

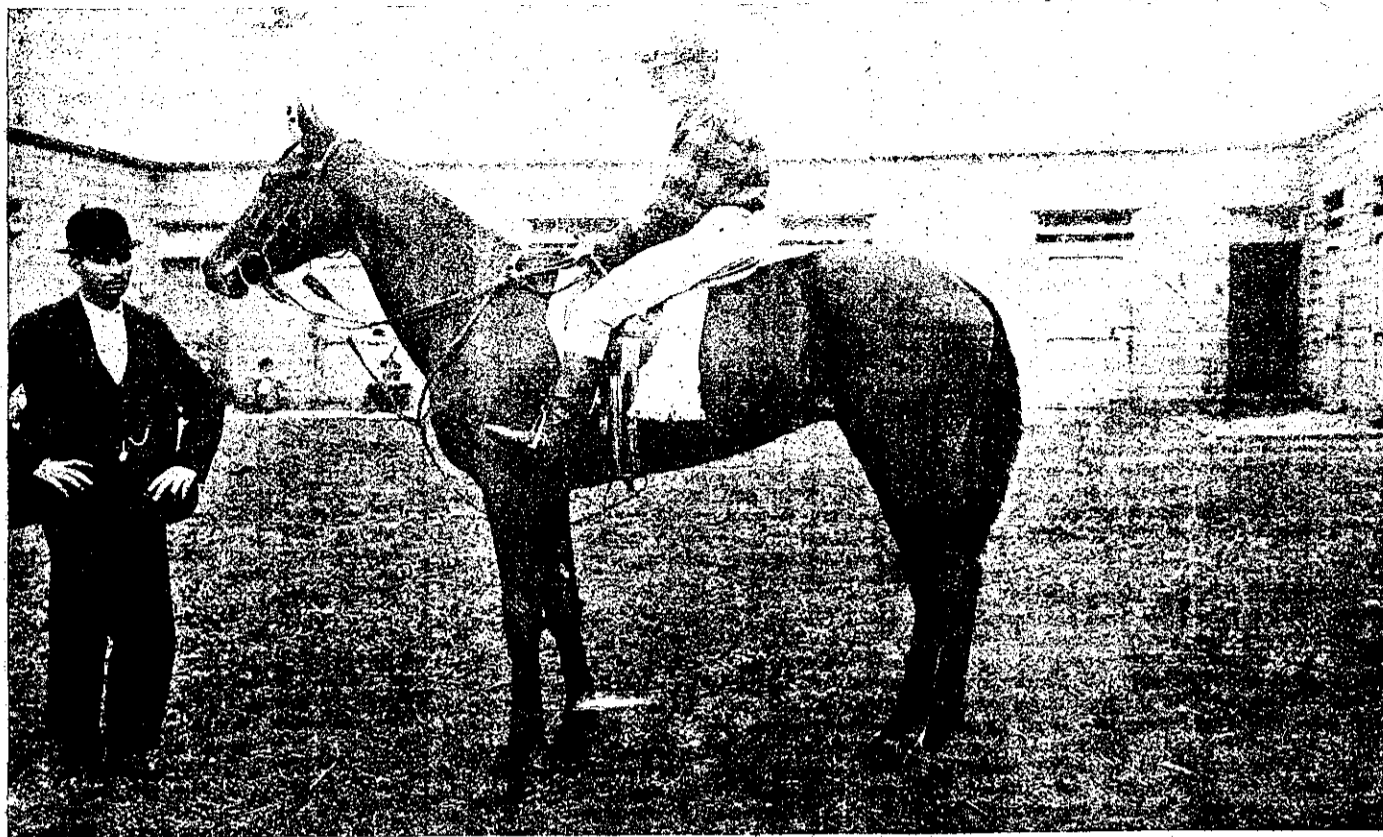
At the recent Brunner Demonstration Sports at Christchurch, Mr C. H. Jones, the ten-mile champion cyclist, beat Mr H. Mace's trotting horse, Stonewall Jackson, in a mile race, by three yards, the time being 2min 31 1-5sec.

Most of the extremely fast American pacers are stallions. For instance, John R. Gentry, 2min 8½sec; Joe Patchen, 2min 4sec; Online, 2min 4sec; Strathberry, 2min 4½sec; the late Fidol, 2min 4½sec; Star Pointer, 2min 4½sec; Hal Dillard, 2min 4½sec; Coleridge, 2min 5½sec; Direct, 2min 5½sec; Saladin, 2min 5½sec; Roy Wilkes, 2min 6½sec; Rubinstein, 2min 6½sec; Manager, 2min 6½sec; Directly, 2min 6½sec.

The "Fastest Trotting Dog in the World" is the heading of a paragraph above an illustration of a Setter in harness in the *Stock-keeper*:—"Although unknown in England, the 'trotting dog' is by no means uncommon in America. The subject of the illustration can, we are assured, lay claim to the best record, and pulled an 80lb boy on an iron-wheeled cart a quarter of a mile at the rate of 3min 18sec to the mile. He is a big, strong English Setter, bred and reared in Michigan, weighs in condition 80lb, is three years old, and is one of the most gentle, amiable dogs alive. This dog is a natural gaited trotter, loves the sport, requires no actual driving (only steering and slight encouragement), and trots and scores like an old track-horse. The pneumatic-tired, bicycle-wheeled sulky which he draws was specially built and weighs 16lb, and the harness 2lb. He has trotted at fairs and exhibitions against horse, waggon, boy on bicycle, or running, and will also show great pace alone. His usual driver was Major Geo. Wilson, a free, coloured American, no freak or cripple, but only 48in high, and 35 years old, weighing 50lb. The dog is perfectly under control, and gets at once into his gait; there is no element of 'forcing' in the performance, and he can always, in condition, show a quarter at a 3.20 gait—a wonderful performance."

In connection with the disqualification of the trotter Amelia by the Maniototo Club, and endorsed by the Dunedin Jockey Club, "Mazepa" says:—"The question asked of the Maniototo Club by the D.J.C., as to why the club was satisfied to disqualify Amelia (believed to be Semolina in disguise) without taking action in regard to the owner, has produced an answer, this being to the effect that there was reason to suppose the nominator of the mare to be merely a catspaw for the real owner; that the nominator is not a real racing man, and was not present; and that no good purpose would have been served by disqualifying him. The reply has been considered by the D.J.C., and deemed satisfactory so far as it goes, but the metropolitan club asks why the "catspaw" was not called upon to disclose the name of the real owner. The reply to this may be guessed, I should think—namely, that a man so far outside the pale of racing as to be indifferent to its decrees might not be willing to make the disclosure, and if he did refuse, no power possessed by the clubs could make him speak. Besides, he may not be disposed to do the clubs a good turn at the expense of his principal. It seems to me that the Maniototo Club went as far as it was safe to go. To have pressed the matter further might have involved a loss of dignity."—It is at these pretenders that the trotting, or even racing clubs want to get at. These alleged "catspaws" know exactly how many beans make five. An innocent man would at once ask, "Why do you wish to nominate your horse in my name?" and at once become suspicious that some shady business was contemplated. When Te Horo was disqualified at Palmerston North did the men disqualified for life take it to heart? No; they went bush-whacking again. It was the parties behind these men that were annoyed at their little game being burst up. Now

THE WINNER OF THE AVONDALE STAKES HANDICAP.



Mr J. Chaafe's b c ANTARES, 2yrs, by Castor—Hilda.

when the Maniototo Club had bagged the nominator, they should not have lost sight of him until he had been served with a summons for attempting to obtain money by false pretences or misrepresentation. He would soon have found the others behind the scenes. Men connected with "ringers," or accomplices (alias "catspaws"), should be shown no mercy, and they could just as well clear their character, if they were innocent, before a stipendiary magistrate as before stewards of a combined race and trotting meeting. But to practically catch a ringer and let him go is enough to almost cause me to exclaim with the mariner and the "Hinsect" in "Paul Jones," "Ain't it sickenin'!"

DISQUALIFICATION OF FIONA, ALIAS CLIVE.

We are in receipt of the following circular letter from the Hawke's Bay Metropolitan Trotting Club:—

"At a special meeting of the Stewards of the Hawke's Bay Metropolitan Trotting Club, the following evidence was adduced as to the identity of the brown mare that trotted in the Maiden Saddle at Hastings on March 19th, under the name of Clive.

"STATEMENT BY W. ORANGE.—I bought the mare Clive after the March meeting from Mr Amos Clegg, who told me the real name of the mare was Fiona, and not Clive, and that under the name of Fiona she had won a mile saddle trot at

Lancaster Park, and trotted the distance in 2.55, that being her best performance, and I am quite sure that this is the mare that trotted in the Maiden Saddle at the Autumn Meeting, at Hastings, on March 19th, under the name of Clive. This mare has a scar or slit in the off top eyelid, and the mare is aged. I delivered the mare to James Campbell at Clive at 12.10 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22nd. I had no idea that this mare was other than Clive until after the meeting was over. Mr Clegg also told me that the mare was by Blackwood Abdallah. (Signed) W. Orange. April 23rd, 1896."

"Hastings, Hawke's Bay, April 24th, 1896. To the President and Committee Hawke's Bay Metropolitan Trotting Club. Dear Sirs—At your request I went to West Clive this morning to examine the mare Clive that started in a Two Mile Maiden Saddle Trot at Hastings on March 19, 1896. The said mare was delivered to James Campbell on Wednesday, 22nd April, 1896, by William Orange, who informs me of the fact. I called on Mr James Campbell to show me the mare Clive, which he absolutely declined to do. I am confident that the mare I saw W. Orange with, and which mare he said he purchased off Amos Clegg as the mare Fiona, is the same that trotted in the Two Mile Maiden Saddle Trot at your meeting on March 19th, 1896.—Yours, etc., A. Elbourne, Handicapper."

"Copy of Telegram to A. J. Rattray, Esq., Trotting Club, Christchurch, April 24th:—'Campbell ships to Evans, Lyttelton, per Tasmania, brown mare supposed to be Fiona, ran here in Maiden Saddle as Clive, in name of Amos

Clegg. Please have steamer met, mare examined, and identity proved. Mark scar on off top eyelid, evidence posted, reply. W. D. Ireland, Trotting Club, Hastings.' Reply to above: 'Have examined mare on board Tasmania and recognise her as Fiona. A. J. Rattray, Lyttelton. April 25th.'

"The Stewards of the Hawke's Bay Trotting Club unanimously resolved—'That Amos Clegg, nominator and rider, and the brown mare Fiona, alias Clive, be disqualified for ever, and that a copy of the evidence and this resolution be sent to Mr Clegg and the following Trotting Associations and Trotting Clubs: Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Taranaki, Palmerston North, and Auckland.—George Ellis, President Hawke's Bay Metropolitan Trotting Club. Hastings, 28th April, 1896.'

DUNEDIN NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Dunedin Amateur Trotting Club, which held its meetings at St. Clair, has caved in, so that the Tahuna Park Club will get the tote permit for their meeting this month.

CANTERBURY NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Mr A. Rattray and the former owner of the trotter Sultan proceed to Geraldine to-morrow (Wednesday), to examine Moody, who is alleged to be identical with Sultan.

Moody won the Farewell Trot at Geraldine, after having been badly beaten in two previous races, and protests were entered against him on the ground of inconsistency and wrongful entry, but both were dismissed. Moody competed at Tinwald on New Year's Day, and those in charge of him were warned that it would be wiser not to start him in that name. However, he did not then win, so no action was taken. More's the pity, win or not. If a horse is known to be a "ringer" he should go up.

Bilbati, recently disqualified here, is now in Otago. I suppose we shall soon hear of him. It is rumoured that Cynthia, a well-known local trotter, has also found her way south. A trotter has only to be missed from his usual haunts now, and the authorities immediately begin to enquire its whereabouts.

The local trotting authorities have not yet decided re Fiona (rung-in as Clive at Napier) and her Christchurch connections.

So far as I can ascertain, I should say Prince Imperial has a good show in the Juvenile Stakes at the Show Grounds this month.

TROTTING RESULTS.

WELLINGTON TROTTING CLUB MEETING.

FIRST DAY—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH.

Weather fine. Attendance, about 500. Total investments on totalisator, £538. Results:—

MAIDEN HANDICAP.

Prince, scr 1
Tussock, 12sec 2
Only £1 was invested on the machine, and that was on the second horse.

WELLINGTON TROTTING CLUB HANDICAP.

Alice, 32sec 1
Hazeldean, 24sec 2
Dakota, 36sec 3
Prince and Diplomacy also started.
Won easily. Time, 6min 3sec. Dividend, £1 14s.

THE WINNER OF THE AVONDALE HURDLE RACE.



Photos by J. A. Slack

Plates by N.Z. Photo-Process Co.

Mr H. H. Hayr's ch g BONOVOREE, aged, by The Mute—Maid of All Work.

Training jerseys 1s each at Geo. Fowlds