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 OLD Sylvia has dropped a filly to Ingomar, which is a great disappointment to those interested in her, as, considering the long time she was overdue, it was naturally expected that it would be a colt. Sylvia has had no foal since 1885. On looking through her stud career it will be seen that though she has thrown some splendid colts none of her fillies have turned out well. A filly from Sylvia by a well bred stallion would have been worth a good sum for breeding purposes. It was a great pity that the authorities put her to Ingomar, though he is well bred on his sire's side he is very deficient of "blue blood" on the dam's. Wild Deer was a regular plater, deficient in size and bone, while the grand dam May O'Toole was a light leggy mare, not within "four stone" of a good one. Besides that Ingomar was only a hurdle racer, and had proved a failure at the stud in Ireland. Sylvia ought to have been put to St. Leger, one of the most promising sires south of the zone. He was stunted in his growth while a foal, being brought through the Red Sea, and on his arrival here he was treated in such a manner that if he had not had the constitution of iron he would have died. After all this treatment he was put into training, as it is called, and unnecessarily knocked about, instead of being thrown up and well kept until he had matured, then put to the stud. His breeding is undeniable, being by Doncaster, a son of Stockwell—Marigold, by Teddington; Atlantis, the dam, by Thormanby—Hurricane, by Will Dayrell—Midia; what breeding this is. I only hope that at the January sale of the Sylvia Park Co the public will think as little of him as they do now, so as to give me a chance of buying him.

KING QUAIL by Yattendon—Quail, by Commissioner (son of the imported Gratis) out of Queen of Sheba, by St. Giles (son of Sir Hercules and a Rous Emigrant mare), out of Queen of Beauty by imported Dover—Tossina, by imp. Toss—imp. Penelope, the property of Mr. A. K. Harris, is intended to travel the Tamaki and Otahuhu districts this season, at the reasonable fee of three guineas. King Quail's breeding is undeniable, and he was a fair performer on the turf. If he had been in competent hands during his racing career there is little doubt that he would have made his mark in a big handicap. King Quail is a true shaped horse, but many breeders say he is too small for their purpose, therefore he has never had a fair show at the stud. Colonials, for the most part, like a great upstanding horse, never for one moment looking at his points, the consequence is they get a three cornered brute and then say it does not pay to breed. Fernhill, The Cure, and one or two others at home, that got the finest half-bred stock in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire were under 15hds. 1in. Never mind how small a sire is if true shaped and of a big family, they are sure to throw back. I strongly recommend any farmer having a good half-bred mare with action to put her to King Quail, and the foal, if properly cared for in its young days, will prove remunerative or I am much mistaken.

THE Auckland Trotting Club hold their meeting to-day, and with a fine afternoon there should be some fun and a good attendance. The entries and acceptances are numerous, and as in this class of sport the owners go for the money there should be some interesting finishes. The racing public generally look to sporting writers to give tips on the different events, but I must leave that to the sapient "Phæton" and the beautiful "Hippona," as I candidly confess that I know little of this kind of sport and not one of the animals engaged, though the man in the street tells me that there is a horse entered that can do a mile in 2 min. 25 secs. Let my readers find out that "joker," and if correct put their bottom dollar on. When the legitimate racing begins I hope to give my readers some tips worth following, but no trotting or pony races for me.

OWING to the strikes our Australian letter is not to hand, therefore I have to compile the following notes from the best information I can get—at the same time they will be found reliable. Carbine and Tantallon are working together. The latter is daily improving, and will in all probability prove a much better investment for the Melbourne Cup than the

present favorite. Titan and Prince Consort are galloped together. The former up to the present is doing all that is required of him, but the V.R.O. Derby is not such a moral for him as the general public consider. If all goes well there will be an unexceptionally strong field for the race. Titan is a gelding, and proved himself at the top of the tree as a two-year-old, but if you look back at the records it will be found that geldings which are very good as two-year-olds fall off when they are three, but will come again when they get older. This may be attributed to the change of life and teething, not having the constitution of entires. Prince Consort I expect to see wound up and started in several of the races at the forthcoming A.J.C. meeting, so as to get a line for the stable. Melos is doing very well, and if I was a betting man I would take him in preference to any of the top weights in the Melbourne Cup. Whimberel is also doing all that is required of him. He belongs to a clever party, and it would not at all surprise me if he lowered Titan's colours before the season is over. Marvel is another horse that from all accounts is coming forward. There are many that fancy he has a great chance of being returned the winner of the £10,000 prize. As a two-year-old he showed that he could gallop a little, but as a three he proved himself a "duffer." Notwithstanding his book form, he may be "in waiting," as I have seen many others in the same way during my racing career. One thing is certain, that if you want to win a Melbourne Cup you must run a bye or two—not necessarily, like many of the would-be "knowing ones," deliberately pull a horse and swindle the public, but run him out of his proper distance, or not quite fit, or there are a dozen different ways of deceiving a handicapper. Correze, by Newminster—Ouida (not the mare belonging to Mr. Morrin) is spoken very highly of by "Freelance." He has a fair two-year-old record, but unless I hear more of him I cannot enlist him on my side.

SPORTING ITEMS.

Wakatipu has been sold and will go to the stud at Gisborne.

Ted Cutts has the largest team of horses at Riccarton.

Cap-a-pie will perform stud duties in the Hawera district.

Captain Winter has been appointed starter for the Napier Racing Club.

Recluse has been backed for the New Zealand Cup to win £400 at 100s. to 7.

Harry Pell, the well known cross country horseman, is now residing in Wanganui.

Messrs. Rutherford Bros. have sold Ravenscraig to John Mahoney of Timaru, for 300 gs.

Tirailleur has been supported during last week for the New Zealand Cup, to win £400 at 6 to 1.

Now that Whakawai has broken down the gentleman who backed Cuirassier against him will have all the best of it.

Horses worth backing:—Caulfield Cup, Churchill, Dunkeld and Bothwell; Melbourne Cup, Carbine, Tantallon and Cuirassier.

Gasparini, the steeplechaser, had to be destroyed owing to the accident he met with at the water jump in the late Wellington Steeplechase. This promising horse started fifteen times last season, out of which he was placed first six times, second three and third once.

The following are the names of the New Zealand bred horses entered for the Australian Jockey Club's spring meeting, to take place on the 13th, 16th, 18th and 20th inst.:—Trial Stakes, one mile and a quarter, Fabulous; Spring Stakes, w.f.a., 1½ miles, Carbine and Cuirassier; Kensington Handicap, 1 mile, Leopold and Teksum; Short's Handicap, 6 furlongs, Teksum and Paddy; Grand Stand Plate, 1 mile, Teksum; Maiden Stakes, 1½ miles, Gatling and Fabulous; Squatters' Handicap, 1½ miles, Leopold; Craven Plate, w.f.a., 1½ miles, Carbine and Cuirassier; Suburban Handicap, 7 furlongs, Teksum; Wycombe Stakes, 1 mile 3 furlongs, Teddy Yuile and Teksum; Steeplechase, 3 miles, Recruit, Titokowaru and Marter; Waverley Handicap, 1½ miles, Leopold; Randwick Plate, w.f.a., 3 miles, Carbine, Gatling and Cuirassier; Final Handicap, 1½ miles, Fabulous and Teksum; Hurdies, 2½ miles, Miss Alice and Recruit; Second Hurdles, 2 miles, Recruit, Miss Alice and Marter.

Harry Hickton has taken over the stables owned by Mr. John Keane, situated on the Panmure Road.

Messrs. Hunter & Nolan sold on Friday the chestnut colt Leolantis for 200 guineas to Mr. Hartwell. Leolantis is from the same dam as St. Leger, Atlantis, by Leolinus, Atlantis by Thormanby; and is engaged in the Auckland Guineas, Spring Meeting, and the Gt. Northern Derby at same meeting.

Mr. Buckland sold the same day Padlock, 7 yrs. old, by Ake-Ake, for £16 to Mr. Badley.

The following gentlemen have been elected members of the Pakuranga Hunt Club—Colonel Carre and Mr. E. F. Pollock.

We are pleased to see that the Auckland Racing Club have appointed Tom Brown to his old position of Clerk of the Course.

Mr. F. Brodie, of Parawanui, Rangitikei, has purchased the thoroughbred stallion, The Mute, sire of Pasha.—*Weekly Chronicle*.

Fairy Boy, the property of the ex-Auckland Mr. R. Halcrow, won the Club handicap of 40 sovs. at the Sydney Driving Park Races, the distance being five furlongs.

Mr. W. Gannon has scratched Gatling for all his New Zealand engagements, including the Auckland Derby and other classic events.—*Sportsman*.

Frank Bolton has "Mr. Nugent's" Theorem in hand, with a view to bringing him out "over sticks." He is a nice cut of a hurdler, and should pay his way this season.—*Weekly Chronicle*.

Flintlock, by Musket—Georgie, has been purchased for stud duties in the Rangitikei and Manawatu districts. He is the sire of Lock, Locket, etc., and his stock are very promising.—*Weekly Chronicle*.

A meeting was held at Otahuhu for the purpose of forming another Trotting Club. The proceedings at present are kept quiet, it is supposed for the purpose of seeing what the Metropolitan Club intends to do with regard to the Onehunga Racing Club programme.

The following programmes were passed by the Auckland Racing Club at a meeting held on Wednesday last:—Waikato Hunt Club (20th September), Pakuranga Hunt Club (18th October), Poverty Bay Turf Club (28th October), Gisborne Racing Club (November 10th) South Auckland Racing Club (December 20th). The programme submitted by the Onehunga Racing Club was held for further consideration.

A lad named Bell met with a nasty accident at Caulfield lately. While schooling Apropos the boy fractured the base of his skull, and is not expected to recover.

Tommy Taylor, the well known jockey, has leased the stables lately owned by George Wright, and intends starting training on his own account. As he thoroughly knows his business he should have a fair share of patronage.

Mr. E. Barnes who trained Ascot, Recluse, Cyclone, The Dove, etc., has decided to start training in Wanganui on his own account. He is well known and thoroughly understands his business, he should therefore do well. Letters addressed to the Occidental Hotel, Wanganui, will find him.

We draw the attention of owners and trainers of horses to the fact that they will in future be required to obtain from Mr. Percival, the secretary of the A.R.C., a permit for their horses before they go on the Eilerslie training tracks. No horse under any pretence whatever will be permitted to go on without one.

The Wellington Racing Club held their annual meeting on August 25th. The credit balance on the year was £14 1s. 3d. The report was adopted. Several further improvements to the course are contemplated including a training track. The president said that he hoped all would be completed in twelve months.

That the racing public will give their support to pony racing when well conducted and the weather is fine, was proved at Moorefield, on August 14th. Such a succession of fields was never seen before in the Colonies, eleven being the lowest number that started for any event. It was, you might say, the first meeting ever held in which there was no selling race. Mr. M. Heggarty was the starter and got his fields well away. In one race Brilliant and Betty fell, and the former was so injured that she had to be destroyed. Pony racing is a most enjoyable sport, but it must be well conducted and it is to be hoped that North Island meetings will be so.