

## THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

WHEN Mr. Evitt first published the handicaps for the Hurdle Race and Steeplechase for the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Winter meeting they were looked upon by the general public as good ones, but the acceptances show that the owners had a different opinion. Out of twenty-seven entries only nine have cried content for the Hurdle Race, Darnley 11st heading the list. He is not badly treated, and if in the same form as last year, he should have a great show, especially as the owner has selected this race for him instead of the Steeplechase, in which he appeared well in with 10st 10lb. Theorem 10st 4lb is considered by his party to be a certainty. In my opinion he is an overrated horse, and if he wins this event he must have been running "curious" for some time. Couranto 10st, and Pyramus 9st 12lb, read fairly well in. Of the bottom weights, Oaklands 9st 6lb may have a show. In selecting three, I prefer the following in the order named—DARNLEY, COURANTO, PYRAMUS.

The acceptances for the Steeplechase are considerably better than for the Hurdle Race, as only ten of the original twenty-three entries have dropped out. Sentinel 11st 10lb is the top weight remaining in. He is a thoroughly good horse, but he likes the going to be hard; this is not likely to be the case at the Napier meeting. Taurakaitai 10st 11lb, has the reputation of being a thoroughly good horse, and is quite master of his weight, and not having accepted in the hurdle race, in which he was not badly treated, must have a chance second to none. Rough 10st 5lb, and Oeo 9st 9lb, are on previous form, leniently treated. Yardman 9st 7lb, in J. B. Williamson's stable, is looked upon as a good thing, and that his running at Ellerslie ought to be ignored. For my part, after looking up his performances, I doubt his having a show, unless several make mistakes. If it does come off, it will be the cleverest coup that J. B. Williamson has ever worked, and they are many. Otaieri 9st 7lb, is a great up-standing horse, and gives you the appearance of being better over a country than hurdles. The winner should be furnished by TAURAKAITAI, OTAIERI, or ROUGH, and I like them in the order named. The meeting should be a good one, notwithstanding the fact that several of the best jumpers are intended for the other side.

## SPORTING ITEMS.

Tradition and Malua are being prepared for the Grand National Meeting.

Charlie Weal took Sentinel to Napier last week via New Plymouth.

Weights for the Melbourne Cup fall due on Monday next the 22nd inst.

Mr. Sam Horden has purchased the Queen for 300 gns. and she will visit Nordenfeldt.

Nepean, the property of Mr. D. Cooper, has been turned out of training.

Minnie, the well known hack that slipped her hip at Tattersalls meeting, on the Takapuna Jockey Clubs course, has been destroyed.

The Hawkes Bay Amateur Athletic Club propose to form a cinder track on the recreation ground at Napier.

James Cotton, jun., a lightweight jockey lately employed by Mr. J. Poole of Dunedin, has joined Mr. G. G. Stead's stable.

Kirkham has left Jowitt's charge at Newmarket, and will in future be trained in Ireland for steeplechasing.

Wentworth, brother to Dreadnought, started in the Epsom Cup and finished fifth in a field of seven.

The Hawkes Bay Trotting Club, bring off their first meeting on Tuesday next the 23rd inst.

Mr. G. H. Clifford has been appointed to represent the Canterbury Jockey Club, at the Wellington conference.

The death of Mr. Edward Lumb, the well-known Yorkshire cricketer, is announced. His trip to Australia had not the desired effect on his health.

E. Kelly has Curassier in slow work, but he shows no improvement, and there is but little doubt that this big son of Musket will never stand a severe preparation, and the sooner he is relegated to the stud the better for his owners.

It will be some months before Ramage is able to ride again as the fracture to his leg received by the falling of Bendigo in the Birthday Handicap is worse than anticipated.

George Hope will leave for Sydney on Tuesday next per Manapouri, taking with him the three-year-old gelding Impulse, and the jumper Takapu.

Hybrid is the name given by Mr. Stead to the Le Loup—Lady Emma colt, which is nominated for the Dunedin Champagne Stakes of 1892.

The handicapper for the Auckland Racing Club, Mr. J. O. Evitt, left for his home at Napier on Thursday last, after spending a week in our city.

We regret to say that Mr. M. Gallagher, was last week seized with an epileptic fit, from which he became seriously ill, we are glad however to be able to announce, that he is now rapidly recovering.

The Canterbury Jockey Club have ruled, that the jockey Ross who was injured at Napier, is not eligible to receive any assistance from the distressed jockey's fund, as the fund is for jockeys injured at Riccarton only.

The idea of a team of cricketers to South Africa at the end of the season will in all probability be abandoned, as all the best players will go with Lord Sheffield should he go to Australia.

W. Hatfield, who arrived from Sydney a short time back, under engagement to Jack Rae, returned again last week. No doubt Auckland seems dull to Billy after the bustle of great Sydney.

The disqualification of John Taylor by the Jonlan Jockey Club for having given a fraudulent description of a horse named Bab at the post has been endorsed by the V.R.C. Committee.

It is the intention of Mr. Field to put Arsenal into work again. He served twenty mares last season. The Melbourne Cup winner is looking in splendid condition. His feet, which were always a source of trouble, have got all right.

Archie, who was such a sensational favourite for the Martini-Henri Derby, is making a good name for himself as a sire in Queensland. One of his progeny, Dillon, is regarded as almost as good a colt as Megaphone was at the same age, and already a very large sum has been refused for him.

The proposed new railway company to London and the Committee of Lord's Cricket Ground have come to a settlement, of which the M.C.C. appear to have the best of it. They will get more ground, and as their present ground will be tunnelled under the detriment will be slight. All opposition to the new line by the M.C.C. authorities is therefore at an end.

George Hewitt, a man with a wife and seven children living at Bengira, near Inveril, in a half-clothed and half-starved condition and almost without shelter has won Tattersalls's £10,000 consultation on the Birthday Cup. The family has lived in the greatest poverty, receiving clothes and food from the townspeople.—*Australasian*.

We announce with great pleasure, and it will be a pleasing surprise to the public generally, and the Huntly disaster Fund Committee in particular, that the munificent sum of eighty-nine pounds (£89), has been forwarded by the Auckland Trotting Club as the result of the complimentary trotting meeting held at Potters paddock in aid of the above fund. The management can fairly be congratulated on the result.

It appears that since Mr. Harrie Smith retired from the post of stipendiary steward some regular swindles have been perpetrated upon metropolitan and suburban courses. The ordinary run of stewards take little or no notice of what occurs, while others are often interested in the horses that do not try. In no place in the Australian Colonies is a stipendiary steward more required than in Auckland. There is not a race meeting held that some horse or another does not run "curious."

At the last Epsom meeting Caldicott weighed out for Coronation in the Selling Race, but the horse did not leave the saddling paddock, and at the meeting of the stewards the following Tuesday the owner (J. Vockler) and his representative (A. Vockler) were warned off the course for twelve months, and fines of £10 each were inflicted on the trainer (D. Robinson, jun.) and the jockey (E. Caldicott).

Another record has according to American files been lowered by a horse called Hotspur, who is credited with having run 1 mile and three-quarters in 3min ½sec. This must be another Yankee yarn.

A license has been granted to Frederick Rickaby, after a serious caution as to his mode of riding and general conduct. Rickaby made his first appearance this season at the Newmarket Craven meeting. The Loates' are still under the ban.

Williamson left on Thursday last for Napier with Theorem, Yardman, and Chance. Sam Fergus also accompanied the team. It is reported that they go on to Wellington and Christchurch. Sam Lindsay went by the same boat.

It is rumoured that Messrs. Hobbs and Goodwin, the totalisator proprietors, of Canterbury, contemplate coming to Auckland next Spring with three of their machines, with the intention of competing against our local totalisator agents. A well known North Shore resident is also said to have his eye in that direction.

The French Derby, which is worth about £5000, was decided on Sunday, May 24th, the winner being Ermak, by Fanfardel out of Energetic, by Lord Lyon out of Perseverance, by Voltigeur. The second and third were Hardy and Capricerne, neither of which ran last season.

Rufus, who created a surprise by winning the Victorian Derby in 1884, won the principal event at the Allandale Queen's Birthday Meeting, but was subsequently disqualified for having run inside a post, and the prize, value 5 sovs. was awarded to the second horse, Called Back.—*Australasian*.

Quiver, the dam of Memoir and the sensational yearling filly for which Col. North gave the large sum of 5,500 guineas at the Hampton Court sale of yearlings, died the other day. Quiver was in her seventeenth year, having been bred by the late General Peel in 1872.

The stewards of the Grand National Hunt Club re-opened the Herringbone case, for the riding of which horse at Liverpool Mr. McAuliffe, an Irish gentleman jockey, had been warned off all courses. After hearing the additional evidence offered they decided not to alter their decision.

The ever-widening scope of "woman's sphere," and the sharpening circumstances of modern life, combine to put the fair sex into the somewhat Cæsarean position of "looking for fresh fields to conquer." Her entry into the betting ring is one of the latest feminine exploits; but whether she will conquer there may be taken as a moot point. It is no new thing for Melbourne racegoers to witness the furtive movements of female patrons of sport, who operate, pretty systematically, as backers of horses. Quite conspicuously, too, has been seen locally the phenomenon of the position of clerk to a bookmaker being filled by a woman. The instances of this, however, are less numerous. And it is well that they are so, for I agree with the late "Pendragon," of London *Referee*, in regarding it as a most "unwomanly occupation." It is only one step from bookmaker's clerk to bookmaker, and the prospect of a feminine invasion of the ring would be sufficiently appalling to make even the usually sleek and undisturbable hair of the metallicians stand on end.—*Sporting Standard*.

An application on behalf of Leo Joseph, a bookmaker, to review the decision of the Justices at Newstead, was made to His Honour Mr. Justice Hood, in the Practice Court on May 22nd. On April 18th Mr. Joseph was employed in the business of bookmaking on the racecourse reserve at Newstead, when Mr. Charles House, one of the trustees of the race club, came up to him and asked him to produce his registration ticket. Mr. Joseph pointed to his bag which he was carrying, upon which his name was printed, and said that was his registration. Mr. House then required him to pay £1, the registration fee fixed by the rules and regulations of the Club, or else to leave the course. Mr. Joseph refused to comply with either request, and continued betting. Mr. House afterwards summoned him for committing a breach of the rules of the club, and the Justices made an order against him, fining him £4 and £3 15s costs. This order Mr. Joseph is now applying to have reviewed, chiefly on the grounds that the rules and regulations of the Newstead Racing Club are *ultra vires*. His Honor granted the application.—*Australasian*.