

will probably be re-handicapped for winning at Feilding.

On Dit and Springtime have been promoted from the hack class at the Wairarapa Meeting.

W. Davis has now a team of eight horses in training at The Hutt.

Coin, who came across from Blenheim for the Maiden Hack at The Hutt, is engaged in a like event at Masterton; and others engaged are the Russley filly, Russley Belle, Cuirassina, and Come Again.

Revolt, who got knocked out at the Napier Winter Meeting, is entered at Wairarapa. He is, however, only in two races—the Members' and Settlers' Handicaps. These are new races, and have filled badly with only four and five entries respectively.

Timothy, who is engaged at the Wairarapa Meeting, is a horse perhaps the best of whom as a steeplechaser will never be seen.

Fred Martin is so pleased with the way Chordid is shaping that Retina will probably again visit Chainshot.

Black Dust, who journeyed to Feilding to compete in the Hurdle Race, got his foot into a hole while galloping the morning previous to the races, and was unable to start.

HAWKES BAY.

The Feilding Meeting—Stud News—"Caller Ou."—The Napier contingent—Horses going to Auckland—Return of horses from Feilding and Wellington—The Parliamentary representatives.

NAPIER, Dec. 4th.

Torpina's success at Feilding on the first day was anticipated by his owners, and he was therefore well backed by them. I believe they took the odds to about a century about him, and as he paid £4 14s they had a tidy win. The public also stood by Torpedo's son, and profited by the information which the "bird's-eye blue jacket" confederacy disseminated among the sporting public in this town. Blarney, Glenelg, Gold Cup, and Leda, were also well supported here, and in the duel between the starting price layers and the punting public the latter, at the conclusion of the two day's races, had a long way the best of it.

"Caller Ou," Mr E. Schaub, who for a number of years has filled the position of sub-editor on the *Daily Telegraph*, and who has also for a considerable time controlled the sporting department of the same paper, has resigned his position on that journal to take up an appointment on the editorial staff of the *Hawke's Bay Herald*. Previous to leaving the *Telegraph*, he was presented with a very handsome present, as a mark of the respect and esteem in which he was held by the proprietor and staff. In the press room at the various race meetings held in the district, his genial and courteous manner has made him heaps of friends. That he may have lots of good luck, and no cause to regret the change, is all the harm I wish him.

The following mares have visited Robinson Crusoe:—Kotuku, The Maid, Queensborough, Bessie McCarthy, Como, Freda, Wairuareka, Sabra, Aphrodite, Elylock, Princess May, Rosa Bonheur, Sealbroun, Link, Whisper, Denbigh, Pursacring, Claudina, Rowena, and Nellie.

At the annual meeting of the committee of the Waipawa Racing Club there were present—Messrs. White (chair), Butler, Hoof, and Ireland. A bonus of three guineas was granted the New Zealand Turf Register. Capt. T. Howard was elected a life member of the club. A number of new members were elected. As no nominations had been received for the Christmas Handicap, it was decided to cut it out of the programme. The declaration of weights was postponed from Dec. 2nd to the 7th.

I noticed Mr S. H. Gollan's erst-while hurdler, Kimberley, being hacked about Napier lately. He is now the property of Mrs A. H. Gore, of Farndon. Armourer's dun-coloured son looks as sound as a bell.

December 8.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond's team leaves for Auckland next week. I have not been able to ascertain for a certainty what horses will be sent, but from what I can gather, a good contingent of the bearers of the "all cerise" will make the journey to Auckland.

Kauri Gum, Gold Cup, and Kingsman have returned to the Napier Park training tracks from their trip to Wellington and Feilding. Gold Cup's connections did not profit much from her success in the Railway Handicap at Feilding, although they backed her for a fair amount in the Shorts, the five furlong race she won at the same gathering.

Aphony twisted his hoof badly, which will cause the retirement of Pasha's brother for some time.

Lotion will make the trip to Auckland, and there are more unlikely things than that Sou'wester's chestnut, white-faced son will be very handy at the finish. He is not what you would call a brilliant horse, but he can stay all right, and that is more than some of the animals engaged in the Auckland Cup can do.

Sporting men generally in the Hawke's Bay district are jubilant at the return for their seats in parliament of three such genuine and enthusiastic sporting men as the Hon. Captain Russell and Messrs George Hunter and Douglas McLean. The two former are well-known pillars of the Turf, and their registered racing jackets have often been seen to the front in many a hard-fought tussle in the principal racing centres of New Zealand. Mr Douglas McLean, though never having had anything doing battle for him on the racing tracks, has bred some rare good ones at his station at Maraekakaho. Three whose deeds must be fresh in the minds of my readers are the three half brothers, Prince Charlie, Blackberry, and Douglas, by Foul Play, Gladiator, and Crawford Priory respectively, all being out of Good Fruit, the mare which Mr McLean imported from England in 1882.

for a special effort to drag forth from behind the scenes the arch plotters who brought about the Wyndham scandal. But it is not alone to the Wyndham scandal that their attention might with benefit to the sport be directed. Grave statements have been made concerning one classic event disposed of during the recent V.R.C. Carnival, which should cause the stewards of the Club to make a most exhaustive investigation. Fear of the law of libel has probably prevented names being mentioned in the public Press, and we, therefore, cannot be more bold than our Australian contemporaries; but from what has been stated, it appears that in the classic race alluded to there was a pronounced public favourite, and in the face of the money that was piled on, one prominent bookmaker continued to lay his odds, appearing to be elastic. The horse ran and won, but afterwards it was stated in the Press that the bookmaker had been a victim. The facts, as alleged, were that the owner of the horse or mare had agreed, for a substantial consideration, to allow the bookmaker to drug the favourite on the night before the race. The bookmaker's agent or tool, with the necessary drug, proceeded to do his master's bidding, but—whether designedly or not is not known—the trainer had changed the favourite's box, and the wrong horse in the darkness was dosed. This reads like a chapter from the "Flying Scud," or one of Hawley Smart's works, but nevertheless this is the story that is at present in circulation in Australia, and surely, in the interests of the turf, if there is any truth in it, the V.R.C. will leave no stone unturned to discover the prominent bookmaker and the owner of the favourite.

The V.R.C. Committee (states the *Leader*) have largely increased the values of the Newmarket Handicap and Australian Cup, to each of which the club last year gave 500 sovs. At the meeting of the committee the other day it was resolved to add 750 sovs to the former and 1,000 sovs to the latter. The reason a difference is made in the value of the two stakes is that a stronger field is always seen in the Newmarket Handicap, and as the committee has determined to give the sweepstakes to the owners, it is anticipated—calculating last year's figures—that the Newmarket Handicap will be worth about 1,700 sovs. For the Australian Cup there are never so many entries, the distance not being as popular as the six furlongs gallop, and for that reason the committee has decided to give 250 sovs more; but even with the payments given to the owners it is not expected that the race will be worth more than 1,400 sovs, a substantial addition nevertheless to the stake of last season.

The Summer Meeting of the Takapuna Club will be held on Friday, January 29th, Saturday, January 30th, and Saturday, February 6th. The programme, if we except the unseasonable steeplechases, has been attractively arranged, and during the three days the amount of prize money which the club proposes to distribute is £1465. Of that sum £555 will be apportioned on the first day, £480 on the second day, and £480 the third day. The best plums are the Takapuna Cup of 200 sovs, one mile and a half; the Takapuna J.C. Handicap of 100 sovs, one mile and a quarter; the First Handicap Steeplechase of 100 sovs, three miles and a half; and the Summer Handicap of 100 sovs, one mile. The full programme is published in our advertising columns, and from it all particulars as to nominations and date of weights may be obtained. Owners should bear in mind that several of the leading events will have to be nominated for on Friday, December 18th.

The annual meeting of the Lake Takapuna Hack Racing Club will be held on Saturday next in McKay's Paddock, Takapuna. The first race is timed to start at a quarter to two o'clock, and 'buges' will convey pleasure seekers from North Shore to the convincing ground.

Nestor will have the services of Perry in the Auckland Cup, and the colt's prospects are in consequence enhanced, as Perry is not a bad lad. It is also said that T. Taylor will ride Mahaki, and, if so, who will pilot Fabulist?

Astronomer is by Castor out of Fairy, and is a fine-looking horse, but hitherto he has not quite acted up to expectations; when sold at the Wellington Park sales Mr Hordern paid 1,575gs. for the handsome son of Castor, but although he has not received a quick return for his money, the fact that Astronomer is half-brother to such celebrities as Trenton, Niagara, Cuirassier, Zalinski, and Havoc makes him worth a higher price. He is now four years old and is trained at Randwick by Ike Earnshaw; in his race on Saturday week he only won by a neck, but he finished gamely. On the same day another New Zealander (Cravat), also owned by Mr Hordern, finished second to Sam in the Club Handicap, one mile and a quarter. Cravat is a four-year-old by Castor out of Necklace.

"Javelin," in the *Melbourne Leader*, complains that, in face of what he wrote concerning the barbarity of steeplechasing in the summer season, the Victoria Racing Club has decided to include a Steeplechase of two miles and a half in their New Year's Day programme. The V.R.C. Committee are not alone in their want of consideration for the feet of steeplechasers, and some of Auckland's horses will probably give evidence of the hard nature of the going here before our next Steeplechase is over. Referring to the action of the V.R.C., "Javelin" remarks:—"In no possible way can the thing be justified. Moreover, I know that the V.R.C. Committee are not unanimously in favour of racing over stone walls and timber in midsummer on a course as hard as a brickbat. Unfortunately, however, the sportsmen are out-numbered, and the majority evidently consider the gate of paramount importance when placed against such trifling considerations as the lives of gallant horses and brave men. 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true.'"

Our Illustrations.

OUR illustrations this week include sketches of the successful Polo Sports Meeting, held at Potter's Paddock on Saturday. A picture is also given of the South Australian filly, Thunder Queen, who won the V.R.C. Oaks at the late Spring Carnival. Many curious things are rumoured in connection with Thunder Queen's running in that classic event, but it may be accepted that she was the best filly in the race and won on her merits. Uniform and The Possible, who both distinguished themselves at the Canterbury Jockey Club's Spring Meeting—the former by winning the Derby and the latter by annexing the Metropolitan—are both interesting subjects to racing men. We will probably see Uniform performing at the Auckland Summer Meeting, but the possession of a suspicious leg will prevent our seeing him at present. There is also a picture of bicycle rider A. Campbell, who has been appointed to represent Auckland at the Wellington and Christchurch meetings.

Anticipations.

CHRISTCHURCH RACING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

Our Christchurch correspondent wires the following anticipations for the Christchurch Summer Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 16th:—

Christchurch Handicap.—MARINO or PAC-TOLUS.

Nursery Handicap.—BOLD.

Flying Handicap.—JEWEL or ALCESTIS.

Welter Handicap.—SALVO SHOT or VENOM.

THE LATEST SCRATCHINGS.

GREAT NORTHERN DERBY.—Battlefield.

CHAMPAGNE STAKES.—Minola, Repo, Miss Anna, St. David, Sir Launcelot, Valiant, Daunt, Lady Blair, Crescent, Lady Augusta.

is most worthy of support; the son of Quilt has been nominated for several events on the West Coast, but I think he will be kept back for the Wellington Cup. Lady Zetland was put in training again this morning, but whether she is going to close her racing career at the Wellington meeting I am not in a position to say; with 9.9 on her back I do not think she can win or has any chance of beating Quiltiri. Skirmisher (8.6) is nicely handicapped; as the son of Vanguard is evidently showing some of his old form he should run well. Uniform, I think, has a little too much weight. Epaulet is, I think, held safe by Quiltiri. Bellicent, with only 7.7, has an excellent chance. A half-a-dozen from whom I think the winner will come are Skirmisher, St. Clements, St. Paul, Bellicent, Quiltiri, Leda and Mars. Sans Souci was offered for sale at public auction on Saturday last and passed in at £35.

OTAGO.

Dullness in sporting matters—The scratching of Euroclydon—Newmarket candidates—The Spring Meeting date.

DUNEDIN, December 8.

Sporting matters are dull here this week.

Mr Goodman not being satisfied with Euroclydon's handicap in the Wellington Cup scratched him at once. It was certainly strange, after Lady Zetland beating him in the Canterbury Cup, and conceding him 11b, that the four-year-old should be called on to give the brilliant little mare 5lbs.

Jane Eyre has been sent home to Mr Craig, who will probably keep her in the right form in view of some of the goldfields' meetings during the coming New Year.

It is stated here that Vanilla and St. Florent will be nominated for the Newmarket Handicap. The former is undoubtedly a flyer over the distance.

On the face of the result of the licensing question at the election, it appears likely that conditional licenses may be resumed. The taking away of the same at Forbury lost the Dunedin Jockey Club over £600 per annum. This was the main cause of their giving up their course.

The general opinion here is that a necessity exists for altering the date of our spring meeting, about Christmas or New Year being the most favoured time spoken of.

WELLINGTON.

Horses in training for Wairarapa—Local Gossip—West Coast meetings.

WELLINGTON, December 8.

The Hutt-trained horses engaged at the Wairarapa New Year Meeting—perhaps the most popular country gathering which town people patronise—are Salute, Loveshot, Stockade. Nominations (half-a-guinea) must be made on Saturday next for the Wairarapa Guineas of 1898.

The Australian-bred Lochiel filly, Warnote, is among the Masterton Cup acceptors.

I understand the new owner of The Guardsman is not the Dunedin man who races Lady Somnus, but a local sport. The colt has gone into W. Davis' stable, and did not make the journey to Feilding.

Slaiden and Tutanekei, who are engaged at the West Coast Meetings, were shipped to Grey-mouth on Wednesday last. Slaiden, who looks well in the Inangahua Cup with 6.12, was in charge of his owner, T. Leeson. J. Fagan, who has recently been riding Bona Fide, went down with Tutanekei, and will ride him in his engagements.

Among the candidates for Hack Hurdle honours at the Wairarapa New Year Meeting is a horse called Fred. Hedge, after the well-known steeplechase rider, now deceased.

Good acceptances have been received for the Masterton Meeting for Thursday and Friday next. Leda has accepted for the Cup, and she