

DUNEDIN.

Only a "chestnut"—Local backers get badly hit over Gipsy Grand's withdrawal—Euroclydon not befriended by the stable yet—Captive going to the post, so his owner says—Promising colts—Dunedin Jockey Club annual meeting—Election of committee—The betting market in Dunedin

The report that went the rounds of the colony that a lady member had been elected a member of the Canterbury Jockey Club, and that it was the first instance of the kind, was rather premature, as the Dunedin Club have had lady members for several years. [So have several other clubs.—Ed. S.R.]

Gipsy Grand had been well backed locally for the New Zealand Cup, so that the scratching of the colt for the race is a fiasco for punters. Moral—Do not be too hasty in backing horses.

I cannot recommend Euroclydon. The parties behind the colt, I know, are not satisfied with his weight, and it is not stable money that has made him favourite.

Captive is a greatly improved horse. Regarding his leg ailment, it is not now a question if he can stand the necessary work. His owner informs me he is not going to get too much of that.

He has £2,000 about Captive winning at a very long price, and he has also bet level money that Captive starts for the race. The wager is to the amount that covers expenses.

Lord Rosslyn is developing into a grand colt, and being a horse that great care has been taken of as a two-year-old, his partly evidently mean business with him.

The same remarks apply to False Impression, who is the most fancied down this way of the younger division in the New Zealand Cup. He is just the sort to run well in the early spring classic events.

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the D.J.C. last night. The Hon. G. McLean, the chairman, said the club would effect a saving of £900 per annum with the new course, so that it would be seen how much smaller attendances it could do with, but he believed that if the new course were opened with *eclat*, quite as many would go out there as visited the Forbury.

[Once on board the train a race crowd doesn't mind whether they go one or ten miles to the races.—Ed. S.R.]

The election of a committee resulted as follows—Messrs S. Solomon, 47; G. McLean, 39; J. Mills, 38; H. Gourlay, 32; W. Dawson, 32; P. Millar, 31; J. Hazlett, 27; Hon. T. Fergus, 24; T. G. Rose, 21. The first six of the above were declared elected.

The "head of the poll" is owner of Beadonwell, Black and Red, Britomart, &c. His position at the top of the poll is a good criterion of his popularity.

The Hon. G. McLean was re-elected president and Mr J. Stephenson vice-president.

The result of the election has given general satisfaction.

Mr Abe Moss is doing capital business here. He reports the following "Innovation" doubles:—300 to 1 each Euroclydon and Music, Bessie McCarthy and Aquarius, Quiltiri and Dreamland, Culverin and The Officer, Bombshell and Trentmoo, Lord Zetland and Hopscotch, Bombshell and Dreamland. Straight-out for the N.Z. Cup—200 to 6 Brooklet, 100 to 2 Mahaki, 100 to 6 Fabulist, 300 to 5 Lord Rosslyn, 300 to 9 Searchlight, 500 to 10 Bessie McCarthy, 100 to 5 Bellicent, 150 to 4½ Black and Red, 200 to 6 The Shrew.

Mr Moss has also laid the following Grand National doubles—200 to 4 Barnardo and Liberator, 100 to 2 Booties and Hopeful, 150 to 3 Liberator and Mutiny, 200 to 3 Mutiny and Rangiponehu, 250 to 4 The Plug and Levanter, 150 to 3 Levanter and Donald McKinnon, 200 to 1 Dromedary and Chris

LATE HANDICAPS.

N.Z. GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE. Three miles and a half.

	st lb		st lb
Liberator	12 9	Canard	9 11
Mutiny	12 4	Osman	9 11
Donald McKinnon	12 3	Revolt	9 10
Kulmine	11 13	The Joker	9 9
Tiritea	11 8	Zacho	9 9
Hopeful	11 0	Zanzibar	9 8
Barnardo	11 0	Dromedary	9 8
Morag	10 12	Nat	9 7
Booties	10 11	Narrate	9 7
Bombardier	10 10	Cyrus II.	9 7
Levander	10 7	Tippler	9 7
The Plug	10 6	Spaddon	9 7
Timothy	10 4	Sam	9 7
Gillie	10 3	Vagabond	9 7

GRAND NATIONAL HURDLES. About three miles

	st lb		st lb
Liberator	12 9	Magazine	9 13
Kulmine	12 9	Penrose	9 13
Donald McKinnon	12 6	Dummy	9 12
Hopeful	12 2	Fraternite	9 11
Mutiny	11 8	Flex	9 10
Kapua	11 7	Specular	9 10
Prime Warden	11 6	Zanzibar	9 10
Tiritea	11 2	Spaddon	9 9
St. Kilda	11 0	Victim	9 8
The Plug	10 9	Kauri Gum	9 7
Flying Shot	10 8	Narrate	9 5
Levander	10 7	Nat	9 0
Bombardier	10 5	Lobo	9 0
Revolt	10 1	Mainstay	9 0
Napoleon	10 0	Regret	9 0
Chris	10 0	Lona	9 0
Westmere	10 0	Lord Raven	9 0
Slaiden	10 0	Hukaterer	9 0
Solitaire	10 0	Tippler	9 0
Osman	9 13	Docility	9 0
Balquitha	9 13	Midas	9 0
Rangiponehu	9 13		

It is rumoured in Sydney that Portsea's brother, Reka, has been backed for the Melbourne Cup to win a big stake.

Sporting News.

[BY REVIEWER.]

Persimmon, winner of the English Derby, it is stated, was in the hands of the dentist ten days before he won that race.

John Belcher, the Wanganui trainer, has now in hand a three-year-old colt by Catesby (by Musket) out of a Mute mare.

Owing to pressure on our space this week, we are compelled to hold over "Gipsy King's" glance through the N.Z. Cup handicaps.

At Windsor Castle there is a guitar made from the skull of the Duke of Schomberg's horse, which was killed at the battle of the Boyne.

I am pleased to say that there is much improvement in Mr "Dick" Lawrence's health, and hope soon to see him moving about again.

Adam Byers left for Wellington yesterday, taking with him his old favourite—St. Kilda. I wish him better luck than he had at Hastings.

It is proposed to mate Loyalty and Response, practically two non-stayers. Yet, according to Mr Bruce Low's "number" system, the mating is approved of.

The Cuirassier—Radiant youngster in McGuinness' stable at Dunedin, and now the property of Messrs Stephenson and Hazlett, has been named Sequin.

An alteration will be found in the conditions of the Hawk's Bay Stakes this week as compared with last week's advertisement. The race is for "present yearlings and foals."

Our Australian letter, which is unusually interesting on account of the reference to the V.R.C. Grand National Hurdle Race, and the horses that have been backed for the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups, will be found in another column.

Cinder Ellen, by Trenton from the ex-New Zealand mare, Cinderella (by Javelin—Lilla, by New Chum), is now the champion galloway of Australia. She won the Kensington Handicap, of one mile, with 10.3 in the saddle in 1min 46½sec.

In our advertising columns will be found two announcements of blood-stock for sale. We will deal more extensively with this subject next week, for want of space debar us from speaking as fully as we should like to in regard to the disposal of a stallion and some choice youngsters.

That famous mare Idalia, now in the Hon. J. D. Ormond's stud, produced Betrayer, Sir Modred, Idalium, Cheviot, and July to Traducer, which suggests that, if mated with a son of Traducer, the nick may be more successful than with the horses she has been mated with during the last few years.

The sudden death is recorded at Brisbane of the well-known Australian jockey, Brickwood ("Bricky") Colley. He has won many important races, such as the Maribyrnong Plate, Caulfield Guineas, A.J.C. Derby (Le Grand), Sydney Cup (Cerise and Blue), and Metropolitan Handicap (Sir Modred), &c.

The handicaps for the Grand National Steeplechase and Grand National Hurdle Race will be found in another column. As they were only received as we are going to press, a glimpse is all we can take of them, and at first blush they seem to be a very good production, taking the two races into consideration.

I heard a man express surprise that £250 was refused for Waiuku. Why, he is worth that for a sire. After "Jay" is tired racing the handsome son of St. Leger he will always be assured a snug little income from Waiuku's stud fees, especially if placed at the service of breeders in the Taranaki district. Waiuku's sort are not obtainable every day even at £250.

Sydney Truth says "the Auckland steeplechase course takes the field through several gardens," and suggests that "Hop" Garden, under the circumstances, was bound to win our National Hurdle Race. Sorry to put our contemporary away, but the field does not even go through one garden. Our hurdle races, as with other well-managed clubs, are run on the course proper.

The death is reported from South Australia of Woodnymph (Musket—Sylvia), dam of Mr W. R. Wilson's Bradford (by St. Leger), and Mr E. D. O'Rourke's Leontini (by Leolinus). Like her sisters Elfin, Engagement, and Forest Queen, she was not a success on the race track, and following this, the quartette, at the stud, has not produced a racehorse yet, despite their relationship to Goldsborough and Martini-Henry.

Lawyer Crick, of Sydney, who was one of the prominent people in the Dean case, is evidently a much smarter man at technical law points than the local solicitors who defended Messrs. Tobias, McLeod, and Cleland. A similar case to the one tried here on Monday was tried at Sydney. The defendant had publicly laid a double (The Captain and Coo-ee) to a police officer, but Lawyer Crick broke up the prosecution by enquiring if the Court had any evidence that The Captain and Coo-ee were racehorses! As the Court had none, the case was dismissed. I must put Mr Crick down as a hard case. He certainly deserves to succeed in his profession.

The farce of explaining the niceties of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, wherein it is a breach of the law to write down a wager in an office, but on stepping outside a couple of yards and writing the same wager in the street it is not an offence, was enacted on Monday last. By the prominence some people gave to the cases—practically only two—one would have thought some great criminal offence had been committed. We give a few of the Police Court particulars in another column, and it will be seen how some people try to make mountains out of mole hills. "Fat" is one thing, and consideration for other people is another thing in Police Court matters.

The police officer who made the wager to bring the betting cases into court was lucky enough to invest five shillings on Levanter for the Great Northern Steeplechase. He was paid at the rate of an 8 to 1 chance.

For the Melbourne Cup of 1869 The Barb was handicapped at 11.7, Glencoe 11.0, and Tim Whiffier 10.7. The minimum weight in those days was 5.7. It is unnecessary to state that the trio mentioned did not go to the post. Carbine (6yrs) was handicapped at 10.12, so that Wallace's 10.0 looks quite insignificant when compared with the above adjustments. But of course the mere fact of these horses being handicapped in such a manner does not prove the sanity of the handicapper.

A new and novel question was brought before the Blue Grass Racing Association, America, bearing on what is known as the proposed "Scully Race." Trainer Bill Scully is the originator of the idea, which proposes to gradually eliminate the "dogs" of the Turf. It provides that a special purse be offered on extra days for practically worthless crabs, the winner of which is to become the property of the club, and to be afterwards branded, and barred and condemned thereafter from use for breeding and racing purposes. Colonel Clay strongly favoured the novel scheme, and, on his motion, the Executive Committee was instructed to request the different racing associations to carry out the unique project.

The annual report of the Dunedin Jockey Club states that the receipts for the year amounted to £18,241 18s 7d, and the expenditure to £18,560 17s 5d, showing a loss of £319 15s 10d. The receipts include interest on fixed deposit, which is no longer available, making a loss of £819 11s 10d. The interest and taxes on Forbury Park are equivalent to a rental of £1200 3s 10d. This is beyond the means at disposal, and as the directors of the Forbury Park Company would not come to an arrangement, a new course was purchased at Wingatui for £3427 10s. The sum at fixed deposit was £6000. Of this £1239 went to extinguish the overdraft, £3427 for the payment of Wingatui property, and £1333 9s 9d now stands at the credit of the Club.

Mr W. R. Tuck, the sporting landlord of the Newmarket Hotel, Wanganui, having had a very fair innings with horses he has previously purchased from Messrs. Nolan and Tonks' stud at Hawera (from whence Irish Twist and Richmond Gem came), has purchased another young one from the firm, a rising three-year-old chestnut filly by Forerunner from Sula, by Patriarch—Quickstep. Sula is therefore full sister to Couranto and Premium. This filly is engaged in the Egmont Sires' Hack Produce Stakes, to be run at Hawera in February, and I trust that she will have better luck than Richmond Gem did in the last Produce Stakes, as she was badly left at the post through turning round just as the barrier went up. Even then she made a good fight of it, but the ground she had to make up was too much of a task.

The principal cause of badly adjusted handicaps is the fact that all handicappers have a fear that some particular animal they are not quite sure about—or I should say, perhaps, a "mysterious horse," one that has never done anything and is whispered about as likely to do something good—will run away with the race they are handicapping for, and in their anxiety and excitement they "flop" from 7lb to 16lb on to their "bogey" above what he is entitled to, so as to protect themselves. It is all humbug for people who are not connected with racing as owners, to say that handicappers do not take notice of private information. If I choose I could explode this idea very quickly. Those who have owned a decent nag or two, and who have had to pay bitterly for their racing experience, know better than this. The day is not far distant when we will have an entirely different system of handicapping.

In another column will be found the opinions of seven Australian sporting writers on the handicap for the Melbourne Cup, and their selections after going through the list. After summarising their selections I find the voting for the various horses to be:—Toreador 6, Miraculum 5, Trentham 4, The Officer 4, O'Trigger 4, Wallace 3, The Merry Boy 3, Hopscotch 3, Coil 3, Nada 2, Mahee 2, Gaulus 2, Cyndus 2, Newhaven 2, Lord Richmond 2, Fort 2, Disfigured 2, Damien 2, and The Chevalier 2. The one-vote division comprise The Harvester, Strathspey, Devon, Pivot, Preston, Duhallow, Ayrshire, Hova, Waterfall, Dreamland, Warpaint, Vivian (scratched), Marusa, Music, Waihine, Bloodshot, Elswick, Leonidas, Right Honourable, Lord Grenville, Valiant, and Duke of Richmond. As I am not a believer in newspaper tips, I am trying to form a syndicate to lay all the horses that have received more than one vote. Those that are not fancied will be at a short price. First transactions cash!

Anticipations.

[BY X RAYS.]

WELLINGTON WINTER MEETING.

The Wellington Steeplechase Meeting, which commences on Wednesday next, and will be continued on the following Saturday, promises to be a big success. The acceptances are not due until Friday, so that readers of weekly papers will have to wire for such information if they want it. In the absence of the acceptances, I will make the following selection from the handicap list:—

Stewards' Handicap, one mile.—THE MISER.
Winter Hurdle Race, two miles.—NAPOLÉON.
Maiden Steeplechase Handicap, about two miles and a quarter.—SIR ATHOL.
Parliamentary Handicap, one mile and a quarter.—WESTMERE.
Hunters' Hurdle Handicap, one mile and a half.—ROSSALL.

THE MELBOURNE CUP.

Some Australian Sporting Writers' Opinions on the Handicaps.

By "Umpire," Sydney Referee.

"The Melbourne Cup weights are the work of Mr F. F. Dakin, and the Caulfield handicap is Mr George Vowles' first attempt with the V.A.T.C. event since he took up the club's weight-adjusting. There are very many points of difference in the respective productions, but in basing their calculations on public form and age considerations with regard to the coming three and four-year-old candidates, both authorities on the question of Cup poundage occasionally run on very similar lines. It should not be otherwise, making due allowances for the staying capabilities of horses and the difference between mile and a half and two mile qualifications. It is not necessary just now to wade through the long list in detail, and I shall content myself with a few remarks, and the naming of several horses that may be expected, all going well, to render a good account of themselves. In giving Wallace 10st for the Melbourne Cup Mr Dakin holds a higher opinion of the son of Carbine than I do. Many of his loyal admirers credit him with being equal to Carbine, but I shall always doubt it until he proves it at a later stage. His Sydney Cup performance is not to be easily dismissed, wherein he carried a big weight and won. If it stood alone without other records, such as his defeat by The Harvester, it would be easier to believe him the equal of Carbine. With 10st Wallace's sire ran second to Bravo, and he won as a five-year-old with 10st 5lb in 1890. As a three-year-old he won the Sydney Cup with 9st. Wallace won it with 2lb less. Assuming that Carbine's son is as good as his progenitor, then the weight is quite justified. My idea is that he falls a few pounds short of the standard.

There are nineteen weeks between now and Cup day, during which interval many developments may occur. Horses which seem to be favourably placed and likely to show up are Nada, Damien, and Trentham, and others with fair prospects on paper seem to be The Harvester, The Merry Boy, Mahee, Hopscotch, Toreador, Miraculum, Gaulus, Strathspey."

By "The Special Commissioner," Melbourne Sportsman.

In starting with Wallace, at 10st, Mr F. F. Dakin has paid the son of Carbine a great compliment, seeing that Patron, an undoubtedly good four-year-old, only had 9.3 when he won. Wallace may probably be reserved for the w.f.a. events, and an excellent substitute found in Nada, who is nicely placed with 7.9. On the whole the imposts appear to be framed on an equitable basis, but I find it an impossible task—being only mortal—to thoroughly analyse Mr F. F. Dakin's production in the limited time at my disposal this week. Without going into the why or wherefore, I shall select the following dozen as a "first sight":—Nada, Devon, Pivot, Gaulus, Toreador, Preston, The Officer, Duhallow, Ayrshire, Miraculum, O'Trigger, Cyndus.

By "Reginald," Melbourne Sportsman.

"Under 10 stone, Carbine failed in the great two miler as a four-year-old, and now his son Wallace is asked to put up a similar burden at the same age. In circumstances where the sire only managed to run second, it is a big thing to expect the young one to succeed outright; but, gigantic as the task before him now appears, I shall look to Wallace, always providing he trains on all right, to get nearer to victory next November than even Carbine did in '89. To choose a dozen now I would name:—Wallace, Hova, Waterfall, O'Trigger, Dreamland, Toreador, Miraculum, Newhaven, Coil, The Officer, Lord Richmond, Damien."

By "T.T.," Melbourne Sportsman.

"And while on this same sore subject—the weighing of the weights—which is going to perplex punters and provide pabulum for pressmen for the better portion of the next four months, I may as well weigh in with my somewhat heavy impressions right here. First thoughts are proverbially the best. . . . If there be any merit in the axiom, 'two heads are better than one,' the mere fact of the two leading handicappers in Victoria coinciding (altogether apart, necessarily, of any comparing of notes, as they don't put their heads together) in their published and well thought-out opinions as to the best horses over a mile and a half and two miles of ground stamps the handicaps as 18 carat. Boiled down as briefly as possible, I like the look of Cyndus (7.3), Wallace (10.0), Newhaven (7.13), Coil (7.11), The Officer (7.4), and Trentham (7.9). And, perhaps, the probable Derby winner, Coil, or Trentham may be about at the finish for the Melbourne Cup of '96."

By "Warrior," Melbourne Sportsman.

"Judging from a casual glance at this year's weights, I must congratulate Mr F. F. Dakin. Like his father in 1889, Wallace this year heads the list in the Melbourne Cup with 10st. If Carbine could secure second place at four years, I don't see why Wallace shouldn't go one better and absolutely win. I take it that Wallace is a much better horse than what Abercorn or Australian Peer were at the same age when they received 9.8 apiece. Summing up Handicapper Dakin's latest conundrum in a nutshell, I cannot, do better than name the following, from which, I believe, will pop out the winner:—Wallace, Warpaint, Vivian, Marusa, The Merry Boy, Toreador, Fort, Trentham, Music, Lord Richmond, Waihine, Bloodshot, Elswick."

By "Terlinga," Australasian.

"I should like to have seen Wallace in at a few pounds less, but the handicap as a whole will I think, take a lot of pulling to pieces. The