

in, but on careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that though leniently treated it is no moral for her. Besides she has never shown her ability to get two miles in good company. Cissy, 8st 6lb, in the same stable, is another that the public have made a rush on. This mare showed fair form at the Spring meeting, but her successes were mainly due to the perfect condition she was in, while most of the others were not half fit. I have also great doubts of her staying, as her style of going points more to speed, and I think her best distance will be found to be a mile. Wolverine, 8st 4lb, on paper is held safe by some of the others, especially Dudu, though as he has apparently come back to his three-year-old form there is no telling how good he may be. Crackshot, 8st 3lb, is very fairly treated, and is a good colt, but he is unfortunately "a speedy cutter," and that class is never safe to stand however good they may be. Medallion, 8st, is the mysterious colt of the season. Should he come to Auckland and be all right one need not look much further for the winner, but taking all things into consideration he had better be left alone—for the present at all events. Strephon, 7st 10lb, is a colt that I have a great fancy for. He got third in the New Zealand Cup with 6st 9lb, afterwards winning the Metropolitan with 7st 2lb. Though not a regular stayer, it must be borne in mind the Auckland Cup is an easy two miles, while the Christchurch course is just the reverse. Whisper, 7st 9lb; Cynisca, 7st 7lb; and St. Andrew, 7st 6lb, may be passed over, as the distance is a good deal further than they like. Jet d'Eau I look upon as a regular imposter. Leolantis and Antelope, 7st 4lb, will neither of them like the distance. Patchwork, 7st 3lb, is not badly in, and he is a horse that I cannot make out his true form, but I am afraid, for his owners' sake, that he is a rogue. Thackeray, 7st 2lb; St. Malo, 7st 1lb; and Reprisal, 6st 11lb, I have no fancy for. With regard to Leorina, 6st 10lb, Mr. Evitt has taken most unwarrantable liberties with her, letting her off at that weight. No animal runs more in-and-out than she does, but taking her in her best form she should be about the mark at the finish. Of the others the only ones to take notice of—unless a great number of the top weights drop out—are Queen of Trumps, 6st 9lb; Palliser, 6st 7lb; and The Dreamer, 6st 7lb. Until the acceptances appear, and one knows what are coming up, it is absurd to try and select the winner, even in three times, but I look upon the following as being best in:—Dudu, Hilda, Crackshot, Medallion, Strephon and Leorina, and if I was compelled to take a long shot about one and stand it out it would be Dudu. [Since the above was written Wolverine has been scratched.]

WHEN Mr. Evitt made the handicap for the Auckland Steeplechase he must have put the most of the names in a bag, and taken them as they came out, as it can hardly be called a handicap. However, I will go through them when the acceptances are declared. At present, in my opinion, Orlando, 12st 4lb; Sir Garnet, 11st 9lb; and Sentinel, 9st 8lb; read the best.

GREAT has been the talk of the wonderful performance of Carbine in the late Melbourne Cup. No one will dispute that it was a fast time, but let lovers of racing and the time test look at the performance of Sheen in the Casarewich run at Newmarket (England) on the 9th of October. For the benefit of my readers I will describe the course. The Casarewich is run over the distance of two miles and a quarter and thirty-seven yards, straight. The greater part is almost flat, there being but a little give and take. The last quarter of a mile is first down hill, and the last two hundred yards up a very steep incline. The weather on Newmarket Heath in October is generally cold and damp—about equal to a winter day in Auckland. Now for a description of the race. Twenty-two numbers were hoisted on the telegraph board. The race resulted in an easy win for Sheen, by Hampton—Radiancy, 5 yrs, 9st 2lb; Alicante, 3 yrs., 7st 5lb, second; Judith, 4 yrs, 7st, third. Won cleverly by two lengths. Now comes the most wonderful part of the performance. The time recorded is *three minutes, fifty-five seconds*. Now taking into consideration that in England the time is always taken from the fall of the flag, when

the horses are some distance behind the post; the difference in climate, also the going, it must be confessed that Sheen's performance *beats* Carbine's.

ON the last day of the Houghton Meeting Sheen again came out for the Thousand Pound Plate, w.f.a., two miles, and with nothing to make the running for him defeated Amphion (who had been up to this time looked upon as the Champion) and four others in a common canter by three lengths. This running, I think, proves him to be the Champion of 1890.

WHEN such an authority as "Augur" writes the following, it is not to be wondered at that when a New Zealander goes over to Australia the weight is put on him. If he had seen the race it would have altered his opinion. "It is a feather in the cap of Robinson Crusoe that his son, The Workman, should have proved victorious in the principal Two-year-old Race run at the Auckland Meeting. The victory is all the more creditable because he was opposed by sons and daughters of Nordenfeldt, St. Leger, Brigadier, and other sires located in New Zealand, etc." Poor old Augur, when I first knew him he would not have penned such trash. Can he deny that both he and I have seen the very best bred horses not able to beat a butchers hack. Nothing ran in the race in question that was worth £500.

THE Old Father Plate at the Newmarket Houghton Meeting is still a popular race at home. What would Colonials say to a race of this description, Casarewich course, two miles and a quarter and thirty-seven yards (it used to be the last three miles of the Beacon course), w.f.a., with selling allowances. It was at one time competed for by two-year-olds only, but this year two three-year-olds and ten two-year-olds started. The winner turned up in a three-year-old called Maley, the next four being two-year-olds.

#### 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.]

THE Committee of the Auckland Rifle Association have lost no time since their election. A programme has been arranged consisting of eight matches, six with Snider and two with Martini weapons. The entries for the Snider matches are the same as last year. By the number of promising young shots that have been brought out in the different corps this year a good number of entries may be anticipated.

The Union Company have arranged to grant saloon return fares between Lyttelton and Wellington to bona fide members of the New Zealand Rifle Association for 30s., and Capt. Somerville is making arrangements for cheap coaching between Eketahuna and Woodville, or via the Manawatu line.

At the Victoria Rifle Association Meeting, held during last month, Lieut. J. H. Eales of the 2nd Batt. won the Queen's Prize of £100 with the grand aggregate of 254 points. W. O. Blair was second with 249 points. The *Argus* states that the victory was a decidedly meritorious one for more than one reason. As Hon. Sec. of the Association Lieut. Eales has had his hands pretty full of executive work during this week, and this with shooting has given him few spare moments. Lieut. Eales is a Native of Devonshire, England, having been born at Exmouth. He learned his shooting with the First Devonshire Rifle Volunteer Regiment in England. The Ladies' Match, value £7, was won by R. Smith, of the Melbourne Rifle Club, with 33 points out of a possible 35. In the Press Match Mr. W. Lambrie came to the front with the creditable score of 44 points out of a possible 50. The International Match was won by the Australian team, with the aggregate of 846; England second with 814, Ireland third with 777; and Scotland fourth with 774 points.

The members of the "A" Battery who won the Field Gun Competition at the Military Sports, on Takapuna Racecourse last year, have not yet received their prize money. Who is to blame for this?

The Members of the Martini Club held a sweepstakes match on Saturday last, at the Onehunga Rifle Range, the distance being 600 and 700 yards. The shooting all through was very poor, but this was owing to a very strong wind blowing from the right, and the very changeable light. The scores are:—

Name	600 yds	700 yds	Total
Pvt. M'Carthy . . . . .	21	21	42
Gun. C. P. Taylor . . . . .	29	13	42
P.O. J. Spinley . . . . .	25	16	41
Gun. E. Buchanan . . . . .	17	22	39
Pvt. J. Nutt . . . . .	22	17	39
Sergt. M. McCallum . . . . .	23	14	37
Capt. Tobin . . . . .	15	21	36
Mr. D. Hay . . . . .	23	11	34
Corp. H. Doughty . . . . .	23	11	34
Pvt. Osborne . . . . .	10	22	32
Sgt. Soall . . . . .	26	6	32
Gun. Greenshields . . . . .	15	16	31

#### TURF TATTLE.

[BY NORDENFELDT.]

THE weights for the Auckland Cup and Steeplechase made their appearance on Friday—too late for me to review them in last week's paper. In the Cup, Mr. Evitt has started with Tirailleur—as of course he should do—but with 9st. 11lb. I consider him slaughtered. Dudu (8st. 13lb.) will have a show if Cutts decides upon bringing her up, but I question whether she is a real stayer. Hilda is more to my liking with 8st. 10lb., and certainly reads about as well as anything in the race. As Hilda is trained in private, I am in the dark concerning her condition, but if in the form she was last Autumn, then I don't think any of the locally-owned nags will be capable of striking her colours. In Cissy (8st. 6lb.) Mr. Morrin has an excellent second string, and whichever he elects to carry the "black and amber stripes" on the day will be pretty certain to start first favourite. Cissy ran like a stayer in the Spring, and proved herself to be in great form. Wolverine (8st. 4lb.) may come up, but I do not fancy his chance for this race, as he meets Dudu, who finished second to him in the New Zealand Cup, on 17lbs. worse terms, and Strephon, who finished third in the same race, on 6lbs. worse terms. Of the three I prefer Dudu for our Cup. Crackshot (8st. 3lb.) has been well taken care of, but a good three-year-old will always require a lot of tying up with anything under 8st. 7lb. If Medallion comes this way, then I think we can label him the most dangerous colt in the race. He was one of the favourites for the New Zealand Cup all through the winter, and he now has to meet all the horses that ran prominently in that race on much better terms. It is reported that he will not come from Christchurch, but, if he does, then I prefer his chance to that of any other horse engaged. Strephon (7st. 10lb.), as I pointed out above, is held safe by Dudu. I notice he has been freely nominated down Napier way in small handicaps, so perhaps he will not put in an appearance here. Whisper (7st. 9lb.) would be better suited over sprint courses, a remark which applies equally to Cynisca (7st. 7lb.). St. Andrew (7st. 6lb.) I do not care for, although he has nothing to complain of on the score of weight. Jet D'Eau (7st. 5lb.) is not likely to put in an appearance, but Leolantis (7st. 4lb.) will probably be a starter. I don't like him, neither do I care for Antelope at the same weight. Patchwork (7st. 3lb.) reads much better. This horse showed some good form once or twice last season, especially when he won the double at Egmont. In the Waimate Handicap he carved out the mile and three-quarters in 3 min. 8 1-5th secs. Not at all a bad go when it is remembered that he carried 8st. 6lb. The horse is doing good work and may effect a surprise. Of the other twenty-one horses engaged, the only ones likely to accept are St. Malo, Reprisal, Leorina, The Dreamer, Belmont, and Cartridge. I don't think danger need be apprehended from Reprisal (6st. 11lb.), but Leorina with 6st. 10lb. has an outside chance. She is an in-and-out mare, however, and no reliance can be placed upon her. Those who remember how she carried 7st. in the Easter Handicap last Autumn twelve months, and went to the front and remained there, getting over the mile and three-quarters in the fast time of 3min. 5secs., will probably not desert her now. But she has never been able to put up such another performance, and I think she will be a bit outclassed in this company. The Dreamer