

Crackshot and Freedom, St. Andrew (who beat him in the Hawkes' Bay Guineas) and others. Freedom from his running at the Dunedin Spring Meeting has proved himself a good colt at a mile and a half, but cannot stay. In the Canterbury Cup Crackshot, Medallion and Freedom started, and finished in the order named. It will, therefore, be interesting to those who understand these things to see how the next handicapper will attempt to bring them together, and also to see the opinion of Messrs. Barnard and Scarr of their merits should they be sent to Australia.

WE beg to call the attention of the Auckland Racing Club Committee to a gross injustice that has been done to the owners of jumping horses who are desirous of nominating for the Maiden Steeplechase at the forthcoming Summer Meeting. The entrance money for all races, either on the flat or over hurdles, where the added money is one hundred sovereigns or under is one sovereign. For the Auckland Cup, value six hundred sovereigns, the entrance money is two sovereigns. For the Auckland Racing Club Handicap of four hundred sovereigns the entrance is the same. For the Auckland Steeplechase of three hundred sovereigns the entrance is also two sovereigns. For the *Maiden Steeplechase* of one hundred sovereigns the entrance fee is the same as for the big steeplechase. Now this is manifestly unfair, as there is a great deal more risk in steeplechasing than in flat races, besides the owners having to pay their jockeys an extra fee for riding. We trust that this may be an error in the programme, or an oversight on the part of the A.R.C. Committee, and that it will be rectified before next Friday—the day of general entry. (It is not too late to do it.) If not, we learn on good authority that several owners will not enter their horses in the Maiden Steeplechase, and quietly acquiesce in such an imposition.

THE Takapuna race meetings have long been notorious for the great alterations in form that certain horses display in a remarkably short space of time, thus again showing the great necessity of a stipendary steward. Though one of the active Committee of the A.R.C. and the secretary were on the ground they took no notice of the wonderful difference of form shown by some of the horses. At the A.R.C. Spring Meeting in the Flying Stakes, six furlongs, Cissy, 9st 7lb, was first; Antelope, 9st 5lb, second; Reprisal, 8st 3lb, third; Capella, 7st 3lb, was never in the race. At Takapuna in the Spring Handicap, six furlongs, Capella, 8st 4lb, wins; Antelope, 9st 10lb, second; Leorina, 8st 8lb, third; Tamora, 8st; Locket, 7st 2lb; and Regal, 6st 12lb, being behind them. We will now take Leorina's running at the A.R.C. Spring Meeting. In the Prince of Wales Handicap, 1½ miles, she carried 7st 13lb, but could never get near Cissy, 8st 11lb, who was first, Leolantis, 7st 9lb, second, and Cartridge, 6st 8lb, third. In the City Handicap 1½ miles, Leorina, with 7st 8lb, was nowhere, the winner being Cissy, 9st 7lb; St. Michael, 7st, second; Leolantis, 8st, third. In the St. Andrew's Handicap, 1½ miles, at Takapuna, she literally walks in with 9st on her back, Antelope, 9st 4lb, being second, Cartridge, 7st 4lb, third. In the Prince of Wales Handicap Leorina could not get near Cartridge, giving her 19lb, but in the St. Andrew's Handicap the same distance, she runs away from Cartridge, giving her 24lb. How is this wonderful difference in form to be accounted for in less than three weeks? Now we come to Hailstone. At the A.R.C. Meeting he could not beat a couple of hacks in the Selling Race, and was tailed off in the Hurdle Race with 9st 5lb; but at Takapuna he wins both Hurdle Races with 9st 12lb and 9st 4lb respectively, the races coming pretty close together. The only other horse whose running is peculiar is Tamora, and she may as well be watched for future events. The riding of some of the jockeys, especially in the St. Andrew's Handicap, was not without suspicion. In conclusion all we have to say after pointing out the peculiar form of some of the horses is that it requires a clever and experienced handicapper to detect all this in-and-out running at outside meetings, therefore the sooner a competent stipendary steward is appointed the better, but he must be a man *sans peur et sans reproche*. There are gentlemen in Auckland

who are not only competent to act as such, but also as handicappers (in this we beg to differ from the Auckland correspondent of a southern paper, who says there is not), but they do not like to be dictated to by those who put themselves forward as having a practical knowledge of racing, but actually know nothing.

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE Dunedin Jockey Club Meeting was commenced on Friday, 28th ult. The fields were not commensurate with the value of the stakes, as the committee were most liberal. The first day's racing was noticeable for the success of Mr. D. O'Brien's horses. He commenced by running second to Waitangi with Little Arthur, Spy being third. As he was giving the winner 14lb. and only receiving 3lb. from third, who has been in the winning vein lately, he must be looked upon as a fair horse. The Maiden Plate fell to him with Hazel, by Nordenfeldt—Ouida, but from what I can learn she is a difficult filly to train. Six others were behind her. The Otago Cup, the principal race, resulted in a good race between Freedom, 7st. 7lb., and Wolverine, 8st. 8lb., the former winning by a neck, four others being behind them. In the New Zealand Cup Freedom had 6st. 9lb., Wolverine, 6st. 11lb. This running proves that Wolverine was a good thing for the N.Z. Cup. D. O'Brien's Florrie, by Tasman—Rubina, won the Dunedin Stakes of 150 sovs., and his Tassie won the Two-year-old Selling Stakes. The only other horse worth noticing on the first day is St. Andrew, by St. Leger—Scottish Lassie, who with 8st. 7lb. up defeated eight others easily in the Federal Stakes, six furlongs.

On the second day the President's Handicap, 1½ miles, was the principal race of the day, and resulted as follows. Freedom, 8st. 7lb., first, St. Malo, 7st. 8lb., second, Wolverine, 8st. 12lb. third. Hazel, belonging to the same owner as Freedom, was the only other starter. Won easily by a length, the same distance between the others. St. Andrew defeated Diadem and Pique for the Onslow Plate, w.f.a., 1½ miles. This is not much of a performance. For the Criterion Stakes, Lebel, by Nordenfeldt—Pulchra, won from six others, as reported, "an exciting race" by half a length. Clifford was up. Florrie won the Musselborough Plate, w.f.a., four furlongs, five others being behind her, including St. Andrew.

On the third day the principal race was the St. Andrew Handicap. Prime Warden, 7st., defeated a moderate field of eight. The Commemoration Plate of 200 sovs., w. f. a., penalties and allowances. Five furlongs. St. Andrew, 9st., getting the best of a bad start won all the way, Florrie, 6st. 11lb., second, Lebel, 7st., third. May, Morpheus and Union Jack were the other starters. The two latter were left at the post.

The fourth day calls for no remarks, as it was a mixed day, Trotting, Pony Racing, etc.

I will now review the racing. Freedom has proved himself the good colt I always took him to be, but his best distance appears to be a mile and a half. St. Andrew also showed that he was a sprinter of no mean merit, but he does not like over a mile. Without exception the best three-year-olds that have appeared this season are Medallion, Crackshot, Freedom, and St. Andrew. The running of Medallion, to say the least of it, has been curious, but from the recent running of Freedom, and taking in consideration the way that he defeated him in the C.J.C. Derby when Mr. Stead said he had not recovered from his illness he must be an exceptional good colt, as there was only three weeks between the meetings, and it is not likely that Freedom had improved much, so the Australian handicappers are not likely to forget him. Crackshot is a good colt, but from what I hear, he unfortunately "speedy outs." If this is the case he will never be a safe horse to back, and some day he may strike himself too hard and come down. Freedom's best distance will be found to be a mile and a half, while St. Andrew will prove himself a real good horse up to a mile. Lebel and Florrie are the best of the two-year-olds that have appeared at present, though I have little doubt that The Workman when fit will be their match.

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.]

[BY CARBINE.]

ON Saturday last the members of the "A" Battery proceeded to Stark's Point, North Shore, with their 9 pounder field pieces, to go through their shot and shell practice. The attendance was splendid, five detachments being on the ground. Many ladies and hon. members also took advantage of the fine afternoon and put in an appearance and watched the shooting with great interest. Refreshments were provided for all, and Qr. Master Sergt. Miller was ever to the fore with an efficient staff to see that no one ran short. The shooting of all the detachments was splendid, being far ahead of last year. The Government prize of £3 being won this year by No. 2 Gun, under Sergt. Sherson. Six bullseyes being scored out of 9 shots, Corp. Hatswell making the first. The distance was 2,000 yards, and owing to the target being placed out at sea, and a strong wind blowing, a good deal of judgement was required. Some excellent shooting was also made by Lieut. O'Brien and Sergt. Major Doughty with shrapnell shell, the fuses being well timed, bursting the shell right over the target. Sergt. Major Lipscombe acted as marker and gave entire satisfaction.

The "O" Battery under Capt. Reid and Lieut. Webster marched into camp at Fort Resolution, on Saturday November 15th, to go through their annual course of big gun drill.

Sunday was spent in getting thoroughly settled in their new home and putting things in proper order.

Monday morning, at 4 a.m., the people in the neighbourhood were wakened from sleep by the reveille, and at 4.30 the Battery marched off to the rifle range and went through their class firing, and reached camp again in time for breakfast at 7.30 a.m. In the evening they started gun drill which went on morning and evening uninterrupted until Sunday, when the Battery, under Lieut. Webster and headed by the Artillery Band under Drum Major Kersley, marched to St. Mary's pro-cathedral church and attended divine service.

Monday again all are busy at the 64 pounders and Nordenfeldt under Instructors Alford and Lambert of the Permanent Artillery. Tuesday the same.

On Wednesday evening the Battery held an inspection parade, 40 rank and file being present to salute Colonel Shepherd and Major Douglas.

On Saturday the Battery went through their annual shot and shell practice, Major Douglas and Sergt. Major Bush, P.A., being present.

The shooting with the 64 pounder throughout was excellent. Sergt. McCallum scoring two bull's-eyes, while Gunners Stewart and Hughes scored one each at a range of 2700 yds. Detachments under Lieut. Webster and instructor Alford worked the Nordenfeldt, and smart and steady shooting was done.

In the evening the Battery gave a most enjoyable concert, when songs were given by Capt. Reid, Sergt. McCallum, Gunners Speight, Stewart, Gledhill, and St. Clair, while Bugler Dormer with a penny whistle caused quite a sensation. While for the visitors Mrs. and Miss Kilgour in the duet, Spring and Summer, brought down the house. Mr. Hutchinson's recitation, "The Opera House," was highly appreciated. After the visitors had been well supplied with refreshments the ladies left and the meeting turned into a lively smoke concert, and the Battery wound up a jolly evening and a most successful camp by singing "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. The final gun-drill competition for the gold medals presented by Capt. Reid and Lieut. Webster comes off on Wednesday evening when the judge, Corporal Farquharson of the P.A., will deliver his verdict.

Major Douglas starts to examine the Battery with the object of passing all the men he thinks fit as first-class gunners, when the successful ones receive a badge of efficiency and the £1 promised by the New Zealand Government.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Auckland Rifle Association was held on Monday evening last, in the "A" Battery Orderly Room, Drill Shed, the attendance being very poor. Sergt. Soall of the City Guards presiding. Capt. Colbeck was unanimously elected Presi-