

## THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

## AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

THE acceptances and general entries for the A.R.C. Winter Meeting that were made last Friday night may be considered fairly good. From the few foreign horses that have accepted and entered, the A.R.C. Committee must see that they have made two great mistakes: First of all in the date of their meeting, it coming too close after the Wanganui meeting; secondly, making the day of general entries and acceptances so short a time before the date of the meeting that it does not give owners at a distance a chance of bringing horses—especially at this time of the year, when the weather may be rough, therefore it does not give the horses an opportunity to recover themselves. It was quite natural that the Committee were desirous of Mr. Evitt having the running of the different horses at Wanganui before he published his handicaps, but they being due on the 26th, acceptances on the 29th, and the meeting on June 3rd, practically excludes all the Napier and Southern horses from competing. Ival, who was at Wanganui, Criminal and Duadine, are the only outside horses that have accepted, so almost every race will be confined to local horses, which should not be at a meeting of this kind.

## HURDLE RACE.

Of the original twenty-six entries, seventeen have declared non-content with their weights. This is not very flattering to Mr. Evitt's production, but no doubt some have been struck out owing to the reasons stated above. Sentinel, 11st 12lb, on his running with Satyr, and also at the Wanganui Summer Meeting, has nothing to complain of, but as the ground will be holding, the weight will most likely tell on him, as he appears to prefer hard going. Nap, 10st 5lb, will find the company too good for him. Bryan o'Lynn, 10st, won the last Takapuna Hurdle Race, but it was more of a flat race, as all the hurdles, with the exception of the one on the far side of the course, were knocked down the first time round. Criminal, 10st, has won several races Gisborne way, and must be looked upon with respect, as his party must know the form of most of the others. Theorem, 10st, might have been much closer at Takapuna if the sticks had not been knocked down. The same remark applies to Cloth of Gold, 9st 10lb, who makes up his ground at the jumps, being remarkably quick at them. Try Fluke, 9st 9lb, wants more experience, his situation at Takapuna being a fluke. Good Day, 9st 7lb, is the blot of the handicap, and if fit and well on the day, should win. Some time ago she met with an accident, and as she is trained privately it is hard to know in what condition she is, but as Jack Rae knows what he is about, and has only accepted with her, she must be pretty fit. Salute, 9st 5lb, is a stranger to me. To sum up, I expect them to finish in the following order:—CRIMINAL, SENTINEL, and THEOREM. Should Good Day come to the post in the same form as she was in Wanganui, which I doubt, I would not look further for the winner.

## STEEPLECHASE.

Only a moiety of the original twenty-four have accepted. The same remarks apply to this handicap as to the hurdles, so one must not blame Mr. Evitt too much, but it cannot be called a good one. Sentinel, 12st, heads the list; this is rather more than he is entitled to over a course like Ellerslie. Ingarangi, 11st 7lb, has got this course before; he is a big powerful horse, but rather deficient in speed; he won the Autumn Steeplechase at Ellerslie with 9st 7lb, and the Wanganui Steeplechase with 10st 10lb, in both of which I think he had a bit of luck; one thing in his favour is that he is a good fencer. Nap, 10st 7lb, is generally thereabouts, but he appears not to like this course. Omata, 10st 3lb, is a bottled-up old crock, and his trainer often creates a surprise with this kind of animal. Takapu, 10st, is well treated; he won the Egmont Steeplechase, and was running well at Wanganui when his jockey foolishly took the wrong course. Parnell, 9st 11lb, will win a good race some day, but it strikes one that he likes the ground hard, and it is believed that Sydney will be his destina-

tion; therefore, as the stable has patience, this may not be his journey. Ival, 9st 10lb, is a great deal thought of. He is given to baulking, but they tell me it is only at gorse fences, and as there are none of them here he looks dangerous, as Mr. Gollan is not a man to send a horse all this way for nothing. The owner of Bit of Blue, 9st 7lb, must be a novice at racing. The horse cut his leg just above the knee, injuring either an artery or a vein. He still keeps on running him, when it opens again every time he starts. If he had kept him quiet he would have won a good race with him. Yum Yum, 9st 9lb, is a sure jumper and a plodder, so it would not surprise me to see her win. Duadine, 9st 9lb, is a stranger to me. Neck-or-Nothing jumps well, but is as slow as the proverbial top. Kate, 9st 7lb, is out of her place. To sum up, I will take the following three to furnish the winner:—TAKAPU, YUM YUM, or WILLIAMSON'S SELECTED.

## MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE.

There are thirteen entries for the Maiden Steeplechase. Ival, Yum Yum, Neck-or-Nothing, and Kate are engaged in the big steeplechase, so if they go for that race it is not likely they will start in this. I like the chances of the following list:—YARDSMAN, BRYAN O'LYNN and JUSTICE.

## SELLING STEEPLECHASE.

The Selling Steeplechase has an entry of seven. Justice and Karewa are in the Maiden. The ground will be heavy, therefore it must discount their chance. Jim, who won the last Takapuna Steeplechase, is entered to be sold for nil, and has no other engagement, therefore he will be a fresh horse, and as he is also a pretty sure fencer, he should have no difficulty in winning, with Justice and Begorrah as his nearest attendants.

## WELTER HANDICAP.

The Welter Handicap shows the folly of any one attempting to frame a handicap when he has not seen the horses run. Take the running in the Takapuna Welter race. Leorina wins, Priscilla second, and Te Kooti a bad third. Leorina is now raised seven pounds, Priscilla seven pounds, and Te Kooti seventeen pounds. Still, wonderful to relate, out of the sixteen entries only two, Capella and Ilma, have been struck out. Auckland horse-owners really do not know when their horses are well in, so never mind how bad the handicap is they accept. The general public think it is a good one, never looking at the distance between the first and last horses. Of the eleven horses left in the following read best:—Jim, Criminal and Macaroni.

## LADIES' BRACELET.

The Ladies' Bracelet has seven entries, and as it is welter weights, on a scale framed by the A.R.C. Committee, it must fall to Leorina if she has a rider on her back, Dolosa and Priscilla following her home.

## SPORTING ITEMS.

Gipsy Prince is reported to hopelessly lame.

Uranus has been shipped to Australia.

An offer of £250 was recently refused for the jumper Chemist.

Weights for the New Zealand Cup will be due on the 1st July.

Vasco di Gama has been purchased by Mr. Handyside.

That veteran trainer Bob Ray is said to be still in very bad health.

F. Holmes, a well-known Southern jockey, contemplates visiting Australia shortly.

We understand the jumper Parnell will shortly be taken over to Australia.

Lord Onslow has accepted the honorary mastership of the Pakuranga Hunt Club.

The Calcutta Turf Club intend giving 26,000 rupees to pony racing for the season 1891-92.

The first coursing meeting of the newly formed Hawkes Bay Coursing Club will be held on the 17th inst.

D. Roberts, during the absence of Mr. R. J. Mason in Australia, will have charge of the Yaldhurst team for Mr. G. G. Stead.

Satyr, with 9st 11lb, in the Sydney Turf Club's Hurdle Race, was leniently treated, but we are informed he did not start for the event.

Mr. B. Thompson has made up his mind not to race the Muskst mare Tamora again, she will therefore be relegated to the stud.

Mr. Robert Ross of Wanganui has purchased Natator, and intends to travel him in the Wanganui district.

His Excellency Lord Onslow during his visit to Wanganui purchased a big upstanding colt by Natator for hunting purposes.

The Huntly Disaster Fund will benefit some £90 by the recent trotting meeting held at Potter's Paddock.

The Irish division are said to have won £150,000 over the victory of Come Away in the Liverpool Grand National.

Mr. F. W. Petre of Dunedin, is the successful competitor for the design of the Reefton Jockey Club's new grandstand.

Harry Pell, the cross-country horseman, arrived from Wanganui by the Gairloch on Saturday last.

It is reported that another Steeplechase meeting, will be held in the Auckland district before the close of the season.

Titan, last year's favourite for the Victorian Derby, is said to be in work again at Queenscliffe.

The Spring meeting of the Wellington Racing Club will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 20th and 21st.

Mr. George Watson has been master of the Melbourne Hunt Club for the last thirty-nine years.

Mr. Gollan's gelding Ival broke down while doing a gallop at Ellerslie on Monday last, consequently he will be a doubtful starter.

Two bookmakers were warned off the course at the Dunedin Jockey Club's meeting for laying totalizator odds.

Nap, Omata, and Highland Laddie, did some useful schooling on Saturday last over the Ellerslie steeplechase course, all horses jumping in good style.

Mr. P. F. Tancred, of Carterton, having disposed of his farm at Clareville, intends offering for sale the whole of his thoroughbred racing stock some time in June.

Sam Fergus got another "cropper" off the jumper Chance, while schooling him over the double jump at Ellerslie on Saturday last, but we are pleased to hear that nothing serious happened to either horse or horseman.

Kuline, the winner of the Dunedin Tradesman's Handicap, is said to be a perfect jumper, and will probably be Mr. Rutherford's representative in the Christchurch Grand National Hurdle Races, to be run next August.

It is reported that ex-king Milan, of Servia, who is now in London, will be a new patron in English turf circles this season. A commission to purchase racing stock on his behalf has been given.

Mr. W. R. Wilson's Tea Race, at Epsom, gave "Kaiser" Myers his first winning mount since his return from his forced retirement from the saddle, and his spell has evidently done the light-weight jockey no harm.

The following amounts have been paid over by the Wanganui Jockey Club in connection with the Steeplechase meeting held on Queen's Birthday:—Mr. J. B. Williamson, £218 10s; Mr. W. Chapman, £92 12s 6d; Mr. J. E. Nugent, £38; Mr. H. H. Hayr, £38; Mr. D. Thurston, £23 15s; Mr. D. Knight, £21 7s 6d; Mr. T. S. Bristol, £19s; Mr. F. Hill, £9 10s; Mr. D. J. Riddiford, £9 10s; Mr. R. E. McRae, £9 10s; Mr. C. A. Durie, £9 10s; Mr. J. G. Wilson, £4 15s; making a total of £494.

The following gentlemen hold certificates available for the June meeting of the Hawkes Bay Jockey Club:—Messrs. N. C. Shaw, Langley Shaw, Fred Caulton, Charles Caulton, Harold Russell, R. C. Pitt, E. Oakenfull, John Olliver, R. J. Neagle, Thos. H. Edwards, S. J. Bennett, Edward Brookes, Jas. McIvor, A. C. Lang, S. H. Gollan, John Douglas, Wm. Heslop, R. J. Hunter, Robert Harley, — Absalom, Jas. Loddell, J. D. Ormond, jun., A. Lyon, R. L. Peene, George Crisp, T. F. Ferguson, Albert Couper, Eustace Vernon.