

It will be remembered that when La Fleche was knocked down to Sir Tatton Sykes for 12,600 guineas at the sale of Baron Hirsch's stud, he repudiated the bid and left for the Continent. It now transpires, according to a London paper, that it was Lady Sykes who instructed Lord Beresford to make the purchase, and Sir Tatton afterwards took the mare for the sake of peace. The same paper, commenting on the Sykes affair, which was so well aired in the English courts, winds up with a few remarks about female gamblers:—"It must not be supposed that the Tranby Croft disclosures killed this class of scandal, for they did not. The curious part of this business with some of these ladies is that they have their own private card tables, which accompany them in their travels as their bonnet-boxes do. The betting and gambling woman is, of course, by no means a modern creation. It was the late Sir Joseph Hawley who used to speak with such scorn of those "betting duchesses." The women make the finest touts in the world, as they ask questions a man would not dream of asking, and their pertinacity is something wonderful. I recollect some time ago the very beautiful wife of a noble lord, who was a large owner of racehorses, whom it was found absolutely necessary to mislead, as she gave the whole stable away. I have, too, in my mind, another countess who betted very heavily. 'My lord' one day with great secrecy gave his commissioner certain instructions about backing a horse for him. The commissioner smiled at the mystery that was being observed, and said, 'My lord, my lady's commission has been in the market for the last two hours.' This is most certainly not as it should be."

Dr Earle, of Wanganui, Mr G. Hunter, M.H.R., of Hawke's Bay, and Mr R. H. Nolan, of Hawera, have been appointed a Court of Appeal to deal with the appeal of Mr J. R. Sewell against the disqualification by the Dunedin Jockey Club of himself, his horse Lobo, together with the rider and trainer. In a letter to the Dunedin Jockey Club on the subject, the chairman of the Racing Conference states that "he feels compelled to dissent from the resolution of the club's committee to the effect that no appeal lies to it or to the Racing Conference under Rule 117 on the question of Mr Sewell's disqualification. He rules, and will continue to do so, until a vote of the conference rules otherwise, that an appeal lies with regard to all penalties and disqualifications, even when arising from a decision as to a question of fact. It will be in such cases for the Court of Appeal to review the evidence and decision previously given, and to determine whether substantial justice has been done, which was the chief purpose for which Rule 117 was framed."

Our Canterbury correspondent wires:—"At a meeting of the North Canterbury Jockey Club committee held last night, it was decided that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant the Seabrook case being reopened. The club made a profit of £44 over the last meeting. It was resolved that a circular be sent to all clubs under the control of the Canterbury Jockey Club asking them if they will favour the following proposition:—"That the committee of the Canterbury Jockey Club be asked to act as stipendiary steward when present at meetings held under any programme approved of by them."

Racegoers will regret to hear that last week that fine upstanding horse, St. Simon, broke down at Ellerslie, and was so lame after an exercise gallop that it is extremely improbable that he will be raced again. Mr Skipwith is to be sympathised with on his severe loss for such perfect hurdlers as the big son of St. Leger are very rare.

The enquiry into the running of Crescent at the recent Ashburton meeting, which our Canterbury correspondent refers to, has terminated in the disqualification of Crescent, the owner, Victor Harris, the trainer, Free Holmes, and the jockey, Jackson, for two years for inconsistent running.

To-morrow (Friday) Messrs Ohurton and Co will sell by auction the privileges for the gates, booths, cards, and refreshment stalls for the forthcoming Winter Meeting of the Takapuna Jockey Club. The North Shore gatherings are always popular with racing folk, so that good attendances are assured for the meeting to be held on May 21 and 24, and it is safe to say that the sale of the privileges will bring good prices.

The severe sentence imposed upon Martin Taylor, John Higgins, and James Randall formed the subject of conversation in the city yesterday, and it is no exaggeration to say that sympathy for the accused bookmakers was general and pronounced. Our courts rule that the keeping of a shop for the purpose of making bets is a violation of the Gaming Act, the interpretation of which has been a source of much profit to the lawyers. However, Mr Taylor and his companions have, no doubt, broken the law, but all excepting the anti-gambling humbugs will refuse to look upon them as criminals deserving of being sent to gaol to consort with the burglar, and it may be the assassin. The sympathies of the Christchurch Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr Beetham are evidently entirely with the fanatics, who have been raking up ancient law to carry on their crusade entirely against the bookmakers, whom he has consigned to gaol for having done that which has been tolerated for years. The Sydney magistrates, it may be pointed out, in dealing with cases that have occurred there, have meted out fines, not imprisonment.

A pastor in one of the South-Eastern suburbs, on his way to the evening service recently (writes "Javelin" in the Melbourne Leader), and when near his little church overtook three local trainers and five jockeys sauntering slowly along. Although the good man had never seen any of them amongst his congregation, he knew them all, and as he drew up level, determining if possible to improve the occasion, he said, "Well, now, we have plenty of room, you cannot do better than all come to church." To his intense surprise and satisfaction, one of the horse men

informed him that was their "dart." Being naturally curious to discover the peculiar influence which had induced eight of them simultaneously to become devotionally disposed, he sought enlightenment on the subject, when the man who had previously spoken said, "Well, Jimmy 'ere, read out o' the paper that you was goin' ter preach about ther Unjust Stooard, so we thought we'd come an' see who you was goin' ter rub it into."

Training operations at Ellerslie are livening up considerably, and during the next week we may expect to see the candidates for Takapuna coin and glory brushed along in business-like style. Jumpers have been schooled a lot, and among others that an attempt has been made to educate in the art of getting over the sticks is Antares. He certainly never turns his head at anything, but the manner in which he rattles into the obstacles makes his trainer, Franks, scratch his head. On Tuesday he showed marked improvement. A horse that is improving in Frank McManin an's hands is the grey gelding Voltigeur II, while Miss Nelson and Magpie are reported to be well. The rain which fell during the week was very welcome, and the tracks are now in excellent condition.

Throughout the week Kowley's Waxworks, at the Agricultural Hall, have been well patronised, and right away from 2 o'clock to 10 the people have steadily crowded the hall to gaze upon the numerous life-size figures on view. In addition to the wax effigies of living and dead celebrities, there are many attractions and novelties, such as the Grand Cosmorama Views and Professor Antonio's Royal Punch and Judy Show. A variety entertainment is also provided for the amusement of visitors, some of the principal "turns" being the Japanese wire-walkers, the marvellous juvenile contortionist, the lightning sketch artist, and the various conjurers, jugglers, and dancers. The Waxworks Exhibition will only be with us for a short season, so advantage should be taken to see a real good show at a very moderate tariff.

MADAME AMY SHERWIN'S CONCERT COMPANY.

Always a warm favorite in Auckland the "Tasmanian Nightingale" once more returns in better form than ever, and bringing with her a compact and well-balanced concert company. No larger hall being available, Madame Sherwin's opening concerts are being given at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, the limited space detracting somewhat from the effect of both voices and instruments. This week I am compelled to condense my notice of the first two concerts into little more than the bare mention of the many exquisite *morceaux* admirably rendered, merely remarking that one notable feature is the absence of the pernicious tremolo from the method of every one of the singers—a rare treat in these times. Madame Sherwin's pure and flexible soprano, enhanced by artistic and sympathetic management, has revelled in Gounod's "O Divine Redeemer," G. B. Allen's "Little Bird," Gounod's "Serenade," "Ombra Mai Fu" (from Handel's "Xerxes"), Dvorak's "Songs my Mother Taught Me," and Cowens' "The Swallows," besides numerous encores, including "Within a Mile of Edinbro' Town," etc. Miss Kitty Grindlay, gifted with a very fine voice with contralto and mezzo-soprano range and quality combined, has won high praise with "The Promise of Life," "I'm Owr'e Young to Marry," "In Sweet September," "Ben Bolt," "All Souls' Day," "Call'er Herrin," "Come Lassies and Lads," etc., etc., besides duets with Mr Arthur Deane, well rendered by both artists. The last-named gentleman's voice is a resonant pure and true baritone, and his style a striking example of the best English school. He is excellent all round, whether in operatic selections, ballads, humorous songs, or concerted *morceaux*. Mr Arthur Deane is a brother of Sydney Deane, of operatic fame. The violinist, Herr Alberto Zelman, is a sound and brilliant performer, using the closed shake with commendable moderation. His breadth of tone, intonation, command of bow, double-stops, and harmonics, place him on a high pedestal as a violinist. Mr Herbert Stoneham, as a flautist, merits similar praise, his double-tonguing being especially effective. Both gentlemen play obligatos with refined taste and discretion. Herr Szczepanowski, besides being a splendid accompanist, is remarkable as a piano soloist for a wonderfully delicate and elastic touch, his legato playing being exquisite. This afternoon (Thursday) a matinee performance takes place at the Choral Hall, where the talented company will find better acoustic conditions. All lovers of really artistic music should make a point of being present.

Notes for Owners and Trainers

Friday, May 20, is the date of general entry for the Auckland Racing Club's Steeplechase Meeting. On the same date acceptances for the Grand National Hurdles and Great Northern Steeplechase are due. The weights for these two events are promised to-morrow.

Wanganui acceptances are due on Tuesday, May 17.

Mr Robert Wynyard will receive acceptances to-morrow (Friday) for the following events, to be run at the Takapuna Jockey Club's Winter Meeting:—Maiden Hurdles, Maiden Plate, First Pony Handicap, Royal Handicap, Maiden Steeplechase, Birthday Handicap, Handicap Hurdles, and Handicap Steeplechase.

The secretary of the Otaki Club notifies that acceptances for the first day and entries for the Trial Hurdles, Maiden Plate, Champion Stakes, and Railway Plate close at Otaki at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18.

Anticipations.

THE MANGERE AND SUBURBAN T.C. INAUGURAL MEETING.

[BY ATLAS.]

The newly-formed Mangere and Suburban Trotting Club will hold its inaugural meeting on the old Otahuhu Racecourse on Saturday next. The course is naturally a good one, and has, I understand, been considerably improved of late. It is situated at an easy distance from the Railway Station, and, as the fields are large, a good crowd of racegoers is anticipated. Concerning the chances of the horses engaged in the various events, I like the following:—

Maiden Trot.—BUGLER 1, WILD ROSE 2, OLD TOM 3.

Maiden Pony Handicap.—SWEETHEART 1, LA ROSE 2, VERA 3.

Mangere Trot.—MISS HUON 1, PIOKE 2, LADY RETFORD 3.

Suburban Handicap.—DICK 1, UNKNOWN 2, BIT O' FASHION 3.

Electric Trot.—CLARET 1, LAWYER BELL 2, OLD JUDGE 3.

Flying Handicap.—LENA 1, DICK 2, TOPSAIL 3.

After the Races.

EGMONT RACING CLUB'S HACK MEETING.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Maiden Plate, weight-for-age, six furlongs, served to introduce the Winter Meeting of the Egmont Racing Club. Amongst the candidates was a full sister to Ruby Twist and Richmond Gem (Gipsy Bing—Torori), New Venus, appropriately called so, the dam's name being Maori for fragrant weed, and New Venus, that of a well-known brand of tobacco. Her chances of success, however, were practically nil, for she was as lame as a cat, and Jim McTaggart had difficulty in getting her out of a trot in her preliminary. The Wanganui owned Taplow, by Puriri out of a Gipsy King mare, on the strength of his go at Wellington, when the Petroleum horse Rochester just defeated him, was installed a very warm favorite 155½ out of 346½ on the machine being against his name. Onutae, Amazon, and Banshee being next in demand at even figures. The start was a terribly bad one, the field of eleven moving off in a long line, Guntae last to leave, being over two chains to the lead. Banshee was quickest away and led from Amazon till rounding the turn, when Amazon displaced her, and led into the straight, with the favorite, Taplow, rapidly closing up. Half way up the straight Taplow ran past Amazon, whilst a rank outsider in Puanga did likewise, Taplow winning comfortably by two lengths, Puanga half a length in advance of Amazon. Mr P. E. Dover was fined £3 3s for failing to scratch Gowrie.

Mahoe was the only absentee from the Maiden Hack Hurdles, in which the little Vanguard—Creeper mare, Klima, made her first appearance over the small sticks. St. Hiko was served up a warm favorite, whilst Klima was the only other one decently supported. St. Hiko, as usual, took command when they went away. Dandy being next, and Klima third, and they came past the stand in that order. Star King nearly came down at the jump below the lawn, but Attwood made a clever recovery. In the back straight Klima moved up alongside St. Hiko, and the two let out for home, quickly putting daylight between themselves, and the rest of the field. A good finish between Klima and St. Hiko saw the former win by a length and a half, Star King six lengths away third.

Next came the *piece de resistance* in the Hawera Hack Cup, one and a half miles, with the good stake of 150 sovs attached to it. When the numbers went up Mainboom 7.11, and Kaeeaa 7.9, were not amongst them, leaving a good field of eleven for punters to worry over. Needless to say, Ruby Twist was most sought after, but the big son of Gipsy King and Torori hardly looked at his best. Stockade stripped very fit, and with Jim McTaggart in the saddle, had many friends, whilst the Cuirassier horse, Ulian, on the strength of good track work was also soundly backed. Nothing though had such a thoroughly wounding appearance as the exceptionally well-bred Tasman—Rubina gelding, Rubin, and had it been anywhere but Hawera, where, before going into Fitzmaurice's stables at Wanganui, he had so often failed after such good working gallops on the same track, he would have been better supported, only carrying 67½ out of a total of 931½ on the machine, in fact, the practically untried Wapiti colt, Tupuhi, in Holmes' stable had a better following. The result went to show that my statement in my last week's Wanganui notes, that Rubin was a vastly improved horse since his change of quarters was fully borne out by his running. When the barrier went up, Tupuhi shot to the front and led down the straight past the stand, with Queen's Guard and Calmarine his nearest attendants. Rounding the turn Tupuhi still led from Queen's Guard, whilst Calmarine made a forward move, but quickly fell back again. Tupuhi continued to take the field along at a merry but round the home bend, the rest fast closing up, Stockade, Rubin, and Ruby Twist all being handy. Entering the convening straight Tupuhi had had enough, and Stockade took up the running, and looked all over like a winner, but Rubin came with a great rush, and despite McTaggart's vigorous riding of Stockade, the former came away and won fairly comfortably by a clear length, Ruby Twist also put in his claim, but had to be content with third place, a similar distance behind Stockade.

The Mokoia Plate, seven furlongs, came next, from which Navigator (Lady Spec's half brother by Cruiser), Intrepid, Pairawata, New Venus, and Taplow were withdrawn. Punters quickly pounced on Battleaxe, doubtless being attracted by seeing that Hotchkiss and Queen Cole were responsible for his existence, but he grievously disappointed his numerous followers by never being prominent; the only others decently supported were Royal Guard and Wavelet. After the barrier had been broken the field got well away together, Wai-iti being first to show in front, though she quickly gave way to Royal Guard and Faugh-a-ballah, who carried on the running till half way round the bend, when Wai-iti again took command and was never afterwards headed, winning comfortably by a length from Royal Guard, Riverdale filling third place. Wai-iti, who is the property of a well-known Stratford sporting medico (Dr. Paget), rewarded her fourteen supporters with handsome prices—£21 13s per-£1 inside and £17 11s for 10s outside.

The Waihi Handicap, one mile, was reduced to the somewhat small field of six by the scratching of Kaeeaa, Tommy Atkins, Taplow, and Tupuhi. Betting on four out of the six was exceptionally even, the figures on The Major and Don being respectively 73½ and 73, Guardfish 64½, and Lady Helena 60, Onutae and Capture being almost neglected. The Don was quickest away, followed by Lady Helena, The Major, and Onutae, the latter three racing abreast. The Don made every post a winning one and got to the box without ever being troubled a good three lengths ahead of The Major. Guardfish came with a late run and got into third place.

The only one to decline the First Handicap Hurdles was The Friar's full brother, St. Hiko. The most casual observer could not fail to notice the great improvement in the ex Rangitikei hunter, Sinner, and as his jumping abilities have been clearly demonstrated before, it was no matter for surprise to find him sent out a warm favorite, King of the Downs (with 12.10) coming next in demand. Sinner was rushed to the front and took a strong lead. Nayborn fell at the first fence, Tom O'Brien getting off without a scratch. Passing the stand Sinner still led, and it could be easily noticed he made a lot of ground by his extra proficiency at every jump. Riot and Great Britain lay next. Turning into the back stretch the positions were the same. At the home turn Sinner still held a strong lead, but Klima was not going to let him go unchallenged, and though she made up a lot of ground she failed to get further than Sinner's quarters. Great Britain filled third place four lengths behind Klima. King of the Downs broke down, finishing a long way behind, and it will probably be some time before he will again see the post.

Owners were busy with the scratching pen for the concluding event (the Telegraph, six furlongs). The Major, Wavelet, Amazon, Navigator, Tupuhi, and We Guard all going out. Punters had evidently heard of the quality of Norton's half sister, The Hempie, and when they saw her stripped no one could deny that she is a handsome-looking mare, and she was sent out a considerably better favorite than First Shot. The top-weight, Splinter, looked particularly well, and with a good horseman (George Laing) on his back his chances were considerably underestimated. Splinter was quickest off the mark, old Disraeli being next, and the first mentioned led into the straight, with First Shot, Vibration, and The Hempie moving up. A slashing "go" saw The Hempie and Splinter dash past the post locked together, and the judge was unable to separate them. Vibration filled third place. First Shot, who finished fourth, walked back to the paddock very doltily.

SECOND DAY—THURSDAY, MAY 5.

Racing was recommenced the second day with the Trial Handicap, seven furlongs, in which the well-bred and handsome-looking daughter of Natator and Romp, The Hempie, met very weak opposition. Needless to say, she was sent out at a very short price, as out of the small total of 219½ on the machine 129½ were on her number. Discount was the first to move, followed by Intrepid and Wavelet. Flying Jib quickly got on terms with the leading trio, and the quartette raced together till half way round the bend, when The Hempie moved past them, and the result was never in doubt, Norton's half-sister winning very comfortably by two lengths from Flying Jib, who was four lengths in advance of Capture.

On the strength of having carried the field along at a merry bat for a mile and a quarter in the Cup Tupuhi (9.5) was quickly dropped on by punters as the good thing for the High-Weight Handicap, one mile, Riversdale and The Major, who were next in the betting, having only half as many investments against them. Taplow and Black Rose were the first to move, Tupuhi getting a bad position amongst the rack. Black Rose shot out on entering the back stretch, Tupuhi being several lengths behind; but McCormick gave him his head, and he dashed past the field as if they were standing still. Tupuhi held a decided advantage rounding the home turn and looked all over like getting home; but both Taplow and Black Rose had yet to assert themselves, Thomas bringing the former up on the outside with a particularly brilliant run, winning by half a length, whilst Black Rose defeated Tupuhi for third place by a bare neck.

Next came the principal event, the Mania Handicap, one mile and a quarter, from which Ruby Twist (9.3), Daphne (7.11), and Amazon (6.10) were withdrawn. Stockade was made only a slightly better favorite than Rubin, who had the big impost of 9.13 to carry, the figures respectively being 142½ and 128, whilst the Nanguard gelding, Tommy Atkins, was soundly supported on account of the prominent position he held up to the distance in the race for the Cup on the previous day. The way the race was run leaves little room for description. Tommy Atkins hopped off the mark the quickest, and galloping in resolute style took command of field, Ulian being his nearest attendant passing the stand. Going down the back Tommy was still striding away in front, handling George Price out of the saddle, and it looked as if nothing