SPORTING FIXTURES, Etc.

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COMING EVENTS.

Feb. 25 26 28. Dunedin J.C. Autumn Meeting
Feb. 27, 28. Westport Jockey Club
Feb. 28. Pakuranga Hunt Club
Feb. 28. Pakuranga Hunt Club
Feb. 28. V.R.C. Autumn Meeting. Newmarket Handicap
and St. Leger
Mar. 5. Marton Jockey Club
Mar. 5. Marton Jockey Club
Mar. 7. Helensville Turf Club.
Mar. 11 12. Wanganui J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 12. Wanganui J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 17. Cambridge Jockey Club
Mar. 17. Cambridge Jockey Club
Mar. 17. Ohinemuri Jockey Club
Mar. 17. Ohinemuri Jockey Club
Mar. 17. B. Hawkes Bay J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 20. Te Aroha Jockey Club
Mar. 21. Otahuhu Trotting Club Inaugural Meeting.
Mar. 20. Te Aroha Jockey Club
Mar. 21. Otahuhu Trotting Club Inaugural Meeting.
Mar. 20. Te Aroha Jockey Club
Mar. 21. Waiuku Racing Club
Mar. 23. Waiuku Racing Club
Mar. 24. Mauku Racing Club
Mar. 28. Waipu Jockey Club Autumn
Mar. 30. Fielding Jockey Club Mar. 30. Fielding Jockey Club
Mar. 30. Taranaki J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 30. Taranaki J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 30. Lackebury J.C. Autumn Meeting
Apri. 4. South Auckland R.C. Autumn Meeting
Apr. 1. Auckland Tattersall's Club
Apr. 16 17. South Canterbury J.C. Autumn Meeting
June 18. Auckland R.C. Winter Meeting
June 18. Auckland R.C. Winter Meeting
June 25. Hawkes Bay J.C. Winter Meeting
June 25. Dargaville Jockey Club.
Feb. Dargaville Jockey Club. Mar. 17, 18 ... Mar. 17 18 ... Mar. 20 Mar. 21 23 ... Mar. 21 ... Mar. 20, 21.... Mar, 20, 21.

Mar, 24.

Mar, 24.

Mar, 24.

Mar, 26.

Mar, 30.

Mar, 30.

Mar, 30.

Apr, 1.

Apr, 4.

Apr, 7.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

Dargaville Jockey Club.

Cambridge Jockey Club.

New Zealand Cup—1891

Ohinemuri Jockey Club

Hawkes Bay J.C. Autumn Meeting; general entries

Te Aroha Jockey Club

Waipu Jockey Club

A.R.C. Easter Handicap, Autumn Handicap and Steeplechase

Fielding Jockey Club

South Auckland Racing Club

South Anckland Racing Club

C.J.C. Autumn Meeting; general entries

Napier Park R.C. Autumn Meeting (minor events)

Wellington Racing Club Autumn Meeting

A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; general entries

Taranald Jockey Club; general entries

Taranald Jockey Club; general entries

Auckland Tattersall's Club.

C.J.C. Champague Stakes—1892

Onehunga Racing Club

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

Henderson Mill Turf Club.

Dargaville Jockey Club.

Cambridge Jockey Club.

Othenemuri Jockey Club

Otahuhu Trotting Club.

Te Aroha Jockey Club

Hawkes Bay J.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
Fielding Jockey Club

Napier Cup and Flying Handicap.

Wauku Racing Club

Mauku Racing Club

Mauku Racing Club

Mouku Racing Club

Nonier Park R.C.

Napier Park R.C.

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

Hawkes Bay Cup and Railway Stakes

Wanganui Cup; final payments

Henderson's Mil Turf Club.

Dargaville Jockey Club.
Cambridge Jockey Club.
Obinemuri Jockey Club.
Obinemuri Jockey Club.
Otahuhn Trotting Club.

C.J.C. Great Autumn Handicap and further payments Champagne and Challenge Stakes

Hawkes Bay J.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps

Napier Park Cup and Flying Handicap

Ta Aroha Jockey Club.
Avaipu Jockey Club. Autumn.
Fielding Jockey Club, Autumn.
Fielding Jockey Club, Autumn.

Fielding Jockey Club, Autumn Meeting (minor events)

Waiuku Racing Club

A.R.C. Easter Handicap and Steeplechase

South Auckland Racing Club.
C.J.C. Great Autumn Handicap; final payment

A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps

Taranski J.C. Handicap; final payment.
Auckland Tattersall's Club.
Wellington R.C. Autumn Meeting.
Onehunga Racing Club

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Sporting Review.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1891.

WE have received a circular headed "Auckland Butchers' Annual Racing Club," and signed "F. R. Bust, Secretary." The gist of the circular is complaining that the A.R.C. Comcircular is complaining that the A.R.C. Committee had declined to pass their programme to enable them to hold a race meeting in connection with their annual picnic on Takapuna racecourse, and by so doing enable them to have the use of the totalisator, and asking racing clubs to cooperate with them. We, personally, are very glad that the A.R.C. Committee refused to allow them to hold a race meeting. Had they done so, the bakers, grocers, tinsmiths. to allow them to hold a race meeting. Had they done so, the bakers, grocers, tinsmiths, and perhaps the printers, would like to hold their meetings, with the sporting writers as clerks of the scales, course, and starter, with the editor of the New Zealand Herald, the oldest paper, as judge. All would have been as equally entitled to permission as the butchers. Joking apart, there are too many of these "leather flapping" meetings in Auckland. The totalisator, as now used, is the curse of racing. Not only do genuine racehorse owners feel it, but breeders also. It is driving all the best horses out of the country, and encouraging a lot of low gambling. Its and encouraging a lot of low gambling. Its greatest admirers can only admit that it enables clubs to give more added money, but owners would not mind so much about large stakes if they could back their horses to win a fair amount. They are even now, as things go, very heavily handicapped, and few can make racing pay.

racing pay.

The butchers certainly score two points in their circular. They say that they offered to give in added money the sum of £105, which is within £5 of the money given at Whitford Park. Still their programme was refused and the other granted. In the case of the Whitford Park Meeting the Committee perhaps could not help themselves. We ourselves fail to see why a meeting is required there. It is an out why a meeting is required there. It is an out of the way place, hard to get at, and racing is not carried out strictly to rule. That the A.R.C. Committee do not show enough discrimination there is no gainsaying. They pass many programmes that might be dispensed with, and allow clubs that should be considered defunct to hold their meetings miles away from their district. There are too many little meetings got up by an interested few, which might easily be dispensed with.

easily be dispensed with.

The second point is contained in Clause No.
7. "The A.R.C. Committee have set their faces against trotting and pony racing, and are endeavouring by all the means in their power to put a stop to it." This they never will be able to do. Therefore, the best thing that could be done would be to take these kind of meetings into their own hards and only allow. meetings into their own hands, and only allow them to be held on certain courses and under proper supervision, at the same time do away with those meetings that are got up for the benefit of the machine. The Government would do good service if they increased the amount of money to be added to the different races before permission is given for the use of the machine. This, in a great measure, would cure the evil that now exists.

Lord Dudley has purchased the hunter Mongrel from G. Clements, the trainer, for £1,000. This is about the highest price ever given for a hunter.

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB RACES.

THE acceptances for the Pakuranga Hunt Club Meeting to be held next Saturday, are much better than could be anticipated, considering their mediocre quality. I hear daily complaints from owners about the way their horses are handicapped by Mr. Knight, and have told them if not satisfied with him, decline to enter their horses where he has the compiling of the weights. Some infatuated ignoramuses argue that it is a sign of good handicapping when there is a large acceptance. I always thought that it was a good handicap when it was a close finish between three or four, the field in a cluster close up, not tailed off from the distance I will now take the Maiden Plate at Takapuna and the one for the Pakuranga Hunt Club meeting. To begin with the latter is a 6lb heavier handicap. Premier at the former meeting carried 6st 12lb, and finished on sufferance a wretched third. He gets 20lb for this performance. Captive, who finished nowhere is treated to an extra ralbumbile. Club meeting. To begin with the latter is a nowhere, is treated to an extra 12lb, while Prestissimo, Warrior and Millifera, who finished at the tail end of the race some fifty nnished at the tail end of the race some fifty yards from the winner, get respectively 1lb, 2lb, and 10lb, off their backs. Ma Boughal's owner scratched him after the weights appeared, contenting himself with critising the handicapping through the medium of the Press, the trainer doing it viva voce. The consequence is Ma Boughal gets 13lb off his back. How is this to be accounted for? this to be accounted for?

Now one comes to an extraordinary piece of handicapping which requires some explanation. The Maiden Plate and Ladies' Purse are both the same distance, viz., one mile. In the former race Ma Boughal gives Warrior 5lb, Prestissimo 4lb, and Moderator 14lbs. In the latter race Ma Boughal gives Warrior and Prestissimo 2lb, and actually receives 4lb from Moderator. Mr. Knight might say it is owing to the latter being a Welter race, but this is too much difference even if such were the case, but I doubt if it is.

The Maiden Plate has an acceptance of eleven. Ma Boughal and Macaroni are in the same stable. Millifera, who won two races at Whitford Park, appears to be improving, though certainly the company was very moderate, so one may say of this. A maiden race is always a nasty one to pick the winner, but it will in all probability turn up in Macaroni or Millifers. Millifera.

There are eight in the Hurdle Race. The best of these appears to be Orakei, Fishmonger, and Hopeful Kate.

monger, and Hopeful Kate.

The principal race, the Hunt Cup, has six remaining in. Antelope, 8st 4lb, reads well, and from what one can learn she has greatly improved since she has gone into Tommy Taylor's hands, but my preference is for Loch Ness, who should have won the Takapuna J.C. Handicap, which is the same distance as this race. At the same time if Patchwork takes it into his head to try, he will upset all calculations. That he will do so some day and pay a big dividend I am convinced. However, I profer them in the following order. Lechness Belmont, and Patchwork.

Of the six that remain in the Steeplechase

Asper looks the best on paper, but as he has been sold to go to Melbourne, he is an unlikely starter. Of the others, either Nap or Fishmonger should furnish the winner.

The Flying Stakes greatly depends on pre-vious running, Loch Ness, Scot Free, and

Antelope all reading well.

The Ladies Purse depends in a great measure on the riders, as they are all amateurs, there fore it had better be left alone until the numbers go up, but if Leorina has a good horseman in the saddle, she ought to win.

THE Newmarket Handicap is run to-day (Saturday). It is admitted by the most reliable authorities in Australasia that it is the most open race that has been known for years. If it is so to them, what is it to backers at a distance, who know little of the horses except what they glean from the newspapers? Therefore, the man that nicks the winner must do it more has man that picks the winner must do it more by luck than good judgement. There has been very little straight-out betting, though