

NOTES.

[By GIPSY KING.]

The sale of Messrs Goodson and Nolan's thoroughbred stock, which is to be held in Messrs Nolan, Tonks, and Co.'s horse bazaar, at Hawera, on the morning of the second day's races of the Egmont Racing Club's Summer meeting (11th inst), at 9 o'clock, is decidedly a new departure along this way, but I should have preferred the sale being open to all who wished to take advantage of it. This may be arranged next year, and a big crowd of the best of our young thoroughbred stock brought together for buyers to select from. For years I have persistently advocated an annual sale of young stock, to be held at some central place on the coast, but none of our salesmen would take the matter up. However, I am pleased to see the highly respected firm of Messrs Nolan, Tonks, and Co. have made a move in that direction, and the catalogue they have liberally distributed contains twenty-seven lots. Racing-men would, I presume, prefer to see more three, four, and five-year-olds on the list, so that they could put them into work straight away. The yearling filly by Morpheus—Pakurakura (King Cole—Figure Head) and the bay gelding by Morpheus—Symphony (Perkin Warbeck—Lady of the Lake) will commend themselves to those fond of plenty of blue blood. Both are engaged in the Egmont Sires Hack Produce Stakes of 1899. Morpheus (their sire) is by St. George—Hammock (dam of Somnus). The bay gelding by Foul Shot from Barbara (the dam of Hailstone and Vagrant) should catch the eye of buyers, as Vagrant has proved himself a very fast horse, both in N.Z. and Victoria, having won several races around Melbourne. The bay filly by Foul Shot from Sula (full sister to Couranto and dam of that smart filly Siva) will also be a good investment, and one that should command the fullest attention is the bay filly by Handsome Jack (St. Leger—Radiant, by Robinson Crusoe) from Irene, who is full sister to the dam of Fabulist. If he has size to recommend him, buyers will not object to the pedigree of the two-year-old brown gelding by Vanguard—Yattacy, by Yattendon—Ecstasy, by The Marquis (sire of The Painter) out of Lady Exeter. Yattaway was a trifle small to compete against racehorses, so was not successful on the turf, but there is no reason why she should not "throw back" and obtain size for the gelding under notice. I have always wondered at the non-success of Yattacy as a brood mare, and I fancy she has been wrongly mated. The infusion of Traducer and The Painter blood has always panned out successful, and I shall expect the mating of Vanguard (by Traducer) and Yattaway (gg sire The Marquis, sire of The Painter) to be the correct thing. The colt is nominated for the Wanganui Derby of 1897. The two-year-old bay gelding by Gipsy King—Vienna, by The Dauphin—Brasolis, by Panic—Josephine, by Boiardo—Wando, gives promise of growing into a big horse, with any amount of strength, which at once suggests he should make a top-sawer at the illegitimate game, as he has the now recognised "jumping" blood of Gipsy King, The Dauphin, and Panic. The latter is sire of the most successful steeplechase horses in Australia, so that this youngster can hardly fail to inherit the characteristics of his family. Another well-bred two-year-old is the bay filly by Vanguard—Princess Ida, by King Cole—Queen Margaret, by Leolinus—Countess, by The Peer. The two-year-old brown gelding, full brother to Vagrant, and the bay filly, full sister to Kaahu (Mr Jos. Prosser's gelding) and half-sister to Weka, both have running blood to recommend them, and a three-year-old bay gelding (by Forerunner from the dam of Weka) ought to be a slippery customer. Amongst the brood mares to be submitted are Symphony (by Perkin Warbeck), Princess Ida (King Cole—Queen Margaret), Barbara (Sator—Task, by Antidote), and Minnie (by Traducer—dam of Weka, Kiwi, and Kaahu). Nearly all the young stock have engagements, either in the Egmont Sires' Produce Stakes or Taranaki Hack Derby, the further payments for which are at about the rate of £1 for twelve months. Intending buyers will find that all the stock have had the best of grass and they should have the best of constitutions, running about and inhaling the invigorating air from Mount Egmont every day.

The Sandon Hack Racing Club is out with a very fair programme for St. Patrick's Day. Evidently a change of handicappers was thought advisable, as Mr Henry was only re-elected by one vote majority, Mr Coyle having been nominated by a friend.

Your Wellington correspondent, I notice, gives the breeding of Boreas as by Sou'-Wester—Barbelle, and at that rate full brother to Seabreeze and Marina. I might say the two mares were bred on Mr Currie's estate at Kai-Iwi, Wanganui, where the hurdle horses Empire and Strike were bred. Boreas, who is by Sou'-Wester—Hippona, was bred by Mr Henry Harrison at Fordell, near Wanganui. Boreas is reported to be a great track horse, and so was his half brother Derry (by Ascot), who was brought to this coast by Mr J. B. Williamson, of Auckland, and he had been tried so highly in private that his party thought they were going to teach the West Coast hacks the way to gallop, and, writing without the book, I don't think he obtained a place, after going out a scorching favourite each time. "J.B." showed me private memorandum where Derry had done trials with little Eve at the time when the latter was in a winning vein, and although practically a non-better, I think I should have been tempted to go nap on the gay deceiver. Anyway, I hope Keith's horse doesn't turn out a rogue, as it is up to him to have a win.

Flying Shot has been scratched for all his engagements at Woodville, Egmont, and Taranaki, as his owner is thoroughly dissatisfied with the handicaps allotted the big grey, and he will try hurdle racing, to see if he can get more justice in that department. The handicappers evidently make out Flying Shot to be the best sprinter in the colony. It is about time they rubbed their eyes a bit and see, as other common people do,

that he is a long way from that distinguished position. The unfair manner in which Flying Shot was handicapped with Belligerent at Wellington, on Manawatu running, was strongly commented on by some people, and yet the owner had to show that Flying Shot was not capable of defeating the son of Artillery at such a disadvantage, after being beaten by him at Manawatu. There has been more dissatisfaction with the handicaps along this coast this season than I have ever before heard. The cause seems difficult to locate, and all sorts of excuses are offered. The ability of the various handicappers does not seem to be impeached, but it is thought that the want of care is the principal cause of the improper handicaps that have been issued so frequently of late.

If all goes well, Flying Shot will start in his first hurdle race at the Wanganui Autumn Meeting. He has not been schooled yet, but it is not thought that he will prove troublesome.

I think there was sufficient reason for the Foxton stewards to have asked the rider of Thrush (H. Moss) for an explanation of the cruel manner in which he rode the horse in the Foxton Handicap. As soon as the flag fell he gave the horse his head, and sat down and thrashed the poor brute with the whip right round to the back of the course, and long after the horse had ceased

the talk and grumbling resulted in one of the trainers taking the others at their word, as it were, and from ten trainers who promised to sign a petition to the stewards, only three were plucky enough to sign.

At the Foxton meeting the progeny of Louis d'Or ran very prominently.

I hear The Artist (Somnus—Lady Artist), who did stud duty last season, is to be put into training again in about two or three weeks. W. Trusk will have charge of the big bay at Foxton.

The Maoris must have considered Kahurangi (who died at Riccarton) something above the ordinary, as they have honoured the departed one by calling a horse after him. This is Mr T. Waitere's bay colt, 3 yrs, by Somnus—Opawa mare. He is a rich bay colt, standing fully 15.3, and in other respects is not unlike the defunct Kahurangi. He is trained by J. Retter at Turakina, and judging by the way he made his run in the Trial Handicap the second day at Foxton, he is possessed of sufficient pace to make a successful hurdle horse when furnished.

I hear there is a probability of the colt Steel Shot being returned to his owner at Hawera.

The bookmakers who were removed from the Foxton racecourse during the progress of the club's anniversary meeting have threatened to take action against the club. One of the book-



MR S. MESSENE'S BAY MARE BRITANNIA, 6YRS, BY SOU'-WESTER—MAY KING MARE, WINNER OF THE FIRST AND SECOND HACK HURDLE RACES AT FOXTON.

to have a 100 to 1 chance of getting near the field again. The horse was beaten, as well he might be with such riding, before he had gone five furlongs in the race, which was one and a half miles. As the horse passed the stand the reins were laying almost loose on the horse's neck, which is some slight evidence that Moss does not know much about race riding, and this may excuse him for using the whip in such a shameful manner upon an animal that could not have won with the proverbial carpet-bag strapped on to him. I detest cruelty to horses, and I will always expose any flagrant case that comes under my notice.

If Catesby (Musket—Prunella) can give us a few more colts like the three-year-old colt His Lordship (dam Her Ladyship) he will soon earn a good name for himself on the Wanganui coast. I think His Lordship is the best-looking colt on the coast. He stands fully 16 hands high, beautifully proportioned, and has any amount of strength and propelling power. He is decidedly honest, and his second to The Archer in the Flying, and his first in the First Welter Handicap, were very creditable performances for a three-year-old.

There was much dissatisfaction expressed by trainers when the handicaps for the second day's racing at Foxton were issued by Mr Henry. All

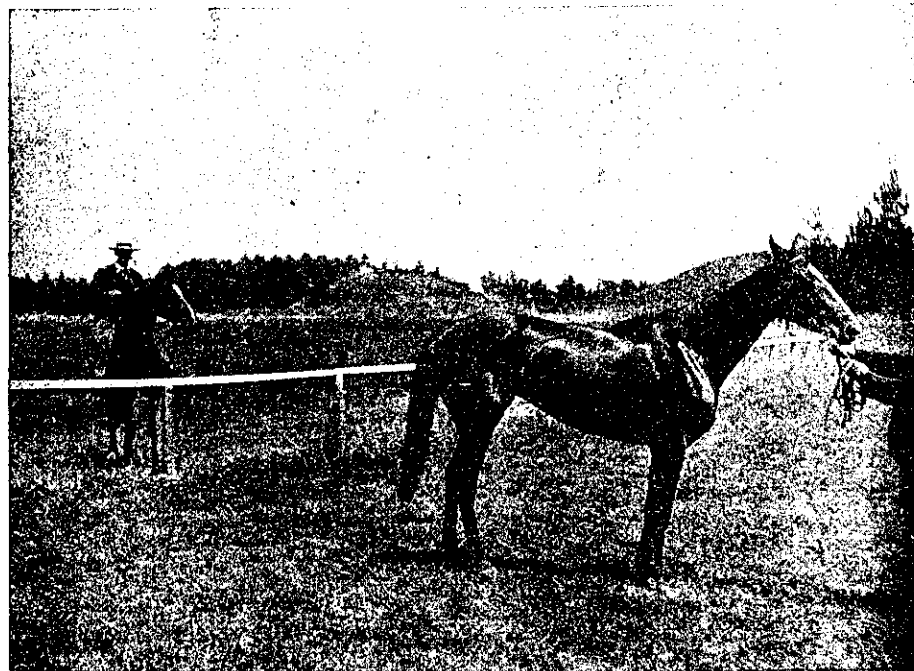
makers asked the secretary if the club were not going to take notice of the decision of the magistrate at Christchurch in the recent cases, and the secretary promptly replied, "No, as the club had no report of the proceedings."

At the Foxton Magistrate's Court on Saturday last, Benjamin McCaul, who, it is said, hails from Wanganui, was charged with unlawfully trespassing on the Foxton racecourse. He had been put off the course once and warned, but he returned, and was found to be betting in defiance of the rules of the club. The magistrate said there were a large number of entries in the book found on accused, and there was no doubt about what these entries meant. A fine of £10 and costs (£2 17s) was inflicted.

On the first day of the Woodville races there was a very good attendance, but speculation was not quite up to last year's total. The racing was very interesting, there being good finishes all day.

General regret is expressed at only twelve nominations having been received for the Ashurst Guineas. To undue economy in advertising may be set down the failure. The Egmont Sires' Hack Produce Stakes entries are also due this month, but breeders have been well posted up in the date of closing.

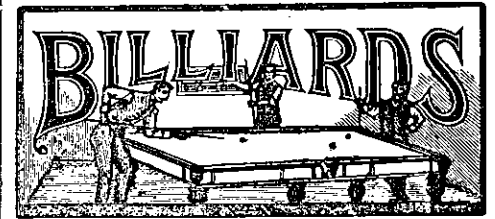
All bookmakers who appeared on Woodville course to-day were ejected.



MR M. O'SULLIVAN'S CH M SING SONG, 4YRS, BY LOUIS D'OR—TUI, WINNER OF THE RAILWAY HANDICAP AT FOXTON.

Photos. by J. McElwain, Foxton.

Mr T. Quinlivan, senr., has purchased the hack racer Petrolina, a three-year-old filly by Petroleum—Jeanette, who has been winning lately, and is said to be the fastest hack bred in the Wairarapa district for some years.



The lovers of the best and most scientific of all in-door games have had the opportunity of enjoying a treat in watching the splendid exhibition of billiards afforded by Messrs Memmott and Weiss since their arrival in Auckland. The match (350J up) has been played in a room in Victoria Street, fitted up for the occasion by Messrs Barton and McGill, billiard table manufacturers, and it may safely be said that not one of those who paid the rather high rate charged for admission were sorry they had done so, as the exhibition from first to last was really first-class, and one the equal of which will not probably be witnessed for years in this part of the world. The pair make a splendid match in the spot-barred game, and the marked difference of their style of play was not the least attractive part of the exhibition. In Weiss the public had the opportunity of seeing a deliberate and calculating player, while in Memmott they saw an exponent of brilliant and lively billiards, not so certain probably as Mr Weiss, but most attractive. The exhibition match was started on Thursday afternoon. In the first portion of the play Memmott took the lead, and at the adjournment the scores were—Memmott, 702; Weiss, 606. In the evening both men were in fine form, and Weiss succeeded in passing his opponent, the scores at the close of the play being—Weiss, 1401; Memmott, 1359. The principal breaks during the day were—Memmott, 116, 111, 171, and 168; Weiss, 104, 107, 111, 126, 99, and 69. On the next evening, Friday, the match was continued, and at first it looked as if Weiss was going to run away from his opponent, but the latter picked up his form and put in some beautiful breaks, in which the nursery cannons were the feature, so that when play ceased for the night the scores were—Memmott, 2101; Weiss, 2098. Some of the breaks recorded in the evening were—Memmott, 77, 97, 105, and 147; Weiss, 97, 101, and 164. On the final afternoon and evening of the match Memmott was in great form, playing with a brilliance that greatly pleased the spectators, and he finally won by 349 points, the scores being: Memmott, 3500; Weiss, 3151. Some of the winner's strokes were truly marvellous, and he gave an exhibition that greatly pleased everyone. In the first portion of Saturday's play the balls broke badly for Weiss, and he did not get fairly going until his opponent had obtained a substantial lead and pursuit appeared hopeless, but even then he played well. The best breaks recorded were: Memmott, 56, 67, 93, 100, 115, and 241; Weiss, 51, 65, 70, 100, 105, and 116.

On Friday afternoon Weiss and Memmott played a special match of 750 up. It was arranged after the races had been postponed, and the short notice and the fact that rain came down in torrents caused the attendance to be small. The players gave a very fine exhibition, and victory finally rested with Weiss, who won by nearly a hundred. In one break of sixty Weiss holed the white and then went in off the red seventeen consecutive times. Weiss' best breaks were 51, 66, 67, 72, 81, 88, and 132. Memmott's best breaks were 71, 80, 90, and 122.

On Monday evening a large number of billiard enthusiasts enjoyed two very good games. The first was between Mr Weiss and a well-known Auckland amateur. The amateur received a start of 300 in 500 up. Playing steadily with breaks of 17, 26, 31, etc., the amateur kept a long lead until the game was called 200—467, when Weiss came with a rush, making breaks of 52 (12 spots), 56 (14 spots), and 51 (8 spots). Meanwhile his opponent raised his score to 489. Weiss then put together a break of 121, but, wanting only 3 to win, broke down at a long jenny, and his opponent ran up the 11 required, his nerve enabling him to make two clever shots when under the whip. Weiss was suffering from the oppressive heat, which made things uncommonly clammy. The second match, under the same conditions, was between Memmott and a popular metallician (W. Lyons). The professional was in his very best form, and with breaks of 101 (28 spots), 134 (38 spots), etc., got within coo-ee of his antagonist, and, still going strongly, ran out with a splendid all-round break, including sequences of nursery cannons of 204, with the balls left in a position which promised a few more hundreds had they been required. Memmott's 500 was scored in 35 minutes, while his opponent made 90, the game ending—Memmott, 500; Lyons, 390. Memmott only gave his opponent seven chances to score. The exhibition was a revelation of rapid scoring.

A most exciting game was witnessed in Manchester in December between George Heath and Arthur Bostock for £200 aside. When play finished in the afternoon the scores were, Bostock (in play) 503, Heath 442. When play was resumed in the evening the building was packed to its utmost capacity, and Bostock with a lead of 61 opened out favourite at 7 to 4 on, whilst before striking he bet £35 to £20 on himself. The lead which he had established was soon reduced, and Heath playing in capital form soon placed a gap between them, and this caused the betting to change, as much as 3 to 1 being laid on him. Upon entering the last century Heath was nearly one hundred in front. But a great change came over the play, as Bostock, playing with rare pluck and confidence, pulled the match out of the fire, and won one of the most exciting matches played in Manchester for some time by 8 points, the final scores being: Bostock, 1000; Heath, 992.