

The Pakuranga Hunt Club have fixed their annual race meeting for the 18th October, on the Ellerslie racecourse.

The annual meeting of members of the Avondale Jockey Club will be held at the Avondale Hotel on Wednesday next, at 7.30 p.m.

Glaucois, 3-year-old, by Somnus—Fisherman, after many changes, has been placed in charge of H. Hickton.

The Canterbury Jockey Club have decided to increase the salary for a Secretary to £250 per annum, and are inviting fresh applications for the position.

King Quail will visit the following districts this season—East Tamaki, Otahuhu, Mangere, Papatoitōi, Papakura, Wairoa South, Mairaitai, Welford and Howick.

Some Australian papers give Cuirassier the credit of having run a mile last season at Ellerslie in 1min. 41½secs. This is a mistake, the right time recorded in the event (the Victoria Handicap) being 1min. 44½secs. "Centaur's Index" is probably answerable for the error.

The Sydney paper which points to the success of the New Zealand Stud Company as evidence of what can be done by a combination of breeding, and urges Australian sportsmen to go and do likewise, must be poorly informed on some recent events.—*Canterbury Times*.

The Onehunga Racing Club have issued a programme for the Spring Meeting, to be held at Potter's Paddock on the 4th October. The Spring Handicap of 50 sovs. and the Hurdle Race of 35 sovs. are the chief events to be run for. Full particulars will be found in our advertising columns.

One of the best and most likely New Zealand Cup horses at Riccarton is Crackshot. Fit and well on the day, that "moke" will want a power of beating, and as a two-year-old, Butler gave him every chance, and he is now slipping a lot of work into him.—*Riccarton Correspondent N.Z. Referee*.

Sumatra, by the Pontiff—Malacca, leaves the post for the paddock. She has been a bitter disappointment to her party, having shown some splendid trials, but never running up to them. She will now pay a visit to Trenton, that splendid son of Musket, who was always the reverse of his new bride on the race track.—*Sportsman*.

The Lancaster Park Trotting Club held their spring meeting on Saturday, August 9th. The track was in good condition and the sport fairly interesting. In the two chief contests in harness records were made. Kangaroo won the Maiden, defeating seven others. He was so little thought of that there were no investors on the machine. Kentucky won the two mile race easily in 5m. 58secs. In the three mile race Kentucky, though penalized 15secs. behind scratch was greatly fancied, but disappointed his backers, as he finished nowhere, the winner turning up in Joe, who did the distance in 8m. 38secs. Kentucky showed a great deal of temper and finally bolted off the course, and ran the buggy into a fence, but was secured without doing much harm to himself. The other races were only of local interest.

According to some of the Australian papers the field this year will be the largest ever known, as owing to the mammoth sweeps and the rich prize offered by the V.R.C., an owner can stand to win £20,000 for the outlay of £50. This was predicted last year by "Augur" when he found that these large sweeps were not stopped. There are not above 25 horses in the race that on their merits have any chance, but if an unprincipled owner has such a chance thrown in his way he would start his horse on the off chance, and perhaps get a good offer to interfere with a favourite, risking his jockey's life as well as his horse. Such things often occurred in the old racing days in England, especially in the St. Leger, before the days of railways, when there was much jealousy between the North and South. The rules of the present day are so stringent that they dare not attempt such things. If, as some say, there will be over forty starters for the Melbourne Cup, one may expect to hear of a regular smash. These sweeps are of no benefit to a genuine racing man, and are only an encouragement to shop boys, etc., to rob their employer's till.

Fillies appear to head the list of yearlings this year in England. Mr. Chaplin sold eight for 9,900 guineas, or an average of 1,237½ guineas—the br f (sister to Heresey) by Hermit out of Controversy being the highest-priced (3,000 guineas), Lord Dudley being the purchaser.

Mr. Oxenham states that betting business is very dull on forthcoming events. 1000 to 50 is offered on the field for the Caulfield Cup, but there are no backers at the price. 1000 to 80 is the price on the field for the Melbourne Cup, Carbine and Cuirassier reigning as favorites.—*Town and Country*.

The Lancaster Park Trotting Club at their annual meeting, held at the Empire Hotel, decided to hold four meetings during the ensuing season and to give at least £200 per day in stakes in accordance with the New Zealand Trotting Associations' Rules. It is proposed to have a Champion Handicap, 2 miles, at the November meeting, the stakes for which are fixed at £75, the nomination to be £1.

A Sandhurst Exchange says that on a recent Saturday a splendid exhibition of trotting was given by the New Zealand mare Princess on the Mall, the rider being Dave Price, the celebrated New Zealand jockey, who is also owner of the mare. The performance attracted large crowds to see what was undoubtedly the fastest trotter in the Australian Colonies. Price gave exhibitions of his skill in equitation, jumping off the saddle and remounting when the mare was going full speed. Princess and her rider, Price, were disqualified by the Elsterwick Park stewards for suspicious running.—*Otago Witness*.

"Spectator" writing from Melbourne makes the following remarks—"It is a significant fact that while the New Zealand daily papers pay large sums for cablegrams about Australian racing and complain at times when through an oversight on the part of the Press Association results of important events do not come to hand, the Australian papers very rarely contain any sporting cables from New Zealand. The *Argus* and the *Age* were in demand the morning after the N.Z. Grand National Steeplechase meeting, but they contained no account of the races. The state of the weather in both islands was chronicled and that Cuirassier had been shipped for Sydney. Neither the *Australasian* or the *Sportsman* had any information. Mr. Chapman (Augur) informed me that the New Zealand Agent for the Press Association was very remiss sending, when he did send anything at all it was the scantest particulars." The same writer states that a fancy wager was laid at the Victorian Club of £100 that Cuirassier did not finish one of the first ten in the Melbourne Cup, and Whakawai was backed for a small amount to finish in front of him. Some heavy double betting has taken place, "the right people" it is believed having backed Tirailleur for the Caulfield and Prince Consort for the Melbourne Cup to win £100,000 at prices up to 1000 to 5. "Spectator" further remarks that the V.R.C., for so wealthy a Club, are very sparing of their money. The gallops at Flemington are a disgrace to them. The sand track is a good one in seasonable weather, but the tan gallop is the worst he had ever seen, and the only other available track, save that it had a light covering of cinders, was very hard and not fit to risk a good horse on. He also states that there are a great many inferior and unsound horses engaged in both the Cups. He does not appear to have fallen in love with either Titan or Prince Consort, but seems to have a sneaking regard for Tantallon.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness, but a man feels anything but godly after being "cleaned out."—*Sportsman*.

A Western poker player, who was caught with a couple of aces up his sleeve, explained that the mustard plaster on his back must have drawn them there.

"I have one last request to make," remarked the trout, as the fisherman carefully removed the hook. "Name it," said the fisherman. "It is that you will not refer to me as a 'speckled beauty.'"—*Sportsman*.

They All Do It.—Young Brindle—"Pa, can't I have a flannel shirt like yours?" Mr. Brindle (speaking from experience)—"My son, you may have this after it is washed."—*Sportsman*.



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