

Plate show a decided falling-off from last year, there being twelve left in, while this year there are only five; Mr Stead's pair, Gold Medallist and Multiform, are no doubt responsible for the poor field. The handicaps for the Midsummer Handicap and other events are due on Friday, January 29.

The Canterbury horses engaged at the Wellington Racing Club's Summer Meeting are Skirmisher, May Bud, Marquis of Zetland, Choroid, and Belligerent. All these horses are in good fettle and should each reward their owners by winning a race.

The training tracks at Riccarton are very hard owing to the want of rain. Trainers are afraid to give their horses fast work. This morning some good work was done by several two-year-olds, most of whom were restricted to five and six furlong spins on the plough. Vulcan finished in front of Bold in a fast-run six furlongs; the first-named is improving fast. Barnby was on the course and did light work; he is looking well, but will not be fit until the autumn race meetings come round; his owner is not satisfied with the weights allotted the son of Vanguard in the Dunedin Cup and Publican's Handicap, and will not accept.

Arquebns, who is looking in blooming health after his successful trip to the West Coast, is considered to have an excellent chance of appropriating the Publican's Handicap. I think he is well treated with only 7.4.

Quiltiri was not be got ready for the Wellington meeting. He will, however, be pushed on with a view to competing at the Dunedin J.C. Autumn Meeting; he is worth watching.

At the Christchurch Magistrates Court to-day several well-known bookmakers were charged with having, on December 16 last, wilfully trespassed on the New Brighton Racecourse, and with having neglected and refused to leave after having been warned by a person duly authorised on that behalf by the Christchurch Racing Club, the owners of the course. Mr Stringer appeared for the racing club, and Mr Solomon, of Dunedin, for the defendant, M. Grant, who was first charged. The prosecution broke down on facts, the principal witness for the racing club, a private detective, being unable to say with certainty whether he first told Barnett merely to leave the enclosure or course proper. In view of this statement, Mr Stringer withdrew the case, which was dismissed, costs being awarded against the club. After consulting his clients, Mr Stringer said he would withdraw all the other cases—twelve in number. The costs in each of the twelve cases were given against the club.

Mr Stead seems to have a mortgage over the Middle Park Plate this year, his two champion colts, Gold Medallist and Multiform, being much superior to any of the other horses left in.

Musketry has been put into work again, and will probably start in the Midsummer Handicap or Craven Plate.

Chaos, Bisky, and Vogengang are among the entries for the Selling Race at the C.J.C. Summer Meeting. Neither of these horses have won much this season.

HAWKES BAY.

More horses for England—Donald McKinnon and Tiritea—Tally-Ho—Barshot—Landscape—Leontini bangs the hurdles—Track gossip—The Polo Club's Gymkana—Boating—Bowling.

NAPIER, January 19.

It is more than probable that at no distant date another team of Mr Gollan's horses will invade Merry England. I have heard The Possible's name mentioned as one who will make the journey. Mr P. Martin journeyed to Mangatarata, Mr Gollan's station, one day last week, but whether it was to spy out some likely ones for the trip, or on other business bent, I do not know.

Donald McKinnon and Mutiny are being kept up to the collar on the training track at Hastings. At present both look exceptionally well.

Tally-Ho, who has been in the vets' hands for some time past, is now all right again, and goes into training again very shortly.

The Chainshot horse Barshot, in Quinlivan's stable, has been suffering from a slight ailment in one of his knees lately. Nothing of a serious nature is anticipated, but he has been slightly blistered for it.

Landscape, a full-brother to the defunct hurdle mare, Waterlily, by Foul Play—Watercolour, is putting in some good work on the Woodthorp course, in view of the approaching Rivington Meeting. Gold Carp is being schooled over hurdles at Mr Bennett's plough track at Whare-rangi. She also figures amongst the nominations for Rivington.

Leontini bangs about the hurdles at Napier Park in a way that would delight the heart of a producer of hurdles. His two front legs are adorned with a pair of specially-constructed boots, which prevent him from injuring his pins.

Girofa, the Trenton filly in Gooseman's stable, the property of Mr G. Hunter, is giving her trainer a bit of trouble. She has a very awkward way of crossing her fore legs when working, and consequently knocks herself about a good deal.

I have noticed a good-looking half-sister to The Plug, by Burlington, being hucked about Napier streets lately. She is a nice, stylish-looking prad.

Gold Cup had the bad luck to get a bit knocked about on the trip up to Gisborne, and her trainer thought it advisable to send her home by the Anglian on Monday morning in charge of J. Cuneen. I had a look at Ascot's daughter in the stable, and although her fetlock looks swollen, and feels a trifle hot, it does not seem to cause her any inconvenience. Having read very bad accounts of Admiral Hawke at the starting post, I asked Harry Piper, who passed through Napier on Monday en route for Wellington, if Nelson's son was as bad as he was painted, as regards his behaviour in the starter's hands, but Mr Piper

assured me that he did not deserve the character he got, as he found him all right, and succeeded in getting him well away with his field on every occasion.

Coologue, who fluked the five furlong flutter at the Town and Suburban Meeting at Taradale on the Prince of Wales' Birthday, has been sent home to his owner. Sequab, in the same stable, has broken down, and despite the strenuous efforts of his trainer, Charlie Joyce, who has been putting him through a course of swimming exercise lately, it has been found necessary to turn him out again.

Very good nominations have been received for the Gymkana of the Whararangi Polo Club, which takes place next Saturday at the Napier Park racecourse. It is to be hoped that the proverbial Chinaman will not find it necessary to indulge in the usual cabbage-planting tournament, which they generally do when anything is due at the Park lately.

The Napier Rowing Club's representative crew for the coming fixtures with the Gisborne, Poverty Bay, and Union races comprise Reid (stroke), Bell (3), Anderson (2), and Ross (bow). The Union crew will be picked shortly.

A team of bowlers leave Napier next Saturday to try conclusions with the Wellingtonians.

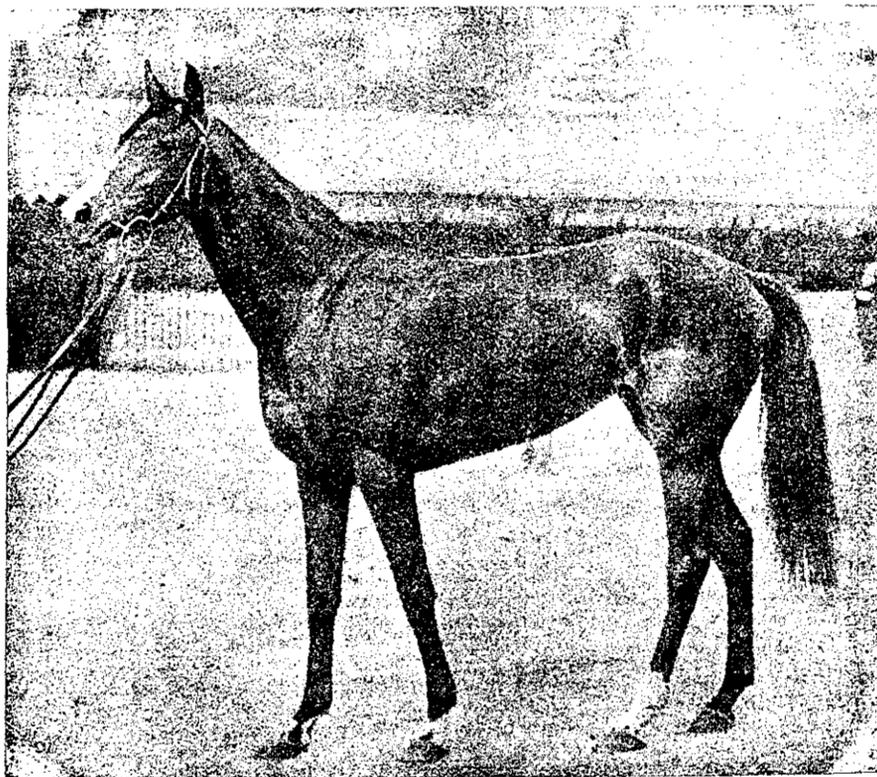
OTAGO.

Missfire winning—Seven consecutive victories—The English importation—The bookmakers' cases—A victory for the Ring—Betting on the Dunedin Cup

DUNEDIN, January 19.

Missfire finished up his country tour by winning the Gore Cup and Racing Club Handicap on Thursday and Friday of last week. This makes seven consecutive victories, which is a record for this season.

The Gore races have developed into the most important country meeting in the Dunedin Met-



PRECAUTION (BY MARTINI-HENRY-PRETORIA), THE MAKER OF THE AUSTRALIAN SIX-FURLONG RECORD.

ropolitan District. The club put through the totalisator £4,225 in the two days. Rebel won the hurdles on the first day, and Belmont on the second. In the latter case Saunterer got home first, but was disqualified for one month and for the stake for inconsistent running on the first day. Red Lancer, by St. Clair—Red Ensign, won the two short races. Nichol's starting machine was used very successfully in the trots, but the starting in the flat races was wretched.

Mr P. Campbell's colt, by Bendigo—Engagement, arrived here in the Waimate in capital health.

A privately wire-to-night states that Mr Solomon successfully defended the bookmakers against the charge of trespass brought by the Christchurch Racing Club. The first charge taken was against Mr Matthew Barnett, of Barnett and Grant, the decision being given with costs against the club. All the other charges were withdrawn.

Euroclydon and Plotter are the favourites for the Dunedin Cup.

Casket is on the sale list. His owner informs me that he would dispose of him rather than spell him, so there is a good chance for any sport wanting a well-bred one. He is the winner of a Dunedin Cup and a C.J.C. Easter Handicap, and he has been proved useful over any distance.

OUR COUPON

DURING the next few weeks our readers will doubtless be interested in the question as to what will win the leading events of the autumn, and our £20 Coupon is therefore offered to those who may be moved by a desire to correctly foretell the results of the Newmarket Handicap, the Australian Cup, and the Wanganui Cup. The conditions of competition are set forth in the coupon, and a proper observance of them may save our contributors unnecessary trouble and sometimes annoyance.

THE AUSTRALIAN SIX FURLONG RECORD BROKEN.

WHEN the cable flashed the intelligence to New Zealand that the Australian six furlong record had been broken by Precaution, in the Carrington Stakes at Randwick, there were those who thought some mistake had been made. The Australian papers by the Anglian, however, confirm the cable. It appears that there were twenty-four starters in the race, Vivian and Survivor being equal favourites at 4 to 1 each. Precaution had a select following, who backed her for a fair amount, but, nevertheless, 20 to 1 could have been had about her on the fall of the flag. The Sydney Mail describes the race as follows:—"From an excellent despatch Vivian and True Blue were the first to show out, but ere a furlong had been covered Precaution dashed to the front, and led Moorfield by two lengths past the five furlong post, where Malachite, Dora, and Survivor were next, followed by a crowd, whipped in by Glare and Whakawatea. Dora ran up second to Precaution at the half-mile post, with Moorfield and Malachite next, while Vivian and True Blue had retired to the ruck. As they swept round the bend Precaution increased her lead to three lengths from Dora, Malachite, Telegraph, and Survivor, and so they turned into the home stretch, where Malachite melted out of the leading division and Survivor ran into second place, while Vivian commenced to come through his field. Precaution had all opposition silenced at the distance, and coming on won easily by three lengths and a half. Vivian, who got through at the half-distance, came very fast at the finish, and catching Survivor when half-a-dozen lengths from home beat him by a head for second place. Gozozar was fourth, Whakawatea fifth, and Sailor Boy next, followed by Dora, Miss Nora, and Moorfield, while the last division consisted of Thespian, Milkmaid, and Malachite. Time, 1 minute 13½ seconds." Prior to this the Australian six furlong record was 1min 14sec,



OFFICIAL CALENDAR.

NORTH ISLAND TROTTING ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

PALMERSTON NORTH, March 24th, 1896.

To the Editor SPORTING REVIEW.
Auckland.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that your paper has been appointed the OFFICIAL CALENDAR for the North Island Trotting Association of New Zealand.

Yours faithfully,

C. C. MILES,
Secretary N.I.T.A. of N.Z.

CALENDAR.

January 21, Thursday—Johnsonville and Hutt County Trotting Club Summer
January 21, Thursday; 23, Saturday—Wellington T.C. Summer
February 20, Saturday; 27, Saturday—Otahuhu Summer
March 12, Friday—Hawera Autumn
March 19, Friday—Hawke's Bay Autumn

NOMINATIONS.

February 5, Friday—Otahuhu Summer
March 1, Monday—Hawke's Bay Autumn
March 20, Saturday—Hawera Autumn

HANDICAPS.

February 9, Tuesday—Otahuhu Summer
February 22, Monday—Otahuhu Summer (Second Day)
March 1, Monday—Hawera Autumn
March 8, Monday—Hawke's Bay Autumn

ACCEPTANCES.

February 12, Friday—Otahuhu Summer (First Day)
February 24, Wednesday—Otahuhu Summer (Second Day)
March 8, Monday—Hawera Autumn
March 15, Monday—Hawke's Bay Autumn

TROTTING RECORDS.

NEW ZEALAND.

1 mile—Saddle, Yum Yum, 2min 27½sec, Canterbury T.C., May, 1894; harness, Rita, 2min 30sec, Lancaster Park, April, 1895.
1½ miles—Saddle, Commotion, 3min 57sec, Timaru, September, 1895.
2 miles—Saddle, Rita, 4min 58½sec, Lancaster Park, November, 1895; harness, Rita, 5min 7sec, Tabuna Park, February, 1895.
2½ miles—Wizard, 6min 36 3/5sec, Maniototo, February, 1895; harness, Berlin Abdallah, 6min 37sec, Tabuna Park, February, 1895.
3 miles—Saddle, Spider, 7min 59sec, Maniototo, February, 1895; harness, Specification, 7min 35½sec, Canterbury T.C., May, 1894.
4 miles—Harness, Specification, 10min 47sec, Lancaster Park, July, 1894.

AUSTRALIAN.

1 mile—Harness, Fritz, 2min 14 4/5sec, March 4, Moonee Valley, in Inter-Colonial Free-for-all Trot.
2 miles—Harness, Mystery, 4min 56½sec, in match against Osterley.
3 miles—Harness, Osterley, 7min 30½sec.

AMERICAN (IN HARNESS).

1 mile—Robert R. Gentry, 2min 3sec, September 24, 1896
2 miles—Greenlander, 4min 32sec, October, 1893.
3 miles—Nightingale, 6min 55½sec, October, 1893.

AMERICAN PACING.

1 mile—Joe Patchen, 2min 3sec, Aug. 21; John R. Gentry 2min 3½sec.
2 miles—Defiance, 4min 47½sec, September, 1872.
3 miles—Joe Jefferson, 7min 33½sec, November, 1891.

NOTES.

The trotting stallion Tommy, the property of Mr G. H. Allen, of Greylands, near Singleton, died on the 22nd ult. from the effect of a kick received from a mare on the previous evening, and which fractured his near foreleg, shattering the bone, and splitting it right up. Tommy was a most successful show horse in New South Wales, and during the existence of the Sydney Driving Park he was looked upon as one of the best trotters in the colony. His owner at one time refused £1000 for him.

A meeting of the committee of the Palmerston North Trotting Club was held at the Phoenix Hotel, last Friday, when the following programme for the club's autumn meeting, to be held on February 26, was arranged:—Pony Handicap, seven furlongs; Maiden Trot, two miles; Pony Saddle Trot, two miles; Saddle Handicap, two miles and a half; Pony Hurdles, one mile and a quarter; Harness Handicap, three miles; Pony Flat, five furlongs; Dash Handicap, one mile. It was decided to obtain the services, if possible, of a handicapper in the Hawke's Bay district, and it was resolved to exclude bookmakers from the course on the day of the meeting.

The three greatest achievements of the year (states the Spirit of the Times) and of the decade were accomplished by the bay stallions Star Pointer and John R. Gentry. At Mystic Park, Boston, on September 18th, Star Pointer, by Brown Hal, dam Sweepstakes, by Snow Heels, won in straight heats in a race. John R. Gentry, and 2min 3½sec, thus making the fastest three straight heats made in a race. John R. Gentry captured three championships. At the close of last season he was the champion stallion with a record of 2min 3½sec. He has reduced this to 2min 3sec, made at Portland, Me., on September 24th, which is also the world's champion mark. At Glen Falls, New York, on September 10th, he won in straight heats, making a champion race record of 2min 1½sec, and his record for the three heats was a record until it was passed by Star Pointer at Boston. It has been a great year for the pacers, and they have fairly conquered the hearts of the people. Taking the general average, it is a remarkably good one, and though it may be some time before the trotters tie the pacers, we believe that it will be an accomplished fact before 1900 dawns upon us.

It is said that Frank Smith, who has charge of the billiard room at Menzies' Hotel, Melbourne, is the next best player to Memmott and Weiss in Australia. He frequently makes breaks of from 100 to 200, spot barred.