

a week." The new rule was eventually carried, with the omission of the words "in case of emergency," so that in future in England handicappers will only be allowed to handicap for one meeting in the same week; but the chief benefit likely to arise from the new rule is the provision compelling a handicapper to attend the meeting for which he has handicapped. The handicappers will be benefited by a rule requiring that all entries shall be published in the calendar a week before the declaration of the weights, while entries for handicaps to be run during the week of the meeting shall close at least twenty-four hours before the publication of the weights.

### Sporting Topics.

Dad Kingan had been originally engaged to ride Douglas in the Wellington Cup, but upon the horse changing hands recently, he was informed that he was at liberty to obtain another mount. As events turned out, the sale of Douglas made a big difference to him.

On Saturday afternoon the programmes for the following race meetings were passed by the committee of the Auckland Racing Club:—Whakatane Racing Club, March 17; South Auckland Racing Club, March 6; Rotorua Jockey Club, March 17; Te Aroha Jockey Club, March 13.

The general entries for the Wanganui Jockey Club's autumn meeting, published elsewhere, are of a satisfactory nature as a whole, but the Nursery Handicap only attracted five entries. However, there is plenty of good material for the handicapper to work upon, and a successful meeting, with anything like favourable weather, should be the result.

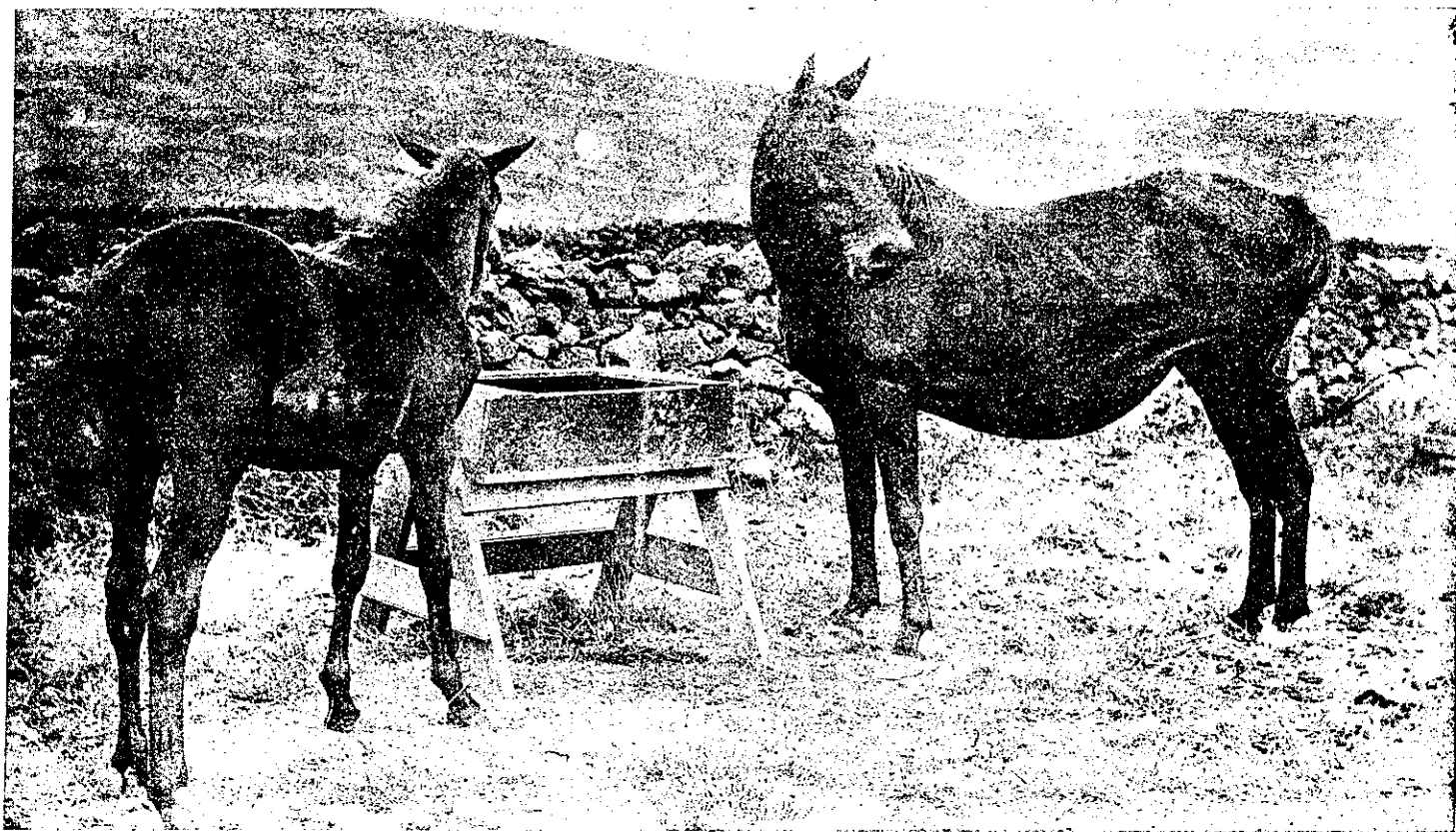
We understand that Mr Adam Byers has forwarded Nestor's nomination for the Sydney Gold Cup to the secretary of the Australian Jockey Club. If Nestor is only treated reasonably by the New South Wales adjuster of weights, then it is very probable that his trainer will take him over, but Mr Thompson's weights do not appear to have pleased anyone lately.

On the second day of the Sydney Turf Club's meeting Mr W. Kelso, besides winning the Anniversary Handicap with Tom, appropriated the Flying Handicap with Survivor. The Lochiel—Melissa colt, although carrying top weight (9st 5lb), won easily, and among those following him home was the Newmarket Handicap candidate, Vanitas, who failed to gain a place.

Strathbraan, the winner of the Wellington Cup, used to be driven about Christchurch by his former owner and breeder as a leader in his dog-cart (states "The Squire" in the *Telegraph*). Sandhurst, a half-brother of his, by the renowned English racer Bendigo, arrived in New Zealand by the s.s. Waimate the other day. His dam, Engagement, is a full sister to Martini-Henry.

Mr Hordern's Castor—Frailty four-year-old, Astronomer, won the Farewell Handicap at the Sydney Turf Club's meeting. He was carrying 9.6, and Mr Hordern evidently underrates him, as he went out at the very remunerative price of 10 to 1. He came with an undeniable run at the finish and beat Annadour and Mr Tom Payten's Abercorn colt Vigilance by a length in 1min 45sec.

The South Auckland Racing Club's programme for Saturday, March 6th, is published in our advertising columns. The sum of 165 sovs will be distributed among seven events, the chief of which will be the South Auckland Cup of 35 sovs, one mile and a quarter, and the Handicap Steples of 35 sovs, three miles. Nominations must be made before nine p.m. on Friday, February 12th.



WELCOME KATIE WITH FILLY FOAL BY ST. LEGER.

Acceptances fall due on Saturday for the following events in connection with the Taranaki Autumn Meeting:—First Handicap Hurdles, Jockey Club Handicap, and Flying Handicap. Nominations are due on the same day for the First Handicap Hurdles, the Second Handicap Hack Hurdles, First Pony Handicap, Second Pony Handicap, First Handicap Hack Race, and Second Handicap Hack Race.

"Reginald" in *The Sportsman* says that recently a rider, who never on any account was previously put on at the same time as the bullion, was staggered with the instructions: "Go all you know to-day." Fearful lest through sheer force of habit he might apply the brake in the good old way, the young man with the trusty arms asked that somebody should be sent to the post with him to remind him of his orders as the barrier lifted.

Mr W. Douglas, the well-known Hawke's Bay sportsman, has entered five of his horses for the Britannia Steeplechase of 5000 sovs, and the Britannia Hurdles of 5000 sovs to be run at the Warwick (England) spring meeting, 1900. The horses comprise Toriki, a brown gelding by Torpedo—Kopeki; Penrose, by Torpedo—Primrose; Waterstone, by Waterfall—Egyptilla; The Brook, by Torpedo—Rivulet; and Sarda, by Torpedo—Egyptilla.

The metropolitan club is to be asked for an opinion as to a question which arose at the Wyndham meeting (states "Mazeppa" in the *Otago Witness*). Emmeline, one of the starters in the Wyndham Handicap, was just beginning her run in the straight, when she was blocked by Missfire in a way that the Messrs Ellis thought was unfair. Holding that opinion, Mr Ellis lodged a protest, and it is asserted that the stewards refused to take any evidence, but declared the deposit forfeited. Such is the statement of the case as it comes to my ears. I suppose we shall get particulars in time, as an appeal has been or is to be made to the D.J.C., not, of course, on the facts, but as to whether the club had a right to retain the deposit without giving the protest a hearing.

On Wednesday and Thursday next sporting men should roll up to participate in the pleasure of the Egmont Summer Meeting. Nearly a week will elapse before the Cup is run, and it would, therefore, be unwise to hazard a prediction, which is never an easy task, even at the last moment with all the numbers on the board. However, there is a fine field in the race, and those who cannot be present will envy those who are. All the other events have filled well, and we wish Mr Brett and his patrons a merry and successful time of it.

Hitherto the English Jockey Club rules have required that the whole of a jockey's annual retaining fee should be paid in advance. The rule has now been altered, and only half the fee to be paid for the year is required in advance. Experience has shown that after a jockey gets hold of his fee, and the retainer is sometimes a particularly heavy one, he gets careless about his weight, and grows into flesh so rapidly that he is of no use to his master. The master was hitherto the loser in the case of the sudden death of the jockey, in which case the jockey left for the happy hunting field with the prepaid fee in his pocket.

At a meeting of the English Jockey Club, held on December 7, Lord Suffolk brought up the subject of offering encouragement to promote the breeding of what is called staying blood throughout the country. While doing this the noble sportsman was peculiarly inconsistent, as he remarked that he did not care so much about staying blood. Magnificent speed was what he liked most in a racehorse. There can be no doubt that there are many men who prefer little fliers like Precaution, who is only 14 hands 3 inches high, to horses with bone and substance in them like Nestor and St Hippo, but fortunately recent English legislation indicates a desire to maintain the size and stamina of the thoroughbred. It is thought that the proper time to have long distance races is in the close season from November to the beginning of March, when the ground is soft, and it is thought that with the sanction and countenance of the Jockey Club, long distance races will be carried out by the National Hunt Committee.

Tire is said to have improved very much since his arrival at Hastings.

On December 10 the Belgian Senate passed the Bill prohibiting betting on the result of horse races in every shape or form other than on the racecourse itself, and even then the betting is to be confined within strict limits.

The following jockeys' licenses were granted by the Auckland Racing Club on Monday:—Lawrence Morrigan, Geo. Absolum, Jas. Pyne, George Roberts, and A. J. Powell. The jockey's license of W. Oliver was cancelled.

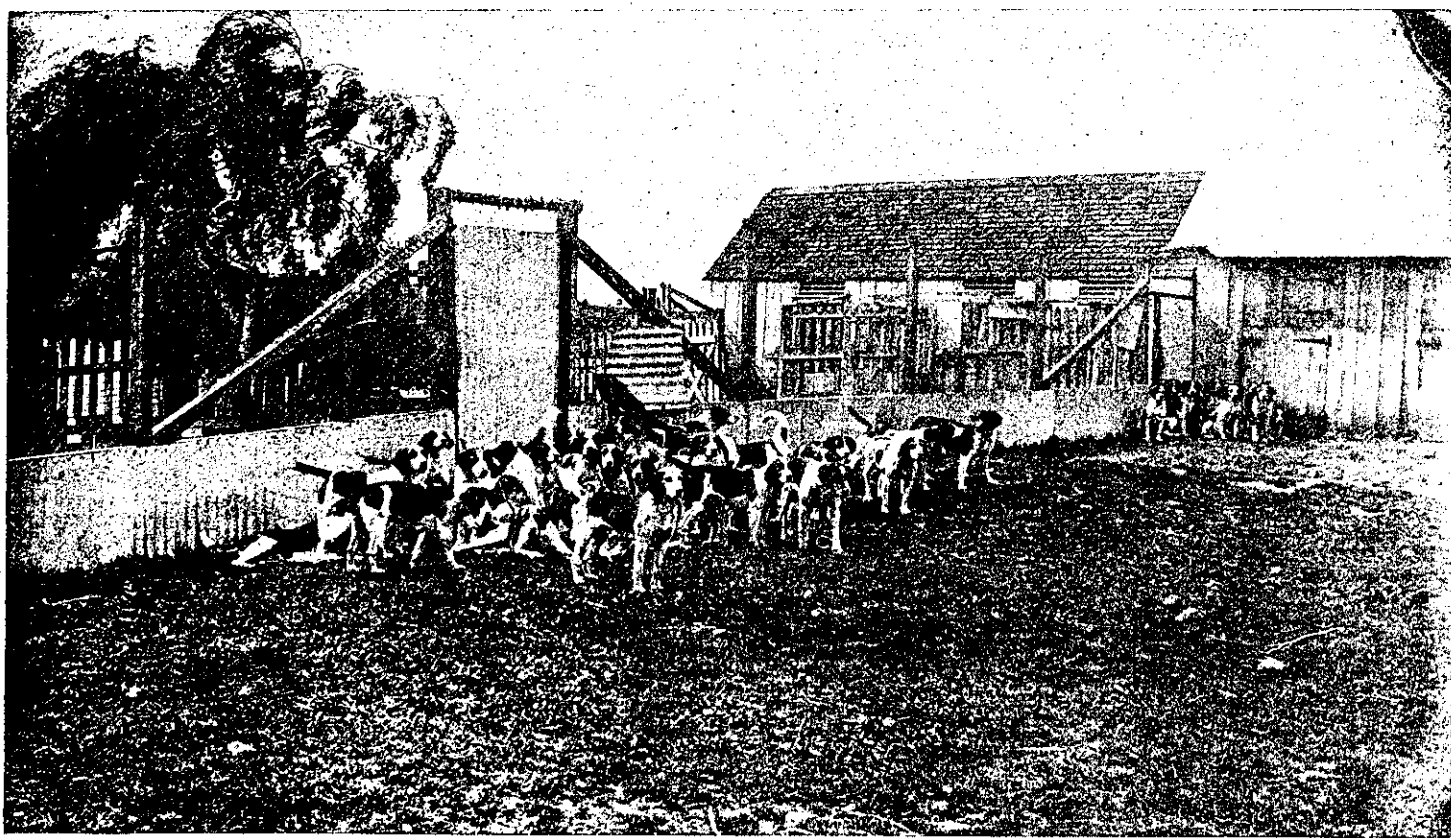
The stewards of the English Jockey Club having on previous occasions observed that many jockeys have been in the habit of betting on horse racing, and in receiving presents in connection with races from persons other than the owner of the horse they ride in such races, gave notice in December that such practices will not be tolerated, and that any jockey who may be proved, to their satisfaction, to have any interest in any racehorse, or to have been engaged in any betting transaction, or otherwise to have disregarded this notice, will have his license at once withdrawn, while anyone assisting a jockey to make a bet will be warned off Newmarket.

The recent rain has effected a lot of improvement in the going at Ellerslie, and as a consequence some excellent work was put in on Monday morning. Among those who did particularly good work in the morning were Nestor, Mantle, Miss Nelson, Doris, Miss Rose, Panoply, Webley, Purvoke, Archduke, and Napoleon. Antares was taken over to North Shore on Friday and kept there in the hopes of getting a gallop on the Takapuna course on Monday when the weather cleared up, but that privilege was denied him, and he had to be taken back to Ellerslie for a pipe-opener after his enforced idleness through being weather-bound.

Mr M. Munro, secretary of the Ohinemuri Jockey Club, publishes the programme of the annual meeting, to be held on the Paeroa racecourse on Wednesday and Thursday, 17th and 18th March. Seventeen events are set down for decision on the two days, the prize money reaching the respectable total of £550. The leading events will be the Ohinemuri Cup of 80 sovs, one mile and a half, on the first day, and the Waihi Handicap of 50 sovs, one mile and a quarter, and the Paeroa Steeplechase of 65 sovs, three miles, on the second day. The full programme appears elsewhere, and owners and trainers should note that entries close on Saturday, February 20, at 9 p.m. Weights for the first day's races, and for the Maiden Hurdles and Steeplechase, are promised on March 2.

It will be remembered that at the last Thames races a protest was lodged against Mr N. Dickey receiving one of the prizes, on the ground that he was on the forfeit list. The Auckland Racing Club was appealed to on the subject, and everyone concerned was lectured by a section of the southern Press for not having paid the money to the owner of the second horse. However, the matter has been fully investigated by the Auckland Club, and it has been ascertained beyond doubt that Mr Dickey's name appeared on the forfeit list in error. The error occurred in the office of the Bay of Plenty Club, and was owing to a change of secretaries. Mr Dickey's name has therefore been removed from the forfeit list, and the A.R.C. has requested the Thames Club to pay to him the stake won by Sterling, who won the Hurdle Race on Boxing Day.

Particulars as to the running in the Calcutta Cup are to the effect that previous to Boxing Day, Sprightly, Fortunatus, and Idolator, in the order named, were most fancied, but on the morning of the race there was a manifestation in favour of Courallie and Jack o' Lantern. The betting at the last moment was even money on Sprightly, 2 to 1 v. Fortunatus, 5 to 1 v. Courallie, and from 10 to 12 to 1 v. the others. Moth cut out the running in the interests of her stable companion, Sprightly, and led to within three furlongs from home, with Jack o' Lantern second, and Courallie third. Fortunatus, who had been last, then began to improve his position.



THE PAKURANGA HOUNDS WAITING FOR ORDERS TO KENNEL UP.

Photo. by J. A. Slack, Auckland

For everything which gentlemen wear Geo. Fowlds is cheapest.