allowed to appear in all the sporting press, except the *SPORTING REVIEW*, because we declined to believe that Mr Evett would treat his club with such disrespect, and hence made it our business to look him up and get the truth of the matter. The least the journals that have given publicity to the matter can do is to give as full publicity to Mr Evett's version of the affair, otherwise several of the other racing clubs who employ Mr Evett may think that they have a very unpromising officer, and think a change desirable. When the matter is thrashed out in committee, I trust they will not allow either Mr L. D. Nathan's letter of complaint or Mr Evett's reply to be published. It is not exactly a public matter, as it is only an owner asking for what he has a perfect right to ask for; but that does not say that it is necessary to publish the correspondence throughout the colony.

NORTHERN STEAMSHIP COMPANY (LIMITED).

EGMONT WINTER RACING MEETING,

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 6TH AND 7TH MAY.

EXCURSION TO HAWERA.

The S.S. "GAIRLOCH" will leave Onehunga for New Plymouth on MONDAY, 4TH MAY, AT 1 P.M., Carrying Excursionists for Hawera Races.

THROUGH RETURN FARE (Rail and Steamer), available for fourteen days } £2 10