

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

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.....	Waipoua Jockey Club Autumn
Mar. 28.....	Manawatu Racing Club
Mar. 30.....	Wairarapa Racing Club
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
Mar. 30, 31.....	Reefton Jockey Club
Apr. 1.....	Taranaki J.C. Autumn Meeting.
Apr. 4.....	South Auckland R.C. Autumn Meeting
Apr. 4.....	Foxton Racing Club
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. 23.....	Waipawa County R.C.
Apr. 25.....	Onehunga Racing Club

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

Mar. 23.....	Wellington Racing Club Autumn Meeting.
Mar. 24.....	A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; general entries
March 24.....	Dunedin Jockey Club
Mar. 26.....	Taranaki Jockey Club; general entries.
March 27.....	Auckland Tattersall's Club.
Mar. 28.....	Dargaville Jockey Club
Apr. 1.....	G.J.C. Champagne Stakes—1892
Apr. 3.....	Onehunga Racing Club
Apr. 3.....	Avondale Jockey Club
Apr. 11.....	Dunedin Jockey Club—General Entries

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

Mar. 25.....	A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
March 30.....	Auckland Tattersall's Club.
Apr. 3.....	Wellington R. C. Autumn Meeting.
Apr. 4.....	Dargaville Jockey Club
Apr. 6.....	Avondale Jockey Club
Apr. 10.....	Onehunga Racing Club.
May 5.....	Dunedin Jockey Club

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

Mar. 24.....	A.R.C. Easter Handicap and Steeplechase
March 26.....	South Auckland Racing Club.
Mar. 26.....	G.J.C. Great Autumn Handicap; final payment
Mar. 26.....	A.R.C. Autumn Meeting; handicaps
Mar. 28.....	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. 10.....	Avondale Jockey Club
Apr. 11.....	Dargaville Jockey Club

Sporting Review.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1891.

LAST week we referred to the action regarding trotting and pony racing that had been taken by the A.R.C. Committee, calling their attention to the fact that Rule 20 of the Rules of Racing had no effect on pony and trotting races, and that they were exceeding their power as a Metropolitan Club in trying to interpret and enforce it in the way some of the members wished. The Auckland Racing Club has really no power to interfere with pony and trotting racing, their functions being to superintend all flat races, hurdle races, and steeplechases, and see that they are all properly and legitimately carried out; beyond that they cannot go. Our opinion last week is, we think, pretty well corroborated by the following letter, received by J. S. Williams, Esq., President New Zealand Trotting Association, Christchurch:—"Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 5, asking that the Resident Magistrates might be instructed to recommend applications for licenses to use the totalisator at trotting meetings, provided that the programmes of such meetings comply with the rules of the New Zealand Trotting Association (copy of which you enclose), and further that licenses should not be granted to Clubs which are not affiliated to your Association. In reply I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to inform you that on carefully reviewing the whole case as between Trotting Clubs and Racing Clubs, the Government have decided to approve of the rules of the New Zealand Trotting Association, as submitted by you, in respect to race meetings held under its rules, and the Resident Magistrates in the chief Provincial towns have been advised accordingly. Every Club applying for a license to use the totalisator must forward with their application a copy of the programme of the meeting, endorsed by the approval of the New Zealand Trotting Association, and must be in the hands of the Colonial Secretary at least three weeks before the date of such meeting.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant, G. S. COOPER, Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, March 6, 1891."

We can only gather from this letter that the Hon. P. A. Buckley, the Colonial Secretary, who is a pretty sharp lawyer, has agreed to the petition that was sent him praying that trotting and pony racing should be put on the same footing, as flat and hurdle racing, also steeplechasing. The rules relating to those branches

provide that any Club holding more than three meetings in the year must give an average of at least £500 per diem in stakes; any Club holding three meetings must give £400 per diem; any Club holding two meetings must give £200 per diem; and any Club holding one meeting must give £100. Under the Trotting Association's Rules no Club can hold more than four meetings in the year; any Club holding four meetings must give an average of £200 per diem in stakes; any Club holding three meetings must give £150 per diem; any Club holding two meetings must give £125 per diem, and any Club holding one meeting must give £100.

Now comes the serious question to those interested in the sport. The Auckland Clubs, with the exception of the Northern Pony and Trotting Club, refused to join the New Zealand Trotting Association, and formed an association of their own, and are using Potter's Paddock for their races. This is in direct contravention to the spirit of the Colonial Secretary's letter, where it distinctly states: "The Government have decided to approve of the Rules of the New Zealand Trotting Association, as submitted by you, in respect to races held under its rules, and the Resident Magistrates have been advised accordingly." How the Otahuhu Trotting Club and other Clubs held under the same auspices stand with regard to the use of the totalisator entirely rests between the Colonial Secretary, Resident Magistrates, and themselves; but it is quite evident the A.R.C. Committee have nothing at all to do with the matter, and if they persist in their absurd reading of Rule 20 they will further stultify themselves, as they have in the opinion of many already done.

The A.R.C. Committee appear to be very anxious to enforce Rule 20, but there are other rules of much more importance, notably Rules 38, 66, 67, 81, 141. Not a race meeting occurs at which you do not see horses entered in names that are not those of their owners, or in fact of anyone connected with them; also you see the same horse entered in different names at different meetings; therefore, unless you are thoroughly conversant with racing men, it is impossible to know who the horse belongs to. As we interpret the different Rules of Racing, it means that anyone entering a horse must either do it in the real name of the owner, or his assumed name, which must be published in the Official Gazette. As things are now going on in Auckland, horses are entered in the names of trainers, jockeys, or, in fact, in any name except the legitimate owner's. At the same time it very often occurs that the same horse is entered in different names at different meetings, a practice which enables any amount of swindles to be perpetrated, without anyone being a bit the wiser. If the A.R.C. Committee would employ their energies in putting a stop to this abuse, instead of interfering with trotting and pony races, they would be conferring a benefit on the racing man and the public in general.

[Since the above was in type the A.R.C. have passed a resolution that "Rule 20 be not in force on any programme published up to date."]

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE Henderson's Mill Turf Club held their annual meeting at Avondale on Tuesday (St. Patrick's Day). The weather was beautiful, at times rather too hot. The attendance was not so large as might have been expected. This was greatly owing to portions of the Auckland community not making it a general holiday, while some only closed their shops after one o'clock, which was too late to give their employees the benefit of an outing. The Avondale racecourse is at present in its infancy, but under the present management it will soon become one of the nicest suburban courses. The saddling paddock and lawn require enlarging, and the ladies who grace the meetings with their presence require more accommodation. The course is prettily situated close to the Avondale Hotel, where the landlord, Mr. Foley, had provided a capital lunch for the hungry ones, at a most reasonable charge. The racing was of an interesting character, many of the finishes being pretty close. Thanks to the energetic way the officials, especially Mr. Wynyard, the secretary, carried out the management, everything passed

off without a hitch. Impey's band was in attendance, but comments on this are unnecessary, as they are too well known. The only fault to find with the whole meeting was that time was not kept, and it was nearly dark when the last race was run, and as the finish was a close one the judge must have had hard work deciding who was the winner; no one else could decide it. The races commenced with the Maiden Handicap, for which seven started. Macaroni made most of the running, half way up the straight the little pony Forget-me-not challenged, and answering every call made on her, gradually wore down the favourite, Macaroni, and won by three-quarters of a length. Octopus was a moderate third; the tail was also a long one. The Hurdle Race brought out a field of seven, and was looked upon as a foregone conclusion for Sentinel. When he appeared in the paddock he had a jaded appearance, and looked tucked up, not having recovered from his trip to Wanganui, therefore many turned their attention to Fishmonger. The race requires little comment. Hopeful Kate ran off at the second hurdle, when Fishmonger assumed the lead; on entering the straight Sentinel, who had commanded his field all through, came away, and won in a canter. Nap caught Cloth of Gold, who was just easing up on the post, and "napped" the fiver for the second horse by a head. The remainder of the field were spread-eagled. The St. Patrick's Handicap only produced a field of five, Brian Boru being made a great favourite, but he was never in the race. Macaroni made most of the running, and looked a good thing coming up the straight, but Prestissimo wore him down at the finish, and won by a neck; Sirloin a moderate third. The Henderson's Mill Cup, the principal race of the meeting, came next, and resulted in a regular surprise. Eight faced the starter for it, and when the flag fell they all got away on pretty even terms. Capella made the running all through, and ridden home won by a couple of lengths. Antelope, who came with a rush when entering the straight, finished second; Tamora third. That this was a true run race no one can believe. As proof also of how little the stable thought of her chance she paid the biggest dividend of the day. To an onlooker it appeared that one or two did not hurry themselves, while another was very curiously ridden. Old Octopus as usual appropriated the Selling Race, defeating three others; his owner buying him in for £42. Six numbers were hoisted for the Steeplechase, Sentinel, for whom the race looked a certainty, being an absentee. Favouritism was pretty well divided. Many were stalled off Fishmonger, owing to his having a bad knee, and being lame, but being admirably ridden by Byers, he stalled off Hopeful Kate's rush, and won by a neck, Nap finishing third. At the fall of the flag Moderator bolted off the course, and on being pulled back he gave Fergus a nasty cropper. Nap then balked, but was soon got straight. General and Begorrah did not get round. The meeting wound up with the Railway Handicap, and as it was nearly dark it is impossible to give a description of the race. The judge's verdict was that Ingorina beat Antelope a short head. Four others started. Messrs. Adams and Andrews had the working of the totalisator, and put through £2,220 during the afternoon.

THE Hawkes Bay Autumn Meeting commenced last Tuesday. The attendance was large, and the racing interesting. About £5,500 was passed through the totalisator. The proceedings commenced with the Grand Stand Handicap, one mile, for which seven came to the post, resulting in an easy win for Queen of Trumps, 7st 12lb; Loch Ness, 7st 5lb, second; Bay King, 6st 8lb, third. Lenore, 7st 3lb; Flea, 7st 2lb; Misfortune, 6st 8lb; and Swivel, 7st 7lb, also started. The same number came to the post for the Hurdle Race, Mr. Ormond scoring a second win with Otaiere, Chemist being second, The Peer, who up to this time has not proved a profitable investment to Mr. Douglas, third. Darnley, Taurakaiti, Catiff, and Ival also started. The Hawke's Bay Cup, 1½ miles, the principal race of the meeting, only brought four to the post, and was virtually a match between Cynisca, 8st 7lb, and Dudu, 9st 11lb, the former winning somewhat easily by a length; Pearl Powder, 6st 8lb, three lengths away, third, with Thackeray, 7st 2lb, whipping in. Dudu