

The D.J.C. has been served with a writ of summons over its tenancy of the Forbury, in which there is a claim for putting the buildings, etc., in proper order.

The weights for the following races to be run at Ellerslie on Saturday, June 3, are duo-to-day; Winter Welter, Maiden Steeplechase, Pony Hurdles, and Maiden Hurdles.

Mr Dan O'Brien was again among the unlucky owners at the Christchurch meeting. Malatua, who had been showing really good form in his training, failed to run up to expectations in the principal race. Peerage performed a little better in his race, and got second.

A well-bred Australian horse, The Faithful, by Niagara—Faith, was sold in Sydney recently for £4 0s. During the season, three years ago, he won six races out of seventeen starts, and in one event at Canterbury Park he cut out the six furlongs in 1min 15½sec, yet now he is valued at less than a fiver.

It is likely that a proposition will be made to extend the North New Zealand Grand National Meeting to three days next year. An argument that will be used in favor of that proposition is that a three days' programme is likely to attract more horses from the South than a two days' programme.

The filly Valedictory, by Cuirassier—Valentine, and the filly by St. Hippo—Liquidation, both in the charge of Mr J. Rae, have been suffering from influenza, a prevailing epidemic at Ellerslie, but both recovered under the care of their trainer without quite going off their feed. Both youngsters are now doing very well.

Lapidity ran twice at the North Canterbury Meeting on May 4, and got second to Female Franchise in the Winter Oaks, one mile. Female Franchise carried 8.12 and Lapidity 7.9. He was unplaced in the Flying, five furlongs, with 7.6. It is strange how a horse can improve so much in a fortnight, and at the end of that period come out and beat better horses.

An old-time jockey and trainer, in the person of W. Lang, died suddenly in Melbourne recently. He was a very old colouist, coming over from Tasmania in 1834. He trained Nimblefoot, winner of the Melbourne and Australian Cup's, He won the Derby in 1863 with Oriflamme. The only horse of note Mr Lang has had of late years is Rosella.

Who really does own Splinter? Or shall we ask who are the owners of the various chips the gelding is said to be split into? We are already told of five reputed owners of hairs in Splinter's tail. Perhaps it will be a case of the ten little niggers over again—"four got swallowed up and then there was one." Then the man who has most chips will own Splinter.

Mr W. Knight, the well-known handicapper, was a sufferer from a nasty accident last week. He was crossing Queen Street with the intention of going to be photographed at Mr F. W. Edwards' studio for the SPORTING REVIEW, when his toe caught in the tram line, and he fell heavily to the ground. Mr Knight was severely shaken, and much bruised, but happily he was well enough to be about town on Friday, and on Saturday he was enjoying the racing at Takapuna.

We learn from an exchange that the Lower Valley Jockey Club intend making further improvements to their course property. At a meeting of stewards the other day it was resolved to borrow £600 for the purpose of paying off the balance of purchase money (£456) and fence in the inside of the course, and lay off a grass training track. The number of horses now being trained at Martinborough has been the cause of the club deciding to make proper provision for them, and the new grass track will be greatly appreciated.

The English-bred colt, Benzoin, by Friars Balsam out of a Bendigo mare, imported by Mr G. G. Stead, came out and won his first race, the Maiden Handicap, at the Christchurch meeting. Benzoin is a fashionable looking animal, and after his racing career is over he should meet with some success at the stud. He is now the property of Murray Hobbs, but will be offered for sale along with several of Hobbs' team shortly.

Lapidity, who won two races at the Christchurch Racing Club's meeting, and paid dividends of £42 6s and £10 4s, is a five-year old gelding by Ahua—Frinket. He is the property of Mr W. O. Rutherford, who, with Mr D. Rutherford, owns some large sheep stations in the Amuri County. All the horses belonging to the Rutherfords are trained at Amuri, and most of them are by that once brilliant steeplechaser, Ahua. Social Pest, Female Franchise, Lapidity, Jib, Jewel, and Pensioner all claim Ahua as their sire.

At the North Canterbury meeting, on May 4, Paladin (7.10) won the big handicap, one mile and a quarter, followed home by Rangefinder (6.10), and Starshot (8.13); Skirmisher (8.12) was fourth, and Huku (7.4) last. At the Christchurch meeting, on May 17, Huku (7.3) won the big handicap, one mile and a quarter, easily, and beat Starshot (8.9), Skirmisher (8.12), Paladin (8.8), and Rangefinder (6.10). Our Canterbury correspondent refrains from passing any comment, but adds: "Perhaps some of your readers can solve this rather intricate puzzle; I can't."

The conditions of the next New Zealand Cup appear in our advertising columns. The added money is 1500 sovs, second horse to receive 200 sovs, and the third horse 100 sovs from the stake. The entrance fee is 2 sovs, and the weights are due on or about July 1, and those owners satisfied with the adjustment will be required to pay 3 sovs for first acceptance on August 4, 7 sovs on general entry day, and 10 sovs on a day to be named shortly before the race, the cost of going to the post in all being 22 sovs. The date of entry is June 5. There are no Multiforms to be frightened of this year, and it is probable that the entry will be a big one.

Mr Haselden, the S.M. who heard the charge against the Wellington police officers, said he thought the most efficacious way of stopping tote betting would be to limit the profits of the totalisator to five per cent.

On Wednesday next, May 31, acceptances are due for the following races to be run at the North New Zealand Grand National Steeplechase Meeting: Maiden Steeplechase, 2 sovs; Winter Welter Handicap, 2 sovs; Maiden Hurdles, 2 sovs; and the Pony Hurdles, 1 s.v.

Particulars of the Wellesley Stakes and the Wellington Stakes to be run at the summer meeting of the Wellington Racing Club in 1901 appear in our advertising columns. The added money in both races is 300 sovs, and entries close on Monday, January 26. No money is required at the time of entry.

Splinter did not get off scot free in his tumble on Saturday. He cut one of his knees slightly, and on Sunday was very stiff. His stiffness is not to be wondered at, for he came an awful purler. The gelding has been receiving careful attention, and it is to be hoped that he will be fit and well for the Grand National Meeting.

To-morrow (Friday), May 26, Messrs Churton and Co. will offer by public auction the privileges in connection with the North New Zealand Grand National Meeting of the Auckland Racing Club. There is always a big attendance at the last meeting of the season at Ellerslie, so Messrs Churton and Co. should have no difficulty in disposing of the various rights with very satisfactory results to the Club and the purchasers.

There has been very little training work at Ellerslie this week in the way of jumping. Most of the horses have been doing steady work, but nothing of a serious nature has been attempted. The New Plymouth jumper, Kaitoa, has been over the jumps, and he pleased lookers-on very well, for he fenced in taking style, and showed a bit of pace, too. Splinter has been resting in Frank Maomanem's paddock. On Saturday afternoon there will be some jumping work done, and on Monday we may expect serious work to be commenced.

The inside and outside dividends at Takapuna on Saturday did not show a unanimity of opinion in every race. Take the case of St. Ursula. Inside, St. Paul's sister returned her backers £20 17s, but punters on the outside only received £9 4s. Somebody must have whipped the cat when the dividends in this race were declared. In the Maiden Hurdles the inside division rallied on Verdi much more than did his outside supporters, while in the Maiden Steeplechase the inside tote paid Crusado's backers £3 13s more than his outside adherents received.

We are in receipt of the annual report of the committee of the Canterbury Jockey Club for the year ending April 30. The report is of a satisfactory nature, notwithstanding the fact that the expenditure exceeds the receipts by £1093 15s 4d. This deficit, however, is satisfactorily accounted for by the item of £1,384 19s 11d, the cost of permanent improvements to the grand stand and course. The committee explains that under ordinary circumstances the revenue would have been sufficiently elastic to have cut this expenditure out of current receipts, but the torrents of rain on the last day of the November meeting had the effect of causing the receipts to fall £1000 below expectations. Notwithstanding this loss the receipts were practically equal to those of the previous year and the season, if it had been favoured by fine weather, would have been a record one. The report will be submitted to the annual meeting of the Club to be held to-day.

Our readers will be interested to note in our business columns an advertisement from the secretary of the Australian Jockey Club, setting forth the conditions of four important races to be run at Randwick, and the owners of new yearlings would do well to read Mr Clibborn's notification. By advertising in Auckland, Mr Clibborn shows that, as secretary of one of the most important clubs in Australia, that he has recognised the fact that this Province is a nursery for thoroughbreds of first-class calibre. This season's new yearlings are probably the best we have seen for some time, and we shall feel surprised if Mr Clibborn's invitation is not responded to by the Hon. H. Mossman, Mr Dan McLeod, Mr G. G. Stead, and possibly others. The events requiring attention are the December Stakes, to be run at the Summer Meeting of 1899; the Champagne Stakes, to be run at the Autumn Meeting of 1900; the A.J.C. Derby, to be run at the Spring Meeting of 1900, and the St. Leger of 1901. Nominations for these events may be sent to the secretary of the C.J.C., Christchurch, A.R.C., Auckland, V.R.C., Melbourne, S.A.J.C., Adelaide, and A.J.C., Sydney. Owners should take particular notice of the fact that entries should be in the hands of the officials mentioned on June 5. The New Zealand entries should be in the hands of the secretaries of the Christchurch or Auckland Clubs by noon, and the final hour of closing in Sydney is 4 o'clock.

Writing from San Francisco to a Sydney friend, the well-known trainer, W. J. Miller, has something to say about the racing he has seen there. He saw the California Derby run, and was not greatly impressed, the field being a poor one. He adds that the racing is not nearly up to Australian standard, and was especially struck by the number of bad riders, "the worst he ever saw." To quote his own words: "I saw about two that could ride decently. All ride a la Tod Sloan, and they run their races from end to end. They don't forget to use the whip, and some of them nearly fall off when it comes to a finish. People here who know the game say they have good riders and horses, but they have gone East, which is no doubt correct. The track they are racing on at Oakland resembles the Flemington sand track, but is faster. Gray's machine is in use, but they do not work it as we do, the horses being on the move all the time, and sometimes the starts are very bad. The jockeys have not the same latitude here as in Australia, being kept to themselves after they go to get ready."

A match is talked of in England between the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase winner Manifesto and Gentle Ida, for £2,000 a-side, four miles of country, at Sandown park.

The Prince of Wales was represented in the last Liverpool Grand National by a horse bearing the name of Ambush, who finished seventh. Just fancy Ambush representing Royalty.

Mr C. Gilbert, owner (or late owner?) of Merloolas, states that he never was in communication with Mr T. Uphill for the purchase of the gelding, who is as sound as ever he was, and has not been examined by a vet. on behalf of Mr Uphill, or any one else (says the *Evening News* of Sydney). The question is, who's the liar?

The Australian-bred colt Essex, who is in the same stable as Survivor, ran in the Hampton Mid. weight Handicap, at Warwick, last month. There was a field of a dozen, and he finished fourth, carrying 7st. 6lb., to 8st. carried by Lady Flash, the winner.

At Newmarket. in order to assist the public identifying the horses running at the meeting, the stewards have given instructions for the distribution of badges bearing numbers corresponding with those on the card, such badges to be strapped to the arm of the lad riding or leading the horse about the paddock.

Mr Dan. McLeod very soon got back the £50 he paid for Crusado at the Bell Block meeting. The Cruiser gelding jumped his fences on a Saturday very kindly, and after getting over the water jump the second time he spurred away and got too big a lead. Voltigeur II. made a game effort to catch him, but he was not quite ready for a severe race yesterday. Crusado again won at Takapuna.

Thus the "Special Commissioner" of the *Sportsman*:—"The surprise occasioned by the victory of Breemount's Pride in the big steeplechase at Manchester would not have been so great had it been known that the mare had a pipe put in her throat about a fortnight previously, with the result that her roaring infirmity, bad though it was, was almost entirely relieved. The operation is not a dangerous one, and in this instance enabled the mare to score a victory which greatly enhance her value for stud purposes."

The close of the jumping season in England does not seem to have been regretted. One scribe says:—"Roping—open, obvious, and frequently inartistic roping—has become quite a recognised part of the game. No one is surprised. No one takes official notice. No one thinks that one rider or one owner or one stable is worse than another. Sometimes a horse is out, sometimes it is not; those who are on when it is out, and win, consider themselves clever. Those who are on when it is not out, and they have betted at the wrong time and lost their money, howl a bit about dishonesty, forgetting to balance up affairs."

Robert Peck, at one time a famous English trainer, in his autobiography, says:—"When a boy it was my great delight to go out on the wold and watch the cracks of the day go through their morning tasks. One of the horses that first took my fancy was Songstrees, who won the Oaks in 1852. That same year I used to watch West Australian doing his gallops, and I was wonderfully taken with him. One morning, when John Scott (the 'Wizard of the North') came out to see the horses at exercise, he was accompanied by a quiet looking gentleman. John Scott saw me, and called me to him. The gentleman smiled at me and said: 'Well, and what is going to win the Derby?' 'West Australian, sir,' I answered, without a moment's hesitation. 'The youngster is not a bad judge!' said John Scott. Afterwards I found that the quiet-looking gentleman was none other than the great Lord Derby."

Horses whose right to be considered thoroughbreds is questioned by sticklers for blue blood seem to be having a good time of it lately. Forest, winner of the V.R.C. Newmarket Handicap, is objected to as a descendant from a mare of doubtful pedigree; Amoureux, winner of the Thompson Handicap at Wellington, has to manage without a number; Newhaven, winner of the City and Suburban, is in similar disgrace; and new we hear that the Brooklesby Stakes, the first two-year-old race of importance in the English season, was won by Hulcot, a son of Crafton and Queen of the Riding, the latter being a half-bred mare, and consequently not figuring in the Stud Book. The special commissioner of the London Sportsman says: "In Hulcot we now find a Brocklesby winner whose pedigree will be vainly sought for in the Stud Book. Surely Messrs Weatherby should do something forthwith to redress the anomaly which permits the stock of Foxhall, with his three admitted stains, to appear in the Stud Book, while refusing admission to such as Hulcot, Clorane, and many others bred in England or Ireland against whom it can only be alleged that a link in their pedigree is missing. The obviously sensible course is to follow on the lines suggested in the preface to Vol. 13, and relegate all animals of questionable pedigree to an appendix, if only to preserve the record; but Messrs Weatherby, so far as I understand them, do not propose in future to go on with any such idea, and, by way of a change, American animals with pedigrees, certified by the New York Jockey Club, have already in certain instances been refused admission to the Stud Book or its appendix, notwithstanding the preface to Vol. 13, which, Messrs Weatherby now states, does not apply to the future! Thus, what with all the Lexington, Foxhall, and other American blood already admitted on one hand, and the exclusion of our Cloranes, Hespars, Galloping Queens, etc., on the other, topped up by a sudden change of front to the Americans, Messrs Weatherby appear to have got themselves into the position of the gentleman in the song who 'dunno where he are.'" I understand that the matter is already exercising the serious attention of the New York Jockey Club, for the sale value of American bloodstock in England or Europe is cut down by at least 50 per cent. if the Stud Book is to be closed to it.

Irish Twist has been tried over fences and it is said will be taken to Hastings.

The stallion Phaeton was recently sold privately by Mr Gates, of Tinwald, Ashburton, for a very satisfactory figure.

£5000 is said to be the sum Mr G. G. Stead received for Multiform, whose new owner is Sir Edgar Vincent.

Mr G. G. Fitzgerald, the owner of Jib, who won at the Christchurch Autumn Meeting, bought the horse for £14.

The Forbury Park Company is proceeding against the Dunedin Jockey Club, claiming £1500 damages from that body for not keeping the Forbury course in a proper state of repair.

The grandstand on the Feilding Racecourse was destroyed by fire on Monday night. No one seems to know how the fire originated. Luckily for the club the stand was insured for £500.

One of the progeny of the Australian-bred sire Kirkham has at last won a race in England, Sea Fog, who is by Kirkham, having won the Second Welter Handicap at the Newmarket Craven meeting.

Cutie fairly revelled in the mud on Saturday. She went to the front very soon after the start, and got such a break on the others that they had no possible chance of catching her, though Lena ran a very good race considering her heavy impost.

Mr Dick Hannon, the owner of Bellman, was present at the North Shore on Saturday looking as if he had just come out of hospital. On enquiry, he told us that he had a bit of a smash up when riding a young horse.

Miss Emmy has been relegated to the stud. Messrs Nathan tried the mare over hurdles, and it will be remembered she gave Jack Rae a very nasty fall a few weeks past. Miss Emmy is a very handsome mare, and should prove a valuable addition to the Sylvia Park breeding establishment.

Altair very soon follows his stable companion, Multiform, to the Old Country. The Castor—Cissy colt leaves New Zealand on Friday next by the s.s. Wakanui. Altair will thus reach England within a fortnight of Multiform's arrival. The new owner's name has not yet been published nor has the price realised been divulged.

Though the Bellman people pretended to have no fear of the result of the Hurdle Race on Saturday, we fancy that Splinter was just a little bit dreading. Had the latter stood up a fine race would have been seen, for both he and Nor-West were, like the winner, in rare good trim. Nor-West lost a lot of ground by the smash, and was probably a bit upset into the bargain.

Partan Jeannie's win in the Royal Handicap would naturally lead one to suppose that the owners' fellow countrymen had backed the mare. Coming from the course to the wharf the question was put by a gentleman, who received the answer, "No good back Partan Jeannie, she only win one lace a year." The Celestials evidently follow form very closely.

Auld Reekie was a trifle lucky to win the Maiden Plate at Takapuna on Saturday. Snider had the inside running going along the back, but her rider did not keep to the rails, and consequently Jack Oshafe ran up on the inside, and his mount lasted long enough to get home by the best part of a length. Snider was coming very fast at the finish, and with the inside berth she must have won.

The "man in the box" had a couple of very close finishes to decide at Takapuna on Saturday. The first was when Doctor and St. Ursula ran home for the Birthday Handicap very nearly level, and the second was the splendid finish between Partan Jeannie, St. Elmo, and Red Lancer for the Royal Handicap. Some people were of opinion that Doctor was first home in the Birthday Handicap, and did not hesitate to say so, but the judge is the only man able to give a certain decision, and most racegoers were satisfied with the decision in either race.

Hawfinch, who won the London Cup of £1000 for Mr Horatio Bottomley, is a four-year-old by Goldfinch—Chalk Hill Blue. Mr Bottomley paid a big price for the colt last year, and expected to win the Derby with him. He was badly trained, however, and never did anything much in his three-year-old days. He was well backed for the Lincolnshire Handicap in March last, but ran badly as the betting on the day implied he would. His win at the resuscitated Alexandra Park meeting must have been very welcome to his owner.

This is how the troubles of a disputed or unsatisfactory start is dealt with by New South Wales stewards:—Feu de-Joie and Kalingo, who were well backed for the Flying Handicap at Warwick Farm on May 13, got left at the post (writes the *Sydney Evening News*). There was some dispute when the horses returned to the weighing enclosure as to whether the starter had sent the field away, and the hoisting of the weight flag was delayed. Mr Hegarty, the starter, however, stated that he sent the horses off in the usual way, and backers of the favorite were placed out of their suspense. It is an unusual occurrence now-a-days for "triers" to get left.

At the Christchurch Racing Club's Autumn Meeting a well known jockey (O. Stratford) got himself into rather serious trouble. He presented himself to weigh out to ride Speculator in one of the races, but the clerk of the scales expressed the opinion that he was not in a fit condition to ride, and it certainly appears that the official was quite right, as Stratford indulged in language of an unsavoury description and as a consequence he was disqualified for two years. The punishment certainly appears to be severe, but the clerk of the scales and the stewards are to be commended for the action taken. If Stratford was in an unfit condition to ride, then his presence in a race was a menace to the lives of sober jockeys as well as his own. Let us hope that the lesson will benefit jockeys generally.