

SPORTING REVIEW.

VOL. I—No. 6.

AUCKLAND: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6. 1890.

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SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

Sept. 6	Hawkesbury Handicap
Sept. 6	Auckland Trotting Club.
Sept. 9, 10	Geraldine Spring Meeting.
Sept. 13	A. J. C. Derby
Sept. 13	Metropolitan Stakes
Sept. 13, 16, 20	A. J. C. Spring Meeting.
Sept. 13, 20	Waikato Hunt Club Race Meeting
Sept. 13, 20	Dunedin Hunt Club.
Sept. 13, 18	South Canterbury J. C. Meeting.
Oct. 6, 7	Onehunga Racing Club.
Oct. 6, 7	Hawke's Bay J. C. Spring Meeting.
Oct. 9	Palmerston.
Oct. 11	Canfield Guineas
Oct. 14, 15	Napier Park.
Oct. 14, 15	Pakuranga Hunt Club.
Oct. 18	Canfield Cup
Oct. 20, 21	Wellington R. C. Summer Meeting.
Nov. 4	V. R. C. Derby and Maribyrnong Plate
Nov. 4	Melbourne Cup
Nov. 4, 5, 8	C. J. C. Spring Meeting.
Nov. 8, 10	Auckland Racing Club Spring Meeting
Nov. 18, 20	Ashburton R. C. Spring Meeting.
Nov. 22	Pakuranga Racing Club.
Nov. 28, 29	Dunedin Jockey Club
Nov. 28, 29	Takapuna Spring Meeting
Dec. 1, 2	Dunedin Jockey Club
Dec. 27	South Auckland Spring Meeting
Dec. 27	Auckland Trotting Club.
Jan. 3, '91	Auckland Trotting Club.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

Sept. 13	Onehunga Racing Club.
Sept. 20	Dunedin Jockey Club Spring.
Sept. 26	C. J. C. Spring Hurdles, Steward's Stakes, Juvenile Stakes, Metropolitan Stakes, Jockey Club Stakes, Middle Park Plate and Challenge Stakes
Sept. 26	Pakuranga Hunt Club.
Sept. 26	A. R. C. Spring Hurdles, Prince of Wales Handicap and City Handicap.
Oct. 31	General Entries A. R. C. Spring.

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

Sept. 9	Hawke's Bay Hurdles, Flying and Spring Hdcpas.
Sept. 9	Waikato Hunt Club.
Sept. 20	Onehunga Racing Club.
Oct. 2	Pakuranga Hunt Club.
Oct. 10	C. J. C. Spring Hurdles and Steward's Stakes.
Oct. 10	Prince of Wales Handicap, Handicap Hurdles.
Nov. 12	Dunedin Jockey Club Spring.

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

Sept. 11	A. J. C. Metropolitan and Epsom Handicap—last forfeit.
Sept. 13	Waikato Hunt Club.
Sept. 26	Onehunga Racing Club.
Sept. 30	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Spring Meeting.
Oct. 10	Pakuranga Hunt Club.
Oct. 31	A. R. C. Spring—Prince of Wales Hdcp. and Hurdles
Nov. 20	Dunedin Jockey Club Spring.

HUNTING.

Sept. 6	Green Lane
Sept. 13	Mr. James Hayr's, Three Kings.
Sept. 20	
Sept. 27	New North Road.
Oct. 4	Harp of Erin.

AQUATICS.

Sept. 6	Senior Eight-Oared Race, Paramatta River.
Sept. 13	East Sydney Rowing Club Championship Skiffs.
October	Kemp v. Stansbury—2 mile course on the Paramatta.

TROTTING CLUBS.

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

Southland Racing Club	Ohokū and Eyreton Jockey Club
Cromwell Racing Club	Club
Lower Heathcote Racing Club	Tinwald Racing Club
New Brighton Racing Club	Hororata Racing Club
Lancaster Park Trotting Club	Waimate Racing Club
North Canterbury Racing Club	Little River Racing Club
Geraldine Racing Club	Ellersmere Jockey Club
Canterbury Trotting Club	Greyouth Trotting Club
Timaru Trotting Club	Nelson Trotting Club.
South Canterbury Jockey Club	Northern Trotting & Pony Club

GENERAL NOTICES.

The SPORTING REVIEW will be published at Vulcan Lane. Any irregularity in the supply of the paper should be at once reported to the publisher. All communications respecting subscriptions or advertisements should be addressed to the publisher.

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6 "	..	5s.	" "
12 "	..	8s.	" "

HARRY H. HAYR,
PUBLISHER.

TO OWNERS OF ENTIRES.

THE breeding season being now close at hand, we beg to bring under the notice of owners of stallions the many advantages which the SPORTING REVIEW possesses of making the various merits of their horses known to the owners of brood mares. The SPORTING REVIEW, being the only newspaper published in the North Island exclusively given over to sporting subjects, makes it the best medium for advertising the pedigrees of their entires. All horses advertised in the SPORTING REVIEW will be specially reported on by "Old Turfite," and a full tabulated pedigree published, and every means taken to fully bring the particular merits of the entire well before the owners of breeding mares.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- 1—"Copy" (the technical name of MSS. sent to the press) must be written on only one side of the paper.
- 2—Write on sheets of paper which are neither small enough to be scrappy, nor large enough to be cumbersome on the printer's case.
- 3—Leave plenty of space in margin and between lines for your own and editorial corrections.
- 4—Use white paper rather than blue; because the writing stands out more distinctly.
- 5—Use ink, and black ink—for the same reason.
- 6—Write plainly. Distinct penmanship is an immense desideratum with both editor and printer.
- 7—Number your pages of MSS.

The Secretaries of Racing, Rowing, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Polo, Yachting, Bicycle, Dramatic—in short of any and every kind of Athletic, Sporting, and Dramatic Clubs are cordially invited to send us any information that may be of interest to the public and of use in furthering their interests.

The Editor will at all times be willing to do his best to answer any questions or decide any disputes on matters of sporting or general interest.

In every case correspondents must enclose their correct names and addresses (but not for publication), as no notice whatever can be taken of anonymous communications.

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Sporting Review.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1890.

SEVERAL of the Southern members, accompanied by Mr. Henry Mace, President of the Canterbury Trotting Association, have waited upon the Colonial Secretary, urging a relaxation of the racing rules, as regards stakes to be given away before a totalisator permit is granted to trotting clubs. Captain Russell promised to reply in a few days, but at present he was advised not to increase the number of racing clubs or give the use of the totalisator to small meetings. It is gratifying to see that Captain Russell is making a stand against the indiscriminate use of the totalisator. There are at the present time too many meetings throughout the Colony. They neither encourage sport or the breed of horses; they are simply got up for the benefit of a few, and for the purpose of fleecing country bumpkins and bushmen. There are more swindles perpetrated at these little meetings than in the largest town in Australasia. The stewards themselves may be perfectly straightforward men, but they are ignorant of racing, and in their innocence do not suspect a fraud. The Metropolitan Rules of Racing are in some measure a check on these "leather-flapping" meetings, but some of the Metropolitan Clubs are very slack in the way they pass programmes, and permit outside meetings to be held that had better be suppressed. It is quite certain that if the totalisator was done away with, or at least the rules made more stringent, fifty per cent. of these little country meetings would be also done away with, or at least be confined to horses in the immediate neighbourhood, as the stakes would be too small to make it worth while for a racing man to send a trained horse to compete. The "yokels" would enjoy their outing just as much. They do not care about the quality—they like a number of horses to start for a race. We have often heard it remarked at up-country meetings, "I say, Bill, there are only three—horses going to start for this race—let's go and have another drink." Wait awhile until there happens to be a big field for a hack or a Maori race. It will not be "Let's have another drink"; it will be, "Look sharp, Bill; hurry up. We will get Mary Jane and the girls a good place. There are a dozen starters for this bloomin' race, and there will be lots of fun, maybe some spills." Away they go and enjoy themselves. The totalisator is no benefit to these outside meet-

ings. It is true that they can give larger stakes, but if they do so they run the chance of a horse being "rung in" that carries all before him. Now the trotting craze is on. It can only be called that, as we are perfectly certain that at the present time there are not twenty horses in the whole Colony that are worthy of the name of trotters, and that there are not half-a-dozen men that can train, drive, or ride a 2min. zosec. animal properly. We see trotting clubs springing up everywhere—three or four in one place—and they all want to use the totalisator and have the rules relaxed. We only want them to go a little more and allow the "pubs." to use the machine, and New Zealand will be one grand h—l, like Crockford's or Monaco. If the Colonial Secretary sets his face against so much use of the totalisator, he should at the same time issue very stringent orders to the R.M.'s and police on no account to allow betting men to lay totalisator odds, and when convicted to inflict the highest penalty allowed by law. If the ready-money men are allowed to do that it will be a great deal worse than the machine, and welshing will be resuscitated. A meeting of the committee and stewards of the Lancaster Park Trotting Club was held on August 23rd. The committee brought up a report of the late meeting. It contained a clause which related to owners and others having been caught taking totalisator odds from bookmakers, and recommended that eleven persons be declared guilty of corrupt practices on the turf, and that they be disqualified under No. 23 of the New Zealand Trotting Association rules. After a long discussion it was decided, on the casting vote of the chairman, not to take extreme measures this time by disqualifying, but in future the law would be strictly enforced on both layer and taker. Another clause of the report stated that though three constables were present they took no notice of the many breaches of the law that occurred during the afternoon. It was resolved to write to Inspector Pender on the subject. Now, if things like this occur at Lancaster Park, what will be the case at outside meetings? We therefore hope that Captain Russell will not give way one iota, but rather become more stringent as regards the totalisator, and compel the Metropolitan Clubs to exercise their authority in a proper manner.

WE have received the balance sheet of the South Auckland Racing Club from Mr. G. H. Carter, the secretary, and we must say that it compares most favourably with its older rivals. The Club is only two years in existence, still allowing for all liabilities they have a credit balance of £44; few clubs can show such a clean sheet. They have given on an average £500 a year to their two meetings, and have spent £250 in getting their course in proper order. As such a young Club the Committee were not desirous of plunging it into debt for a flash grand stand they therefore determined to do without one, but twenty-five members came forward and advanced the money, the shares to be taken up as the Club could afford it; at the present time £15 ros. has been paid off. It is the aim of the members to get all the smaller clubs to amalgamate and keep its name as it implies, "The South Auckland Racing Club," and have one good Club for the whole of the Waikato, for, as things are at present, one Club is quite sufficient for that district. The Committee intend to meet shortly to frame new rules, applicable to the local requirements of the Club. It is intended to hold the summer meeting on December 20th. With regard to framing rules, etc., the committee must be very careful to strictly adhere to the Metropolitan Rules of Racing, if they do that the South Auckland Racing Club should be second to none. If the Committee are not thoroughly up in racing, let them take the advice of some practical man. There has been a great deal said of the late objection in the

Autumn Handicap. One of the sporting writers that had a great deal to say on the matter absolutely knows nothing of racing, and his *fidus achates* is as ignorant as himself. We only hope the S.A.R.C. will go on as they have begun and show as good a balance sheet next year as this.

THE *Herald* of September 5th has the most wonderful sub-leader that ever appeared in a paper regarding the New Zealand Stud Co. at Sylvia Park. We will just extract a few sentences of this remarkable sub-leader and make some comments on them, and then leave it to our readers to judge from what pen they emanated:—"From the possession of a mere handful of not over fashionably-bred mares, purchased from the Cobham Stud Company in 1879, the present great breeding establishment at Sylvia Park has been built up, and it may safely be said that a more beautiful collection of sires and mares could not be found together if the world was searched through." Was there ever such "trash" penned in what is supposed to be a respectable paper? We will take the unfashionably-bred mares from the Cobham Company. These mares were purchased from Mr. Stead, and consist of some of the best bred mares in the stud, though a few of them have not been successful matrons. The others, with the exception of Sylvia, Oynx, and some rubbish, were purchased by Sir Hercules Robinson at Mr. Blenkinson's (not the great breeder) sale. At the present time all the best mares are seventeen years old or over. The three best are Sylvia, aged 26 years, Onyx 18 years, and Mersey 17 years, while the young mares are untried. As for the stallions, Nordenfeldt is a promising sire, and is likely to make a name for himself at the stud, while St. Leger, though well bred enough for anything, does not take the public fancy. The writer of this "bosh" has evidently never visited a stud farm in England and Australia; if he had he would have seen a much better collection of sires and mares than at Sylvia Park. Who this Colonel Carre is who is going to form a company to buy the "world-famed" Sylvia Park Stud we do not know, but it is quite evident that he knows very little of the management of a stud farm if he thinks he can work a place like Sylvia Park with a capital of £15,000, especially if the report be true that the Bank wants £13,000 for the stock alone. This only leaves £2,000 to come and go upon. The working expenses alone, if properly managed, should be at least £120 a week, and then there will be required a large sum for the purchase of young mares to replace the worn-out old matrons. There is an old saying, "Once bit, twice shy." Colonel Carre must be an extraordinary man if he can get any Auckland men to take a £100 share after their late experience, and, in fact, we should doubt his finding anyone south of the line that would invest in such a bubble company. If he wanted to form a company that would be likely to stand and prove remunerative the capital should be at least £30,000. If this company is floated with a £15,000 capital it will last, like all Auckland companies, only a short time, and then be wound up. We would strongly recommend Colonel Carre, with his small capital, to wait patiently until the sale, and then purchase the best mares, augmenting them with fresh blood from England and Australia. He would then find that with his proposed capital he might make a stud farm on a small scale pay.

THE long standing dispute over the South Auckland Handicap was again brought up before the Auckland Racing Club Committee as an appeal case on Wednesday last, when they decided "That St. Michael did not win the Autumn Handicap on account of his not having carried a penalty, and that Pinfire should have been awarded the stakes. In the Claudelands Handicap the Committee consider that Pacific should be awarded the stakes." Never in the memory of the oldest racing man has such a mess been made over a race meeting. St. Michael ought to have carried a penalty, but he was not objected to till some time after the meeting; then Pinfire won the Claudelands Handicap for which if he had won the Autumn Handicap he would have incurred a penalty. It is now decided that St. Michael is disqualified and Pinfire gets the stakes for the Autumn Handicap and is disqualified for the Claude-

lands Handicap on account of his not having carried a penalty and the stakes are given to Pacific. Such a messed up affair has never come under our notice, however it is supposed to be settled. The question is now, who are the sufferers? Answer, the general public—thanks to the totalisator. The money has been paid on St. Michael for the one and Pinfire for the other, the former's backers go on their way rejoicing, the latter's consider themselves lucky at having pocketed the dividends for one race, while poor unfortunates who backed Pacific get nothing. The decision may be a right one but the Metropolitan Racing Rules have been so messed about at the different conferences that it would take a very clever lawyer to make them out. We are perfectly certain if the Rules were literally carried out the cleverest racing man in the Southern Hemisphere would be caught napping before the season was out. Colonials trying to improve on the Newmarket Rules is a great mistake, the English Rules with a few verbal alterations would have suited New Zealand very well. There are two rules which are conflicting in this case, the one says:—"All objections, etc., must be made within a quarter of an hour of the race, unless on the ground of fraudulent entry, false age etc., which may be made within twelve months," and the other is, "In all cases where penalties have to be carried for winning it shall be the duty of the owner, trainer or jockey to notify the same to the secretary, when possible, the evening before the race, or in any case half-an-hour prior to the start. Any person neglecting to comply with this rule shall pay a fine, to be imposed by the stewards, not exceeding 5 sovs."

Now, these two rules make a first-class opening for a swindle. A man runs his horse minus the penalty; he gets paid all his bets and tickets on the machine, and goes away. The next day, or perhaps long afterwards, an objection is laid—the stakes are paid to the second horse, but he does not get his bets, which are the most profitable part of the race. The fine of 5 sovs. is a farce, as only an owner of a horse running in the race can object, and he might be squared.

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Napier Park Racing Club programme for the season 1890-1. Their Spring Meeting takes place on October 14th and 15th. On the first day £580 is given in added money. The principal races are: Park Stakes Handicap of 200 sovs., 1½ mile, and the Railway Handicap of 100 sovs., six furlongs. Second day £445 is given, the chief race being the Racing Club Handicap of 120 sovs., a mile and a distance. The Summer Meeting is only one day, January 1st, £410 being added. The New Year Handicap 1½ mile, 125 sovs., Two-year-old Handicap of 70 sovs., five furlongs, and the Flying Handicap of 70 sovs., six furlongs, are the best worth winning. The Autumn Meeting, to be held on March 24th and 25th, is the principal meeting. For these two days £1,310 is added. The races worthy of notice are the Napier Cup Handicap, 1½ mile, of 300 sovs., and the City Stakes Handicap of 200 sovs., 1½ mile. The money has been well distributed throughout all the meetings. This is as it should be, giving an owner a chance of paying expenses should he miss one of the big handicaps.

NORTH CANTERBURY STEEPLECHASES.

THE above were run on August 28. It was a fine day, and there was a large attendance. The Great Northern Steeplechase, 3 miles, 60 sovs., was won by Mr. F. Claridge's Enterprise, 11st. 5lb., Young Guy, 10st. 5lb., second, and Victor third. The favorite was Erin-go-bragh, who fell. The dividend was £4 17s. The Hunters' Plate, 2 miles, 25 sovs., weight for age, was won by Mr. G. Murray-Aynsley's Glen, 12st. 3lb., Mr. W. Bosley's Why Not second, and Mr. Wilder's Dick third. Waipapa and The Shrew also started. It resulted in a tremendous race, and was won only by a nose. Dividend, £3 2s. The Seadown Steeplechase of 30 sovs., 2 miles, was won by Enterprise, carrying 12st., including 7lb. penalty, Young Guy, 10st. 8lb., second, Preston, 10st. 5lb., third. Victor, The Mount, and Morok also started. Won by a neck. Dividend, £5 9s.

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB.

IN submitting the annual balance-sheet for the year ending July 31st, 1890, your committee have much pleasure in reporting that the club's operations have been highly successful, for notwithstanding that a large expenditure has been made in finishing, fencing, and planting the new racecourse, the substantial profit of £303 12s. 11d. remains.

During the past racing season, three meetings have been held, each of which has been well patronised, the stakes paid away amounting to £1211 5s. The total liabilities of the club amount to £182 19s., against which there is cash in bank and in hand of £72 8s. 8d. The financial position of the club is most satisfactory, for the expenditure on the new racecourse has been considerable, and in addition to this the overdraft due to the bank at the commencement of the season has been paid off. The opening of the new racecourse at the Jubilee Meeting proved a great success, both in attendance and financially, there being over 7000 people present, and the large sum of £5508 passed through the totalisator. The racing was first-class, and the horse-owners expressed themselves much pleased at the extension and great improvement made. At the Winter Meeting there was also a large attendance and the meeting passed off admirably, the only drawback being that parts of the new-made ground were so soft as to seriously impede the horse-racing. There had been a continuous fall of rain for about a week previous to the day of meeting, and the ground being new-made in two places, and the drainage incomplete the ground was very heavy in these parts. During the winter months the necessary drainage has been done, and in future it is fully anticipated the course will at all times during the racing season be both dry and good going. The racing track is now well grassed, and is at present in splendid condition. Trees—principally native—have been planted round the outer boundaries of the course, and also on the rising ground above the racecourse, the object being to provide shelter for the general public. Negotiations which have been pending for some time re purchase of racecourse, have been at last completed, on terms which your committee feel sure will meet with your entire approval, and they recommend that a sand track for training purposes be made as soon as possible, the cost of which is estimated at £150. Your committee have had under their consideration the establishment of two and three-year-old races, the conditions of which they propose should differ with those of the A.R.C., penalties being added and allowances made. If these proposals meet with your approval an early notification of date and particulars will be published, the added money being £100 for each race. This may seem a large sum for your club to pay away at one meeting for two weight-for-age races, but as it is desirable to hold such races, no doubt this action will meet with full encouragement from breeders and horseowners.

The above report, which was adopted, at the Takapuna Jockey Club's annual meeting must be considered one, if not the most satisfactory balance-sheet, that has come under our notice. Besides having made great improvements they have a surplus on the right side. The proposition to establish "two and three-year-old weight-for-age races, the conditions of which they propose should differ with those of the A.R.C., penalties being added and allowances made:" reads rather ambiguous. It greatly depends on what basis the penalties and allowances are made; if on a proper basis the races should be a great success. The best plan would be to adopt the English scale in rather a modified form, as it is well known that two-year-olds can give more weight away to each other than at any other age. The amount of £100 is very liberal and as remarked in the report ought to encourage owners.

The following gentlemen were elected the committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. E. W. Alison, J. Mays, F. Wells, W. H. Fenton, R. H. Duder, A. Alison and W. Adams.

At an athletic meeting patronized by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the one mile bicycle handicap was won by P. J. Macready, who made the best on record for safeties, with 2 min. 31 3-5th secs.—*Sporting and Dramatic News.*

CHRISTCHURCH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE events of this week have not been so numerous nor so important as to afford much cause for notice, still they have not been without interest altogether. The chief topic has been the settlement of the long standing dispute with Mr. G. G. Stead, representing other owners and the Dunedin Jockey Club. A week or two since, things looked to assume serious shape, but through the meditation of friends on both sides a settlement has been come to without resource to the law courts. It is perhaps rather a significant fact that Tirailleur should have advanced in the quotations for the New Zealand Cup, while his stable companion, the mysterious Jet d'Eau—supposed to be carrying some stable money—should have receded. During the week a commission was executed to the amount of £400 in favour of the top weight, the amount being got in at an average of 7 to 1, the present price of the son of Musket—Florence McCarthy being 6 to 1.

Coursing is not quite dead in Canterbury, though one may well sigh for a return of those good old days when the sport was one in which the greatest interest was taken. The shareholders in the lease of the Heathcote property are endeavouring to start a Plumpton on their ground, and I am told by those interested that the prospect of their doing so is looked forward to with some degree of certainty. There has been a change recently in the proprietary of the Heathcote grounds, which is said to account for the increased vitality in the business affairs of the club.

Mr. Stead's horses in training have not been seriously affected by the spread of influenza as was reported last week, and they are now being sent along again, and are probably the most forward lot in training in Canterbury. There is still some doubt as to what Mr. Stead's intentions are, seeing that Medallion is fairly well treated in the Melbourne Cup, in which race he was left after the last forfeit. I don't pretend to know what will be done, but with only nine weeks before the decision of the great spring events, I think it can only be a week now at the outside before we know definitely. Mr. Stead has others beside his colt Medallion in which to depend, but I should not wonder if the Napier trip does not constitute one of the features of the coming campaign, though I should indeed like to see Medallion land fit and well on the other side to try conclusions with the best of his year—Titan, who may not be quite the invincible gentleman after all. It is the custom to make excuses for beaten horses, but Medallion, whose training was interrupted in the spring and well into midsummer by the development of two ugly splints, could not possibly have been at his best, and when it is remembered that he was practically a green colt, giving away to Titan 5lbs, it is not surprising that he should have had to put up with a beating, more especially for when it is known that Titan had an almost unbroken course of training right through the winter, spring and summer months.

The New Zealand Trotting Association sent a deputation this week to interview Captain Russell with the object of getting a concession made, whereby Clubs may hold four meetings in the year without requiring to give more than a minimum of £200 per meeting. It was proposed recently to introduce a Bill amending the "Gambling and Lotteries Act" so as to embody these conditions, but so far nothing appears to have been done.

The question as to which was the better cross-country horse of the four, Ahua, Clarence, The Agent, or Canard was raised some time back, and judges agree to differ on the subject. Butler thinks the position belongs rightly to The Agent; three times returned a Grand National winner, twice a winner in Auckland, and altogether a great performer under big weights and over long distances. Some time ago Butler gave the old horse away to his nephew, and he had not been heard of for a lengthened period, but while the controversy was going on the old fellow turned up at Riccarton to the surprise of everyone, having wandered back to his old home a few Sundays since. The old chestnut looks very rough on it, but now gets a feed or two regularly, and Patsy says his old favourite shall not be lost sight of again in a hurry.

One of the most enjoyable little proceedings of the whole year is that held about this season at Amberley. The North Canterbury folk hold high festivities on their Steeplechase Day, the racecourse being made a huge picnic ground, and as visitors from a distance are made cordially welcome, the Amberley races are always looked forward to with pleasant anticipation. The racecourse is very prettily situated about two miles from the town and close to the sea, the billows as they dash on the shore loudly proclaiming the near presence of the boundless pacific. This year's fixture took place on Thursday under the most favourable climatic conditions, the result being that there was a large attendance and to say a very successful gathering in every way. The several events were all strongly contested, and some exciting finishes added interest to the proceedings. The National winner having been withdrawn from the principal event, the Great Northern Steeplechase, Daddy Longlegs' stable companion, Victor, had pride of place. For the event Erin-go-Bragh had been let in very lightly, presumably from the fact that he had never been seen over stiff fences, but I should just like to remark here that when a horse is entered for a steeplechase the presumption is that he can jump, and he should be handicapped accordingly. However, this may be, the grey son of St. George did not succeed in pulling off his initial race over country, as he fell when leading his field, and when it was only a question of his standing up to secure an easy victory. Later on in the day Erin-go-Bragh was brought out and had no difficulty whatever in securing the Farmers' Steeplechase of 40 sovs., the second most valuable prize at the meeting. But to hark back to the first race. This was taken by Enterprise, a handsome grey gelding of the pure hunter type, but one that possesses a far greater amount of pace than his appearance would indicate. He won somewhat easily from Young Guy, the winner of the event last year, with old Victor third. Enterprise was also victorious in the Seadown Steeplechase, the runner-up again being Young Guy. The winner carried a 7lb. penalty on account of annexing the first race, and this had the effect of bringing the horses as near as possible together, and Mr. Claridge, the owner of Enterprise, who was on his own horse, and who is one of our most accomplished amateurs had to do all he knew to get his horse home first. The Hunter's Plate was taken by Glen, after a great struggle with Why Not, and the victory of the former was mainly due to the excellent horsemanship of Mr. G. Murray-Aynsley. Industry, in the hands of his owner, Mr. C. Wynn-Williams, had an easy task in putting down his opponents in the Tally-ho Plate, and my remarks anent this horse last week where thus in a measure carried out. True, he had very little to beat in the race just mentioned, but he could do no more than win. The Consolation was won by Preston, his first win over jumps.

ELLERSLIE TRAINING NOTES.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.

Harrison has his team in work. Reprisal, Miss Cole, and Workman went once round the course proper, finishing the last three furlongs fast. They all moved sound, but it was only a good working gallop. Antelope went twice round at half speed, moving freely, and is looking well. Patchwork worked on the tan, going round three times at a steady pace. Mr. Bobbett's Captivator—Madcap colt went three times round the middle track—rather a stiff piece of work for a two-year-old at this time of year. Fishmonger cantered four times round on the tan.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2.

The weather being beautifully fine, it was quite a pleasure to visit the course, besides being able to see some useful work. Tamora, Ægyptus, Captivator—Madcap, and Foul Shot—Mystery colts were all sent together three furlongs at racing pace, all finishing together, Tamora going on once round at three-quarter speed.

Torment and Shillelagh were restricted to walking exercise.

Reprisal and Vendetta put in once round on the course proper at half speed.

Glaucus, with sweaters on, went twice round on the tan.

Nap went three times round the tan at a steady pace.

Orestes and the colt by Captivator—Maid of Honor went slowly once round on the course proper, finishing the last three furlongs at about half speed. Both these youngsters are looking and moving well.

Patchwork was sent a good useful gallop twice round the course proper.

Torment only walked, and Capella is being "hacked" about the roads.

Amongst the visitors to the course I noticed the Takapuna sportsman, Mr. E. W. Alison.

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE Sydney Referee has a leader headed, "The Time Test: Two Styles of Trying Horses.—English v. Australian." It begins: "Perhaps it sounds something akin to presumption on our part to assert that the time test relating to the trial of horses is the better way to accurately judge of animals' abilities to traverse a distance, long or short," etc. Throughout the whole of the leader it is maintained that the Colonial system of trying horses by the time test is far better than the English system of trial horses. Now, as an old racing man, I will try and show that the time test is a fallacy and cannot be depended upon. Say, for instance, that we are going to try a horse a mile over the course he has been in the habit of working. The morning is dull and close, the going rather heavy, and he does his mile in 1 min. 50 secs. You think he may or may not have a show for the race he is entered for. However, you make up your mind to let him start on the off chance. Perhaps you risk a tenner on him. The day arrives for the race; it is fine and clear, and the going good; the course to be run over is completely different to the one you have tried your horse on—say it has a little more uphill or downhill, perhaps a dead flat. However, you start your horse comparatively unbacked, and to your disgust he simply walks in, and you win nothing; the horse's form is exposed, and you have to wait a long time for another chance in a big handicap. Horses like certain courses, and they will run pounds better over one than another. I have seen horses disgracefully beaten at Epsom through the downhill from Tattenham Corner, which a fortnight afterwards ran brilliantly at Ascot, where the finish is all uphill. The English method of trying horses is to have five in the trial: the one to be tried, the trial horse, another to see that he is running up to his form, and two others, to make a true pace from end to end. Jockeys are on the three first, and good stable-boys on the others. There can be no mistake made then, the day and the going affecting them equally, unless a horse goes suddenly off, which his trainer should know. I have seen the Dawsons, Osborne, and other leading trainers, have their horses trained and tried to the hour, having their calculations made to such a nicety that in one case a bet was laid, 1000 to 1, that the horse won by a neck, neither more nor less, and the jockey that rode (Fordham) never knew until after the race that such a bet had been laid. Ten Broeck, when he went to England, relied entirely on the watch, and it was not long before he had to return to America to get further supplies to carry on the campaign. The Referee further states: "But what about that class of horse which races best in silk or the contrary?" etc. That can easily be answered. In all important trials colours are always worn, and the horse that is handicapped with the trial horse will soon tell you if he is running up to his form, and they all will tell you if the horse you are trying is up to the mark, as any experienced trainer knows pretty well the form of his horses from the way they go in their work. The best trial horse I ever knew was a chestnut gelding called "Griffin." He was the biggest rogue that ever ran in public, but he never told a lie at home. Butterfly, Hesperithusa, Croagh Patrick and others were all tried with him before they landed the big "coups" for their owners, and larger sums were won over them than has ever been won in Australia. With all due deference to the Referee, I think that they will find themselves out of pocket if they rely on the time test, especially if a clever trainer has tried his horse on the English principle and the money is on all right.

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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 Hurdies, 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-Aucklander 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.

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 Chaafe, 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.

ROBERTSON'S
WHISKY

IS THE

SPORTING MAN'S FRIEND!

KING, WALKER & Co.

 KING QUAIL.
The above well-known Thoroughbred Stallion will travel the following Districts during the ensuing season:—

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| EAST TAMAKI | PAPAKURA |
| OTAHUHU | WAIROA SOUTH |
| MANGERE | MAIRAITAI |
| PAPATOITOI | WELTFORD |
| | HOWICK. |

KING QUAIL is so well and favourably known that comment on his Turf career is unnecessary, and his stock realise the highest prices in the local markets.

For further particulars apply to
 A. K. HARRIS,
 East Tamaki.

ATHLETICS.

[By NIMBLEFOOT.]

AUCKLAND AMATEUR ATHLETIC AND 'CYCLE CLUB.

THE annual general meeting of the Auckland Amateur Athletic and 'Cycle Club was held at the Imperial Hotel on Thursday last, when a large number of the members attended.

Mr. J. H. B. Coates, the President, occupied the chair.

After confirming the minutes of the last meeting, the Secretary (Mr. James Halyday, jr.) read the annual report, as follows:—

To the Members of the Auckland Amateur Athletic and 'Cycle Club,—

Your Committee has the pleasure to present a very satisfactory report for the season 1889-90, and to congratulate the Club on the successful results of its carnivals. The total number of members on the roll is 160, being a considerable increase on last year's. Our Spring and Autumn meetings were in every way satisfactory, and the public continue to appreciate the sport provided for them. A glance at the accounts shows the total receipts to have been £1,010 9s. 10d., an amount we think unequalled by any athletic club in the Southern hemisphere. The balance-sheet shows a balance of cash in hand of £98 8s. 9d., with assets valued at £65 16s. The expense of sending representatives to the Dunedin meeting, £42, and contribution to the N.Z.A.A. Association, £20, have been paid out of this year's income. The Jubilee Sports were witnessed by upwards of 20,000 persons, and the Committee handed over to the Celebration Committee the handsome sum of £397 9s. 1d. The coming season gives every promise of being a most interesting and propitious one, as we are to have the honour of the Championship Meeting being held here in February next. The Committee desire to seriously impress on the members the necessity of upholding the honour of the Club on the occasion. Our worthy President has been elected President of the Association for the year, and your Committee take this opportunity of expressing the great appreciation of the honour bestowed on the Club by the appointment, and also recommend that Rule No. VIII. be suspended for one year so that the President and Vice-President of the Association may be appointed Vice-Presidents of the Club for this year. The Treasurer (Mr. Esam) has been appointed the delegate on the Management Committee of the Domain Cricket Ground, and we have no doubt that the appointment will result in considerable advantage to the Club, as we have now a recognised interest in the control of the Domain. The Committee trust the members of the Club will exercise every care in preserving the cricket ground in the best possible condition.

It was unanimously resolved that the sum of £10 10s. be voted to the Secretary and Treasurer for their valuable services.

The following gentlemen were elected to the various offices for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. J. B. H. Coates; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. R. Garrett, J. F. Logan, and J. H. Upton; Secretary, Mr. Jas. Halyday; Treasurer, Mr. B. J. Esam; Committee, Messrs. A. Cotter, J. Arneil, T. F. Ufill, W. Speight, J. Poland, W. George, A. Buchanan, J. A. Cooper, M. Service, G. H. Powley, B. Owen, H. Culpan, and C. H. McKinney; Captain of Bicycle Members, Mr. Waters; Deputy-Captain, Mr. A. G. Buchanan; Bugler, Mr. Hoffman.

ELLERSLIE FOOTBALL CLUB
BANQUET.

THE annual banquet of the Ellerslie Football Club came off last Wednesday and was a most decided success. W. C. Walker, Esq., J.P. occupied the chair, and Mr. J. Wakefield the vice-chair. The Dinner, which was all that could be desired was laid out in Host Buxton's best style. After dinner the usual Royal toasts having been drunk, Mr. W. Garrett, in a very flattering speech proposed the toast of the Ellerslie Football Club, who he informed those present had gone through the season without a defeat, amidst much applause. Mr. Sid Somerville, captain of the club responded, thanking them for the hearty manner in which they had drunk the toast. During the evening some very choice songs were rendered by members of the club and others, the most noticeable

being those by Mr. F. Hunt, Mr. J. Wakefield, and Mr. J. M. Franklin. The energetic secretary, Mr. W. S. Wilkins was presented with a neat butter cooler in recognition of his labours during the season. About 12.30 the gathering broke up with Auld Lang Syne, but some of the boys might have been seen straggling home at daybreak next morning.

FOOTBALL.

PONSONBY V. GORDON.

THESE teams met for the third time this season last Saturday, when, contrary to expectation, Gordon won by 5 points to 2. The winners had the best of the game right through. Jervis played a really good game, and made one splendid run, eluding all the Ponsonby backs and scoring right behind the posts, but the ball was called back for an alleged throw on. Rees and Herrold both showed up well, while Otway played well at centre half, and with practice will make a really good man. Of the forwards, Logan, Smart, and Stewart were the pick, the latter getting a well-deserved try. Of the Ponsonby backs Masefield, Conway, and Cole played well, while the others were only mediocre. Caulton was decidedly the best of the forwards, playing quite up to his Southern reputation, while Mills and Poland were the best of the others. Arthur Rees potted a splendid goal for Gordon, which practically won the match, as Ponsonby only played in a half-hearted manner afterwards.

GRAFTON V. SELWYN.

Both clubs had weak teams, several juniors joining in. The game ended—Grafton 7 points, Selwyn 2.

VICTORIA V. MANUKAU.

These teams played a match in Potter's Paddock last Saturday, and as the winning of it decided the contest for the Second Junior Cup and caps it caused some excitement. The game resulted in a win for Victoria by 7 points to 3.

GLADSTONE V. ATHLETIC II.

Played at Northcote. The match resulted in a win for the former.

STATIONERS V. SADDLERS.

These teams met in the Domain on Saturday last, the former after a good game winning by five points to one. Craig potted a goal and McKenzie got two tries for the stationers, while Hankin scored for the saddlers.

Ponsonby were all at sea without Braund and Breen on Saturday.

Selwyn are likely to have a very strong team against Ponsonby, and will make a big effort to beat them.

Herrold scored his usual try against Ponsonby.

J. Goldsworthy, proprietor of the Grand Hotel, Margate, is suing several people for accounts in connection with the festivities at Frank Slavin's wedding last February. The total amount runs into something like £300.—*Referee.*

December 13th and 16th are the dates fixed by the Christchurch Amateur Athletic Club for their spring meeting. The programme is the same as last year with the exception that the tug-of-war and consolation race are done away with and a 75 yards club handicap inserted instead.

The Pioneer Bicycle Club (Christchurch) held their annual meeting at their rooms, Post-office Chambers, on August 28th. The twelfth annual report was taken as read. There were 89 active and 14 honorary members on the list. During the year all the Club records up to ten miles, except the mile, had been lowered. The fifty-mile race was won by Mr. J. S. Hayward in 3 hrs. 33 min., from scratch.

The following handicaps have been declared by W. H. Johnson for the Bicycle Road Race, which will take place on the 13th instant, the course being from Panmure to Parnell:—A. G. Buchanan, scratch; A. Howard, 1min.; J. Lecky, 1½min.; L. E. Hoffman, 2min.; M. McRodgers, 2min.; T. Reynolds, 2½min.; H. Short, 3min.; A. A. Gledhill, 3min.; P. Aickin, 3½min.; C. Waters, 3½min.; H. Nicholson, 3½min.; R. H. McCallum, 4min.; H. Wright, 4½min.; W. H. Hazard, 56min.; C. P. Hulme, 6min.

Pettengell, the New Zealand pugilist has turned up in Sydney, and has accepted a challenge to fight Jack Molloy.—*Referee.*

A match has been arranged to come off on the championship course in about four weeks time, between Neill Mattherson and Chris Neilson. The stakes are £200 a side, and this race should be worth seeing.—*Town and Country.*

Jim Saxon, the New Zealander, defeated Toney Molloy in a boxing match to a finish for a purse at Sam Matthews' Hall, Sydney, on August 16. The fight was fairly even for half-a-dozen rounds, but then Molloy began to tire, and although he held out until the tenth round he was then knocked out, and Saxon was returned the winner.—*Referee.*

Bubear is anxious to make a match with Elias Laycock, the Australian ex-champion. Some nine years ago a silver cup, value 50 gs., was subscribed for, with the condition that it must be rowed for on the Lower Yarra, Melbourne, and that it must be won twice before becoming permanent property. Laycock then won it, and there has been no contest for the trophy since, so Bubear now wants to row for it, and for a stake of £100 a side.—*Referee.*

With reference to McLean's wish to have another race with Peter Kemp for the championship of the world, Mr. Deeble points out that now articles have been signed for a race between Kemp and O'Conner in March next Kemp could not accept any other engagement. Kemp easily defeated McLean not so long ago and Mr. Deeble thinks that he ought to be satisfied for the present. Mr. Deeble is, however, prepared to match James Stansbury against McLean for any amount he likes from £200 upwards, and the race to come off at any suitable time. In August McLean issued a challenge to Kemp to row for the championship and £200 a side, the race to come off within two months, and giving him a week to consider over it.—*Town and Country.*

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WAS HE TOLD TO DO IT?—IF SO,
BY WHOM?

A SERIOUS TURF SCANDAL.

IN connection with the running of the mare Mercy Merrick in the Glen Huntly Handicap, at Caulfield, and the consequent disqualification of the jockey Myers, we are in a position to give our readers the gist of an appeal which will in all probability lead to a re-opening of the whole case.

We need hardly say that the statements are purely *ex parte*, but as the Mr. — referred to will probably have an opportunity of giving his version of the case, we publish the jockey's account of the transactions. The following is the gist of the appeal we have referred to:—

Fitzroy-street, Fitzroy,
19th August, 1890.

To the Stewards of the Victoria Amateur Turf Club.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to request that you will be pleased to hold a further investigation into the running of the mare Mercy Merrick at Caulfield on the third day of May, 1890, on which date you disqualified me for the term of twelve months for suspicious riding, and that you will be graciously pleased to remit the unexpired term of my disqualification.

In support of such application, I desire, with your permission, to bring under your notice the following facts, namely:—

About a week prior to the race in question I was engaged to ride the mare Mercy Merrick in the Glen Huntly Handicap, to be run at Caulfield on the 3rd May, 1890.

That the only person from whom I took instructions was Mr. —.

That when I was leaving the paddock on the said mare, for the purpose of taking part in the race, the said Mr. — came up to me and said "NO," indicating that the mare was not to win the race.

That until I received such instructions I believed that it was intended to win the race.

That at the inquiry held by you, immediately after the race, I endeavoured to screen Mr. — by taking upon myself the responsibility.

That I was informed a day or two after the races that the first time the mare won I would get an amount equal to the stakes.

That the mare won at the next meeting held at Caulfield, and I got the sum of £10 and no more.

That about a fortnight ago I asked Mr. — for the balance of the amount as promised, when he said that he had so much bad luck that he could not give me any amount, or make any settlement with me.

That for some time past I have been the main support of my mother, who resides at Hastings, Napier, N.Z., and is now in destitute circumstances, as appears by the enclosed copy of a letter received by me from Mr. James M. Campbell.

That my mother was deserted by my father some four years ago, and she has not since heard from him, and I am very desirous for her sake to be released from my disqualification.

That I have been engaged in riding races for the past eight years.

That I was never previously disqualified or cautioned for suspicious riding.

Under the circumstances stated by me, I respectfully request that you will reconsider my case, and remit the whole, or so much of the unexpired portion of the term for which I have been disqualified as to you, gentlemen, may seem proper.

I now leave the matter in your hands, with the earnest hope that you will temper justice with mercy, and that you will give this serious matter your earnest and favorable consideration.

I remain, gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,
H. E. MYERS.

The above letter appeared in the *Sportsman*, and shows how an unfortunate lad may be ruined for life. Myers was well-known in Auckland, and promised to become a first-class jockey. While in New Zealand he was considered perfectly honest, and everyone had confidence in him. It is to be hoped that the case will be thoroughly investigated, so if the boy is really innocent he will be cleared and Mr. — put under the law.

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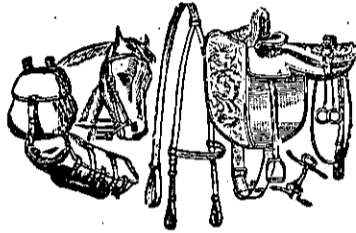
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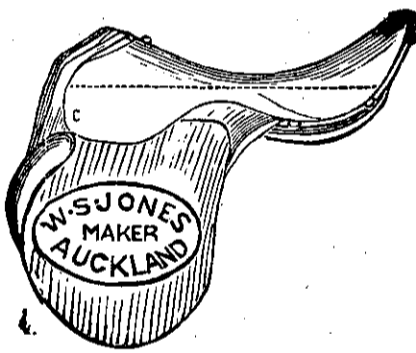
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SPRING MEETING,

To be held on the EPSOM RACECOURSE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1890.

PROGRAMME.

HANDICAP MAIDEN PLATE, of 20 sovs. For horses that have never won a race exceeding the advertised value of 25 sovs. Nomination, 10s., Acceptance, 10s. Distance, One Mile.

HANDICAP HURDLE RACE, of 35 sovs.; second horse to receive 5 sovs. from stakes. Nomination, 10s.; Acceptance, 20s. Distance, Two Miles, over eight flights of hurdles.

SPRING HANDICAP, of 50 sovs.; 5 sovs. from stakes to go to second horse. Nomination, 20s.; Acceptance, 30s. Distance, One-and-a-quarter Mile.

NOVEL RACE, of 20 sovs. The winner to be the property of the Club. Entrance, 20s. Weight, 9st. Distance, Three-quarters of a Mile.

HANDICAP MAIDEN HURDLES, of 20 sovs. For horses that have never won a Hurdle Race exceeding 10 sovs. Nomination, 10s.; Acceptance, 10s. Distance, One Mile and a half.

SELLING RACE, of 25 sovs. The winner to be sold for 30 sovs. Top weight, 10st; if entered to be sold for 20 sovs., to carry 9st.; if for 10 sovs., 8st.; if for nil, 6st. 7lbs. Entrance, 25s. Distance, Seven Furlongs.

HANDICAP FLYING STAKES, of 30 sovs.; second horse to receive 2 sovs. from the stakes. Nomination, 10s.; Acceptance, 20s. Distance, Six Furlongs.

Fifty per cent. only of stakes will be paid in the event of a walk over.

Stakes paid less 5 per cent. for expenses.

NOMINATIONS, WEIGHTS, ACCEPTANCES.—Nominations close Friday, September 13th, at 9 p.m. Weights appear about the 20th September. Acceptances and General Entries close Friday, September 27th, at 9 p.m.

Entries to be sealed and addressed to the Secretary, at the Club Office, Durham-street East, Auckland.

C. F. MARK,

Secretary.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

STEWARDS AND OFFICERS:

Stewards: Messrs. W. McLaughlin, Col. Dawson, D. B. Tonks, A. Harris, J. Bainbridge, R. Garrett, J. Wakefield, Wm. Percival, G. Dunnett, E. D. O'Rorke. Judge: Mr. Thomas Morrin. Starter: Mr. E. D. Halstead. Clerk of Course: The Huntsman. Clerk of Scales: Mr. R. Garrett. Handicappers: Messrs. Kirkwood and Percival.

The ANNUAL RACE MEETING of the above Club will be held on SATURDAY, 18th OCTOBER, on the ELLERSLIE RACECOURSE.

PROGRAMME.

OPEN HANDICAP RACE of 35 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stakes. Entrance 10s., acceptance 10s. each, to go to the funds. Distance 1½ mile, over 7 flights of hurdles.

FARMERS' PLATE HANDICAP of 20 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stakes. For all horses the bona fide property of farmers in this district, at the discretion of the Committee, whose lands the hounds have liberty to run over. To be ridden by farmers, their sons, or amateurs. Entrance 10s., acceptance 10s., to go to the funds. Distance, once round the Steeplechase Course.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB HANDICAP of 45 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stakes. Entrance 20s., acceptance 25s. each, to go to the funds. Minimum weight, 10st. Distance about 8½ miles.

MEMBERS' HANDICAP HURDLE RACE of 35 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stakes. Minimum weight, 10st. Entrance 15s., acceptance 20s. each, to go to the funds. Distance 2 miles, over 8 flights of hurdles.

OPEN FLYING STAKES HANDICAP of 30 sovs. Distance, three-quarters of a mile. Nomination 10s., acceptance 20s.

LADIES' BRACELET (Welter Handicap) value 10 sovs. to first horse, and piece of plate value 5 sovs. to second horse. Minimum weight, 10st. Entrance 15s. each, to go to the funds. One mile and a distance.

MAIDEN PLATE HANDICAP of 20 sovs. Open to all horses that have never won any race exceeding 20 sovs. in value. Nomination 10s., acceptance 10s. Distance 1 mile.

NOMINATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, ETC.

That all races be open to Members of the Hunt Club. A certificate from the Master that the horse has been fairly hunted during the past season, to accompany each entry with performance.

Nominations for the Open Hurdle Race, Farmers' Plate, Hunt Club Steeplechase, Members' Hurdle Race, Flying Stakes, and Maiden Plate close with the Secretary, at the office of the Sporting Review, City Chambers, Vulcan Lane, on FRIDAY, September 26th, at 8 p.m.

Acceptances and Entries for Ladies' Bracelet close on FRIDAY, October 10th, at 8 p.m.

Order of running subject to alteration.

Weights will appear on or about October 2nd.

HARRY H. HAYR,
Hon. Sec.

PAKURANGA RACING CLUB.

The Annual Race Meeting of the above Club will be held on the Otahuhu Racecourse, on Saturday, 22nd November, 1890.

Full particulars in future issue.

RICHARD WILLIAMS,
Hon. Secretary.



AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB.

SPRING MEETING,

TO BE HELD AT

POTTER'S PADDOCK, EPSOM

TO-DAY (SATURDAY) SEPTEMBER 6, 1890.

C. F. MARK,
Secretary.

NOTICE TO RACING CLUBS.

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SEPTEMBER 6, 1890.