

3 minutes 30 seconds, is very good, almost up to that of the Melbourne Cup. Crackshot is a very fine colt, and a racehorse all over. It is a pity that he "speedy cuts," but as he is overgrown he may get over it as he gets older, but one thing to be remembered is that those who do may strike themselves too hard and come down, but during this race he never touched himself and it is only on soft ground that he is most likely to do it. The Hurdle Race gave rise to some comments, as the first and second, Satyr and Orlando, were in the same stable, the latter being the favourite, only a few pounds being on the winner. Satyr took the lead at the start, but was pulled back after going about a mile, and let Orlando, the top-weight, up inside of him, who immediately made all the running until entering the straight, when Satyr came up again and won easily. This is hardly the thing to do with the top-weight. Waterfall, who was looked upon as a good thing, finished nowhere. The Baron just got home by a neck in the Railway Stakes, and is an improved horse, but a long way off a good one, as he was only giving Reprisal 8lb for the year, and receiving 5lb and a year from Leolantis. Roie and Brigand having been struck out of the Nursery Handicap the race had a very open appearance, resulting in a good finish, Dishonor winning by a neck from Lady Belle, Morion being close up. The Maiden Steeplechase was a farce, only two starting, Asper being the only one to get round. It would be much better if this race was done away with and something else substituted, as the ground is very hard for steeplechasing. Besides that there are not many maiden steeplechase horses in training in the summer months. They are to be found among hunters in the winter. Leolantis appropriated the Christmas Handicap rather easily. This shows that over his own distance he is useful horse, as he was only receiving 2lb from the five-year-old Panic, and gave weight to everything else in the race, including Patchwork, to whom he was giving 7lb, and two years. This finished the first day's racing, and the A.R.C. Committee are to be congratulated. Mr. Kirkwood acted as judge, and made no mistake, though over the Great Northern Foal Stakes the public were inclined to dispute his decision, though any racing man standing near the judge's box could see that Label got up in the last stride or two.

THE Handicaps made by Mr. Evitt for New Year's Day are some of the best that I have seen issued by him for a long time. I am not going to attempt to pick all the winners, as that is perfectly impossible, so I shall, therefore, take the only races that I have a fancy for. I will first take the Derby for which seven have paid up. This race takes very little picking, as on paper it is a moral for CRACKSHOT, but as I have often mentioned before he is a "speedy cutter," and from experience I do not like to stand them, especially if the ground is at all heavy, the only one that I can see that can beat him is Medallion, and he has done it before, but still I must say I prefer the former.

For the A.R.C. Handicap only eight are left in, which does not say much for the handicap, of these I prefer the chances of DUDU and CISSY, at the same time Strephon may show different form to what he did in the Cup.

In the Hurdle Race eight have cried content. Of these I like the chances of WATERFALL (who did not run up to his form on Boxing Day) and JENNY.

For the Midsummer Handicap nine have accepted, among them being The Workman, and the only one that is likely to trouble him is Rosefeldt, who was left at the post in the Great Northern Foal Stakes, but this race all depends on the start, and as THE WORKMAN gets away quick I prefer him.

The other races I shall leave alone, as it is impossible to form an opinion until the numbers go up.

On the third day we have the Steeplechase and Auckland Plate. The latter race is dependent on previous running, as there are penalties, but as things are now it looks as if the finish would lie between HILDA and DUDU, for if Crackshot or Medallion win the Derby they will have to put up a 10lb penalty—they now have 7lb.

The Steeplechase is the only race that calls for any comment, and after going carefully through the handicap I am of the opinion that

JENNY or ORLANDO will win, the former for choice, as I believe she will have Jack Rae on her back.

ON January 5th the Sylvia Park Stud will be dispersed—a thing that is greatly to be deplored, as it should have remained in Auckland. I think it would, if there had not been a great deal of animosity shown. It is not my intention to go through all the animals that are to be disposed of by Mr. Philson, as there are a great many of them that a judge would not take a fancy to, but they may suit some purchasers, so I shall only take those I like best.

Commencing with the brood mares: Atlantis (the dam of St. Leger, Leolantis and Fabulous) is 23 years old, and has never bred anything better than those mentioned. Her foal is by Ingomar, but as she has been covered by Nordenfeldt she might be worth speculating on. Crinoline, 18 years old, has a colt by Nordenfeldt, and served by him again. This is a well-bred mare, but has bred nothing worthy of note. However, her foal will help to sell her. Florence Macarthy is a 12-year-old mare, beautifully bred, and is the dam of Tirailleur. She is served by Nordenfeldt, but her filly foal is by Ingomar, which will detract greatly from her value. Lady Ravensworth is a rare bred mare, but as she is 25 years old, barren, and served by Hotchkiss, she is not worth speculation. Lady Mersey, sister to Carbine, is a young mare and is worth investing in; but here again crops up a colt foal by Ingomar. How so many mares have been put to him is more than one can understand, as he is a badly bred horse on the dam's side, and my experience shows me that you hardly ever saw a sire successful at the stud that was out of a bad mare (*vide* Flying Dutchman, Gladiateur, Lord Lyon, *cum multis alis*). Leila, 13 years old, is a splendidly-bred mare, but up to date has done nothing at the stud, perhaps owing to being badly mated. Mersey, dam of Carbine, with a colt by Nordenfeldt, and served by him again, though 16 years old, is the pick of the stud, and as her colt foal is worth a lot of money, being nearly related to Carbine, there is sure to be plenty of competition for her. Her destination in all probability will be Australia. Nelly Moore, 18 years, (dam of Lochiel, Steadfast, etc.), is another mare that is sure to bring a long figure, as the Voltigeur blood is very scarce. She has a nice filly foal at foot by Nordenfeldt and served by him again. Onyx, 18 years old, should have been one of the high-priced ones, but she has a colt by Ingomar and served by Hotchkiss; that will take 50 per cent. off her price. Radiance, 14 years, is a nice mare, and has a filly by Nordenfeldt and served by him again. Sister Agnes, 13 years, is a fine mare by Rosicrucian, with a filly foal by Ingomar, and served by Nordenfeldt; has done nothing at the stud at present, but she has not been judiciously mated, and is worth looking after. Steppe, 23 years, is too old to touch, especially as her colt is by Ingomar. Poor old Sylvia, 26 years, I am afraid, will fetch but little, as her filly foal is also by Ingomar. Had it been by Nordenfeldt, to whom she has now been put, it might have been different. Tres Deuce, 16 years (dam of Manton), has a nice filly foal by Nordenfeldt, and is covered by him again, and is worth looking after. It will be seen by the above that most of the mares are old. The last on the list is Woodnymph, with a filly foal by Ingomar and served by St. Leger. She is far away the best of the young mares, so her foal is not of so much consequence as it would be with older mares. Mr. Morrin ought to buy her.

The stallions are four in number. Nordenfeldt is far away ahead of the others, as not only is he a magnificent horse, with great power behind, but he has been a most successful sire for one so young, he being only eight years old. Where his destination will be it is hard to say, but his purchaser will have to put up a big cheque for him, at least over 3,000 guineas, or he gets a bargain. St. Leger, nine years, is a well-bred horse, but as he was messed about as a young one, he is stunted and not taking to the eye; but his breeding is undeniable and his young stock are promising, so I should not be surprised to see him sought after by breeders who understand their business, for there is not much Stockwell blood in the Colonies. It would not at all surprise me to see him run up to nearly four figures. Fusilade

and Hotchkiss I do not care about, and if they realize about £300 apiece that will be their full value.

The yearlings number 24. These are not such a good lot as those previously offered. They consist of 17 colts and 7 fillies. It is not my intention to go through them all, as judges of yearlings differ so much in opinion. Of the colts the Nordenfeldt—Nelly Moore is by far away the best, and must make a racehorse. Of the others, I will place them in the order I think they will come as regards price:—Nordenfeldt—Sister Agnes, Nordenfeldt—Steppe, Nordenfeldt—Florence Macarthy, Captivator—Maid of Honour, Nordenfeldt—Spinaker, St. Leger—Hippona. The fillies are not such a good lot, the best of them being the filly by Nordenfeldt—Speargrass and the filly by Nordenfeldt—Radiance. Time will show, but I am pretty well confident that when the accounts are made up the Bank will not have realised the *fifteen thousand* that was offered to keep the Stud in Auckland.

AMONG other yearlings that are for sale during the coming week, Messrs. Redwood Bros. are sending up five colts and four fillies, all by King Cole, also two two-year-old colts, one by Louis D'Or out of Queen Margaret, the other by Stoneyhurst out of Zealandia, which are to be sold at Green Lane, on Saturday, January 3rd. The first yearling colt is out of Wainui, by Ravensworth out of Waimea, by Sir Hercules—Flora McIvor. (This breeding is good enough for anything.) Colt out of Awatere (dam of Grip) by Ravensworth—Sky-bird, by Teddington; colt out of Zealandia by Mororo—Toi Toi; colt out of Spring Creek by Ramarama—Wainui; filly out of Figurehead by Ramarama—Spritsail by Traducer; filly out of Rosalind, by Albany—Red Rose by Traducer; filly out of Poundess, and filly out of Queen Margaret, by Leolinus or Ramarama—Countess by the Peer. King Cole is by King Tom out of Qui Vive, by Voltigeur out of Mrs Ridgway by Irish Birdcatcher. King Tom by Harkaway out of Poehantus (the dam of Stockwell). King Cole is the sire of Nelson, and other good ones. These yearlings should command a ready sale, as the King Cole, and through him the King Tom blood is very scarce in the colonies.

## ATHLETICS.

Long-distance walks have never been popular with amateurs, although at times there has been a desire to see if old records can be upset. The record for amateurs from 21 miles to 30 miles has remained upset for the last ten years. On October 25 the Tuffnell Park Athletic Club offered handsome prizes and medals for a thirty-mile race and sealed handicap combined, together with an extra gold medal for anyone beating the record, viz., 4h. 26min. 52secs., made by W. E. N. Costen at Stamford Bridge on December 27th, 1880, and silver medals to all who completed the distance within 5h. The weather was simply atrocious, as it was as cold as mid-winter, and it rained incessantly until within half-an-hour of the finish. Seventeen started for the event, H. Curtis, Highgate Harriers, the champion, and his old opponent W. Wheeler, Southampton Amateur Club, being among the contestants. The race was looked upon as a moral for one of these. The race resulted in an easy win for Curtis, who won with more than a mile in hand in 4h. 57min. 51½secs., which is a splendid performance, considering that most of the distance the men were walking through pools of water and were covered with mud and slush. H. G. Holland, Queen's Park Harriers, and Wheeler being the next two, who took it leisurely when they saw their chance hopeless.

According to the *Referee* there will be a strong team of amateurs coming over here for the Amateur Champion meeting.

Mr. J. O. Evitt was called upon to serve on the jury at the Supreme Court the other day in Napier but his solicitor appeared and asked that he might be excused as he was handicapper for several Racing Clubs and had been called to Auckland on important business. His Honor, the Chief Justice, considered Mr. Evitt's ground for absenting himself satisfactorily explained. Who would not be a handicapper. —*Weekly Press*.