

The hare struck a line towards the Tamaki District. Unfortunately for the hard riding division it was impossible for them to follow the line as the top end of the paddock was impassable, through being fenced with barbed wire, which it was impossible to jump or crush through. The roadsters had all the best of it, as there was nothing for it but come back and take the road. The hounds worked their hare right into the Tamaki, where they lost it in the heavy ti-tree.

This was the only find during the forenoon, hares proving scarce, the country being pretty heavy with ti-tree scrub, where it was impossible for the hounds to work. The next move was to lay a drag, which was undertaken by Mr. Allan Bell, and from his intimate knowledge of the country none better could have undertaken the task, and right worthily did he complete it. The line commenced at Mr. McGee's farm in Papaitoi, the first fence being a good stout post and rail. As it loomed up in the distance hats were crushed down, and every man selected his own particular panel. After the first rush of the leading division was over, there was a crash, and a smash, which gave the bulk of the field a chance. The next was a gorse fence with a big ditch out on the road leading to Tamaki. Then came a run on the road (which was unavoidable) up to Mr. John Stoddart's farm, through which the line crossed, giving four or five nice jumps, which were safe and with plenty of room, no wire being about. The old hands of the Club always ride across this gentleman's property with confidence, knowing as they do that he is always glad to see them, and that wire in his eyes is an abomination. Next through Mr. Trimble's gate, right into his yard. This worthy sportsman, after seeing the drag go through his yard was determined to see some good jumping, so he closed his gate and chained it up, and put all his fences in order so that he would see some fun. He quietly lighted his pipe, took a seat on the verandah, and waited events. When the forward division came up they found they had the choice of two jumps, one over his stockyard and the other over his gate. Mr. Kelly on Playboy, without hesitation, took the gate, whilst Mr. Brown, the Huntsman, took the rails. Mr. Kelly's jump was one of the best taken this season, or indeed many seasons. We trust our friend John enjoyed his fun, as we are afraid he has to suffer for it, as his rails went flying before the mob got over. After crossing Mr. Trimble's farm the line went on through Mr. Clow's. The boundary between these two farms is a gorse fence, with a very deep ditch, which is well known to many old hands to their cost. It was, however, this time negotiated without any serious mishap. After entering Mr. Clow's farm, the Master, who was well to the front, found it necessary to have the hounds stopped, owing to the way they were being over ridden. This was not caused however by the members who rode the run right through, it was caused by the roadsters and those that cut in at various points. This is a practice that cannot be too rigidly condemned, as it not only tends to make the hounds cowardish, but is a serious risk to those members who ride straight with the hounds. When the Master had the field (which at this point was a very large one) in hand again, the hounds were laid on and the drag continued on through Mr. Clow's farm and out on to the South road, crossing into Mr. Bainbridge's farm, running right down it and finally winding up by jumping a gorse fence on to the road close down to the old Plumpton ground. This brought the run to a close. After expressing great satisfaction at the days pleasure, everyone went home thoroughly satisfied. There was a fair amount of tumbles, but nothing of a serious nature. Some of the ladies deserve a word of praise, as they were prominent during the entire run.

Steeplechase horses in England still continue to fetch high prices. Roman Oak who won the Prince of Wales Stakes at Punchestown, carrying 13st 5lb, was sold to Sir H. de Trafford for 2000 gns. Subsequently ridden by Captain E. R. Owen, he won the Irish International Steeplechase, carrying 11st 12lb, beating Flint 10st 5lb, who was second. There were ten starters, including such well-known horses as Veil 11st 1lb, Lord Chatham 10st 7lb, and Cruiser 10st 5lb, who all came to grief. The latter had been sold just previous to the race for 1,900 gns.

## THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

On looking through the weights for the Grand National Hurdle and Steeplechase it is quite evident that the handicapper knows but little about the running of New Zealand horses; if he did he would never have made the difference he has between them. What would have been thought of Mr. Evitt had he handicapped the following horses as they are in the Grand National Hurdle Race:—Ahua 12st 3lb, Ixion 12st, Chemist 11st 7lb, Satyr 9st 7lb, Montrose II 9st 4lb, Kapo 9st, and Jupiter 9st. The former is about in his right place; but why is Satyr within 3lb of Montrose II. and 7lb of Kapo and Jupiter. Satyr has proved himself a really good horse over sticks, and his running on the other side must be ignored. That he is an honest horse I think is a great question, but should he run up to his best form he holds all the New Zealand horses, with the exception of Ahua, safe, as it is hard to know how good the little horse is over sticks. Not for one moment do I think that either of these will win, and as many of those engaged are strangers to me, and as the acceptances are declared too late for us to know what they are, it would be folly going into the handicap.

The Steeplechase, as far as horses from this Colony are concerned, is even worse than the Hurdle Race. The idea of giving Ahua 12st 12lb, who has never got to the end of a severe steeplechase, and old Chemist 12st 8lb, while Fearless II got off with 11st 8lb, Coral 10st 12lb, and Grafton 10st 8lb, is more than one can understand. Uranus 10st 4lb, is the best treated of the New Zealand lot, but he has unfortunately gone amiss, while Jupiter, 10st, will most likely fail to negotiate the country. On looking up recent running Coral, Fearless, and Grafton appear to have none the worst of it. There may be another opportunity of letting my readers have some more information regarding the horses on the other side.

On carefully looking through our Australian files, taking their different accounts of the A.J.C. Winter meeting, there are one or two things that cannot fail to strike anyone that has an interest in racing. Satyr was sent over to Sydney with a great reputation, and has more than once proved himself above the average. Before being shipped he was reported to have done a wonderful trial, still in the Hurdle Race, with rest, he starts unbacked and runs nowhere. Satyr, in my opinion, is a most uncertain horse, and only does his best when he likes. With regard to Mr. Stead's horses it is quite different. He is thoroughly conversant with all racing tactics and has an exceedingly clever trainer. He sends over three horses to Australia. Scots Grey, 8st 10lb, is in the June Stakes, six furlongs, starts unbacked and runs nowhere; Palliser, 7st 6lb, is in the Winter Stakes and does likewise. Mr. Stead is much too clever to have sent horses over to Australia if that is their form. The cause may be that they have not recovered from their journey or got acclimatised; but in the opinion of most they are worth watching for future events.

The duplicating of horses' names are continually cropping up. Two other instances have occurred quite recently. By Australian files one learns that Musketeer, by Musket, died a short time ago at Casino, Australia. There are two Musketeers in the Stud Book—one by Musket—Bergese, foaled in 1882, and the other by Musket—Yatterina, foaled in 1880. It must, therefore, be the latter, as the former I do not remember leaving New Zealand. The second instance is, Mr. G. C. W. Greig has a colt by Flintlock—Duchess. There are two Flintlocks at the stud at the present time—the one by Musket—Agate and the other by Musket—Gorgi. Duchess is not in the Stud Book. Mr. Greig first called his colt Zalinski, but finding that Mr. W. R. Wilson had called his colt by Nordenfeldt—Frailty Zalinski he re-named his "Arquebus." This is equally unfortunate, as Tom Payten, at Randwick, has a two-year-old by Martini-Henri—Acme of the same name. Unless some drastic measures are taken lovers of Stud Book lore will before long become completely puzzled, and sons of present breeders of blood stock will, if they follow in their fathers' steps, find themselves in a difficulty when they want to put their mares to the stud.

Why owners of inferior mares should persist in naming their produce after the sires or some celebrated horse is more than one can understand. Why not select appropriate names from the dam's side? It is to be hoped that the delegates at the next Conference will take some notice of this defect in the rules.

THE Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Winter meeting took place on Thursday, June 25th. The weather being most suitable, the consequence was that the attendance was the largest ever seen on the course at a steeplechase meeting. The fields as a rule were large and the racing good. The Auckland horses, Theorem, Sentinel, and Yardman, must have greatly disappointed their owners. Theorem was looked upon as a certainty for the Hurdle Race, but he finished nowhere, and there is little doubt that he is a greatly overrated horse and should have been confined to country meetings. Sentinel was thought to have a great chance for the Steeplechase, but coming to the post-and-rail fence struck it heavily and threw his rider; while Yardman, after leading them a good pace, came to grief. It thus shows the folly of owners keeping their horses for any particular hurdle race or steeplechase. In the Hurdle Race Oaklands and Theorem alternately took the lead the first time round, when Pyramus went to the front and ran home any easy winner, Oaklands and Waterbury fighting it out for second place. Blue Mountain was never in the race, while Darnley was at least a hundred yards from the leaders, and has evidently lost all form. The Hawke's Bay Steeplechase, the principal race of the meeting, brought a fair field together, Oeola and Waterbury being the only ones scratched. The race was a chapter of accidents, only four finishing, and resulted in an easy win for Taurakaitai, Oeo second, and Otaieri third, Pursestring being the only other that finished the course. Rough came down at the first fence, Te Ata ran off at the gorse fence, and Worth and Ival baulked. The flag fell to a good start. The first to show in front were Yardman, Otaieri and Pursestring, who cleared the manuka fence in the order named. On reaching the manuka fence the second time round Otaieri took up the running, followed by Yardman, Taurakaitai, and Oeo. At the back of the course Sentinel went to the front and led to the post and rails, which he struck heavily, and being beaten, came down; Taurakaitai going on full of running won as he liked. Durus won the Ladies Bracelet, after a good finish with Norton and Lady's Maid. Duadine landed the Maiden Steeplechase easily, Darnley and Rough being his immediate followers. Whitefoot and Lochnagar baulked at the first fence, and at the post and rails Worth and Chester fell. The Final Steeplechase looked a certainty for Arena, who raced all the way with Te Haota, but at the last jump Queenslander, admirably ridden by Mr. H. H. Jackson, came with a rush and won cleverly by a length. Couranto defeated rather easily Hukatere, Norton and nine others for the Welter Race. This brought a most successful meeting to a close.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

[BY WIRE.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Tuesday, June 30.

It is common talk here that the *Referee* has changed hands, having been taken over by the Press Company.

The proposals received from the secretary of the Auckland Racing Club by the Canterbury Jockey Club for new rules to be submitted to the Conference have not yet been considered.

On the training tracks here Freedom, Cajo-lery, Merrie England, Clanranald, Ahua, Irish King, Regina, Cruchfield, Captain Abram, Folly, and a number of others are doing good work.

Flinders is turned out by day, and will be for a few weeks probably.

The Canterbury Trotting Club intend giving £250 for a meeting on August 14.

Mr. Hughes McIlwraith is talked of as a probable successor to Mr. J. S. Williams, who intends retiring from the Presidency of the New Zealand Trotting Association.

There is little betting going on for the coming events. Ahua is favourite for the