

The annual meeting of the Avondale Jockey Club was held at the Avondale Hotel on Wednesday last, when a large number of members were present. The statement of accounts as laid before the meeting were adopted. The arrangements for the next race meeting were left in the hands of a sub-committee.

Mr. John Mayo, like a good many others, appears to have got tired of owning brood mares, and has decided to sell his whole stock. The sale is to take place at East Maitland. Among the lots is the famous old mare Black Swan, who was not only a good performer, but is the dam of Queen; Psyche the dam of Stanley, Highland Mary by Grandmaster, and Eleanor by Maribryong—Fair Rosamond.—*Town and Country.*

As a proof how dangerous it is to quote from any paper, in the well known English publication, *Bailey's Magazine*, a correspondent, writing from Southsea, states that Frypan ran a mile in Melbourne in 1884 in 1 min. 37 secs. According to the book his best performance was in the Bookmakers' Purse at Flemington, with 10st. 1lb. up, when he did the mile in 1 min. 42½ secs.

According to the *Sportsman* there have been numerous inquiries about Tantallon for the Melbourne Cup, and his price is 100 to 5. Carbine is still favorite at 100 to 7; Cuirassier, 100 to 6 off.; Melos, 100 to 5; Prince Consort and Titan, 100 to 4 each. Nothing worth mentioning is being done on the Caulfield Cup. Bothwell, Dunkeld, and Churchill are each quoted at 100 to 4. Titan still remains a firm favorite for the V.R.C. Derby at 2 to 1, Admiral being second favorite at 8 to 1.

The Hawkesbury meeting commenced last Thursday, and at present the information to hand is very meagre. For the Hawkesbury Guineas only five ran, the winner turning up in Prelude, who easily defeated Wilga and Ethelbert. Prelude is by Martini-Henri out of Phillina. She was a good performer as a two-year-old, and was sold at the late Hon. J. White's sale. One superstitious on racing matters would predict this to be a fillies' year as the Hawkesbury Guineas is the first of the classic races for this season, and fillies have run first and second, rather an unusual thing so early in the season. Teksum, who is an Auckland bred horse, being by Musket out of Albatross, placed the County Purse to his owner's credit, but it was not a very great performance as he was receiving two pounds and two years from the three-year-old Megaphone.

We gather the following sporting notes from "Spectator":—The Dauphin is to stand this season in the Taranaki district.—Whakatipu has been sold to go to Gisborne, where he will be used as a stud horse.—Mr. "Larry" Zucker one of the gamest fielders that ever betted in Australia and who recently went home is dead. He first lost his reason, and his life had been despaired of for some time.—Between forty and fifty gentlemen interested in the formation of a Southland stud company met at the Club Hotel, Invercargill, on August 19th, Mr. G. M. Bell being in the chair. It was decided: "That a stud company be formed for the purchase of stud horses to be called the Southland Stud Company." It was also decided that the capital of the company should be £2000, not £750 as was originally proposed. It was furthermore resolved that two thoroughbreds should be purchased one to stand in the eastern and the other in the western district.

The following appears in the *Weekly Chronicle* and is well worth the notice of all Clubs:—**LADIES' BRACELETS.**—I would like to suggest to the various committees of the Racing Clubs the necessity for having the Bracelets of such a design as will permit of the lady's name and any other particulars being inscribed on it, after the race is over and before it is handed over by the Club to the lucky recipient, as I am aware that Bracelets, which have been won, have been sold; in one instance, one gentleman openly stated that he did not intend to present it to the lady, in whose name the horse was nominated, but would 'realise' on it at the first opportunity. I think it is fully intended by the various clubs who have the popular Bracelet races on their programmes, that the fair nominators should secure the prize, but they should not be allowed to take money instead of the trophy. If Miss Jones' name were inscribed on a bracelet, you couldn't have Miss Brown to wear it. Oh, no!

It is mentioned that the members of the Pakuranga Hunt Club intend having a point-to-point steeplechase at an early date.

The Queensland correspondent of the *Town and Country* writes:—"It was rumoured that the horses King William, Youi and Achilles had been handed over to John Chaaffe, the Carrington trainer. A settlement of the matters in dispute between Mr. Joseph Bennett and the shareholders of the Carrington Stud Co. had, it appears, been arranged, but as some hitch occurred at the last moment, the horses still remain in Mr. Blacklock's stable, where they have been since May last."

Tom Willis, the oldest trainer at Randwick, has joined the majority. His riding days were associated with such horses as Sportsman, Sampson, Little John and a mare called Dora, on whom he won 33 events. He has been associated with Mr. T. Ivory for nearly thirty years, for whom he trained Ladybird, Bylong, Sweetmeat and others. He has lately had Mr. "Herbert's" horses in his charge. He literally died in harness, as he was out with his horses at Randwick the day previous, when he complained of his heart.—*Town and Country.*

We gather from the *Australasian* that a Mr. Coombe, who was lately in New Zealand, was nearly the victim of a clever fraud. Mr. Coombe, it is stated, has at different times bought horses in Melbourne and brought them over here. Someone conversant with his doings cabled to Mrs. Coombe, professedly from her husband, dated from the Carlton Club Hotel, Grattan-street, Carlton, stating that he had missed the boat and had bought a racehorse, and wished £100 to be wired to him immediately. The money was at once forwarded to the Bank of New Zealand, Melbourne, and the next morning a telegram was received from Mr. Coombe himself from the Bluff stating that he had just arrived by the "Monowai." It was soon ascertained by wire that he had bought no horse and had not sent for £100. Payment of the money was stopped, and the little game spoilt.

At Dunedin on the 26th, the R.M. gave his decision in the action which had caused such interest among Coursing men. It appears that Mr. J. Reid of Christchurch brought an action against Mr. G. McGuire of Dunedin to recover the sum of £58, the value of two greyhound saplings, £8 in stakes won by them, and £10 damages for wrongful detention. Defendant undertook to train the dogs for the Dunedin meeting and to pay all costs and expenses of training, and was to have the option of purchasing one or both for £20 each, if he did not avail himself of this they were to be returned. They were named Carbine and Lady Lynton. Carbine won the Sapling Stakes of £8. Mr. McGuire refused to become the purchaser, and he also refused to pay the £8 which the dog had won. Judgment was given for plaintiff for £7 4s., the amount of stakes won, and an order was made that defendant return the two dogs forthwith, which are of the value of £40 and pay damages, 10s. costs, and other expenses, £5 11s.

VOLUNTEER NEWS.

[Volunteers and others are invited to contribute to this column. All communications should be addressed to "Carbine," and left at the office of this paper not later than Wednesday in each week.]

- RANGE TIME-TABLE.  
 September 6—Martini-Henri Club.  
 " 13—Victoria Rifles, City Guards, Newton Rifles, Royal Irish Rifles.  
 " 20—Auckland Navals, Ponsonby Navals.  
 " 27—"A" Battery, "O" Battery, Engineers.

[BY CARBINE.]

The first stage for the "O" Battery Challenge Cup was fired on Saturday last at the Mount Eden butts. The ranges were 200, 300, and 500 yards, 7 shots at each distance. Lieuts. Reid and Webster were in charge of the firing. Sergt. Fairs, who won the Cup last year, again holds a good position. The principal scorers are:—Gun. P. Brown, 73; Sergt. Fairs, 69; Sergt. McCallum, 64; Gun. Ellyett, 63; Gun. Hughes, 54; Gun. Greenshields, 53; Sergt. Roynane, 53; Lieut. Webster, 48. Two more stages have yet to be fired, and an interesting finish may be expected.

The "A" Battery mustered to the number of 37 at the Mount Eden Range on Saturday to compete for the prizes annually given by Capt. Geddes. The hon. members of the Company also took part in the competition, among them being the Mayor of Auckland. The principal

scorers are:—"A" Team: \*Capt. H. Doughty, 76; \*Bomb. J. Webster, 72; \*Sergt. Parslow, 70; Gun. Henderson, 68; Gun. E. Buchanan, 66; Gun. Taylor, 60. "B" Team: \*Lieut. Haultain, 74; \*Sergt. Sherson, 63; \*Corp. Hatswell, 62; \*Lieut. O'Brien, 57; Corp. Kearsley, 48; Capt. Geddes, 48. "C" Team: \*Gun. Dunningham, 45; \*Bomb. Burrows, 39; \*Gun. Bowring, 33; Gun. Eaton, 31; Gun. Power, 31; Gun. Burrows, 30.

The ranges were 200, 300, and 500 yards, 7 shots at each distance. The names marked with \* are prize winners.

Staff Sergt. Major Grant had a fair muster of recruits at his usual class this week, but I notice some of the men are under the Government standard.

An interesting shooting match is to take place between the Ponsonby Navals and City Guards next Saturday. Seven shots are to be fired at 200, 300, and 500 yards, with one sighter at each distance. The Navals have fired four matches with various companies this year and have won all, so a keen competition may be expected.

Lieut. O'Brien, of the "A" Battery, is making fast progress with his sword class, which is held twice weekly. It is his intention to have an exhibition drill at the first monthly muster of the company.

The Mayor of Auckland, J. H. Upton, Esq., fired at the Mount Eden Range on Saturday last for the first time, and succeeded in making 38 points with 21 shots. I think with a little practice he would shape very well.

The floor of the drill-shed is still in a very disgraceful state, despite all that has been said, and to make matters worse, on Tuesday evening the drill poles of the Wellesley-street School were scattered about, causing an obstruction to the volunteers while on parade.

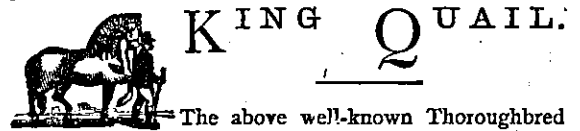
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