

him Escapade, Townmoor, Helmsman, and other horses. Roddy McIvor, who has been in Victoria for the last ten years, but with the exception of a few grey hairs is not changed a great deal. He has had his share of ups and downs, the preponderance being downs. He has in hand at Caulfield three moderate horses, not likely to do him as much good as Tommy Dodd, Grey Momus, Lara, Loch Lomond, and others he had in his hands when J. Rae was his pupil. Charlie Ruddings has a large number of horses under his charge for different owners, and his name is continually cropping up in connection with winners. He says that he likes the country, as you can make money there. Mr. C. C. Murray, late of Napier, was one of the most prominent New Zealanders there; Mr. Fred Duder, late of Auckland and Dunedin, Messrs. Davis, Levy, Charles Brown, and others from the former city were also conspicuous. Mr. Joe Gallagher, the erst Auckland penciler, was on the Hill following his old calling. Mr. A. Drake, whose headquarters are in Sydney, was in the Paddock, and had a good time of it over the Hurdle Race, judging from the business he was doing and the winner being unbacked. Billy Craft, one of the old school of jockeys, was also there. He does not look a day older, and has not a grey hair. He complains that he cannot get rid of the rheumatism, and intends visiting Te Aroha. He is now a married man. Messrs. Lyons, Poole, Enko and other metalicians are, according to all accounts, doing well in Sydney. The other week young Mr. S. McGregor, of Normanby, Taranaki, had a fall while riding at the Oakleigh Hunt Meeting, but is all right again. Mr. Ross, who was some time at Ellerslie, is now bookmaking. He travels between Sydney and Melbourne, and is to be found among the coursing men. "Spectator" has also been going the rounds of trotting races, and is evidently of opinion that the best of the New Zealand trotting horses would have a poor show over there. For my own part, I must confess that I have only seen three or four horses in New Zealand that had any pretensions to trotting; then they were only natural ones, and would require a lot of training. Trotting is a sport itself, and the animals require a great deal of teaching from their earliest days. There are few men in England that can train a trotter from his youthful days; the Americans are the only ones that thoroughly understand it. I have seen an American trainer at Home take an English horse in hand that the owner thought could not be made better, and in three months make him a 25-second better horse in a mile. It is to be hoped that trotting in New Zealand will not be carried to too great an extent, as a trained American trotter is the most unpleasant horse to ride or drive. What we want here is improvement in the trotting and action of hacks and harness horses, but we do not require them like the American trotter or pacer.

OLD TURFITE.

I hear from a reliable source that an offer of £80 was recently made by a patron of W. McMinniman's stable for the hurdle racer Hopeful Kate, but the owner will not part under £100.

Messrs. L. A. Levy, J. C. Davis, and A. Carrick, well known in sporting circles, returned from Australia by the "Manapouri" on Wednesday last, after doing the V.R.C. Grand National and the usual rounds.

## THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

### RACING CALENDAR.

August 6.....	Ashburton Hunt Club Meeting.
9.....	Lancaster Trotting Club.
28.....	Amberly Steeplechase Meeting.
September 9, 10.....	Geraldine Spring Meeting.
18, 19.....	South Canterbury J. C. Meeting.
October 6, 7.....	Hawke's Bay J. C. Spring Meeting.
20, 21.....	Wellington R. C. Summer Meeting.
November 4, 5, 8.....	C. J. C. Spring Meeting.
19, 20.....	Ashburton R. C. Spring Meeting.
AUSTRALIA.	
September 4, 6.....	Hawkesbury R. C. Spring Meeting.
13, 16, 18, 20.....	A. J. C. Spring Meeting.
ACCEPTANCES AND FORFEITS.	
August 4.....	First forfeit Melbourne Cup.
26.....	Second payment Caulfield Cup.

The following are the names of the Clubs affiliated to the New Zealand Trotting Association:—

Southland Racing Club	Ohoku and Eyreton Jockey Club
Cromwell Racing Club	Tinwald Racing Club
Lower Heathcote Racing Club	Hororatu Racing Club
New Brighton Racing Club	Waimate Racing Club
Lancaster Park Trotting Club	Little River Racing Club
North Canterbury Racing Club	Ellesmere Jockey Club
Geraldine Racing Club	Greymouth Trotting Club
Canterbury Trotting Club	Nelson Trotting Club.
Timaru Trotting Club	
South Canterbury Jockey Club	

"Mazeppa," of the *Otago Witness*, informs his readers that Mr. Dowse's counsel (Sir R. Stout) has sent to Mr. Stead, asking that he send down a formal withdrawal of the statements deemed libelous, or that a solicitor be named who would accept service of a writ. Should this case continue racing men may expect some lively things brought to light.

Of late, owing to Australian sires being taken to San Francisco, the public have had their attention called to races in America, and some wonderful times have been given by different writers, but I have not noticed a single one informing their readers that the custom in America is to time from a flying start. This makes a difference of 10sec. in the mile.

After carefully reading over the different accounts of the New Zealand Grand National Steeplechase, I am of the opinion that Lunn made a mistake in the way that he rode Ahua. One other writer is of the same opinion. Ahua, though the top weight, went to the post a hot favorite. When the flag dropped, Lunn, like any good jockey, decided to make a waiting race. The pace at first was very bad, and he had to pull and haul his horse about to keep him back, thus taking more out of his mount than if he had let him stride along in front. The consequence was that Ahua got irritated, and when he came to a small fence he blundered through it and came down. Lunn is undoubtedly a fine horseman, but from what I have seen of his riding he gives me the impression of being self-taught. Lunn, like many others, think that to ride a waiting race he must be behind. This is a great mistake; it is just as easy to wait in front as behind. When the flag drops, jump off in front, get a good position, letting your horse stride along, having a firm hold of his head until he settles down—then, if the pace is good, you can remain there; if the reverse, let the others race past and make the running for you. I was not present, therefore these remarks are made from what I can glean from others. However, the certain old jumper, Daddy Longlegs, won, though he is as slow as a top. It is stated in several of the Southern papers that he was trained by swimming. The description of the race greatly reminds me of the Liverpool Grand National when Little Charlie won, ridden by Bill Archer (father of the celebrated Fred), who just before the start took £100 to a gin cocktail against his mount.

On looking through the lists of winning owner's horses and sires published in the Southern papers, I find that none of them agree. The most reliable, I think, is the list compiled by "Pentagraph," in the *New Zealand Referee*, but even he has some errors. However, it is of little consequence, as it is very doubtful if any owner who has only raced in New Zealand has made the two ends meet, as it is impossible to back a horse for any amount in a country where the totalisator is paramount.

The *Cornstalk* has a rather amusing article headed "New Zealand Three-year-olds—A Chat about them," written by Mr. A. J., one of the best informed of the New Zealand sporting scribes. The account of the different horses is really amusing. For the owners' sake it is to be trusted that the Australian handicappers pay no attention to such articles. It is often a source of wonder how horses sent from here to Sydney get imposters that their performances do not warrant. If Messrs. Barnard and Scarr pay attention to such rigmarole it is readily accounted for.

From all accounts the Oaks was run in the fastest time on record, Semolina jumping off and forcing the pace in hopes of making Signorina's lack of condition tell. The time given is 2m. 40 4-5s. The fastest time given for the Derby, 2m. 43s., was done by Kettle-drum, Blair Athol, Merry Hampton, and Ayrshire. Now not a single writer, in making comments on the time the Derby and Oaks are run in mentions the fact that since Kettle-drum and Blair Athol's day the course has been altered. Formerly the horses started in a hollow, and the first quarter of mile was up a tremendous hill. They now start at the back of Sherwood's, and have only slightly rising ground to contend with at the commencement.

All racing men in the Colonies will regret that, owing to the death of the Hon. James White, his horses engaged in the different races in England are disqualified. This is a great disappointment to many English racing men, as they wanted to see what Australian horses were like further on in the season, as no one for one moment thought that Mr. White would land the Derby at the first time of asking, especially as it happened to be a particularly good year for three-year-olds. They were expected to do something further on in the season. The rule, that has been in force for many years, that all nominations are void on the death of the nominator, falls very hard on racehorse owners, who may have given long prices for young stock. There are many of my readers who will remember that by the death of Mr. "Launde," the Marquis of Anglesey, Prince Bathany, and others, how many good horses were rendered practically useless for racing purposes. Mr. Tattersall has often urged the necessity of having the rule repealed and substituting the following:—"On the sale of any racehorse the purchaser shall have all nominations transferred to him, and, if necessary, be required to place security in Messrs. Weatherby's hands for the amount of the forfeits." This would do away with the difficulty. From what can be gleaned from Home papers some such rule will be adopted and the old one repealed before long.