

Mr. J. O. Phair, of Napier, secured a first prize at the Wellington Kennel Club's show with his dog Brain, and also a second prize with a dog called Leo.

The well known gelding Cloth of Gold, which was previously in George Wrights hands has been brought to town for winter quarters, and is located in Harry Walshe's stables.

No fewer than ninety one entries have been received for the five events on the programme for the Inaugural meeting of the Hawkes Bay Trotting Club, which will take place at Hastings on June 23rd.

Mr. Donald Fraser's filly Fortune (Ascot—Speculation) engaged in the Hawkes Bay Guineas and New Zealand Cup is wintering well, his owner recently received a good offer for her.

Mr. J. B. Clark is so dissatisfied, not to say disgusted, with the way in which the Victorian handicappers treat his horses that he has determined to dispose of what horses he has in training in the Colony at an early date. This means that Mr. Clark's colours will be oftener seen in New South Wales than Victoria, which at the present time can ill afford to lose a good sportsman.—*Australasian*.

As a further proof of how betting on the English Derby has fallen off during late years, and the difficulty there is in winning large sums, on looking through late English papers, it appears that Common, this year's winner, was at 50 to 1 (taken and offered); the week before the Craven meeting. A very small sum invested on him during the week at Newmarket sufficed to bring him to 18 to 1, and within a fortnight he was first favourite.

Hidalgo, the San Francisco sporting writer, says that he would like to see some of the Victorian jockeys riding in America. Of all the jockeys he saw in the Colonies he likes "Teddy" Power the best, and with him Ramage, Harris, and J. Anwin, who would be an accession to any American stable, after learning the style of American racing, and above all, the style of starting. It is no extravagant declaration for me to express my belief that in his first essay on any American course any one of these otherwise clever lads would get left at the post.

In the Leicester Handicap The Rejected was set a terrific task. He was weighted at 10st, and the ground was very heavy. Notwithstanding this he was made a great favourite; his starting price in a field of ten was 7 to 4. He very nearly pulled his backers through, only being done a neck by Court Baron, by Holmly out of Court Beauty, to whom he was giving no less than 55lbs. The winner started eight times as a two-year-old, and on five occasions he was placed, but never once succeeded in gaining a winner's bracket. The time was 1min. 45sec., which must be considered fast, taking into consideration the state of the going.

A contributor to the *Weekly Press* writes:—One of the latest addition to English rules of racing is "that a race may be declared void if the number of entries required by the advertisement be not obtained, but the value of prize once advertised shall not be reduced." From this it must be assumed that no percentage is deducted from the stakes. Our contemporary makes a mistake. This rule, which is stated to be a new one, has for some years been tried to be introduced into the Newmarket rules of racing in order to put a stop to the practices which have been adopted for many years by clerks of courses, viz.: Advertisements for certain races used to read, "Will be null and void unless so many entries are obtained"; another would be, "Unless three horses start the added money will not be given." It is a good thing this is done away with, as often an owner received a certain sum to start his horses just to get the added money. This, of course, led to a great deal of swindling, and in more than one instance have we known the horses that were only started to gain the added money win. The custom of deducting a percentage from the stakes is a most pernicious one. For what reason it was ever done it was hard to conceive, and the sooner it is done away with the better, for if it has no other fault, it puzzles many persons in the calculation of the value of the stakes. The Egmont Racing Club do not do it, and they are in a flourishing condition. Why do not others follow their example?

The dispersal of M. Donon's stud was one of the most sensational sales ever held in France, 32 lots realising £30,714. The highest price, £4,080, was given by M. Blanc for a three-year-old colt, Saint Gregoris, by The Bruce out of Regardez. M. Blanc also gave £3,680 for the French Oaks winner, Wandora, by Bruce out of Windfall; and £2,656 for a three-year-old half-brother to Wandora, by Escogriffe. Carrousel by Escogriffe out of Clementine, was knocked down to M. H. Say for £2,880, and several other lots fetched over a thousand each.

The Sydney Turf Club's meeting would have passed off well but for the starter's blunder in the Farewell Handicap. Mr. Tom Watson dropped his flag when some of the horses were in front of the post—at least that was the view the stewards took of it—and the race had to be run twice; but as Splendora won both races—the last one in the gloaming—there was not much harm done. The objector, however, had anything but a gay time while the horses were weighing in, and the demonstration is said to have been the most hostile that was ever witnessed at Randwick.

Lily of Lumley, who won the Manchester Cup for Mr. Vyner, is either by Uncas or Thurio out of Lady Lumley. Last season she won three races out of thirteen starts, her principal one being the Stockton Handicap. Ragimunde, who was second, won the last Metropolitan Stakes, and is a remarkably well-bred colt, being by Petronel (by Musket out of Cythua) out of Ragman Roll, by Beadsman. The third horse, The Admiral, by Victor Emmanuel out of Helen Agnes, won four races as a two-year-old; last year his most creditable performance was winning the Queen's Plate, 2 miles, at Derby.

"Augur" in his letter of May 20th writes: Taking advantage of the fine weather during the present week, I drove out to Flemington, just to see the Champion Carbine, but the old fellow was in physis, shut up in his box, and as Walter Hickenbotham was not at home, Andy Mitchelson, who is now head man, would not disturb him. I saw Megaphone walking about and looking well after his spell at Balllark. This young Queenslander promises to grow into a big horse, and if he retains his form he should more than repay Mr. Wallace the big sum he paid for him. As a three-year-old, when at his best he was something like 21lbs a better colt than any of the others—except The Admiral, Gibraltar, and Whimbrel. His defeat at Caulfield must not be taken notice of, as he was off just then.

## ATHLETICS, ETC.

### CHRISTCHURCH ATHLETICS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SATURDAY last was as fine a day as could be desired for football, the turf being in grand condition. The game in which most interest was centred was that between Merivale and East Christchurch, which virtually decided the question of premiership for the season. The first spell was remarkably even, and at no time were either sides' lines in danger. East proved to be superior in the forward department and were generally successful in carrying the scrums. As far as back play was concerned Merivale had the advantage, and the grand collaring of their three-quarter backs saved their lines repeatedly. On changing ends Merivale, at once took the aggressive, and for about ten minutes were right on the East's goal line. Good defence, however, prevented any score, and Spring, by following up a long kick, took the ball right to the other end of the ground and scored. No goal resulted, and Merivale once more were the attacking party. Fine passing amongst the forwards was the means of Evans getting over, but the try was not improved upon. With the scores even, and only a few minutes to play, both teams thoroughly woke up. East continued carrying the scrums and gradually working their way down the field, and were rewarded by Samuels getting over. No goal resulted, and a few minutes afterwards "No side" was called, leaving East Christchurch victors by two points to one.

The game between Canterbury College and Linwood was very one-sided. The latter held

their own in the forward division, but behind the scrums the College had matters nearly all their own way. Time after time the University men would carry the ball from one end of the ground to the other, their passing being magnificent. In this way they were able to secure four goals and four tries (16 points) to their opponents' nil. The Linwood backs seemed to be utterly unable to cope with the dexterous passing of their opponents, but the forwards were pretty evenly matched.

Sydenham defeated Christchurch after a hard-fought game by 16 points to 5. Play was interesting, and forward play was at a discount. Unfortunately the Christchurch team was weakened by the inclusion of several substitutes, as had they have had their strongest team they would just about have won. Sydenham scored four tries, all of which were converted by Esnard, who was in rare nick at place kicking. Christchurch secured three tries only, one of which was converted.

Sammy Goodman is inaugurating a twelve hours walking sweepstake handicap, the winner to take all proceeds, gate money included. All arrangements, it is understood are to be made at O'Dowd's Caledonia Hotel next Saturday evening.

The *Melbourne Sporting Standard* says: Brother wheelmen in New Zealand are very desirous to see our world-famed champion (Tom Busst) spinning round their tracks, and have forwarded him a cordial invitation to compete at the Boxing day meeting of the Pioneer Bicycle Club, the leading club of New Zealand. I understand Busst will accept the invitation, provided the leave of absence to visit the mother country, which is now under consideration, is not granted.

It appears the Wellington Athletic Club can have no track fit for running on for at least two years, so in this case the Athletic Association will not grant a championship meeting in Wellington until there is a track fit to do good running on. The next athletic meeting will be the Wellington F.C.'s sports in September, and the Wellington A.A.C. will probably hold their meeting in November.

The N.Z. Amateur Athletic Association has at last triumphed in its efforts to amateurise West Coast sports. A meeting was held on June 10th, to discuss the formation of an Amateur Athletic Club for Wanganui, which it was decided to establish. Seventy members have been enrolled, and the Club promises to be a decided success. An excellent running track near the town has been secured.

### FOOTBALL.

THE Hawkes Bay Rugby Union propose to pay a visit to the Wairarapa and Wellington Unions with a representative fifteen. The latter match will be played most probably on the 4th or 11th July. The Wairarapa match will be played on July 28th.

The want of a Saturday half-holiday is the reason assigned for the deplorable decadence of football in New Plymouth.

The Wairarapa Valley have every reason to be proud of their three senior teams, for on Queen's Birthday holiday they had two decisive victories over Wellington City Senior Clubs, and the other practically a victory, for it was acknowledged by their opponents that the referee was mistaken in disallowing a try. The Masterton Club played the Wellington Club—acknowledged the best in the Empire city—and simply walked over them, the splendid passing of the country club's backs and their effective forward rushes being especially conspicuous. "Joe" Perry was always dangerous by making short punts over the heads of the backs, and getting on again immediately. The Wellington Club did comparatively little passing. The Greytown Club also defeated the well-known Athletic Club on the Wellington ground on the same day.

A match between Hamilton and Paterangi, which had been postponed from the previous week, took place on Saturday, and resulted in victory for Hamilton by eight points to nil. Hume got four tries and Gillet two, of which Hammond converted one. The match between the Hamilton East and West schools resulted in a win for East Hamilton by two tries to nil.

The backs in the senior match Gordon v. Grafton showed very bad form on both sides. For a new man, however, McMinaman was good.