

English sporting papers credit Mr H. C. White, the New South Wales sportsman, with having taken £40,000 out of the Ring through Georgic's victory in the Cambridgeshire Stakes. Yet even with this big bet the daughter of Clan Stuart and Mirzapore stated at 40 to 1.

Mr Sam Griffiths, the well-known Caulfield trainer, and also well-known as a pressman, has arrived in New Zealand from Victoria. Mr Griffiths is on the look-out for a couple of useful horses, and he may be expected here for the A.R.C. Summer Meeting.

Racing clubs generally throughout New Zealand, and we may also include the members of the Racing Conference, profess to think that the totalisator is a safe institution in New Zealand, but we think otherwise, and have reason to believe that ere long the result of the secret movements of its opponents and the anti-gambling faddists will be made apparent. What form the opposition will take we are not prepared to say, but we believe that pressure will be brought to bear on the Government to increase the tax in order to build up the Old Age Pension Fund. In South Australia the opponents of the machine have been active, and the following remarks of "Terlinga" in *The Australasian* may be of interest to New Zealand readers:—The South Australian racing people have been watching the efforts of the opponents of the totalisator for some time in apparent apathy, but it seems Mr A. O. Whittington, of the S.A.J.C., has been quietly making his arrangements for counteracting the machinations of the opposition, and now we know what form his ideas have taken. Acting on the example of the sport-loving people in England, he has been instrumental in forming a sporting league, to act in opposition to the goody-goody party at the next elections for the House of Assembly. It seems that all the country racing clubs have received Mr Whittington's suggestion with enthusiasm, and the league now consists of 10,000 members. Hitherto sporting men in South Australia have never taken the trouble to fight for themselves, but now that they have been roused to action they are likely to make their influence felt. Who knows? They may even be found strong enough to do away with that obnoxious law which makes it necessary for men to bet in secret on a racecourse, instead of betting openly?

Information has been received from Australia that that genial all-round sportsman, Tom Gurney, has joined the great majority. Writing on the subject, "Martindale" remarks:—"His many friends will be sorry to hear that his death took place this morning at his home out at Flemington, and that it was also a very painful one. For years past he held the position of a licensed victualler at the Flemington Hotel, at which place, having ample accommodation, he held many most successful Sheffield Handicaps in the days when that class of sport was popular. Tom Gurney was also an enthusiast where boxing was concerned, and in fact in all classes of sport. A great friend of the late Thomas Corrigan, the grand little steeplechase rider was always welcome at the Flemington Hotel, as were also the majority of the old-time trainers and jockeys. For years past, Mr Gurney had been suffering from ill-health. A trip through New Zealand made last spring set him up for a time, but it was only temporary, and another link between the past and present generation of sporting men has dropped out."

Mr W. R. Wilson has been asked to place a price on Aura (dam of Aurum, Auriferous, and Auraria), for England, but has declined to sell the mare.

A point of some importance relative to the payments of bets was decided in the Court of Appeals in England recently. The facts in the case were as follow:—A Mr Hamilton had given a cheque to a bookmaker for £84 3s 9d, in payment of certain bets lost upon horse races. The bookmaker endorsed the cheque to a Mr Woolf for value, but gave him notice that he, the bookmaker, had received the cheque in payment of debts. Mr Woolf, the holder of the cheque, brought an action against Mr Hamilton to recover the sum for which it was drawn, but was met by the defence that the cheque was void, having been given upon an illegal consideration. This was also the view of Mr Justice Darling when the case came before him in December last, and the Court of Appeals has come to the same opinion. "A person," said Mr Justice A. L. Smith, "who, for value took a note or bill which he knew to have been given in payment of a bet on a horse race—that was, with notice that it was given for an illegal consideration—could not recover upon it."

As a number of owners and trainers are getting up on their hind legs and hurling anathemas at the handicapper of the A.R.C. Summer Meeting, the following story ament Jack Rae and Joe Evett comes in apropos. Rae had had some experience of Evett's handicapping, and on one or two occasions, to put it mildly, had felt aggrieved, consequently the following remarks attributed to him will be thoroughly appreciated by racing men. It seems that Rae was journeying from Taranaki to Wellington, and he had secured his seat and made himself comfortable. The train was just about to start when he heard a "Hi! Hi! Wait a minute!" and looking out of the window saw Joe Evett bounding up the platform with a heavy portmanteau in his hand, and puffing and blowing like a grampus. Would he reach the post in time or miss it? was the all-absorbing question, but before the issue was decided the well-known trainer and jockey poked his head out of the window and yelled out with Satanic glee, "Run, you sanguinary —. Now you know what it is to hump thirteen stone." Joe caught the train, but it is doubtful whether he profited by the experience.

Word has been received from Tasmania that in dealing with the Launceston totalisator cases the Chief Justice ruled that pony and trotting races were a distinct branch of horse-racing, and not governed by the rules of the Tasmanian Turf therefore the clubs were justified in using the totalisator.

Uhlau, Bavaria, and Fairy arrived by the Takapuna on Wednesday. Uhlau was one of the early fancies for the Auckland Cup, but his late arrival upon the scene is not calculated to make him a final fancy.

On Tuesday the pen was put through the names of Rex, Hylas, and Knight of Athol for the Auckland Cup. Hylas has not been finishing well in his work, while the distance is admittedly too far for Rex. Knight of Athol met with a slight accident at Coromandel, and has not been himself since.

By the s.s. Gairloch which arrived on Tuesday, Crusoe, Battleaxe, Okoari, Dummy, and Australina arrived from the South. They are all reported to be in first-class condition.

By reference to our advertising columns it will be found that special railway time-tables for trains to Ellerslie, Parawai, and other racing centres are advertised.

On Monday it became generally known to the public, that the pen had been run through the name of St. Paul for the Auckland Cup. This of course, is an indication that St. Paul had not gone through the ordeal of his preparation satisfactorily, and much sympathy was expressed for his trainer in losing the services of so good a horse. It is probable that St. Paul will now be treated to a lengthy spell, which he has certainly earned, but we hope to see the little bouncer back on the track next season completely restored.

Mr W. Percival intends to sell during the Christmas holidays the following youngsters:—Bay filly by Seaton Delaval—Bellona, 2yrs; bay filly by Seaton Delaval—Ellerslie, 2yrs; bay filly, St. Olga, by St. Leger—Satanella, 1yr; and bay filly, Alwena, by Hotchkiss—Prestissimo, 1yr. Both yearlings were bred by Mr Percival. St. Olga is the full-sister to St. Paul, St. Peter, St. Ursula, and St. Clements. The mare has been wonderfully successful, never yet having thrown a "bad'un." The two Seaton Delaval fillies were bred at Sylvia Park, and after the success of Miss Delaval they should find ready buyers. Full particulars of the sale will be advertised next week.

English racing men seem determined to take from Australia all the best Colonial racehorses, the latest purchase for the Old Country being the well-known Australian hurdle performer, His Grace. Recently 800gs. was refused for the brilliant brown, who was bred by Messrs Eales Bros. at Duckenfield Park, N.S.W., and he is by The Australian Peer from the imported mare Penitent, the dam of Alchemist (by Sardonyx) and Penance (by Grand Flaneur). The shipment for next month will be a valuable one, as it includes The Graftor, Battalion, Sailor Boy, Syerla, Manazona, Clarion, Auriferous, Oban, and His Grace.

A couple of days after The Graftor won the Melbourne Cup the International Horse Agency and Exchange advertised in some of the London papers that they had secured the option of purchase of the brown gelding. It also stated that prior to the Melbourne Cup he was offered with all his engagements for 3000gs., so that English owners missed a golden opportunity. Touching on The Graftor's win, the "Special Commissioner" expresses surprise in the following words at the success of the Wild Oats blood in Australia:—"It is certainly singular that Wild Oats, who got nothing but rogues, thieves, and non stayers himself, should be perpetuated in Australia by Melbourne Cup winners; but doubtless the stoutness and gameness of the mares with which his son has been mated has had a very great deal to do with such a success."

At the Cardiff (Wales) meeting on November 2 last an English gentleman rider, Mr G. S. Davies, put up a record good enough to make even a Tod Sloan envious. There were six races on the programme, and Mr Davies had a mount in every one but the first, and was successful in all five of them. What made the performance all the more remarkable was that they were all jumping events—two steeplechases and three hurdle races. In all but one race the fields were fair, and in each instance Mr Davies' mount started favorite.

In a recent issue of the London *Sportsman* the "Special Commissioner" points out that the great advantage of Australian stock over American, from a breeding point of view, is that the Australians are in almost all cases clean-bred ones, according to the English Stud Book, while the Americans, as a rule, are not. From Australia England has been getting many valuable lines of blood which have almost been lost, and the stock reared in a different climate and under other conditions return refreshed and revived to improve the English-bred ones, who, in turn, effect great successes when they are transplanted to Australia or New Zealand. He also says it cannot seriously be disputed that mares like Georgic and Maluma would be a most valuable addition to any stud in England, and if the Duke of Portland had a few of the sort to put to St. Simon he would breed some more Derby winners.

A pleasant outing during the Christmas holidays will be the Northern Wairoa Races at Dargaville on Monday and Tuesday, 26th and 27th December. The Northern Union Steamboat Company advertise special steamers and cheap rates.

That commodious and well furnished steamer Wakatere is advertised to journey to the Thames on Monday, 26th December, at midnight. The steamer will leave the Thames on its return trip on Tuesday, 27th at 6.30 p.m. The return fare will be 7s 6d.

Immediately after the Wellington Park sale on January 4, a bay colt by St. Leger—Musket Maid will be offered to the public. He is a full brother to the famous Waiuku, now in England, and resembles him in many particulars. His close relationship with one of the best racehorses produced in New Zealand is sure to cause him to be sought after.

Wrestling.

The wrestling match between Lucifer and Herr Hajek, and the more recent one between the New Zealand boy (Harry Dunn) and the American champion in Sydney, has given a fresh impetus to a sport that was apparently rapidly dying out in the colonies. Unfortunately, in years past, the moral tone of this sport had seriously fallen off, but, in the hands of men like Harry Dunn, its revival may be expected to be of a nature worthy of the support of everyone interested in the continuance and cultivation of athletic sports. Dunn has had a phenomenally successful tour in America, and his return to Australia just about the time of Lucifer's victory over Hajek afforded a chance for a splendid match, which resulted in a most decisive victory for the New Zealander. Sydney exchanges say that there were over 1500 people present, and a splendid struggle was experienced. Dunn won the toss and selected Græco-Roman as the first style. After twenty minutes wrestling, during most of which time Lucifer was on the ground, the contestants retired for a ten minutes rest. When the men resumed work a prolonged struggle ensued, resulting finally in Dunn securing a fall by getting on a sort of half-Nelson, with the elbow of the disengaged arm pressed into the body for the purpose. This was an hour and forty minutes after the contest began. The next style chosen was Catch-as-catch-can, which was won by Dunn after a very exciting bout. The final test wrestled was Cumberland style, and again Dunn scored, the match thus ending in his favor. Lucifer is very anxious for another match, and his backer is prepared to give a £50 purse for one between himself and Dunn at American side-holds, Catch-as-catch-can, and Græco-Roman styles as soon as the New Zealander likes, and Lucifer further adds that if Dunn objects to Græco-Roman, he can have the other two styles and toss for choice of third.

Harry Cansdell, who has had his money up and been waiting weeks for Lucifer to clinch matters for the match the American promised to give him a week after his "go" with Dunn, is disappointed that things have not come to a head yet. Lucifer states that he will keep his pledge to Cansdell, but wants to get satisfaction out of Dunn first. If he cannot arrange another meeting with him shortly he will treat with Cansdell at once.

Our Illustrations.

We reproduce a snapshot photograph of Mr D. Wilson, the amateur three-mile champion walker of Australasia, in the act of spurring the last hundred yards of the Three-mile Championship Walk at the last Australasian Championship Meeting in Sydney. The illustration being from an instantaneous photo. is proof positive of his fair heel and toe action. Our readers who are interested in running affairs will be pleased to see depicted W. Huckstep in running costume. This fine runner holds the championship of New Zealand for distance running, and including last season he has started in sixteen one-mile races, nine of which he has won, the majority of which have been from scratch. In the other seven he secured seconds. He has also started in fifteen half-mile races, four of which he won, five times second, and once third. His last two performances were winning the one and two-mile handicaps from scratch at the Exhibition Sports. During last season he ran the mile from scratch in the fast time of 4min 27sec. We also give two large group illustrations of the Pollard Company, showing the members when the company was first organised in 1891 and the complete staff of to-day.

SALE OF PRIVILEGES.

The sale of privileges in connection with the forthcoming Auckland meeting, conducted by Mr Churton at the Brunswick Mart on Friday last, was wonderfully successful. There was a good attendance, and the competition right through was keen. The following are the prices realised:—

Grandstand Booth, Mr S. C. Caulton, St. Helier's Bay Hotel	£245
Lean-to Bar, Mr A. R. Dunn, Market Hotel	230
No. 1 Booth, Mr J. Donovan, late of the Star and Garter Hotel	150
No. 2 Booth, Mr O'Connor, Victoria Hotel	101
No. 3 Booth, Mr O'Connor, Victoria Hotel	81
No. 4 Booth, Mr P. Purcell, Newton Hotel	86
Refreshment Stall, Mr Stewart, Remuera	42
Cards, Mr A. Cleave, SPORTING REVIEW	495

Total £1430

This is an increase of £490 on the sum received last year, when there was only three days racing.

Notes for Owners and Trainers

Nominations for the Whangarei races will be received up to December 30, instead of the 29th as previously advertised. Mr Wynyard will receive all local nominations at his office in Durham Street, up to eight o'clock p.m. on December 30.

It should be remembered that nominations for the Takapuna Cup of 250 sovs, the T.J.C. Handicap of 150 sovs, and the Steeplechase of 150 sovs, close to-morrow night with Mr Wynyard. These events should attract a big entry.

MR ALFRED DAMPIER, whose last trip through New Zealand was so disastrous that he shed portions of his wardrobe and "props" at almost all the principal cities he passed through, is doing well at the Sydney Criterion with that old standby, "Robbery Under Arms." He intends to follow with "For the Term of His Natural Life."

THE BETTING MARKET.

Mr J. Beckett reports the following quotations:—

AUCKLAND CUP.	
3 to 1 Tirant d'Eau	14 to 1 Explosion
5 to 1 Crusoe	16 to 1 St. Gordon
5 to 1 Nestor	25 to 1 Impulse
7 to 1 Cour de Lion	25 to 1 Bluejacket
10 to 1 Swordfish	33 to 1 Donneraile
10 to 1 Coronet	33 to 1 Miss Anna
12 to 1 Fabulist	40 to 1 Panoply
12 to 1 Acone	50 to 1 Hylas
12 to 1 Uhlau	

AUCKLAND CUP, RAILWAY HANDICAP, AND STEEPLCHASE.

100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Daunt, and Magpie	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Daunt, and Antares	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Rex, and Magpie	
100 to 1 Crusoe, Rex, and Rhino	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Rex, and Rhino	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Rex, and Nor-West	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Chasseur, and Magpie	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Rex, and Dummy	
100 to 1 Crusoe, Eton, and Rhino	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Okoari, and Magpie	
100 to 1 Crusoe, Daunt, and Rhino	
200 to 1 Crusoe, Daunt, and Dingo	
100 to 1 Nestor, Eton, and Nor-West	
100 to 1 Nestor, Record Reign, and Magpie	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Rex, and Kapa	
100 to 1 Tirant d'Eau, Record Reign, and Magpie	
100 to 1 Nestor, Rex, and Kapa	

AUCKLAND CUP AND RAILWAY HANDICAP.

100 to 2 Nestor and Red Lancer	
100 to 2 Nestor and Record Reign	
150 to 3 Nestor and Okoari	
100 to 1 1/2 Fabulist and Okoari	
100 to 3 Swordfish and Chasseur	
100 to 2 Swordfish and Red Lancer	
100 to 1 1/2 Swordfish and Eton	
100 to 2 Swordfish and Record Reign	
100 to 6 Tirant d'Eau and Rex	
100 to 3 Tirant d'Eau and Record Reign	
100 to 2 Tirant d'Eau and Red Lancer	
100 to 2 Tirant d'Eau and Okoari	
200 to 4 Tirant d'Eau and Miss Emmy	
100 to 2 Cour de Lion and Record Reign	
100 to 3 Cour de Lion and Rex	
200 to 3 Cour de Lion and Miss Emmy	
100 to 1 1/2 Cour de Lion and Okoari	
200 to 3 Crusoe and Miss Rose	
100 to 2 1/2 Crusoe and Record Reign	
100 to 2 Crusoe and Okoari	
100 to 2 1/2 Crusoe and Red Lancer	
200 to 2 Acone and Djin-Djin	
200 to 2 Acone and Miss Rose	
200 to 3 Acone and Okoari	
100 to 2 Acone and Record Reign	
100 to 2 Acone and Rex	
100 to 1 Coronet and Djin-Djin	

AUCKLAND CUP AND STEEPLCHASE.

150 to 4 Nestor and Magpie	
100 to 3 Swordfish and Magpie	
100 to 5 Tirant d'Eau and Dummy	
100 to 5 Cour de Lion and Magpie	
100 to 3 Cour de Lion and Kapa	
100 to 4 Cour de Lion and Nor-West	
100 to 2 Coronet and Magpie	
200 to 1 Donneraile and Dingo	

Training Notes.

AT ELLERSLIE.

There was not a very large attendance of touts on Thursday morning last at Ellerslie, and the heat of the morning caused trainers to hurry in their work so as to get it over before Old Sol's rays made it too uncomfortable for both man and beast. All the tracks were in good order, and the course proper, with the hurdles out wide, was thrown open. Coronet was the first out, and was rattled over a round in a trifle over 2min 10sec, Dayntree bringing him home. It is questionable whether the Cup horse was ever in better condition, and it is only his previous disappointments that prevent him being better backed for the Auckland Cup. Explosion and Acone were coupled for a mile and a half on the tan, with Miss Emmy to bring them home. Explosion had most to say at the finish, but it is hard to tell what the weights were. St. Paul, St. Ursula, and Conspirer were extended over a mile on the new plough, but they were kept together all the way. St. Paul walked off quite sound, but for all that he seems to have lost some of the dash that he exhibited before he went South in quest of the New Zealand Cup. He has a great heart, however, and tackles his work with resolute gameness. Old Panoply was coupled in sound work with Tim. Panoply is going along gaily, but although his win would be popular, the Auckland Cup seems to be a little too high game for him. Red Lancer, with Tommy Taylor up, extended himself nicely over a circuit on the course proper, covering the last quarter in good time. Adam Byers despatched Nestor for a mile and a half on the tan, the Cup horse, though usually not the best of track horses, travelling freely all the way. Djin-Djin brought him home the last five furlongs. A stable companion of Nestor's, Regulus, did a circuit of the course, and is evidently on the improve. Rex, looking well, knocked the stuffing out of Thelma in a six furlong bout. Hylas and Fair Nell were very nearly at top in a round of the course proper. Tirant d'Eau and Cour de Lion broke away for a mile and a quarter gallop, which occupied them 2min 22sec. The gallop was a good one, both horses moving in fine style, Cour de Lion being in front at the finish, but, of course, it was not known what the weights were, and it is just possible the Cup favorite could have done better if he had been seriously asked the question. Merry Maid caused a mild surprise by beating Waiorongamai and Admiral Hawke once round the tan. Bluejacket, who appears to be on the improve, gave his half-brother Canopus a dressing down in a mile and a quarter gallop on the course proper. Lady Marion moved freely over seven furlongs on the new plough. Wright's two year-olds, Rosella, Hastings, and Letitia, finished in a bunch after a smart five furlongs. Forangi Potae seemed to have a slight advantage over Record Reign in a six furlong spin, executed in 1min 22sec. A number of others worked, including Disturbance and Rainbow, who were schooled over the jumps. Disturbance did not shape too well. Magpie, looking very well, did long slow work on the tan.

Notwithstanding heavy rain on Friday night the course was in splendid order on Saturday