

Inter-Provincial.

CANTERBURY.

The resignation of Mr C. O'Connor—The Plumpton Park meeting—Arrival of Dan O'Brien's horses.

CHRISTCHURCH, February 15.

It appears that Mr C. O'Connor's resignation as starter was only directed to the Canterbury Trotting Club, at whose meeting the Stonewall Jackson trouble arose.

The Plumpton Park Trotting Club's meeting was commenced on Saturday. The cold weather interfered with the attendance. The sum of £2337 10s was put through the totalisator, as against £2713 for the last autumn meeting of one day only. Some unsatisfactory performances were witnessed, but the stewards took no action. On the other hand some of the trotting was first-class. In the Plumpton Harness Handicap of 40 sovs, two miles, Sam Slick (7sec) put up a good performance, winning in 5min 10sec. Little Willie (scr.) finished second, two lengths away. In the Dash Handicap (harness) of 25 sovs, one mile, Ruby II. paid the biggest dividend of the day, £18 18s. Berlin Abdallah (4sec) and Wildwood (scr) finished second and third respectively, their trotting being splendid.

At the North Canterbury Jockey Club's meeting on April 28th £215 will be given in stakes.

Dan O'Brien's horses arrived last Thursday. Heritas, the three-year-old colt by Goldsborough from Ta-Ta is a fine specimen of the thoroughbred. Malatus, a two-year-old by Malua from Faithful, is very big for his age, and Peerage resembles his half-brother, Gipsy Grand, a good deal. None of the team will be fit for work for some time. The rest of the contingent includes the brood mares Sunningdale and Alethe, with foals by Light Artillery. When Mr O'Brien and the rest of the string will arrive has not yet been decided.

WELLINGTON.

Visitors and visiting—Rosalind and her progeny—Stud news—A new arrival—Mr Prosser's stable—Arrival of Mr Dan O'Brien and his horses—Prospects of the Wanganui Jubilee Meeting good—Newspaper correspondence.

WELLINGTON, February 14.

James has leased a Puriri—Starwater gelding with a purchasing clause.

Mr A. Moss, of Dunedin, was here during the Egmont meeting.

Tom Shannon (Mr Henry Redwood's old stud groom) writes me from Spring Creek that Rosalind (dam of so many winners) has a filly foal by Sou'-wester running at her side. Her yearling colt by Catesby has been sold to a patron of Cull's stable, and leaves this week for Christchurch. Rosalind's two-year-old filly by Catesby is running out. The yearling colt by Catesby—Wai (dam of Plotter) is for sale and could be purchased reasonably. The three-year-old filly by Medallion—Rosalind met with an accident and will not be raced. She has been mated with Westmere, who also covered Rosalind, Wai, and Mrs Shannon (a five-year-old mare by King Cole—Spring Creek). Wai has a colt by Sou'-wester.

By the Talune, on Thursday last, the five-year-old bay gelding Osborne (by Russley—Queensberry, by Hawthornden—Algeria, imp.) arrived from Sydney, and has gone into W. Davis's stable at the Hutt. Osborne, who was purchased by a local sportsman, is entered for three short races at the Manawatu meeting this month.

Gobo (Nator—Germaine), half brother to The Miser, struck his near fore leg while playing in the paddock and had to be bled. He is getting all right again and looks in good condition.

Boreas is well, but has not been started of late because Mr Prosser thinks the handicappers have too high an opinion of him as well as First Result, who has not won a race for some time, but is still kept at the post of honor.

A chestnut filly, full sister to Sundial, is to be named Pounataere. She looks a speedy customer and should win a race or two in the near future. Steel King has been taken in hand again. He has filled out a lot and is looking very well.

Titoki, Rip Van Winkle, and First Result are in good condition. Mr Prosser has rather a novel mode of exercising. The horses are all exercised in the afternoon on the Porirua Racecourse, which always has about eight inches of water on it, and besides giving them the benefit of the sea and a good appetite, keeps their legs cool in hot weather. Rip Van Winkle, who has always given trouble with his feet, has become quite sound since at Porirua. For dicky-legged ones it is perhaps the best place in New Zealand. Mr Prosser has the Vanguard—Yattaway colt in work, and thinks a good deal of him; he ought to be fit in about two months. Three new boxes are being erected and will be occupied as soon as they are ready.

New Zealanders generally, and especially Riccarton residents, where Mr and Mrs Dan O'Brien made themselves so popular, will be pleased to hear that they return to Riccarton this week, bringing across Bob Ray (who is engaged in the C.J.C. Easter and Autumn Handicaps), by the Talune, which arrived on Thursday last. Alethe, by Gang Forward—Azema (imp.), and Sunningdale (imp.), by Hampton (son of Lord Clifton) out of Sally Port, two brood mares which Mr O'Brien purchased at the breaking up of Sir Thomas Elder's stud, were brought across with a bay yearling colt by Light Artillery—Sunningdale and a brown yearling colt by Light Artillery—Alethe, both engaged in the C.J.C. Eighth Challenge Stakes of 1900.

Nominations for the Wairarapa Hack Guineas, 1899, close on Tuesday, March 1.



Judging by the number of people who are arranging to visit the Wanganui Jubilee Meeting, all the available accommodation will be required. "Anstral" takes exception to the Wellington Racing Club not disclosing the financial results of their meeting.

There has been some newspaper correspondence in the South over the running of Epaulet at the Christmas meetings on the coast.

HAWKES BAY.

Mahaki—Death of Sister Mary—A hack meeting at Onga Onga—Voltigeur—Death of Robinson Crusoe—Arrival of horses from Wairoa—Fred Collins' string—An error corrected.

NAPIER, February 11.

Mahaki arrived from Gisborne by the Elingamite on Thursday morning, and was taken out to Fred Collins's quarters at Greenmeadows, where he will be prepared for his coming engagements. Ingomar's son looked well in his coat, but his dicky leg presents a very unsightly appearance.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond had the misfortune a few days back to lose his brood mare, Sister Mary.

The residents of Onga Onga called a meeting last week for the purpose of arranging a hack meeting, to take place at the course in that district on March the 16th. A good working committee was formed and, judging by the enthusiasm displayed, a successful outing may be looked for by patrons of the affair. The races will be confined to grass-fed hacks only. Next Saturday night the promoters expect to have a fully detailed programme drawn up.

A big order in favor of Voltigeur in the Normanby Stakes, run at the Egmont fixture yesterday, was executed by the local starting-price merchants. Indian Shot's efforts in dead-heating with him were duly appreciated by those who laid the odds against Voltigeur.

The small prices paid over the successes of H.B. horses at the Wairoa meeting may be explained by the circumstances that the most of owners money found its way to Napier, and the bookies here transferred it back in lump sums to the automatic dispensers on the course, thus re-insuring themselves. The regulation of the traffic was pretty strongly in evidence at the meeting so I have been informed on good authority.

February 15.

The celebrated stallion Robinson Crusoe died at Mr Donnelly's establishment at Crissoge Lodge on Saturday night. It will be remembered that he was drawn in the St. Albans Lottery by Mr T. McVay, of this town, and sold by him previous to arrival to Mr George Richardson.

In consequence of the vagaries of the Wairoa bar, which precluded the steamer from entering the river, the majority of our local horses made the trip overland to Napier, arriving here last evening.

Daring is having the run of his owner's paddocks attached to his private residence, on the hospital hill.

Fred Collins has added to his string by the inclusion of Claudia, the rising three-year-old filly by Dreadnought from Claudia.

In my notes last week a slight error—in transmission, doubtless—crept in regarding the missing of the nominations of Coronet and Eton for the Hawke's Bay Meeting. Instead of reading the Napier Park officials it should be the Napier Park box. I make this correction in justice to Mr Danvers and his assistant, Mr Gray, who, had the wire in question been handed to either, are too courteous and just in the discharge of their duties to have not immediately directed the bearer of the message to its proper destination. As it was, it was placed in the office box, and not discovered before it was too late to remedy the matter.

The Hawke's Bay cash cycling bo y have drawn up a programme for their meeting, which will eventuate on Easter Monday, £21 10s being distributed among four cycle events, the leading item being the Two Mile Hawke's Bay League Wheel Race, for which £14 will be given in prizes. Ten guineas have been allotted to three running events, the distances for which are 120, 300, and 880yds.

Our Australian Letter

[BY BORDERER.]

A Newmarket Handicap candidate wins—Precaution scores at Rosehill—North British boomed for the Newmarket—Duckenfield Park stud to be sold—Amberite's latest gallop—Resolute backed for the Newmarket—State of the market.

SYDNEY, February 9.

We were given a sample of form by a Newmarket Handicap candidate at Rosehill last Saturday (the 5th inst.) when the Martini-Henry mare Precaution was sent out an even-money favorite for the Short's Handicap, six furlongs. Ever since this little mare established the Australian record for six furlongs she has remained in the mind of the sporting public, and as she has been genuinely backed for the Newmarket Handicap, considerable interest was taken in her display last Saturday. Had she lost, her chances in the big Victorian sprint would of course have been nil, and although she got home, her performance was not brimful of merit by a long way. It was confidentially expected she would win, but no one expected she would be pinched, as proved to be the case. When she came out the mare did not appear to be fully wound up, but backers sent her out at evens. She was handicapped at 7.12, her Newmarket weight, and quickly went away with the lead. At the distance nothing appeared to have a chance with her, but immediately afterwards Giril (7.7) and Wenlock (7.12) went at her, and Cherry (9.7) commenced to close resolutely on the rails. Piper was forced to sit down and ride the favorite, and a great battle to the post resulted in Precaution beating Giril by a long head, then came Cherry, with whom were all the honors of the race, but a short head further away. If Saturday's go was Precaution's best her Newmarket chance would not appear in a very favorable light, but I incline to the opinion that she will show up much better. There was room for improvement in her condition, and another thing, her rider, R. Piper, thinking he had the race easily won, eased her in the straight, and when caught had to get her going again. The six furlongs took 1min 16sec. After Cherry's fine struggle under 9.7 the owner of that animal must be sorry he is not engaged in the Newmarket sprint. The principal race of the day, the Rosehill February Handicap, one mile and three furlongs, was thought a fair thing for Aurea, against whom 7 to 2 was laid, but the favorite could only get fourth, the winner turning up in the Hobartville bred Betsy Prig (by Grand Flaneur—Mother Gamp), who beat First Ma's very cleverly by a short neck, Rosebery third, two lengths away. A surprise occurred in the Nursery Handicap, five furlongs, for which Marathon was favorite at 2 to 1 against, while the stable companion, Grand Belle (by Grand Master—Windsor Belle), was unbacked, yet she romped home a winner by a length in front of Kulani, after whom came Themis. The winner of the Welter Mile, Plutus, is another promising member of the Gozo family. He started at 4 to 1, and easily got home, finishing up a comfortably-run mile in 1min 46sec. The results of the other races or details of the meeting would not interest Aucklanders, so I will skip them.

Mention of the member of the Gozo family, Plutus, winner of the Rosehill Welter, reminds me that another member of that family is being persistently boomed on the Melbourne side for the Newmarket Handicap. This is North British, a four-year-old gelding by Gozo from Florie. He had some support locally on Saturday, when he was coupled with Aurum for the Cup to win £2000 at 100 to 1. North British may win, but those who contemplate backing him had better remember that he has to carry 8.0, and the only occasion on which he has caught the judge's eye was in June, 1896, when he won the Two-year-old Handicap at Moorfield, carrying the feather of 6.12.

Amiable is growing in favor for the Newmarket, and the best price against her locally is 6 to 1. She is now working on the Melbourne tracks, and is making friends by her resolute style of galloping.

Some choice strains of blood will be offered breeders on April 20, when the celebrated Duckenfield Park Stud will be placed under the auctioneer's hammer. Every effort was made by the late Mr John Eales to transform Duckenfield into one of the most noted equine nurseries in Australia, and regretful as it is that the old place should be broken up, breeders will hail with satisfaction the opportunity of adding such noted racing strains to their studs. The stallions to be offered are The Australian Peer (sire of Nobleman, Fadldeen, Wild Peer, Australian, His Grace, and others), Russley, imp (sire of Osborne, Fitzroy, Rigmare, Picture, etc.), and New Holland, three of the choicest bred horses in the colony. Forty well-known thoroughbred mares will be offered, such as Cobweb (dam of Ellengerah), Beatrice (dam of Hiram), Lallah Rookh (dam of Fadldeen), Queen's Head (dam of Picture and Prince Imperial), Genesta (dam of Delaware), Paradox (dam of Nobleman), Naomi (dam of Peerage and Stephenson's Gipsy Grand), and many others, all of whom have been served by Grandmaster, The Australian Peer, Medallion, or Goldsborough.

The Squire of St. Albans (Mr W. R. Wilson), who has been seriously ill, was in Sydney a few days back. He appeared much better, and seems right on the road to recovery.

It has been commonly reported lately that Resolute had developed musical tendencies, but the lie has been given to such cauards by the commission executed in his favour a few days back for the Newmarket Handicap.

Sortie's success in the Launceston Cup entails a 7lb penalty for the Australian Cup. Even so, his weight will be only 7.0.

It is unlikely that the Chipping Norton racing livery will be seen on Victorian courses this coming autumn. Mr Long's stable is quite out of form just now.

The racehorses Murdoch, Exchange, and Cedric have been sold to go to India.

A heavy loss befell Mr W. Kelso last Tuesday, the 8th inst., through the death of the three-year-old filly Mag, by Carbine from Astarte. She broke a leg while galloping in a paddock at her owner's place, and of course had to be destroyed. Mag was a valuable mare from both a racing and a breeding standpoint.

Tarquin's withdrawal from the Newmarket Handicap was caused by two or three backers who were anxious to secure the cream of the market. They took several thousands at 100's to 5 and 6, and the colt's owner resented this by striking out his nomination. Mr Towton openly declares that he races for his own amusement and profit, and not for the public.

The Talune carried several horses to New Zealand when that vessel left port last Saturday. Dan O'Brien sent Heritage, Malatus, Peerage, and the brood mares Alethe and Sunningdale, with their foals, and Mr J. Gough sent Osborne, which he sold to a N.Z. racing man.

The latest betting on the Newmarket Handicap shows that up to date the best backed horses are Amiable, Loch Marie, Resolute, Strathroy, and Precaution. In the Australian Cup the getting most support are Aurum, Amberite, Battalion, Bundoak, and Wait-a-Bit. The prices on offer are as under:—

NEWMARKET HANDICAP.

5 to 1 Amiable	20 to 1 Bloodstone
10 to 1 Resolute	20 to 1 Amberite
12 to 1 Loch Marie	20 to 1 Peerage
16 to 1 Strathroy	20 to 1 Fortuno
20 to 1 Precaution	25 to 200 to 1 others

AUSTRALIAN CUP.

3 to 1 Aurum	12 to 1 Amberite
7 to 1 Battalion	14 to 1 Ayrshire
10 to 1 Bundoak	14 to 1 Eleusive
12 to 1 Wait-a-Bit	16 to 100 to 1 others.

Booth's Lady Marion is reported locally to be under orders for the Sydney-side to join the pony ranks here. She should be able to pay her way.

The Melbourne Cup winner, Glenloth, had a narrow escape from being burned during the bush fires in Gippsland (Vic.). The stable he was in took fire, and he was got out in the nick of time. Glenloth is now at Caulfield, where he will be trained by Carmody.

Amberite did his Newmarket Handicap gallop yesterday. M. Harris was up, and Amberite had for companions Pellisier and Hempie. He cut out an easy three-quarters in 1.19, running the last four furlongs in 52sec. Should this be thought good enough he will be shipped to Melbourne by Sunday night's mail train.

V.A.T.C. SUMMER MEETING.

At the V.A.T.C. Meeting, which opened on Saturday last at Caulfield, the following was the result of the principal event:—

FIRST CAULFIELD FUTURITY STAKES, a handicap of 3000 sovs. For two-year-olds and upwards. Seven furlongs.

Mr W. R. Wilson's b h Resolute, by Trenton—Umilta, 4yrs, 8.11, Morrison	1
Mr W. R. Wilson's b c Bobadil, by Bill of Portland—She, 2yrs, 7.3 (inc. 3lb penalty), McDonald	2
Mr R. Chirside's br c Cordite, by Zalinski—Busy Bee, 2yrs, 8.0, Pearson	3

Twelve started.
Betting—5 to 2 Spectator and Bobadil, 6 to 1 Resolute.

Bobadil went to the front at the half-mile post, but at the home turn Resolute took charge, and won easily by six lengths. Time, 1min 30½sec.

Mr Stead has selected the following names for the yearlings which he purchased at the Auckland blood stock sales:—Br c, by St. Leger—La Dauphine, "Magnificent;" br f, by St. Leger—Hilda, "St. Lucia;" ch c, by Hotchkiss—Rose of Wellington "Screw Gun;" b c, by St. Leger—Cissy, "Sai T. Leger."

The name of Whips of Beer has been bestowed on a horse in the Poverty Bay district. This fellow should be a staggerer, and the opportunity of entering him for a publican's purse or a Brewers' Handicap should never be missed.