

In the Welter Hack, one mile and a quarter, Coolgardie, with a 7lb penalty added to his original weight, which brought his impost up to 12.1, was selected as the favorite, Uila again filling the second place in betting; transactions, Will-o'-the-Wisp, at a wide interval, coming next. There were six other starters, who, with the exception of Gorse (£38), it was a case of write your own price about. Will-o'-the-Wisp and Gorse were in the front for six furlongs, when the latter retired, Will-o'-the-Wisp being allowed to momentarily assume command, Coolgardie wrestling that position from him when sweeping round the home bend. Once in the straight Atlas White asked Uila to put her best foot forward, and the black did all she knew to reach Coolgardie. She just failed, however, Derringer's son snatching the verdict by a bare head, Will-o'-the-Wisp five lengths away third. Dividend, £2 4s.

Castashore was made a white-heat selection for the Flying Handicap, and he never gave his fanciers any cause to regret their allegiance to him, for when it came to racing the rest of his opponents (four in number) were like the man who fell out of the balloon, "not in it." Daphne, whose first score entailed a 7lb penalty, bringing her weight up to 8.0, was second favorite, and she secured second place, Maxim's son, Bowshot, a stranger in Hawke's Bay, just beat Scotia on the post for the barren honors of third place. Castashore paid £1 14s.

The concluding item on the day's card, the Hack Scurry, saw Lady Lorne again chosen as the right thing. She had her weight risen to 10.0, for, according to the conditions of the race, the winner of other specified races incurred a 7lb penalty, and the previous win of Mr Robinson's mare came under the classification. Nina, with a little more than half as much as was recorded against Lady Lorne's number, enjoyed the position of second favorite, Gold Cup, at £2 less, being third best sought after, and the public sifted it pretty accurately as Lady Lorne was first, Gold Cup second, and Nina third, the rest not in the hunt. Lady Lorne paid exactly the same price as she did in the mile race—£2 14s.

The winning owners at the meeting were:—Messrs H. H. Weston, £65; J. T. Blake, £65; W. Robinson, £50; R. J. Platt, £45; J. McLeod, £30. Derringer and Lochiel, with a pair of successful representatives a-piece, topped the winning sires' list, Castor, Sou'-Wester, and Forerunner each having a single prize winner to do them credit. Amongst the horsemen Whitaker and L. Robinson each rode a brace of victors, J. Scott, F. Davis, and W. Davey having scored upon a single occasion each.

## Inter-Provincial.

[OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

### CANTERBURY.

**Speculation in Christchurch—Dan O'Brien's luck—Malatua for the N.Z. Cup—Douglas—Two of Mr Buckland's horses sold—N.Z. Cup prices—Dummy and Social Pest.**

CHRISTCHURCH, May 27.

There was some brisk speculation over the Queen's Birthday meetings, especially those held at Wanganui and Dunedin. Backers went strongly for Whangaroa in the Wanganui Steeplechase, but Muscatel also had many admirers. Marina was heavily supported for both hurdle races, while Female Franchise was looked upon as almost a certainty for the Flying Stakes. Social Pest was not backed to any great extent. Backers were luckier over the Dunedin Meeting. A commission was worked in favor of Witchcraft for the First Hack Race, and on Windermere for the First Hurdle Race. Backers also went strongly for Benzoin, Starshot, Jupiter and Bria. Talking of commissions reminds me that money came flopping into Christchurch from the North for investment on Cora Linn in the Hack Race for the second day at Wanganui. Local backers got wind of the good thing, and speculated freely, but when the result came to hand there was great consternation amongst those who had fallen in. Dartmoor is evidently a smart hack.

Dan O'Brien's ill-luck stuck to him at Dunedin. Both Malatua and Peerage were greatly fancied for this meeting. In the Tradesmen's Handicap, none were considered so good. These two colts have been very expensive to Mr O'Brien this season, for Peerage has only won a small stake at Ashburton, while Malatua has got into second and third places about a dozen times. A wager of 600 to 23 is reported to have been taken about Malatua for the N.Z. Cup. On present form Malatua's price should be more like one hundred to one. The colts are indeed splendid specimens of the thoroughbreds, but at present they cannot win even in moderate second class company. Malatua will probably gallop faster with age, and the same remark applies to Peerage, but they have done nothing in public to warrant anyone backing them for a race like the N.Z. Cup.

A party of Christchurch sports who have, at times, been enriched through Douglas' victories are very anxious to back the son of Crawford Priory for the N.Z. Cup, but as the price they want, is something like hundreds to three, no business has so far been done. Douglas supporters here are waiting to see the weight Mr Henry allots him in the Cup. Owners should bear in mind that nominations for the N.Z. Cup are due on Monday next, June 5.

May 30.

Mr C. Piper, on behalf of Mr J. A. Buckland, has sold Val and St. Julian to Christchurch owners, and the horses have gone into M. Edwards' stable.

The trotting horses Harold B. and Satan will go back to Sydney at the end of the week. They were leased to a Christchurch owner while here, and were trained by D. Price.

Malatua, Peerage, Starshot, Skirmisher, and Djin Djin have returned from Dunedin.

A friend of mine anxious to invest £10 on Douglas for the next New Zealand Cup enquired the best price on offer last night, and he was thoroughly astonished at the reply he received—100 to 6. This, to say the least, is a ridiculously low price to offer before nominations are out for the race.

There have been a few enquiries after Huku for the N.Z. Cup.

Some small wagers have been written for the National double. Dummy and Social Pest have already been backed for the Grand National Steeplechase and Hurdles.

I was again fairly successful in forecasting winners for the Dunedin May Meeting. Starshot for the Birthday Handicap, Bria for the Tradesman's, Jupiter for the Welter, and Benzoin for the Maiden was the quartette I selected to win, and they all got there.

### OTAGO.

**Visionary—Zephyr—Nihilist—The Oamaru Races—The late meeting at Dunedin.**

DUNEDIN, May 30.

Visionary has been sold to an up-country sport. Zephyr has been bought by Mr W. Crossan, of Berwick, and joins Occident's harem.

Nihilist has been disposed of, his new owner being Mr James McEwan.

The Oamaru races will be run to-morrow and Thursday, and there is every prospect of a really good meeting, better horses being engaged than have been there for some years. Djin Djin was to have had a out in for the principal event, but he has hurt himself. A feature of this meeting is that all concerned are giving their services gratuitously Messrs Mason and Roberts, who have always been to the fore on occasions like this, are working their totalisators free. The Oamaru Club is too good to be allowed to drift to leeward, hence the kindly action.

Our meeting last week was a big success, and it is pleasing to record a change from occurrences of the last few seasons. I reckon it has established the Wingatui course, leaving an indelible mark. There were more people there, notwithstanding the bad weather, than we have had at Forbury for the last five years. On off days the attendance may suffer with the new course, but all holidays will make that up, for people like an outing, and there are few places under the canopy of Heaven better blessed than the Taieri Plains, with its beautiful scenery, prolific soil, and far better climate than dear old Forbury. So why should the public not go out? The railway arrangements are not yet as perfect as they may be, but the authorities will soon, report says, remedy any failings. The club is to be congratulated on the success of the meeting, especially battling against such unfavorable weather, and it is astonishing that on the new course they should have put through nearly a thousand pounds more than was handled at Forbury in fine weather at last year's corresponding gathering. Mr Harry Piper's starting was really good and gave backers confidence. The racing, considering everything, was interesting, and no very big dividends were paid. Starshot very gamely plodded through the heavy going in the Birthday Handicap, beating Skirmisher, which is real bad luck for young Bob Reay, as, after selling her, she just beat Sequin last year and meted out the same punishment to his newly-acquired Skirmisher in this year's event. Double Event is evidently too heavily topped to excel in very heavy going, and Djin Djin was a dismal failure. The meeting unearthed one good horse—a real game 'un—in Jupiter.

The D.J.C. have made about £300 over the meeting.

### WELLINGTON.

**Notes on the Otaki Maori Meeting.**

WELLINGTON, May 30.

Messrs Donovan and Armit, who bought the Otaki Maori Racing Club's gates for £131, report a loss of £50 on the speculation. The weather on the first day was very bad, but the number of complimentary tickets issued is said to be out of all proportion to the attendance.

**FOR**

**TAKE**

# Wolfe's Schnapps.

**A CHEERING CORDIAL.  
A STIMULATING TONIC.**

Mr H. Hannah, of Carterton, owner of Coin, recently purchased Woolloomooloo.

Ruby Twist broke down last week, consequently did not take any part in the Otaki meeting.

The Otaki Maori Hack Racing Club were unfortunate in the weather last week. On the first day (the 24th) it rained all day. This had the effect of not only keeping people away from the course on the opening day, but affected the second day's attendance considerably. The amount put through the totalisator during the two days was £7747, or £2721 more than was registered for the corresponding meeting last year.

Returned visitors from Otaki speak in terms of praise of Sentry, and say he is as good as Vedette. In the Railway Plate, on the second day, Mr Tancred pitted Ngatihua against the Taranaki horse at level weights (10st 11lb), but the latter won anyhow. Gobo and Langry were among the starters, but could not foot it with Sentry, a four-year-old gelding by Vanguard—Blanche.

The surprise of the Otaki meeting was created in the Stewards' Welter by Agent-General (Ahua—Lady Evelyn). There was only £6 on him in the machine, so that he returned the very nice dividend of £42 3s.

## Casual Jottings.

[BY TAIHOA.]

NEW PLYMOUTH, May 27.

Mr S. McGuinness informs me that he does not intend to persevere with the training of Daystar, but will utilise him for stud purposes. Last season the son of Castor mated three mares, who have all, I believe, proved in foal. The mares are:—Doris (St. Leger—Ophelia); full sister to Boreas (owned by Mr Mills), and Sellinger (St. Leger—Braesolis).

There are a fair number of horses in training in the Hawera district. Mr P. Coffey has Mayday in work for the Auckland National meeting. The mare showed good form in the first part of the season, and placed a few substantial wins to the credit of her owner. She looked to be getting stale at the last Taranaki meeting, and since then her owner and trainer has treated her to a well-deserved spell. With the freshening up I think the mare should be able to again show us some of her brilliancy over the sticks. The same trainer has the Foulshot mare, Nipapu, who took to the jumping business like a kitten takes to milk. This mare shaped at Wanganui last week in open company. The Vanguard racer, Sentry, who had an engagement at Otaki this week is also in the same stable. I hear very good accounts of the galloping capabilities of this horse. In the same town Mr P. Keith has the jumpers Bradshaw and Pokomoko in work. The former veteran at the cross country game had engagements at the Wanganui Winter meeting. The big jumper, Pokomoko, with whom it was intended to invade Australia, broke down just when the trip was decided on, having injured a fetlock through striking, and hence the tour had to be abandoned for the time being. I am pleased to report that Pokomoko has recovered from his mishap, is sound, and is now in slow work. Mr C. E. Major has several inmates in his stables. The flat sprinter and jumper, Faugh-a-Ballagh, was engaged at Wanganui this week, making his debut over country. I met Mr Major the other day, and he complained bitterly at the heavy weight put on Faugh-a-Ballagh for the Hunters' Steeplechase at Wanganui. He considered he had been harshly treated, and had no option but to scratch the horse for that particular event. Barbarian, another inmate of the stable, was in work for jumping events at Auckland National meeting. The mare Chrissie (Torpedo—Christina) was also in work after a very lengthy spell. I remember seeing this mare run in the maiden race at Waitara, last November, and I was then impressed with her appearance. Unfortunately for her owner she went wrong shortly afterwards, and it was only recently that she was fit enough to be again placed in commission. Mr R. Brough is training Calceolaria (Recluse—Daisy Clipper), and therefore full sister to Wild Daisy, the hack sprinter. The same trainer has also Remus (by Tim Whiffler), who was, at the time of my visit, in work for some of the minor jumping events at Auckland. This horse is owned by Mr Cooper, the proprietor of the Empire Hotel. Mr E.

Barnes has in hand the hack jumper Fox, who was engaged in the hack hurdle events at Wanganui, and the hack flat racer Dormant (Morpheus—Creep), who was accepted for in the hack flats at the same meeting. I am sorry to report that Mr G. Gibson's bad luck still pursues him. The hurdler Cairo, who was in excellent buckle and winning form, went wrong the other day, through slipping and straining his fetlock when doing slow work. I saw Cairo since the accident and he was very lame. I only hope the gelding will make a speedy recovery. The break-down occurred at a most inopportune time, seeing the good winter meeting fixtures in this and next month. In the same stables, which are situated at Normanby, three miles from Hawera, are located a four or five year old Sou'-Wester colt, and a four-year-old colt by Forerunner from Blanche. Mr A. Goodson has in training the hack flat racer Coraliun (Foulshot—Lallah Rook), who was also engaged at Wanganui.

At Manasia, some ten miles from Hawera, Mr J. D. Mitchell is jumping Birthday (Sou'-Wester from Aquatic's dam). He has also in hand the disqualified Cuckoo, who is being jumped with a view to following the Hawera hounds. When the disqualification has elapsed Cuckoo should be proficient at the cross country business. At the same place Mr A. W. Budge has a two-year-old filly, by Haere from Barbarina, and a two-year-old colt by the same sire from Figurehead. Haere (Malua from Darrivell's sister), who was imported from Australia some years ago, is, I hear, leaving some good stock in the Manasia district.

While in Hawera I learned that Mr O'Connell had in training a four-year-old by Sou'-Wester from Mayday's dam; and Mr G. Nix had a mare in training for hack events.

A gentleman, who is capable of pronouncing a judgment in connection with horses, informs me that this season's hunting with the Hawera pack should bring out some excellent cross country horses. The jumps are stiff enough to try the leaping abilities of any horse, and so far the majority of mounts have distinguished themselves remarkably well.

In an hotel parlour the other night I heard some trainers discussing the question of the Wanganui training tracks, and the general opinion seemed to be that the ground gave way too much when the horses were galloping. One trainer explained that this was caused through the sandy nature of the sub-soil. The same trainer remarked that the credit of making the course proper the grand track it is, was due to and old caretaker, who built up by carting and spreading thousands of loads of manure upon it. The same trainer added, "I lived four years in Wanganui, and I never saw such a man for work as that old caretaker. If you went on the course at 5 a.m. he was grafting away, and if you went at 8 p.m. in summer time he was still at it. His whole energy, in fact, seemed to be directed in one channel, and that was improving the course." Speaking personally I cannot express an opinion as to the condition of the training tracks, but this I do know, that, taking the Wanganui course property as it stands, it is one of the best appointed and most convenient in the Australasian colonies. Wanganui is not a big town in the true acceptation of the term, yet for racecourse accommodation it easily surpasses many cities possessing a ten times more numerous population.

The Wanganui stewards are evidently determined for the future to keep a close official eye on the running at their meetings. At the winter meeting an innovation was a portable stand, run on wheels, from which coign of vantage the stewards, specially appointed, can have a close scrutiny of the running at any particular part of a race. If this plan be adopted by the other clubs in the colony "strong" bridles and foul riding will be reduced to a minimum if not totally wiped out.

I had a discussion recently on the question of bad tempered horses. A well-know trainer said that he had a horse which could give points at one time in the way of viciousness. He remarked that on one occasion a southern trainer came to Wellington with a bad tempered horse, and a recognised champion of the South Island in this particular direction. Each trainer was positive that his charge was the most difficult to manage, and the point would have remained unsolved had it not been settled in an unexpected manner. Both stallions met in a race on the Wellington course. The South Islander got to the post first, and when the other was brought up to the starting post the former began to display signs of a