

that on the last round Silvio and Fishmonger just ran inside one of these indistinct posts, gaining nothing by it, in fact, making the next jump more difficult. They passed the winning-post in the order named. Williamson, the trainer of the third horse, who is always on the win, tie, or wrangle tactics, objected to the two for going the wrong course, and the stewards having heard evidence and inspected the course awarded the race to Hurricane, who came in a long way after the leaders. Now comes the absurdity of the case. The stewards never inquired into the question had Hurricane gone the proper course. The weight of evidence brought before us decidedly proves that Hurricane did not jump the last hurdle, therefore did not go the proper course, so is also disqualified. Arguing the point with one of the leading stewards he coolly said that supposing the caretaker had removed the hurdle, that was not Hurricane's fault, therefore he was entitled to the race, at the same time admitting that the stewards did not investigate whether Hurricane had gone the right course or not. This argument is rotten from the bottom, and shows incompetence in racing matters. Having carefully reviewed the evidence on both sides we are of opinion that the decision of the stewards was wrong, and that the race should either have been run over again or declared null and void. We are prepared to back our opinion on English precedents, and are only surprised that the public did not make a greater disturbance than they did.

THE Auckland Summer Meeting, 1890 and 1891, promises to be one of the best that has been held in Auckland, not only in the number of acceptances and entries, but in the quality of the horses. Never have there been so many good ones except for the Derby. It has generally been a one-horse race, but this year we have such horses as Medallion, the crack two-year-old of last season and the winner of the C.J.C. Derby; Crackshot, the winner of the Canterbury Cup; and St. Andrew, who won the Hawke's Bay Guineas. But there are also Major George's horses, Reprisal and Vendetta, and with Leolantis, the winner of the Auckland Guineas, the race should be an interesting one. Fourteen have accepted for the Auckland Cup, including the above cracks, and also such animals as Hilda, Cissy, Strephon, Dudu, etc., so this must prove an interesting race. Judging from the prices the bookmakers both North and South are offering it must be a hard matter to pick the winner. The number which paid up for the Great Northern Foal Stakes is not satisfactory, as the race is virtually between two, but the general entries for the other races make amends for this shortcoming. We are, however, afraid that this meeting will be greatly indebted to its success on account of the great sale that will take place at Sylvia Park. Many racehorse owners have brought up their horses in the hope of not only paying their expenses, but also having a little in hand to invest at the different yearling sales. It is to be hoped that the Auckland Racing Club Committee will see their way to issue programmes in future so as to make it worth distant owners' while to bring their horses up. At the same time we recommend them to alter some of the conditions regarding certain stakes, such as the Musket Stakes, which will take a clever man to calculate the weights the different horses have to carry.

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE acceptances for the Auckland Cup are much better than was anticipated, Tiraille and Wolverine being the only two of any note that have dropped out. The former might have been expected to do so, as he had plenty of weight allotted to him, and his next journey will most certainly, I think, be on the other side. In the last issue before the acceptances came to hand I mentioned that I considered Dudu, Hilda, Crackshot, Medallion, Strephon, and Leorina as the best handicapped horses in the race. As all these are amongst those that remain I will only treat with them. Dudu, 8st 13lb, cannot be passed over lightly. Her running last year proved that she was a good mare over 1½ miles. This year she ran second to Wolverine for the New Zealand Cup, giving

him 23lb, and as the Ellerslie Course is much easier going than at Riccarton, besides the weather is likely to be much better than in November, and there is nothing to warrant the belief that she cannot get these two miles. Hilda, 8st 10lb, has never got the distance. At the difference of 16lb. Dudu beat her in the Wanganui Cup, distance 1½ miles. In the Stakes, 1½ miles, she ran a good second to her, giving away 20lb, therefore I consider Dudu holds her safe. Now take the running of Crackshot, 8st 3lb, and Medallion 8st. The running of this pair has been of rather an in-and-out character during the present season. Of the two I prefer Medallion should he come fit to the post and *that all is right*. The former, though a good horse, is, as I have mentioned in previous articles, a "speedy cutter," and that is a class of animal I cannot stand, as they are liable to strike themselves too hard, falling lame, or even coming down. Strephon, 7st 10lb, is another that is well in. Many that saw him run third in the New Zealand Cup maintain that if he had been properly ridden in that race he would have won. He then came out for the Metropolitan Stakes with 7lb more on his back and wins comfortably. Several of those behind him have since run well, and as the Ellerslie course is an easy one he must be held in great respect. At the same time we must take into consideration that Kapo, 6st, is in the same stable. His owner has paid up for him in the Derby and also entered him in the Trial Stakes and Auckland Plate, w.f.a., where he was sure to meet the cracks. Now on his two-year-old-form he has done nothing to show that he is more than a moderate animal, so one cannot understand his owner throwing money away in acceptances and entries unless he has done something in private to justify it. Leorina, 6st 10lb, I think may be dismissed unless she can keep in front all the way, as she does not like to be collared. However, she has an outside show. Taking all things into consideration, I prefer the chances of Strephon and Dudu, but Leorina may come in and upset all calculations.

THE next important race on the first day to go through is the Great Northern Foal Stakes. The acceptances for this are not as good as they should be, taking into consideration the value of the stake, only six having paid up. The race, therefore, is entirely a match between Lebel and The Workman. Of the two I prefer the former, as he is most likely to be the fittest, and his public performances are decidedly the best, besides being a good-looking colt. The handicaps for the first day have been issued by Mr. Evitt, but as the acceptances will not be declared until too late for me to analyse them, I will only pass lightly through them. Mr. Evitt cannot be congratulated on them, and I am sorry to see that he is running in the groove so pernicious to handicappers, and which most of the Colonial ones too readily fall into. The Hurdle Race is not the worst of them, but why Sentinel and Fishmonger are placed within 2lb of each other, and Hune having to give them a few pounds, I cannot understand; but it appears to me that the race will lay between Orlando and Waterfall. The Railway Handicap, six furlongs, puzzles one to know on what grounds it is made. Leolantis is called upon to give The Barron 5lb, and Reprisal has to concede 1lb to Capella, while Quadrant and St. Andrew are within 3lb of other. This race depends on what will start, but "all in" I should plump for St. Andrew. Now one comes to what is supposed to be the Nursery Handicap, but can any racing man call it one? Tulloch is started at the Takapuna meeting and ran second to a very moderate one, yet he is put top weight. In the Welcome Stakes, five furlongs, Workman, the best two-year-old in Auckland, is first, Brigand second, Roie a poor third, Orestes and Lady Belle unplaced, yet in this precious handicap of Mr. Evitt's they have to give weight to Brigand, who finished in front of them—therefore, on all book form, BRIGAND ought to romp home. The Christmas Handicap is a little better performance, as he knows some of them, especially Hilda and Cissy, are not likely to start, so he has attempted to bring those likely to go to the post together, but there are so many "ifs" in this race that I shall leave it alone, and advise my readers to to the same, until they see some move when the numbers go up.

ELLERSLIE TRAINING NOTES.

MONDAY.

All the work was done on the plough gallop
Reprisal and Fiesole, easy exercise
Vendetta and The Workman, easy exercise
Tamora, 2 miles at half pace
Sentinel, 3 miles steadily
Waterfall and Rosefeldt in company, two miles at a good swinging canter
Strephon and Kapo in company, 2 miles slow
Pani, 2 miles slow, finishing last half-mile fast
Hopeful Kate, 2 miles at good three-quarter pace
Priscilla, 2 miles slow
Patchwork, 2 miles, the first at half pace, Quadrant then joining in, and the last mile fast
Asper, 3 miles, first mile slow, the pace increasing the other two miles
Memorandum, 2 miles at good half-pace
The Dreamer, 3 miles slow
Brown Bess, 1 mile slow
Orestes and Dishonour in company, 1 mile slow
Nap, 1 mile slow
The Dancer, 2 miles slow

TUESDAY.

All the work was done on the plough gallop
Miss Cole, 1 mile at half-pace
St. Andrew, 2 miles at good half-pace
Pani, 2 miles at good half-pace
Waterfall and Strephon in company, 2 miles at half-pace
Rosefeldt and Kapo in company, 2 miles at half-pace
Medallion, 2 miles at half-pace, finishing the last mile with Lebel
Priscilla, 2 miles at a steady pace
The Dreamer, 2 miles at half-pace
Brown Bess, 1 mile at half-pace
The Dancer, 3 miles slow
Orestes and Dishonour in company, half a mile slow, when Capella joined in and the three went another half-mile fast
Nap, 2 miles slow
Ma Petite Fille, 2 miles slow
Hopeful Kate, 2 miles fast

WEDNESDAY.

Dudu, 2 miles on the plough at three-quarter pace.
Patchwork and Quadrant, 1½ miles on the trial track, finishing home fast
Pani, 2 miles on the plough at half-pace
St. Andrew and Medallion in company, 3 miles on the plough at good steady pace
Fiesole, 1½ miles on the plough, at half-pace
Reprisal, 1 mile on the plough slow
Lebel, 2 miles on the plough, first round cantered, second galloped, finishing fast
Brown Bess, 1 mile on the plough at half-pace
Vendetta and The Workman in company, once round plough, finishing fast
Tamora, 2 miles on the plough slow
Priscilla, 3 miles on the plough, first round slow, pace increasing afterwards
Orestes and Dishonour, 1 mile on the plough slow, spurting home for 5 furlongs
Hurricane and Capella did walking exercise
Sentinel, 4 miles on the plough, very slow
Asper, 2 miles on the plough slow
Crackshot, 2 miles on the plough at good three-quarter pace
Bay King, 2 miles on the plough slow
Justice, 3 miles on the plough slow
Nap, 2 miles on the plough slow

THURSDAY.

Owing to the heavy rains very little work was done
Dudu went 3 miles at half-pace on the tan
Most of the horses did walking exercise during the day

FRIDAY.

The course proper was thrown open for work
Patchwork, 1 mile alone on the course, when Quadrant joined him and the pair went another 6 furlongs at top
Medallion and Dudu in company, 2 miles on the course, finishing the last mile at three-quarter pace
Crackshot and Bay Ring in company with sweaters on, 2 miles at three-quarter pace
Pani, 2 miles on course at three-quarter pace
Lebel, 1 mile on course at half pace
Coalscuttle and Vendetta in company, 1 mile at half-pace
St. Andrew, 2 miles at three-quarter pace
Rosefeldt and Strephon in company, 2 miles on the course, first slow, last mile strong pace
Kapo and Waterfall in company, 2 miles strong canter on the tan
The Workman, 1 mile on the course at half-pace
Capella, 2 miles on the course, at half-pace
Nap, 2 miles on the trial track at three-quarter pace
Dishonour, 1 mile on the course, finishing fast
Priscilla, 2 miles on the course, at half-pace
Memorandum, 1 mile on the course at top
Brown Bess, 1 mile on the course at half-pace
Asper, 2 miles on the plough at half-pace
Antelope, 2 miles on the course at half-speed
The Dancer, 1 mile on the course, slow
Miss Cole and Egyptus in company, 1 mile on the course at half-pace

A bookmaker at one time well known in New Zealand is said to have been the most inquired for absentee at the settling over the V.R.C. meeting.

Some years ago £3000 was advanced by a prominent sporting gentleman in Tasmania, on the Elswich course and grand stand. Dr. Agnew is the only survivor. The representatives of the deceased gentlemen have agreed to take ten shillings in the pound. This gives the Tasmanian Racing Club a good lift.—*Press.*