

The following are the probable riders in the Great Northern Steeplechase, to be run at Ellerslie to-day:—

Sentinel—C. Weal
 Ingarangi—R. Wright
 Omata—S. Fergus
 Nap—Burns
 Takapu—H. Pell
 Parnell—W. Macminamin
 Bit-o'-Blue—Marshall
 Yum Yum—Windsor
 Duadine—A. Williams
 Neck-or-Nothing—K. Heaton
 Kate—W. Croll
 Ival—J. Hickey.

A "sport who lost his tin" was plaintiff in a case heard at the Launceston Court on Tuesday. He had taken the field against Joe Powell's stable for a tanner with Mr. G. Barber, the host of the International, on the Steeplechase the night before it was run. About an hour after making the bet he came back, having heard it was to be a walk-over for Oudia, and wanted to "cry off," but George wasn't on, so he went to law over it. It was proved that several horses were left in the race up to an hour or two before starting, and the case was, of course, dismissed.—*Sportsman*.

The first annual inrigged four contest between the Napier and Union Rowing Clubs took place in the inner harbour lately. The crews were:—Napier: Hutchinson 11st 8lb (stroke), Chapman 11st 8lb (2), Wilson 12st 9lb (2), M'Vay 10st 6lb (bow). The Union's cox did not turn up, and a 18st man took his place. The Napier men took the water first, and, rowing in good style, got a lead of about a length at the start. Their opponents spurred repeatedly, and doggedly endeavoured to wear them down during the whole distance, but their spurts were always staved off by Napier, and the latter ultimately won by about the distance gained at the start. Mr. W. Taylor was an efficient starter.

Richard Pilling, the famous Lancashire wicket-keeper, died at Manchester on Saturday evening, the 4th April (writes a Glasgow exchange) from consumption. He had only returned on the previous Sunday from a voyage to Australia for the benefit of his health. Pilling first appeared in the Lancashire eleven in 1877, and played regularly down to the end of 1889. Among wicket-keepers he was considered second only to Blackham, the Australian. He twice visited Australia as one of Shaw and Shrewsbury's teams, and, it is said, that a sunstroke during the former of these trips was really the cause of his ill-health. The funeral took place the following Wednesday at Brooklands, near Manchester, in the presence of a crowd estimated at between 1000 and 2000 persons.

Racing officials received a lesson at the hands of the Supreme Court, Hobart, in the matter of negligence. At the December meeting of the Brighton Racing Club there was a pony race, one of the conditions being that the ponies were to be measured. A midget named Tasmania won, with Mr. G. Smith's Camille second. Mr. Smith entered a protest on the grounds that the winner had never been measured; but it was dismissed, and he was fined £1 for a frivolous protest. Then he went to law for the amount of the stake, £10, and damages £20, including the fine, and he got the amount of the stake awarded. The judge characterised the fining of the plaintiff as a very hard-handed proceeding.

The following wagers will indicate the state of the betting market in Melbourne at the present time:—V.R.C. Derby and Cup, 2000 to 20 agst Penance and Penance, and 1000 to 5 agst that colt and the following horses for the Cup: Carbine, Megaphone, Malvolio, Marvel, Vengeance, King Olaf and Greygown. 3000 to 30 agst two Strombolis, and 1000 to 3 that colt coupled with Malvolio, Dreadnought, Carbine, Marvel, Cuirassier, Greygown, King Olaf and Megaphone for the Cup. 2000 to 20 the two Zalinskis, and 1000 to 5 agst Carbine, Malvolio, Greygown, and Dreadnought coupled with Zalinski. 2000 to 2 the two Sanctuaries, and 1000 to 10 the two Oxides. Straight out for Melbourne Cup, 1000 to 50 agst Carbine. 1000 to 30 Malvolio, 1000 to 30 Dreadnought, and 1000 to 30 Megaphone have also been laid.

BETTING QUOTATIONS.

GREAT NORTHERN STEEPLECHASE.			
Sentinel	..	60 to 15	off.
Ingarangi	..	55 to 10	"
Nap	..	100 to 8	"
Omata	..	60 to 10	" 80 to 7 tkn.
Takapu	..	37½ to 15	"
Parnell	..	100 to 8½	"
Ival	..	100 to 20	"
Bit o' Blue	..	100 to 8	"
Yum Yum	..	70 to 10	"
Duadine	..	50 to 4	" 15 to 1 tkn.
Neck or N'g.	..	100 to 5	"
Kate	..	100 to 4	"
HURDLES.			
Theorem	..	15 to 10	off. 75 to 35 tkn.
HURDLES AND STEEPLECHASE.			
Sentinel and Sentinel	..	150 to 10	off.
" " Ingarangi	..	150 to 6	off.
" " Nap	..	100 to 2	off.
" " Omata	..	150 to 6	off.
" " Takapu	..	50 to 1½	tkn.
" " Ival	..	50 to 4	off.
" " others	..	50 to 3	off.
" " anything	..	50 to 2	off.
Nap	..	50 to 1	off.
B. O'Lynn	..	50 to 4	off.
Criminal	..	100 to 7	off.
Theorem	..	bar one.	100 to 8 off.
" " Ival	..	75 to 4½	tkn.
" " Duadine	..	100 to 2	tkn.
" " Omata	..	52 to 2	tkn.
" " Bit o' Blue	..	100 to 2	tkn.
" " anything	..	25 to 3	off.
Cloth of G.	..	50 to 1½	off.
Try Fluke	..	50 to 3	off.
" " Takapu	..	50 to 4	off.
G'd. Day	..	anything	200 to 6 off.
Salute	..	"	50 to 1 off.
" " Takapu	..	100 to 1½	off.

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. STEAD, the hon. treasurer of the club, submitted his annual report as under:—

"In moving the adoption of the balance sheet and statements of receipts and expenditure, I have pleasure in referring to the satisfactory accounts which are now placed before you. On reference to the figures it will be seen that during the year the Club has reduced its debit balance from £958 5s 8d to £416 3s 3d, and this, despite the total disbursements, have increased from £10,486 19s 11d to £11,061 12s 10d. A brief glance at the expenditure will show that the added money for the six days' racing and one days' steeplechasing amounted to £8,695 15s, as against £7775 for the previous season, or the satisfactory increase of £920 15s. It will however, be noticed that the general expenses account has increased from £280 15s 9d to £451 4s 1d, the increase being due to such items as the honorarium to the handicapper and travelling expenses, removing the old shilling stand &c. The account for advertising and printing also has increased from £150 12s 3d to £218 12s 10d. due mainly to the expenses entailed in initiating the New Challenge Stakes of £2000. While on the subject of expenditure, it may be interesting to compare the net amount given in stakes with the total cost of providing them. The gross amount of added money was £8695 15s, deduct 5 per cent. commission and £1100 paid by owners for nominations and entrance fees, and it may be seen that the net sum paid to owners was £7161. Upon reference to the balance sheet you will observe that the disbursements for salaries, attendants, advertising and general expenses were £1548 2s 3d, consequently the expenses incurred in providing the stakes were nearly 22 per cent. On the side of the receipts, members' subscriptions show a slight decrease of £15 15s, but nominations and acceptances have increased from £1012 to £1100, and the race receipts, including entrances to the grounds, from £1914 0s 6d to £2078 8s 6d. The sales of privileges, however, show a falling off from £414 5s 3d to £321 12s 6d, from which it is reasonable to assume that the purchasers of these privileges must have done well during the past season. The net proceeds of the totalizer also have increased from £4261 15s 3d to £4818 3s, bringing up the grand total of the receipts to £11,603 15s 3d, as against £10,967 5s 5d for the previous year. On turning to the profit

and loss account, it will be seen that the profit on the four meetings held during 1890-91 was £859 11s 8d. In fact, each meeting has left more or less of a margin in the club's favour, which may be taken as a fair indication that the committee has now adapted all the meetings to the requirements of the public. It may be interesting to note here that in the past season the gross added money averaged slightly over £1,242 for the eight days, and as £815 per diem is the best average for any other club in the colony, it is reasonable to assume that it is to our 'classic races' we are indebted for enabling us to keep up this high average. Passing on to the alterations completed and in progress, I may mention that during the year the old shilling stand has been removed, as it was considered no longer safe, but the timber will be available for many useful purposes. The committee have commenced several important alterations, the chief of which is the new totalizer house, on a plan proposed by our secretary. The new house is to be built in a line with the fence running from the present Press stand to the course. It will be put up in two sections under one roof, and will be available for the outside public as well as for the occupiers of the grandstand. The principal feature, however, is that there will be one grand total for both the inside and outside machines; an improvement which should be much appreciated by all race-goers. In order to make room for the new house the present Press stand will be removed to the east end of the grandstand, whilst the old totalizer house will be turned into a hat and cloak room &c. It was also intended to alter the five furlong start, so as to enable the horses to get a straight run of some distance before making their first turn, but unfortunately it was found that it would be necessary to cut down some of the trees to effect the proposed alterations, and, as it would be a pity to do this, the five furlong start will have to remain where it is. During the year the new Challenge Stakes of 2000 sovs. has been initiated, to be run at the Autumn Meeting of 1893. The fact that ninety foals, eighty-eight yearlings, and forty two-year-olds have been nominated, may be taken as undoubted evidence that the new race is appreciated by owners. I may say that one or two other alterations in the programme is contemplated, which will, I trust, be similarly appreciated by owners. It will, I am sure, be gratifying to members to notice the large number of candidates that are proposed for election to-day, and it is to be hoped that this is an earnest of what we may look forward to in the future. In fact, your Committee have been endeavouring in every reasonable way to popularise the Club, and to enable it to maintain its place in the front rank of Metropolitan Clubs. After two years' negotiations your Committee have succeeded in arranging with the Railway Commissioners for the reduction of the fares to the racecourse. The arrangement come to was that the Government rates should be reduced by one-third, and the rates on the C.J.C. line by one-half. This undoubtedly reduces the club's revenue very considerably, but your Committee deemed that it was in the interest of the public that the cost of getting to the course should be reduced to a minimum, and our experience so far has shown that the step was in the right direction. It will be in your recollection that at our last annual meeting it was decided to alter the date of our Midsummer races so as not to clash with the Auckland Summer Meeting, and it was hoped that the Auckland Racing Club would see their way to alter the date of their Spring Meeting so as not to clash with ours. So far our Northern friends have not made the desired alteration, but it is to be hoped that they will yet see their way to bring about this much needed change, as it is manifestly to the interest of both clubs that their Spring Meetings should not interfere with each other. During the year, your Committee have been in communication with other Metropolitan clubs with a view to calling the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the rapid increase of private clubs. A letter has been prepared, and is now being signed by the Presidents of the Metropolitan Clubs in New Zealand, which, when completed, will be forwarded to Wellington. The chief object of this letter is to point out that the Metropolitan Clubs have no desire to see undue restrictions placed on trotting associations, carried on purely for sport and for the purpose of improving the breed of trotters. At the same time it