

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

Mar. 3 5 7	V.R.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 7	Helensville Turf Club
Mar. 11 12	Wanganui J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 13	Waikato Jockey Club
Mar. 17	Henderson's Mill Turf Club
Mar. 17	Cambridge Jockey Club
Mar. 17	Ohinemuri Jockey Club
March 17	Popoti Race Meeting
Mar. 17, 18	Greyouth Jockey Club
Mar. 17 18	Hawkes Bay J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 20	Te Aroha Jockey Club
Mar. 21 23	Dunedin J.C. Anniversary Meeting
Mar. 21	Otago Trotting Club Inaugural Meeting.
Mar. 20, 21	Dargaville Jockey Club.
Mar. 23	Waikato Racing Club
Mar. 24	Mauku Racing Club
Mar. 24 25	Napier Park R.C. Autumn Meeting.
Mar. 25	Waerenga-a-hika Races
Mar. 26	Waipu Jockey Club Autumn
Mar. 30	Fielding Jockey Club
March 30	Bay of Plenty Race Meeting
Mar. 30 31	Canterbury J.C. Autumn Meeting
Mar. 30 31	Auckland R.C. Autumn Meeting
Apr. 1 2	Taranaki J.C. Autumn Meeting.
Apr. 4	South Auckland R.C. Autumn Meeting
Apr. 4	South Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 7, 8	Nelson Racing Club
Apr. 11	Auckland Tattersall's Club
Apr. 16 17	South Canterbury J.C. Autumn Meeting
Apr. 16, 18	Wellington R.C. Autumn Meeting.
Apr. 18	Avondale Jockey Club
Apr. 25	Onehunga Racing Club
May 2	Lake Takapuna Races
May 23 25	Dunedin J.C. May Meeting
June 3	Auckland R.C. Winter Meeting
June 25	Hawkes Bay J.C. Winter Meeting

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

Mar. 11	Waikato Racing Club
March 13	South Auckland Racing Club.
Mar. 13	Mauku Racing Club
Mar. 13	C.J.C. Autumn Meeting; general entries
Mar. 16	Napier Park R.C. Autumn Meeting (minor events)
Mar. 23	Wellington Racing Club Autumn Meeting.
Mar. 24	A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; general entries
Mar. 26	Taranaki Jockey Club; general entries
March 27	Auckland Tattersall's Club.
March 31	C.J.C. Champagne Stakes—1892
Apr. 1	Onehunga Racing Club

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

Mar. 7	Te Aroha Jockey Club
Mar. 10	Hawkes Bay J.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
Mar. 13	Fielding Jockey Club
Mar. 14	Napier Cup and Flying Handicap.
Mar. 14	Waikato Racing Club
Mar. 14	Mauku Racing Club
March 15	South Auckland Racing Club.
March 19	First day Napier Park R.C.
Mar. 19	Napier Park R.C. Autumn Meeting, first day's events.
Mar. 20	C.J.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
Mar. 20	Auckland Easter Handicap and Steeplechase
Mar. 20	Taranaki Jockey Club.
Mar. 25	A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
March 30	Auckland Tattersall's Club.
April 3	Wellington R. C. Autumn Meeting.
Apr. 10	Onehunga Racing Club

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

Mar. 12	Dargaville Jockey Club.
Mar. 12	Cambridge Jockey Club
Mar. 12	Ohinemuri Jockey Club
Mar. 18	Otago Trotting Club.
Mar. 13	C.J.C. Great Autumn Handicap and further payments Champagne and Challenge Stakes
Mar. 14	Hawkes Bay J.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
Mar. 16	Napier Park Cup and Flying Handicap
Mar. 16	Te Aroha Jockey Club
Mar. 18	Waipu Jockey Club, Autumn.
Mar. 20	Fielding Jockey Club
Mar. 20	Napier Park R.C. Autumn Meeting (minor events)
Mar. 20	Waikato Racing Club
Mar. 24	A.R.C. Easter Handicap and Steeplechase
March 26	South Auckland Racing Club.
Mar. 26	C.J.C. Great Autumn Handicap; final payment
Mar. 26	A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
Mar. 26	Taranaki Jockey Club.
Mar. 31	Taranaki J.C. Handicap; final payment.
Apr. 3	Auckland Tattersall's Club.
Apr. 10	Wellington R.C. Autumn Meeting.
Apr. 17	Onehunga Racing Club

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JOHN BROWN, CAMBRIDGE—Nominations for Mauku races close on Friday, March 13th, with the Secretary, Mr. J. Walker, Mauku; and nominations for the Waikato races close with the Secretary, Mr. A. W. Manning, on 11th March.

Sporting Review.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1891.

We have often remarked that the *Otago Witness*' "own correspondent" for Auckland racing news has sent down reports that he dare not publish in the Auckland paper that he is connected with, therefore uses the *Otago Witness* as a "cat's paw." "Our own correspondent" is supposed to be on the most intimate terms with the Secretary and others connected with the A.R.C. Still he writes the following, which will be found in the *Otago Witness* of February 12th:—"The action of the Auckland Racing Club Committee last week, in granting permission to no less than four clubs to hold their meetings on the racecourse belonging to other clubs, has had effect to drawing the attention to the serious danger to the totalisator by allowing such concession. The Pakuranga Hunt Club, which I may remark has already held one meeting, was granted the use of the Ellerslie racecourse. The Henderson's Mill Hunt Club, whose course at Henderson has fallen into the hands of the mortgagees, has been granted the use of the Avondale Jockey Club's ground. The Auckland Tattersall's Club wish to promote a meet-

ing at the Takapuna Jockey Club's racecourse, and the Onehunga Racing Club one on the Otahuhu Racing Club's property. There may be reasons for the two first named clubs receiving concessions under Rule 21, but I certainly do think the two latter were not entitled to it. Tattersall's Club is not a racing club, and why they should wish to promote a race meeting, when it is on all hands admitted we are now going at a break-neck pace, it is difficult to understand. As to the Onehunga Club, they have long had the name of a totalisator gathering judged by the spirit evinced in the past, and I presume they will continue to earn it in future."

"On dit that the Colonial Secretary has taken occasion lately to administer a rap on the knuckles to the A.R.C. Committee for passing a programme that did not conform to the regulations; and in passing programmes of the clubs I take exception to above, they have, I think, again laid themselves open to a severe attack if the matter were brought under the notice of the authorities."

With regard to the second par, it must have originated in the writer's "fertile brain," as it has never been heard of by any one else, nor has the Auckland Racing Committee passed a programme that was not *en regle*. This is not the first time by a great many that we have noticed "our own correspondent" make use of Southern papers. We have made all enquiries possible, and find there are certain persons who correspond for outside papers, that either know nothing of what they are writing about, or have an animus against those of whom they write. Owing to these kind of people being employed, a great deal of damage is done to Auckland in sporting matters, not necessarily confined to racing. We can venture to say there is as good sporting blood here as in any part of the Colonies.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB MEETING.

THE open race meeting of the above Club was held last Saturday on the Ellerslie racecourse under rather adverse circumstances. It being mail day and the weather unpleasant, greatly militated against the attendance, which was so small outside the paddock that the surroundings had a very deserted appearance. His Excellency Lord Onslow and Lady Onslow, attended by Captain Guthrie, A.D.C., patronised the meeting. The officers from the Curacoa were also present. The various officers of the Club worked hard for the success of the meeting. Hunter's Band was in attendance. The racing was not of an interesting character. The first event was the Maiden Plate, which brought out a field of eight. Brian Boru was made favourite, and led from the fall of the flag until half way up the straight, when he died away to nothing, leaving the finish to Macaroni and Ma Boughal, the former winning all out by half a length, Tuna two lengths away third. Six faced the starter for the Hurdle race, and with the exception of Cloth of Gold and General were all pretty evenly backed on the machine. Hopeful Kate made the running past the stand, when Cloth of Gold and Fishmonger went to the front, and raced together until entering the straight, when Fishmonger had him beaten, and coming away won by six lengths. Gent, the rider of Fishmonger, nearly threw the race away by the manner in which he rode his mount at the last hurdle, causing him to strike it heavily. Begorra finished a moderate third. Orakei did not run up to the same form that he showed at Takapuna, and Hopeful Kate was lame behind. Bacchus defeated Prestissimo for the Novel race, after a good finish. The Cup was the next race, for which all the six acceptors came to the post, and is easily described. Loch Ness, the favourite, led from a good start, closely followed by Patchwork and Belmont until entering the straight, when Antelope came through her horses, and fairly romped home a winner by a couple of lengths. Half way up the straight Belmont and Patchwork passed the favourite, and finished in the order named. The winner has greatly improved since she has been in T. Taylor's hands, and this form shows a wonderful difference to that at Takapuna. Only four went out for the Steeplechase, which resulted in a regular farce. When the flag dropped all the jockeys were disinclined to go to the front. Fishmonger led over the double jump, while the other three refused. The former continued

his lead to the further side of the course where he also baulked, and from this out the race was a series of blunders. Fishmonger, after he got over the fence that he refused, led up the hill, and down to the stone wall where he jumped the wrong side of the flag, the jockey, it is supposed from funk, pulled him up and went no further, though he had plenty of time to rejump the fence and then win. Begorra, after repeated blunders, landed on the course a mile and a half ahead of the others, he then managed to run against a post and unship his jockey, but was eventually caught and remounted, and without further mishap, scrambled first past the post by about a mile ahead of the second horse. Such a steeplechase has never been seen since 1880, when Lone Hand, with Pat McCoy up, took about 25 minutes to get round the course. Mr. Halstead despatched a field of eight to a good start for the Flying Handicap. Antelope was slow at getting away. Brian Boru as usual, made the running into the straight, followed by Scot Free, who was then beat. At this point Antelope and Lochness came through, the latter winning easily by three lengths, Brian Boru third. Leorina having the assistance of Mr. E. D. O'Rorke, had no difficulty in disposing of Ma Boughal, Nigger, and three others for the Ladies' Purse. This brought the meeting to a close, which, though not interesting as far as racing went, was amusing with regard to the Steeplechase and Ladies' Purse.

COURSING.

A MEETING of those interested in the formation of a new Plumpton Park Club was held on Tuesday evening last at the Commercial Hotel, when some twenty-five sporting men put in an attendance. Mr. W. A. Fenton was voted to the chair, and after having explained the object of the meeting, he called upon Mr. Blinman to read the correspondence received from the Auckland Racing Club and the Avondale Jockey Club.

Mr. McEwin stated that several of the gentlemen present had visited both places during the past few weeks, and he was quite satisfied that as far as the respective grounds were concerned either of them were suitable for coursing, it was, therefore, only a question of terms. Mr. McEwin also drew the attention of those present to the fact that whichever course was selected, those interested would have to put their hands into their pockets and contribute towards the expenses of starting the concern.

Mr. Alexander spoke at some length on the advisability of making a final effort to re-start coursing in Auckland, and as such very favourable terms had been offered from the Avondale Club, he thought that they ought to be accepted without any further delay, as in this case they had a certainty, while the letter from the Auckland Racing Club really meant nothing definite.

Messrs. Burke and Foley, on behalf of the Avondale Course, offered to make the ground suitable in every possible way for coursing, provided the Coursing Club put down the sum of £100 towards paying the expenses, and in the event of the venture proving successful, they would be willing to return the amount in full.

Coursing must have gone ahead in Auckland only for the bad management of the Executive of the late Plumpton Park Coursing Club. They, as others have done before them, tried to run before they could walk. There is, however, now a chance for all lovers of the leash, as everything appears to be all right. Auckland has always been a great place for breeding greyhounds, as with all its disadvantages, owners have been most successful with dogs *vide* the performances of Sailor Boy, who won the Waterloo Cup, Blue Cap the Champion Stakes, Snowball third for last year's Champion, etc.

A Provisional Committee of seven has been formed for the purpose of putting the Club on a good footing, with Mr. W. A. Fenton as treasurer and Mr. Blinman as secretary.

Seventy-four pounds was subscribed in the room before the meeting broke up, and subscriptions are rapidly coming in.

Lochness was shipped for Wanganui on Thursday last, with the view of fulfilling his engagements at that place.