

gain a place in the Cup. Sinister hints such as, "Wanganui Cup over again," "Morrin and O'Brien standing in," "look out for Hilda second day," &c., &c., were heard on all sides, and many backers here, having in mind Hilda's peculiar performance at Wanganui last year, doggedly invested their money on her for the D.J.C. Handicap, and when she won they were more than ever sanguine that her running in the Cup was all wrong. However, "all's well that ends well," and the Auckland mare's admirers must rest satisfied at having got a decent price about her in the D.J.C. Handicap.

The victories of the Hon. G. McLean and Major George were very popular here. These gentlemen's horses when defeated are made the subject of no disparaging remarks, their owners tactics being, like Caesar's wife, "above suspicion."

Everyone knows that Mr. Morrin never interferes with the running of his horses, leaving it entirely to his trainer, and does not even go to see them run when away from home, which on our part we think a great mistake. Let us ask how it is that Mr. Morrin's horses are always favourites and get heavily handicapped? When the weights first came out for the Dunedin Cup the public rushed over one another to back Hilda. We steadily went against her, and maintained that both Freedom and Occident would beat her, stating as our reason that we had never seen her get a distance in a strong run race. Has our "own correspondent?" That Hilda was very badly ridden and that the Dunedin Cup was a false run race no racing man can deny, and that it was also run to suit Freedom. The fact is that they only really raced about three-quarters of a mile. The latter part of "our own correspondent's" article shows on the face of it that he has little practical knowledge of racing, if so, will he explain the cause of the difference of Fiesole's running the second and third days at the A.R.C. Summer Meeting, also at the Takapuna Jockey Club's Summer Meeting, and her performances at Dunedin. If he can, he will confer a great benefit to many of the readers of the *Referee*. With regard to the Hon. G. McLean's horses, all we know is that when they win (which is seldom) they generally pay good dividends.

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

HENDERSON MILL RACES.

The annual meeting of the Henderson's Mill Turf Club takes place on Tuesday next (St. Patrick's Day). Having lost their own course, the races will, by the permission of the A.R.C. Committee, be held at Avondale. The acceptances and general entries are, on the whole, very good.

There are twelve in the Maiden Plate. As they are a moderate lot, it is difficult to pick the winner. Brian Boru and Maccaroni read as well as anything.

The Hurdle Race has an acceptance of nine horses. If Sentinel was to start, one need not look further for the winner, but it is doubtful if he will be up from Wanganui in time, so the finish ought to be between Cloth of Gold, who is daily improving, and Fishmonger.

St. Patrick's Handicap of five furlongs has twelve remaining in. These sprint races are bad races to touch, even if first-class horses are engaged, but they are still worse when they are confined to fourth-raters. Master Pat and Maccaroni should fight out the finish.

For the Henderson Mill Cup, one mile and a quarter, the principal race, eleven have cried content. Antelope, on her running at Ellerslie for the Pakuranga Hunt Club Cup, holds all the rest safe, but as her form has been of a very in-and-out character, backers must please themselves about putting their money on her. Here again crops up a beautiful piece of handicapping. Antelope wins over a mile and a quarter at Ellerslie in a canter, now she has only to allow Belmont, who was a bad second, 6lb more, and Patchwork, who was a still worse third, 6lb for at least a stone beating, while Leorina and Ingorina, who were never in the race, receive respectively 10lb. The others are of such wretched quality they can have no chance with her. With Antelope out of the way, Leorina, Ingorina, and Tamora might fight it out. Minnie is one just up from the West Coast, where she has been doing good service in hack races, and she might land a coup for her owner first time of asking. As a final tip I will go for Antelope and Ingorina, as the latter ran very well at Helensville.

There are twelve in the Selling Race, and if all is on the square Octopus, ought to add this to his list of races of this description.

I now come to the Steeplechase; for which there are nine left in. After the exhibition we had at Ellerslie, where four out of the present lot attempted to perform, it must be a bold man who puts his money down. As mentioned before, it is doubtful if Sentinel will be here. If he starts, he would be the best investment, and in his absence I prefer Nap and Hopeful Kate.

For the Railway Handicap, six furlongs, there is the large field of seventeen remaining in. As almost all of them have other engagements, it all depends on previous running, and as the Handicap is a very funny one, I will not attempt to pick the winner as I may lead some astray.

The V.R.C. Autumn Meeting concluded last Saturday, in very hot weather. In the All-Aged Stakes, one mile, four started, resulting in a win for Carbine, though Penance, 2yrs old, by Grand Flaneur—Penitent, ran him very close, the Champion only getting home a neck all out; Yarran, 2yrs, being third. Before putting Penance down as a flyer it would be as well to watch his next performance, as the chances are that Carbine having been trained for long courses may have begun to lose his speed, and another thing Ramage may have been taking things too easy, forgetting that at times a good two-year-old will come with a tremendous rush when called upon. The Place Handicap, one and a-half miles, resulted as follows:—Highborn, 9st 3lb, 1st; Wilga, 7st 12lb, 2nd; Enucl, 7st 12lb, 3rd. Taroola, Jesusite, Wycombe, Swing, Wattie, and Pingara also started. Won by a length; a neck between second and third. This shows Highborn either a greatly improved horse, or that his owner and trainer narrowly escaped landing a tremendous coup in the Melbourne Cup, and also proves that the Australian Cup was lost by the penalty. The Steeplechase was a series of blunders, Sir Wilfred managing to get home first. The Loch Plate only brought out three runners, and Megaphone had no difficulty in landing the odds on him from The Spot and The Serf, who finished in the order named.

The Helensville Annual Race Meeting took place last Saturday, and calls for little comment as the racing was most uninteresting, and the horses that ran, with one or two exceptions, of the most inferior quality. The day's racing might be dismissed with very little notice if it had not been for one thing that occurred. In the Maiden Handicap Hurdle Race the owner of the subsequent winner knew that he had no right to run his horse, as he had won a hurdle race since the time of entry, and the new rule says that a "maiden" means a maiden at the time of start, according to the way it is interpreted by the A.R.C. Committee. The owner, wishing to be certain before he started, asked the stewards if he was eligible, and though warned by several persons that if they allowed Cloth of Gold to start they would be wrong, agreed that under the circumstances they would pay on him. He accordingly started and won easily. Begorrah, who was second, objected to the winner, and was in his turn objected to, having won a steeplechase. However, the first horse got the stakes and the totalisator money. Now there is a talk of an appeal. There cannot be a question that Rule 4 and Rule 47 are rather conflicting, and it is extraordinary that different Committees and the delegates at the Conference tried to improve on the Newmarket rules, but as this will be the subject of another article, as well as regards passing the programmes of so many country meetings without proper supervision, it had better be left alone for the present. The racing as before mentioned calls for no special comment. The principal race—the Helensville Cup—fell to Ingorina, Priscilla second, and Orakei third, Leorina only finishing fourth. This mare considering the racing and knocking about she has gone through this season must be a wonderfully sound mare, and of great constitution. Cloth of Gold won both Maiden and Open Hurdle Races, but he defeated nothing of any merit, and is a long way off a good one. Full particulars of the racing may be found in the Turf Record column.

Huguénot, who won her races in such a clever manner at the late Dunedin Meeting, was purchased as a yearling for 25 gns. at the Middle Park Sale.

THE WANGANUI MEETING.

The Wanganui Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting commenced last Wednesday. The weather was fine, the course in good order, and the racing interesting. Before the Cup was run Mr. Hunter asked what weight Cynisca should carry. It will be remembered that when Mr. Hatley first issued the weights her impost was 8st. At this she was certainly leniently treated. It is supposed that there was a cry out among the sporting division at her getting in so lightly. The consequence was that the next day the handicapper published in the morning papers that her weight was 8st 9lb, and a local appeared stating that Mr. Hatley had made a mistake in transcribing his notes. In answer to Mr. Hunter's question the stewards decided that Cynisca's weight was 8st 9lb. Both the handicapper and the stewards, according to all precedent, were decidedly wrong, for when a handicap leaves the handicapper's hands it cannot be altered, unless there has been a clerical error. The stewards erred in supporting their official in the blunder he had made. Cynisca carried the extra weight and ran second. It is generally believed that Mr. Hunter will not proceed further in the matter, but has expressed his determination not to enter another horse for any future meeting of the Wanganui Jockey Club. In this he is quite right. The Wanganui meetings, though the Club give plenty of added money, are gradually falling away as regards the size of the fields. This may, in a great measure, be put down to the handicapping. Crackshot, to everyone's surprise, was weighed out for the Cup, but he was so lame and manifestly unfit that Mr. Butler, at the remonstrance of his friends, had his number taken down. Tirailiere and Cretonne, by their running, show that they may be nearly classed in the front rank of two-year-olds. In the Flying Handicap, Tommy Hodson, the rider of Lochness, was had up before the stewards for foul riding in blocking Boulanger, and they suspended him for the remainder of the meeting. Hodson ought to think himself lucky in getting off with such a light sentence, and should take warning by it. Mr. S. Powell was starter, and on the whole was successful. About £5,500 was passed through the machine, which is considerably more than last year.

The races commenced with the Hurdle Race, two miles and a quarter, resulting as follows:—Sentinel, 9st 7lb, 1; Montrose II., 9st 2lb, 2; Myrtle, 9st, 3; Chemist, 12st 8lb; Comet, 10st; The Peer, 9st 6lb, and Koromiko, 9st, also ran. Chemist was made the favourite. Sentinel laid well in front all the way, and on entering the straight came through full of running and won by four lengths, a length between second and third, Chemist a bad fourth. Time, 4min. 55secs. Dividend, £6 16s.

The Wanganui Cup only produced a field of five, and resulted in an easy win for Dudu, 8st 12lb; Cynisca, 8st 9lb, 2; Weka 7st 2lb, 3; Recluse, 8st 2lb, and Kiekie, 7st, also started. Dudu was made a hot favourite. From a good start Weka rushed away with the lead at a tremendous pace, and soon placed six lengths between her and her followers. At the end of a mile Cynisca and Dudu began to close up. Soon afterwards Matthews took Dudu to the front. The race was then never in doubt, and she ran home an easy winner by three lengths. Half way up the straight Clifford eased Cynisca, when he found he had no chance, and she finished four lengths in front of Weka, Kiekie a bad fourth, Recluse being last of all. Time, 3min. 8secs. Dividend, £2 1s.

The Wanganui Two-year-old Stakes brought out a field of four. From a bad start, of which Cretonne got the worst of it, Rosefeldt and Fraternite made the running, but on entering the straight they were done with and Tirailiere assumed the command, and appeared to have the race in hand, when Cretonne, who was supposed to be done with, came again. After a good race Tirailiere succeeded in getting home by a length, Rosefeldt a bad third.

Six faced the starter for the Welter Handicap. After a good race, Fleta, 8st 9lb, won pretty easily by a couple of lengths, a neck separating La Petite Fille, 8st 9lb, and Pyramus, 9st 3lb. Weka, 10st 2lb, Montrose II., 9st 7lb, and The Peer, 9st 5lb, also ran. Time, 1 min. 46secs. Dividend, £5 12s.

The Flying Handicap brought out a field of seven. They finished as follows:—Retina, 7st 10lb, 1; Boulanger, 8st, 2; Lochness, 7st 9lb, 3;