

### ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

A GREAT row over the Public Trust Commission has revealed a rather shocking state of affairs. The Auditor-General smarting under a somewhat severe lacing, attempts to justify himself by special pleading. His argument amounts to this:—Actions, however wrong, deserve small blame when the persons sinned against suffer no loss or injury. Ergo if one shoots at his landlord and misses him, he deserves no punishment. Evidently Mr. Fitzgerald has a supreme reverence for the eleventh commandment, "Thou shalt not be found out." Apropos of the revelations Sir Harry Atkinson as speaker of the Legislative Council should take a leaf out of the Waterbury watch advertisement. We beg him to "keep a watch on the Honourable members, and let it be a stop-watch"—but certainly not a repeater! Lucky Mr. Jackson Palmer! He is attacked by the Wellington Evening Press, and like Lord Byron, awoke one morning and found himself famous. The recent episode suggests Shakespeare's apothegm, "Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." We do not care to pay a compulsory visit to Wellington during the earth-quake season, so refrain from further comment just now. Despite the risk of overdrafts Bellamy's bar is preferable to the Bar of the House—too much railing about the latter.

ON Thursday last, just too late for that week's issue, a deputation interviewed us on behalf of the seceders from the Hugo Buffalo Minstrels, and left with us a statement which at their desire we publish. It must be remembered that this represents but one side of the difference, and we are quite willing to give equal publicity to the other if submitted to us. The statement somewhat condensed is as follows:—"Last Wednesday morning Mr. Hugo abused his company, using very strong and improper language to the ladies. After paying our first week's salary he announced that he would grant no favours such as advancing money through his manager, but would pay our salaries every Saturday night. This he failed to do on Saturday last. On the following Monday we applied for salaries, and were informed by Mr. Hugo that he could pay only one half, owing to poor business and heavy expenses. This, in the face of the full houses we had been drawing, surprised us not a little. Knowing, however, that if we did not accept his offer we should get nothing, we took our half-salaries and signed for them. Mr. Hugo was informed at 2 o'clock that unless we received the balance due to us we should decline to perform that night, whereupon he told us that we could go to ——. It is not so much a case of salary with us as of treatment. Had Mr. Hugo treated his company like ladies and gentlemen they would have stuck to him, money or no money. We make this statement in order to right ourselves in the eyes of the public. It is our intention to form a new company, and perform on our own account; but as we cannot obtain a Hall at present, we purpose appearing at the Thames for a short season, and will perform in Auckland on our return." The new company is now performing at the Thames, and it is their intention after a brief stay in Auckland to proceed to Taranaki. In

one respect Mr. Hugo is undoubtedly a loser, as we are informed that he had taken through tickets for the entire company. But as he apparently was the first to break his contract he has not just reason for complaint on that score.

We read the other day that the Maoris somewhere hearing that Her Majesty had requested her grandson, the Emperor of Germany, to come with a small retinue, jumped to the conclusion that possibly dearth of food might be the reason of that request. They immediately set about catching sharks, potting mutton-birds and preparing a big present of food to send as a gift to the Queen from her loyal Maori subjects. Imagine the Kaiser and suite banqueting upon the fragrant dry shark, the redolent corn *pirau*, and the oleaginous mutton-birds! Perhaps, however, palates accustomed to sauerkraut, raw ham, and high German sausage might prove equal to the emergency. But, alas! the gift if forwarded must arrive too late for the experiment, unless some Maori tohunga can rival Madame Blavatzky and transport the viands by mere power of volition.

### FOOTBALL.

THE District practice match arranged between Parnell and Ponsonby went greatly in favour of the former, who scored 11 points to 2. Jervis shone brilliantly, potting a goal and securing three tries. Masefield made a grand run, and O'Connor played a good but somewhat rough game. Ridings and Cooke were conspicuous, and the Parnell full-back showed excellent form. It is to be hoped that the various districts will without delay secure central grounds for practice. This is perhaps the best feature of the new régime. Formerly clubs being composed of members scattered over all localities, were greatly handicapped by the difficulty of finding a convenient ground where they could meet and practice dribbling, kicking, passing, etc. Under the new system if a ground handy to the district can be secured, the entire team can readily be got together on say two or three evenings a week. Superior combination and efficiency must result. For such practices a full sized ground is not an absolute *sine qua non*. Space for combined dribbles, drop and place kicks, as well as punting and passing is all that is necessary.

### GORDON TRIP TO WHANGAREI

AFTER many disappointments and no end of work on the part of Mr. T. Neill, Gordon's energetic secretary, a nondescript team was raised to fight under the Gordon banner. Starting at 10.30 on Friday evening the wanderers experienced a very rough passage, most of them sacrificing to Neptune copiously and frequently. Messrs. Neill, White, Carmichael and D. Stewart proved veritable ancient mariners, and escaped scot free. The visitors reached Whangarei at 11 a.m., and were cordially welcomed by their hosts. At about 3 o'clock the match started on a very good and level ground. For Gordon, Walton played full back; L. Meldrum, Somerfield and Dickey, three-quarters; Cook, Stevenson, and D. Harvey, halves; forwards—D. Stewart, (captain) A. Harvey, Cantley, White, Phipps (2), Busby, and Dacre. Thus out of the team not more than seven players could by

any stretch of imagination be regarded as seniors. Among the Whangareites were Moore, an old Wellington rep, who played a grand game; and Wilson, an old Gordonite, who also played in hard and consistent form. Two of the Whangarei three-quarters, viz: Coutts and Hone Heki were hummers, and distinguished themselves throughout the match. In the first spell, Gordon played against the sun, there being no breeze worth mentioning. The game was principally confined to hard forward rushes, the backs but seldom having a look in. The scrums were carried sometimes by Whangarei, and on the whole the play was fairly equal. Somerfield and Stevenson scored for Gordon, but L. Meldrum who took the place-kicks failed to improve.

The second spell for the most part was similar to the first, but rather more back play was seen. The forward rushes on both sides were continuous and determined, the ball travelling all over the ground with amazing rapidity. Although several narrow shaves occurred only one try was scored by either party in this spell. Bertie Dent scored a clever try for Whangarei, which Mellis converted by a splendid kick from a very difficult angle. Dacre succeeded in getting a try also, which equalised the scores, and the match ended in a draw. Whangarei 3, (goal and try) against Gordon 3 (3 tries).

In the evening a smoke concert was given at Pearce's Hotel and a very pleasant and sociable time was spent by both teams and their friends. On Sunday the teams drove in brakes to Kamo and Hikurangi, receiving hospitality and attention in every direction. Altogether they cannot speak too highly of the kindness shown them during their visit. A second match was arranged for Monday. The Gordon team was identically the same, but several changes were made in the Whangarei representatives. This match was almost a repetition of Saturday's, save that the backs had a few more shows. Walton, the Gordon full-back, covered himself with glory, repeatedly averting scores. No score was made in either spell, so the match resulted in another draw. Hone Heki, the Whangarei three-quarter, again proved worthy of the historic name he bears, playing a splendid all round game. The pick of Gordon in both matches were among the backs—Cooke, Stephenson, Walton and Somerfield; among the forwards—Stewart, Cantley, A. Harvey, White and Busby all worked hard and well. In the second match Dickey played forward and Cantley played centre three-quarter doing well in his new position. At 5 p.m. the team embarked on their return journey. This time Æolus and Neptune were propitious, and nobody suffered. The wharf was reached at 3.30 on Tuesday morning, and everybody voted the trip a pleasant one, and the Whangareites jolly good fellows.

The tickets for the complimentary benefit which is being got up for Mr. T. Collins, of the Zealandia Athletic Club, are going off apace. An excellent programme will be submitted, and already a large attendance is assured. There will be a Polo match, Chinese v. Niggers, in costume; a one-mile championship on skates; a boxing tournament, and running events too numerous to mention in this issue.

## MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

*Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?*

ON Thursday evening last the Amateur Orchestral Union attracted a large audience to the Choral Hall. The programme was faithfully carried out, and was a good one, although many again remarked that works by the greatest composers were conspicuous by their absence. In explanation I may say that the management are compelled to cut their coat according to the cloth available in the shape of music. They are quite willing to give works by Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, Rossini, Mendelssohn, etc., but the scores must first be obtained. However, if the public continue to patronise the concerts as liberally as on Thursday evening, doubtless a fund for the purchase of new music will soon be raised. Another desirable addition to the programme would be some good string quartettes or quintettes. The Society has on its roll the cream of our violinists, and the difficulty with regard to music would not apply in this case.

Wallace's popular overture to "Maritana" opened the performance. With the exception of a slight uncertainty in intonation on the part of the brass instruments it was rendered crisply and well, the fugal passages being taken up with especial precision. Mrs. Isidore Alexander followed with Meyerbeer's "Lieti Signor," from the "Huguenots,"—a rather ambitious selection—which the lady bravely attacked and got through creditably. Miss Ada Yates played the accompaniment admirably. An orchestral suite by Greig, "Peter Gynt," in three numbers, replete with beautiful harmonies, tender and graceful melodies, and clever orchestral effects with muted strings and *pizzicato* accompaniments, was capitally rendered by the orchestra, and delighted everybody. The next number on the programme was Jude's not very interesting song, "The Mighty Deep," carefully sung by Mr. E. H. Barber, whose voice, although of good quality, proved scarcely powerful enough for the task of singing to an orchestra. The accompaniment, skilfully arranged by Mr. Clough, was finely played. Gounod's "Saltarello," remarkable for some very interesting orchestration, and a very equitable distribution of "fat" among the various instruments concluded the first part of the concert. It was effectively rendered, narrowly escaping an encore. The second part of the programme opened with Von Suppe's military overture "Light Cavalry" which I have previously noticed in this column. It was rendered in dashing style—the only slight defect being due to the brass instruments in one or two places. However, the audience insisted upon having it again, and the repetition was a far better performance. Mrs. Isidore Alexander next sang "The Harp in the Air," and acquitted herself much better than in her previous selection. The fine mellow notes in her lower register told most effectively. Miss Ada Yates again accompanied with discretion and taste. A *scherzo* by Onslow for a quintette of wind instruments proved quite the gem of the evening. In Messrs. Innes (flute), Clough (oboe), Jackson (clarinet), Cook (bassoon), and R. Craig (horn), Auckland can boast a combination which would require a long search to equal in the Australasian colonies. The selection was a charming one, and execution, intonation, and balance were so perfect that an enthusiastic encore greeted the last notes, and the repetition was equally pleasing. The "Air de Ballet," by the French composer Massenet, opens with an exquisite minor, quaint and elegant, yet with a ring of pastoral sadness suggestive of the death of a village beauty. The gavotte from Ambroise Thomas' "Mignon" is remarkable for dainty finish and refined taste. It is full of simple but pleasing orchestral effects. The orchestra rendered this elegant number with delicacy and precision, winning an undeniable encore. Eilenberg's "Uhlen's Call," a characteristic piece of the superior military band order, wound up a most successful performance. Mr. Paque, who conducted with care and vigilance, must be congratulated on the success of the very efficient orchestra under his command.

## AMY VAUGHAN'S SATURDAY NIGHTS.

THIS ingenious lady seems never at a loss for some good idea. The latest is to rig her company out as a "Salvage Corp." A capital

effect is produced by the young ladies in their shining helmets and trim costumes; while the finale where the well-known picture of the "Darktown Fire Brigade," with all its ludicrous surroundings is faithfully reproduced, was a very happy thought, realized and elaborated with brilliant success. Mr. Harry Cowan, who will be remembered as one of the ablest members of the Harvey Minstrels, is an invaluable addition to the strength of the company. He is a gifted negro comedian, and his simulated terror when listening to a tale of woe related by Max Rinkle fairly convulsed the house. Misses Amy Travers and Winiard danced a sand jig so prettily, and also sang the "Glu Glu" duet from "La Mascotte" with such taste as to win encores for both performances. Mr. F. Willis, who possesses a good baritone, sang a ballad extremely well, and Messrs. Corbett and Diamond gave an excellent double song and dance. Miss Vaughan in her serio-comic gems quite maintained her reputation. The farce in which the goose went "high," elicited roars of laughter. Here and there perhaps just a *souffron* of vulgarity might be detected, which I advise the management to avoid in the future, but I repeat that Miss Vaughan's company is a credit to our local talent, and wish her a continuance of the success which she is winning, and so thoroughly deserves.

THE Auckland Choral Society performed Haydn's "Imperial Mass," and Spohr's "Last Judgment," on Tuesday evening, before the customary crowded audience. Want of space compels me to hold over notice until next week.

ORPHEUS.

## PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

THE regular weekly meet of these hounds took place on Saturday last at St. Ann's Bridge, although the previous night was a very wet one, the turn out was large. Crossing the country proved to be very sloppy and wet. Amongst those present we noticed the following:—Miss Dunnet on Rodger, Miss Percival on Prestissimo, Miss Taylor on Premier, Miss Yonge on a grey, Miss Buckland, the Master, Mr. Percival on Jim, Col. Dawson on his bay horse, Col. Carrie on a Hippocampus colt, Mr. Dunnet, sen., on Bob, Mr. Dunnet, jun., on Hurricane, Mr. T. Craig on Begorrah, Mr. Hanna on a dark bay cob, Mr. Arthur Yonge on Fly, Mr. T. McLaughlan on Cardinal, Mr. D. B. Tonks on Odd Trick, Master Cyril Yonge on Jerry, Mr. A. Bell on a well-bred bay, Mr. Henwood on Muscatelle, Mr. J. Wallace on Relation, Mr. Kelly on Playboy, Mr. Gilmore on Tomato, Mr. Garrett on Guadalquivir, Mr. Shera on Bradlaugh, Mr. Wynyard on a dark bay, Mr. John Rae on The Colonel.

Sharp to 12 o'clock the Master opened the business of the day by drawing the large hill, formerly the property of the Stud Co., but now in the hands of Mr. A. Austin, through whose kindness the Club had permission to hunt over the estate of the late Stud Co. Shortly after the start a strong hare was found, which made a straight line over the hill into Mr. Bailey's property, where the hounds could not be allowed to go, owing to his having some very valuable sheep stocked on his property. The opportunity of giving puss a good rouse up had to be lost, but we hope on some future occasion to find the same stout hare in such a position that we can give him a straight run. The order of procedure now was through the estate on to the road leading from Otahuhu to Panmure. Here the Huntsman led the way over a stone wall into that part of the property where formerly the fillies used to play. Proceeding on to the large volcanic hill a super-abundance of hares were the result—three springing up, each taking a line of their own. The hope of the field was that one of them at least would head for Panmure, and thus give a chance for a run across that fine level stretch of country. In this they were unfortunately disappointed, as the hounds first picked up the line of a hare which made for the Tamaki river. The scent proved cold, and was very difficult to run. After some slow work the hounds eventually worked the hare right across the creek into Mr. Hutton's orchard, where she was lost. While the Huntsman hunted all over the slow lands some of the high-flyers had a chance to try their nags over

the big fences on the estate. Prominent amongst these we noticed Mr. John Rae on The Colonial, Mr. J. W. Wallace on Relation, Mr. Kelly on Playboy, Mr. D. B. Tonks on Odd Trick, Mr. Henwood on Maritana, Mr. Arthur Yonge on Fly, Mr. Carey on Ma Petite Fille, Mr. Paul on a bay. These gentlemen and some others gave an exhibition of high jumping which for style would be hard to beat. Finally a hare was found which took a line over the top of the hill through Mr. Stewart's property, and then on to the scoria mountain (the Otahuhu Reserve). After a good run in which the hounds showed some good work, the hare made her escape by taking to the swamp. After this as the evening was advancing the Master started a drag. This was laid from the Onehunga Road round Mount Smart, and right through to the Harp of Erin. The jumps were all stone walls, twenty-four in number. A big field was able to follow the whole way. Most of the members went the whole run, and were thoroughly satisfied with their day's enjoyment. Anyone who takes an interest in horses and horse-flesh must note what a great improvement there is in the class of horses now frequenting the hunt. Certainly it must give a great impetus to the breeding of a class of horse suitable for this kind of work.

## WANGANUI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MR. E. McElwain has had the hoofs of his favourite steeplechaser, Oddfellow, who is now dead, made into a pair of inkstands, as a memento of the old horse who passed the winning post so often in the van. The hoofs have been beautifully mounted in solid silver, the lids of the ink-wells being ornamented with a silver horse-shoe, whip, and jockey's cap, while a silver shield is attached to each hoof, bearing the following inscription—"Oddfellow, died 22nd July, 1890; owned by E. McElwain." These souvenirs of the old horse are greatly admired by all who have seen them. The mounting was done by Mr. W. H. Nettleship and reflects great credit on his skill and workmanship.

E. McElwain is now training his own horses, as he dispensed with the services of H. Honnor while at the Hawkes Bay meeting. The team consists of Waterbury (by Natator—Sunshine); Epsom (by Ascot—Sunshine), and a brown gelding, 4 years old (by Natator—Gladiator mare). "Teddy" informs me that he is going to take in hand again that well-known steeplechaser Auckland, who finished second to Jenny in the Great Northern Steeplechase in 1890.

All of our local horses that took part in the Hawkes Bay steeplechase meeting have returned. They had bad luck not to annex any event, though Oaklands and Waterbury finished second and third respectively for the Handicap Hurdles, which was won by Pyramus. Norton also finished second in the Ladies' Bracelet, and from all accounts he would have won but for getting jammed between Waihi and Hiamoe, and not being able to get through. He was cut on the head by one of the riders' whips when he did get through. Fifty yards from the post Durus had two lengths lead, but Norton, gamely responding to every call, made upon him, but could not quite get up, the judge's verdict being for Durus, by half a head.

Sam Powell welded the starter's flag for the first time in Hawkes Bay at the steeplechase meeting, and was congratulated after every race for the able manner in which he succeeded.

The following horses will probably make the journey to Wellington for the winter meeting:—Waterbury, Waihi, Hiamoe, Oaklands, Rufus and Corsair.

W. Laing has got a 3 year old filly (by Souwester—Ravensworth mare) in hand. She is engaged in the Wanganui Derby next November. She is a good upstanding filly, and shows good quality, and judging by looks should pay for her oats during the coming season.

Charles Parker, the New Zealand jockey, met with a fatal accident in Adelaide, on June 22nd, while riding Vagary. She fell and broke her neck, while the rider had his skull fractured. He was not much thought of here, but considerably improved when he went to Australia, and had a fair amount of riding. He was well liked for his unassuming manner.

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

July 11.....Wellington R.C. Winter meeting  
 July 11, 18.....V.R.C. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase  
 July 18.....Wellington Hunt Club  
 Aug. 18.....N.Z. Grand National Steeplechase meeting  
 Aug. 15.....Christchurch Hunt Club  
 Sep. 12, 15, 17, 19 A.J.C. Spring meeting  
 Sep. 24, 28.....Hawkesbury R.C. Spring meeting  
 Oct. 17.....Caulfield Cup  
 Oct. 31.....V.R.C. Derby  
 Nov. 3.....Melbourne Cup

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

July 10.....Wellington Hunt Club  
 July 25.....Christchurch Hunt Club  
 July 25.....N.Z. Grand National General entries  
 Oct. 12.....General entries V.R.C. Spring meeting

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

July 19.....N.Z. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase  
 Aug. 1.....N.Z. Grand National Minor events  
 Aug. 5.....Christchurch Hunt Club

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

July 15.....Wellington Hunt Club  
 July 25.....N.Z. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase  
 Aug. 3.....1st forfeit Melbourne Cup  
 Aug. 8.....N.Z. Grand National Final payments  
 Aug. 14.....Christchurch Hunt Club  
 Aug. 25.....2nd payment Caulfield Cup  
 Oct. 13.....final payment Caulfield Cup  
 Oct. 27.....2nd forfeit Melbourne Cup

HUNTING.

July 11.....Mr. E. Harris, Tamaki  
 July 18.....Mangere Bridge  
 July 25.....Panmure Bridge  
 Waikato  
 Aug. 15.....Three Kings  
 Aug. 22.....McLaughlin  
 Aug. 29.....Pakuranga  
 Sept. 5.....New North Road  
 Sept. 12.....Panmure  
 Sept. 19.....Mangere Bridge  
 Sept. 26.....Green Lane  
 Oct. 3.....Mount Albert  
 Oct. 10.....North Shore

GENERAL NOTICES.

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All communications respecting subscriptions or advertisements should be addressed to the publisher.

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- 2—Write on sheets of paper which are neither small enough to be scrappy, nor large enough to be cumbersome on the printer's case.
- 3—Leave plenty of space in margin and between lines for your own and editorial corrections.
- 4—Use white paper rather than blue; because the writing stands out more distinctly.
- 5—Use ink, and black ink—for the same reason.
- 6—Write plainly: Distinct penmanship is an immense desideratum with both editor and printer.
- 7—Number your pages of MSS.

The Secretaries of Racing, Rowing, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Polo, Yachting, Bicycle, Dramatic—in short of any and every kind of Athletic, Sporting, and Dramatic Clubs are cordially invited to send us any information that may be of interest to the public and of use in furthering their interests. The Editor will at all times be willing to do his best to answer any questions or decide any disputes on matters of sporting or general interest. In every case correspondents must enclose their correct names and addresses (but not for publication), as no notice whatever can be taken of anonymous communications.

To oblige Sporting friends at a distance, the result of important races will be wired immediately after they are run on receipt of a letter containing instructions, and 2s. in stamps.

Sporting Review.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1891.

The following are the suggestions that the A.R.C. Committee have decided on sending down to the Conference at Wellington, in charge of Mr. Percival, the secretary, who has been appointed to assist the Hon. E. Mitchellson as Delegate:—

1. When two or more payments for nominations acceptances, etc., have to be made to go to the funds, the first payment shall be the smallest, the second and third *pro rata*.
2. This we coincide in; but it would be better to reduce the nominations and acceptances in the case of hurdle races and steeplechases to 50 per cent. less than in the case of flat racing, as owners have to pay double fees for their jockeys, and also run an extra risk with their horses.
3. The highest weight to be allotted in a handicap by a handicapper shall not be less than weight-for-age.
4. This is rather ambiguously worded. As in any handicap except those for horses of stated ages we are sure to have a four or five-year-old entered. This suggestion appears to be founded on what has been suggested in this paper several times. If the highest weight accepting is under 8st 12lb it shall be raised to that, and the others in proportion. This suggestion has not found favour down South with racing men, and lately the *Canterbury Times* has had one or two articles on the subject.

3. That when the totalisator is not used it shall not be necessary for programmes to be passed as long as the rules of racing are complied with.

This we cannot agree with, as the effect would be to relieve the committee of the Metropolitan Clubs from their duties. Another thing, how can it be ascertained until after the meeting if the rules of racing have been complied with unless they have been supervised? It would also cause endless trouble with small country clubs, and perhaps be the cause of disqualifying a horse the property of an innocent owner.

4. A certified copy of race card of all meetings, with first, second, and third horse marked, shall be forwarded after each meeting to the metropolitan club of district.

This is a good idea, but instead of making it one copy, it should be two; the first for the secretaries of the metropolitan clubs, and the other for the official calendar of each district.

5. The added money to a race held within ten miles of the metropolitan clubs shall not be less than 40 sovs, nor shall the entry and acceptance fee exceed 3 per cent.

The first part of the clause, that the added money shall not be less than 40 sovs., is manifestly unfair, the amount being a great deal too high. The committee of a meeting like Takapuna or Avondale give a fair amount of added money to their principal races, at the same time they must have races to suit local and small owners, so they generally have seven races a day to attract a good attendance. Now, if this suggestion was adopted, it would mean these seven races a day at £40—£280. To this must be added, to attract a good field of horses—for the Cup, £20; Steeplechase, £20; Hurdle Race, £10. This would bring the total up to £330. What club, except a metropolitan club, could afford to give this amount and make a profit? If the two and a-half per cent. taxation should also come into force, it would simply mean ruination to all the small clubs.

6. The proprietor of or any person interested in the working of the totalisator, shall not be eligible to act as a steward or a committeeman of a race meeting.

This is an addition to the suggestion that the C.J.C. Committee are bringing forward, and there cannot be any objection to it. In fact it would benefit racing.

7. All pony races shall come under the rules of racing. This we do not agree with, but suggest the following: "Every club may have in their programme one pony race which shall come under the rules of racing." All other pony races should be run under the pony and trotting rules. If this rule passes as it reads above, any number of pony races could be placed on a programme, which would be a great mistake.

8. The surplus in Selling Races over the selling price and stake added shall not go to the club funds other than that accruing from the winner.

This suggestion we cannot approve of. It simply means that an owner who is clever enough not to be found out can run his horse "stiff," and buy him back at any price he likes without having to pay a shilling out of his own pocket, or if an owner wants to get rid of his horse he can enter him for nil, and if claimed can pocket all the money. It also opens a road for any amount of swindling, as if selling races were not bad enough as they are now constituted.

9. Jockeys shall wear a thoroughly clean and appropriate dress, and colours of owners and nominators shall also be in good and proper condition.

This is all right, but it is wrongly worded. We always thought that it was a by-law in all clubs that jockeys should be properly dressed; but if this suggestion is carried, how is it to be done if the colours of the owner and nominator are demanded? A jockey can only wear one colour, and we thought if that was the one declared at the time of entry it was sufficient, unless it belonged or had been previously claimed by another owner.

10. The minimum weight in all handicaps after 1st June shall be nine stone.

We see no objection to this being passed, though it is rather light, as the intention of the old rule was to put a stop to flat racing during the winter, so as to give a horse a compulsory rest, and to encourage hunters only, and to enable their owners to ride.

Agent, three times winner of the N.Z. Grand National, besides many other steeplechases, is ending his days at Ashburton. Mr. Holmes, the father of the jockey, is looking after the old fellow.—*Canterbury Times*.

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE acceptances for the Wellington Winter Meeting are not more flattering to Mr. Eviatt than were those for the Hawkes Bay Winter Meeting, only fifteen out of the thirty-three original entries for the Hurdle Race, and eighteen out of the thirty-two for the Steeplechase remaining in. Taking first the Hurdle Race, Sentinel, 12st 9lb, and Pyramus, 11st 7lb, head the list. On the Napier running the latter proved himself a thoroughly good horse over the sticks: Sentinel can never give him 16lb, so he must hold him safe. Of the others that ran against him at Napier who are engaged at Wellington are Oaklands, 9st 11lb, and Theorem, 9st 10lb; he meets the former at 32lb and the latter on 35lb worse terms. This on paper should make both of them hold Pyramus safe; at the same time it must be borne in mind that he won easily, and a good horse can give a lot of weight away. The trainer of Theorem might have found out what a good horse Pyramus was. Going further down the list one comes to Master Agnes, 10st 10lb; he has shown his ability over hurdles. Next comes Couranto, 10st 7lb, who has a fair turn of speed, and so has Angler, with a pound less; but as to their jumping capabilities I know nothing, but their owners must or they would not have accepted with them. Ival, 9st 10lb, has also shown pace, but he is an uncertain horse. Of the others I know little about. The three I like best are OAKLANDS, MASTER AGNES, and COURANTO, with Pyramus close up.

Not knowing the Wellington steeplechase course makes it rather difficult to try and select a winner. From what I can learn the course, which is three miles, is a rough, twisting one, which requires a steady horse and a sure jumper. Ahua, 12st 12lb, on a fair course would be a certainty, though he is a little horse. The three miles, however, is just his distance. Of the horses that ran at Napier, Taurakuitai, 11st 11lb, meets Sentinel, 12st 2lb, on 8lb; Oeo, 10st, on 9lb; Otaieri, 9st 10lb, on 11lb; and Yardman, 9st 8lb, on 13lb worse terms. The course being half a mile shorter will suit Sentinel better, and from the way he was running in the Hawkes Bay Steeplechase when he fell, he should hold all that lot with the exception of Taurakaitai safe. Dangerous, 9st 10lb, got second in both the Egmont and Wanganui Steeplechases; he is a sure fencer though not possessed of a great turn of speed. He is also engaged in the Trial Steeplechase with the top weight of 10st 4lb, so it greatly depends for which his owner intends to send him for. Of the others I have no great fancy, though falls, etc., may bring them to the front. Ahua, Sentinel, Taurakaitai, and Dangerous read the best. If Sentinel goes for the Hurdle Race, which he is most likely to do, it will greatly militate against his chance, the same as it will Dangerous if he is meant for the Trial Steeplechase, but as in all probability he will start for the big money I fancy that either AHUA TAURAKAITAI or DANGEROUS will furnish the winner, and I like them in the order named. The other races had better be left alone until the numbers go up.

THE weights for the New Zealand, Melbourne, and Caulfield Cups have now appeared, and will give plenty of occupation for the next three months to those who like to study the Racing Calendar. This week I shall take a cursory view of the New Zealand Cup, as the weeding out when the first forfeit becomes due will I think be very great. The handicap taking it as a whole is a flattering one, but there are a great many infirm horses in the race that appear well in, while there are a number of the ragged division thrown in all together. There is one thing that the early backers will have to bear in mind—a great many of the horses engaged are supposed to be under orders for the other side. Some of which had better be kept here unless they intend to fly at small game. Tirraileur, 9st 7lb, as might be expected heads the list, and reads much better for this race than either the Melbourne or Caulfield Cups, so his owner may be expected to keep him this side with others of his team, as none of them are particularly favoured by Australian

handicappers. Merrie England, 9st 3lb, and Crackshot, 9st 2lb, are both infirm horses, so they cannot be depended upon. Medallion, 8st 12lb, is remarkably well in. His running last season was of a most curious kind. Notwithstanding that I believe him to be the best three-year-old that we saw out. Freedom, at the same weight, has nothing to complain of, and should he remain in the Colony will show a bold front. Hilda has gone to the stud. Dudu will not get the distance; neither will Cissy with 8st 5lb. Occident, at the same weight has been scratched; while Cynisca, 8st 3lb, has rather an enticing look. St. Andrew, 8st has never shown his ability to stay a distance. Wolverine, 7st 13lb, last year's winner, reads well, but he is another of the unsound division. Going further down the list, Stern-chaser, 7st 2lb, is under orders for the other side. The Workman, 7st 1lb, if he trains on, looks on paper a thoroughly good thing. We then come to the light weight division. Of these Aronoe, 6st 3lb, reads about the best. But I should advise my readers not to back any horse until the weeding takes place. Those that read the best on paper at the present time are Tiraille, Medallion, Stern-chaser, The Workman, and Aronoe. I will go more closely into the handicap in a future issue.

The correct weights for the Caulfield Cup are just to hand, and so it is impossible to take more than a cursory glance through them this week, for, like the Melbourne Cup, they take a great deal of looking through. At the same time one must try and find out what is being kept for the big event, as many of the horses are engaged in both. Of the top weights, last year's winner Vengeance, 8st 13lb, and Correze, 8st 11lb, are well in, but so they are at Flemington. Bungebah, 9st 7lb, will like the mile and a half better than the two miles. Sir William, 8st 11lb, has a weight that should bring him to the front; so has Paris, 8st 6lb, and Annesley, 8st 6lb, who will like this distance better than a longer one. The next that catch the eye are Loyalstone, 8st 1lb, Magic Circle, 8st 1lb, Wilga, 7st 12lb, Meltonian, 7st 10lb, King William, 7st 11lb, Bendigo, 7st 10lb, The Harbour Light, 7st 8lb, Mikado II., 7st 10lb, Dillon, 7st 7lb, Elsie, 7st 2lb, Forty Winks, 7st 2lb, and Patrol, 7st. Of course it is impossible for a man to back all these, and as the bookmakers have long since stopped giving so many against the field, which in this case would be about thirty, it is therefore better to leave it alone until the second payment, which is due on August 25th, is made; but if compelled to take a long shot, Paris, Wilga, and Annesley should afford hedging.

The following appears in the *Otago Witness* of June 11th:—"Replying to the question what is the amount of the largest fortune ever lost on the turf an English exchange replies: 'About half a million sterling. There are three men who stand out pre-eminently in this respect, although in each case the turf and betting were only partly, and not wholly, the means whereby they dissipated large fortunes. Jack Mytton (1796-1834), the Squire of Halston, descended from an ancient Shropshire family, squandered, in the course of a few years, the sum of £600,000, which would be equal to about a million and a-half at the present day. At the age of 38 he died, in March, 1834, bankrupt and penniless, within the gloomy walls of the King's Bench Prison. The Marquis of Hastings, born in 1842, had a short and reckless career, in which he dissipated a large fortune principally on the turf, and is said to have lost on one race—the Derby, which was run in a snowstorm in 1867—over £100,000. He did not survive the blow more than a year. Ernest Benzon, the 'Jubilee Plunger,' who is living, lost £250,000 in two years. In Australia over £20,000,000 is annually lost and won by betting; while in this country a fabulous sum changes hands in this manner. One of the most influential London bookmakers during the height of the racing season, is said to pass about half a million of money through his hands. [The £20,000,000 in Australia is open to doubt, though Joe Thompson is said to be the authority.] It may be interesting to some of my readers to give them what I know of the turf in England. Jack Mytton, sen., was before my time, but Jack Mytton, jun., was not; and I knew him well. He ran

through a large fortune, burning his candle at both ends, and eventually died in Paris, living on a small annuity allowed him by his friends. To show the reckless way he carried on he went into a well-known London bank the Monday after the Chester races, and drew out £25,000, the amount he had lost at the meeting. He quietly put the notes into his coat pocket, and walked out of the bank. One of the partners told a clerk to follow him in case he should be robbed. Jack got into a hansom cab, and drove to Tattersall's rooms, which were then at Hyde Park Corner. You had to pass under an archway, and down a lane, the stables, etc., being on the right-hand side and the subscription rooms on the left, opening on to the lawn, with a ring round it, where the horses, if required, were shown. In the middle of the room was an elevated round table, more like a desk, while along the walls, and in the corners, were small tables which the leading bookmakers, such as Davis, Padwick, Hargreaves, etc., generally appropriated. Mytton walked into the room, and pulling out the roll of notes, placed them on the centre table, calling out, in a loud voice, "Here is what I have lost; it is all I have got; help yourselves," and quietly walked out of the room. The Marquis of Hastings never had the fortune that most people attributed to him. His income, when he came of age, could not have been more than six thousand a year, as the estates were heavily burdened. He, without exception, went the pace faster than any one I ever knew. It was not an uncommon thing for him to call out of a morning to bring him a blank cheque and a brandy and soda. Exclusive of his mad racing career he kept the Quorn hounds, though he could not ride a yard over a county. This cost him nearly all his income. His racing career is well known. One week he won large sums, the next he would have to go to the money-lenders. As every one knows, that after a severe struggle, he finally came to grief over Lady Elizabeth, the year that Blue Gown won the Derby, 1868. Lady Elizabeth had proved herself a wonderful two-year old. During the winter, and almost up to the day, she was a great favourite. How it was kept from the Marquis of Hastings that she had not improved during the recess no one knows; but when she stripped for the race the merest tryo could see that she had not improved or grown a bit since the previous autumn. She finished last, or last but one. The Marquis was then in the hands of Padwick, and had to give the control of his stud over to him. The consequence was that the Earl, who afterwards won the Grand Prix de Paris, was scratched, though there were many who thought that he could have beaten Blue Gown. This completely broke the Marquis of Hastings heart, and he died shortly after, many persons thinking that it was a case of suicide. To show the reckless way that he used to bet I will mention one instance at the Newmarket Houghton Meeting. A friend of mine had a shifty filly that had a good reputation, that was running in a selling race, and her owner asked him to put a hundred pounds on him. The Marquis asked, "What is her chance?" The reply was, "If she gets away it is a certainty; but it is 2 to 1 she is left at the post." She got away, and won easily. The Marquis, after the race, called to the owner, asking him to come to his carriage and have some champagne, stating that he had put the hundred pounds on at six to one, and that he himself had won ten thousand, which must have meant at least an outlay of three thousand pounds, as in those days the market was very sensitive, and if the bookmakers found that a horse was genuinely backed they soon reduced the odds. In reply to the par. above, the writer omits two of the most celebrated men for running through their fortune I ever knew. The first is George Heald, who was one of the numerous husbands of the celebrated Lola Montez. He was an officer in the Life Guards, and was known at Eton and Oxford Colleges under the nickname of "Boiled Turnip," as he was so very soft. He became entangled in the fair Lola's toils, and notwithstanding all the protests of his brother officers, he ostensibly married her. His friends brought an action for bigamy against her, one of her husbands (Captain James), and another whose name could not be ascertained at the time, being alive. She was committed for trial, bail being fixed at £10,000. The infatuated husband

took her abroad, forfeiting the bail. Dr. Heald had left his nephew (George Heald) rather more than £250,000, which he was to come into at the age of twenty-five. He died just before he was twenty-seven, and all that he left was a little over seven thousand pounds. George Heald neither raced nor gambled, and Lola Montez was responsible for the loss of it all. In one year she squandered a hundred thousand pounds for him, and she eventually died a beggar in California, a woman that at one time ruled a country. The other case that I will mention was Mr. Carew, of Carshalton Park, between Croydon and Epsom. He was commonly known among his friends as "Buster" Carew. When he became of age the Carshalton property was worth about £300,000, and he also had a large amount of ready money. He thoroughly proved the old adage, "A second-class racehorse, etc., will break the Bank of England." One of the first racehorses he owned was Yellow Jack, that ran second for some of the principal races in England, but never won a race. The other was the "Brompton Slasher," who some of my readers may remember in the park. Poor old "Buster" was very soon in low water. As a last resource he flew a "kite" with Harry Hargreaves, alias "Old Brass," for five thousand, having to take a horse called Delight as part payment. With him he won the City and Suburban Stakes at Epsom, and £16,000. Instead of keeping him for the Derby, for which he had backed him to win a large stake, he insisted, against the advice of his trainer and friends, upon running him in the Chester Cup. Coming round the Castle turn he broke down. This finished poor old "Buster" Carew. He had to part with everything, and finally died at an early age in one of the slums of Paris.

There are many others I could mention. Captain Scott, for instance, who died in Melbourne. Are there any of my readers that remember Limmer's Hotel, and Charlie, the waiter, in the good old times?

## TARANAKI SPORTING NOTES.

(BY WIRE.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, Tuesday.

Atalanta has slipped foal to St. Leger.  
Bob beat Judy in the two-mile trot at Hawera on Saturday. Time: 6mins. 39secs.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, July 3.

The local sports came out well over Durus's win in the Ladies' Bracelet race at the Hawke's Bay Winter Meeting. About 20 tickets of the 49 in the machine represented New Plymouth investments, and as the dividend was £13 19s it will be perceived that a bit of foreign capital came to Taranaki. Mr. F. Watson, I believe, rode a really good race, just landing the little mare home by half a head from Norton, a Wanganui representative. The bracelet is a handsome piece of jewellery. It is made up of three bands of gold, with a cluster of eight diamonds (in the centre of which is a large pearl) in the front.

Mr. Watson has a fine looking gelding in Snapcap, 18 months old, by Foulshot—dam Bombshell, by Flintlock. The gelding is nominated for classic events at Wanganui.

The owner of Durus (Mr. J. George) has Vendor wintering well, and the little son of Resolution should give a good account of himself next season. He also has a two-year old colt, Melas, by Armourer, in work. Melas is nominated for the Wanganui Derby. I think he will make a good horse when he gets a bit of age on him.

At the "Seaside Lodge" Mr. W. Barnard has Jenny in work again, and the mare is looking well, having quite recovered from her strained leg, and if she is weighted fairly I understand she will have a cut in at the Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase. In the same stable are Shela, a three-year grey filly, by Dauphin, dam Witiora; and Recruit, a five-year-old son of Volunteer, dam unknown. The filly is a nice cut-of-an animal, and should be heard of next season, when she will make her debut. Recruit "aint a beauty," by any means, but he looks to be the makings of a good "lepping" nag, for which game Mr. Barnard bought him at Patea recently.

Bill Elliott, at Waitara, has a Flintlock filly, Silverlock, and a pony, Cigarette, in training as far as I know.

"Dicky" Johnston, the well-known light-weight jockey, is now working for Messrs. Hearn and Kennedy at Momamaki.

Mr. A. Standish represents the Taranaki Jockey Club at the Racing Conference. He leaves next Tuesday.

The mare Eileen wants a trainer, but I don't think one can be found, as she has proved such a rank disappointment.

Percy Johnston, the well-known cross-country rider, is still in Mr. Watson's employ as trainer. In the paddock of the same stable the mare Miss Laura is located. She has missed to Nordenfeldt, but has a nice filly at foot by St. Leger.

The brood mare Atalantis, owned by "Mr. Keswick," has also missed to Nordenfeldt, but has a nice filly by Ingomar. Both this mare and Miss Laura are, I understand, to be put to Foulshot next season.

At Waitara, Atalanta, owned by Mr. Goodwin, has proved in foal again to St. Leger. The St. Leger colt she had at foot when bought at Sylvia Park, is developing splendidly.

Mr. J. J. Russell, or "Billy-go-by'em," as his intimate friends dearly love to call him, has that wonderful pony Lady Onslow, by Governor—dam Moka Moka, and Flukem (by Australian), the winner of the Bell Block Cup, in work. Charlie, the trotter, is also in his stable. I should like to see "Jay" have a bit of luck next season, as he is a good sport, and a real sticker to the game, although he is good "on the flute."

A match for £50 aside, between the hacks Lady Gordon (of Hawera) and Ishmael (Manaia) will be run on the Hawera racecourse on Thursday, July 9. A good deal of money is being wagered over the match. I incline to the chance of the latter. A match between the trotters, Bob and Judy, was to have taken place on the same racecourse to-day (Friday), but as it rained heavily I daresay it was postponed.

As I have only the nominations of the Wellington meeting before me, I find a bit of difficulty in the job of spotting winners; but my fancies are:—Trial Steeplechase: Christmas, and Goodshot. Hurdles: Whalebone, Waterbury, Theorem (the Auckland idol), or Oaklands. Steeplechase: Yardman, Comet, Whalebone. Ladies' Trophy: Norton, or Retina and Highweight. Welter: Couranto, Waterbury, or Kimberley. Hack Hurdles: I won't attempt, but if Goodshot starts I'll stand by him.

SPORTING ITEMS.

Occident was scratched for the New Zealand Cup at 2 p.m. on Monday, 6th inst.

Harry Taylor, at one time a well-known jockey in Auckland, is dead.

It is reported that a lady to whose care Murrumbidgee, the man with the monkey, had entrusted £170 odd, has taken her departure from Wellington with the same.

Vagary, from whom poor Charles Parker was thrown and fatally injured, was trained by H. Tothill, so that the mare, trainer, and rider have been killed within three weeks.—*Canterbury Times*.

With reference to the rumour to which we gave circulation in a recent issue that it was the reputed intention of Messrs. Hobbs and Goodwin to invade Auckland with three of their machines, we think it only fair to Mr. W. Blomfield to state that he has had charge of the machines for the last five or six seasons, and has always given the public general satisfaction. Mr. Blomfield has six machines of the latest pattern, has a staff of well-trained assistants available; in the face of this, his popularity with the general public, and the satisfaction he has given to the various racing clubs, we cannot help remarking that Hobbs and Goodwin would be ill-advised were they to come to Auckland with their totalisators at present.

Ramage, Carbine's jockey, was out on crutches last week.

Forget-me-not has failed to pass the 14.2 standard in Sydney.

The steeplechaser Takapu arrived in Sydney perfectly safe.

Mr. Windsor of the Waikato has Never-Miss in hand, who is being schooled for jumping purposes.

Harry Prince, the well-known New Zealand bookmaker, but for some years has resided in Melbourne, died on June 25.

The Pakuranga Hounds will meet on Saturday next, July 11, at Mr. A. E. Harris' farm, East Tamaki.

George Wright is back in Auckland, looking all the better for his trip across to Australia. He brought no horses back, but he is full of anecdote.

The *Weekly Press* states that Ahua will, after the Grand National meeting, retire from the turf, and will stand at his owner's (Mr. D. Rutherford) station at Leslie Hills.

Cusden, the New Zealand jockey, joins Walter Hickenbotham's stable as second jockey at the end of this month. It is wonderful how owners allowed him to leave this colony.

The Committee of the Pakuranga Hunt Club have decided that the hounds shall visit the Waikato for a fortnight either at the end of this month or the first week in August. The first meet will take place at Hamilton.

The complimentary race meeting tendered to Mr. C. DeMestre at Randwick on June 15, resulted in close upon £1000 being available for the *beneficiare*. Mr. DeMestre was too ill to attend, but the Governor and all the leading sportsmen were present.

Mr. D. McLeod, who went across the water a fortnight since, has, we are informed by private information received by the last Sydney mail, been singularly fortunate. At a pony meeting he came out with £250 on the right side of his book.

"Athos" has been informed that Hickenbotham proceeds to Mr. Wallace's place at Queenscliff, taking with him nine horses, viz., Carbine, Megaphone, Tantallon, Aster, Bendigo, and four youngsters, and will remain there until Cup time.

Although the weights for the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups have been published there is very little doing in betting circles. For the V.R.C. Derby and Melbourne Cup 1000 to 5 is offered, and 1000 to 1 the two Cups. The following are the latest quotations:—

GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE RACE.

Run Saturday, July 11.  
10 to 1 agst Dillon (off)  
10 - 1 — Elfe (off)  
10 - 1 — Hesperus (off)  
10 - 1 — Priscilla (off)  
10 - 1 — Redleap (off)

GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE.

Run Saturday, July 18.  
7 to 1 agst Sir Wilfred (off)  
7 - 1 — Fearless II. (tk and off)  
10 - 1 — Blister (off)  
10 - 1 — Maybe (off)  
10 - 1 — Tyro (off)

V.R.C. DERBY.

Run Saturday, October 30.  
4 to 1 agst Stromboli (off)  
7 - 1 — Fenace (off)  
8 - 1 — Swordbearer (off)

MELBOURNE CUP.

Run Tuesday, November 3.  
10 to 1 agst Carbine (tk and off)  
14 - 1 — Vengeance (off)

According to the *Sporting Standard* Carbine was supported last week to win £5000 at the absurdly short price of 10 to 1. Fancy there being fools enough to take that price about a horse with 10st 12lb on his back, and who has also an unsound hoof, four months before the race is run.

At the next December meeting in the Waikato the South Auckland Club's Produce Stakes should prove a great success, as a large number of owners are preparing for it. General regret is expressed that Fusilade should be allowed to leave the district for the small sum of 375 guineas, as his stock are turning out remarkably well. There are three or four engaged in the above race that are likely to make names for themselves.

During the past racing season Mr. W. Blomfield has passed through his totalisators the undermentioned amounts. It will be seen that at the four A.R.C. meetings £50,568 was the total passed through out of £94,305 negotiated during the year by the proprietor of the machine and his assistants. The following are the amounts passed through at the various meetings:—

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.		£
Spring	...	8,684
Summer	...	26,898
Autumn	...	10,888
Winter	...	4,100
		50,568
TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB.		£
Spring	...	8,720
Summer	...	10,800
Winter	...	4,500
		18,520
SUBURBAN MEETINGS.		£
Pakuranga Hunt Club Autumn	...	2,713
Onehunga Autumn	...	1,807
Dargaville Autumn	...	608
Tattersall's Annual	...	2,568
Paeroa Annual	...	180
Cambridge Annual	...	835
Thames Summer Meeting	...	2,163
Waikato Hunt Club Annual	...	235
Helensville, Annual	...	443
Whangarei, Summer	...	1,316
Rotorua Annual	...	202
Pakuranga Racing Club Spring	...	1,452
		18,870
AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB.		£
June Meeting	...	1,060
Spring	...	1,143
Summer	...	6,277
Huntly Disaster Meeting	...	1,346
Otahuhu Trotting Autumn	...	1,521
		11,347
Total	...	£94,305

George Wright says the Australian ponies are regular fliers. They do their 6 furlongs in 1 16½ and 1 17, and believes they are capable of doing it in 1 15, and he emphasizes the above by asserting that the ponies cut out a mile fetlock deep in mud in 1 42.

Mr. Miller, who is the owner of Brian Boru, has sold out his interest in the Pukekohe Hotel to Mr. "Joe" Robinson, late of the Aurora Hotel, Auckland, and it is presumed the new landlord will take over the horse; he is in great heart at present. It will be remembered he ran a good second to Cambria at the last Takapuna summer meeting.

Mr. Paul Kerekere of Gisborne, has bought the two-year-old colt Brigand from Mr. T. Morrin, the price said to have been paid for the son of Brigadier and Gannett being £300. Gisborne will be the colt's new quarters. The sale was effected by Mr. S. C. Caulton, of the Central Hotel, who selected him in preference to Master Pat and Tulloch.

We are sorry to announce the demise of our old contemporary, the *N.Z. Referee*, which was first published in Christchurch nearly eight years since. It has been purchased by the proprietors of the *Canterbury Weekly Press*, and is now incorporated with that journal. The *SPORTING REVIEW* thus becomes the only journal devoted entirely to sporting matters, &c., in the colony.

On Wednesday evening of last week a number of trotting enthusiasts met at the Edinburgh Castle Hotel, for the purpose of forming a Club. Mr. G. McBride was voted to the chair, and Mr. E. P. Goldsborough was elected secretary *pro tem*. After a lengthy discussion on the suitability of a name, it was agreed to designate it the "Onslow Trotting Club." A meeting is to be held to-morrow night at the same place to elect officers and arrange all details necessary to make the "Onslow" second to none in the Colony.

Messrs. Yuille & Co. have been instructed to sell the whole of Mr. S. G. Cooke's valuable stud of racehorses at Pytchley Lodge, Newmarket on July 20. It will be well worth watching into whose hands they go, as many of them are engaged in both Caulfield and Melbourne Cups, and one or two are well handicapped. The principal ones in the stud are The Admiral, The Spot, The Harbour Light, and The Commodore. Among the two-year-olds are The Rebel, Yarran, The Jester, The Pioneer, The Doctor, and The Magistrate, also many other useful horses. At the same time will be sold Pytchley Lodge, the furniture, and all the racing gear, etc. Mr. Cook, who for many years has been one of the most prominent racing men in Australia, has determined to abandon turf pursuits as he finds that under existing circumstances he cannot race with either pleasure or profit to himself.

On Saturday last, on the Lake Beach, an amateur race meeting took place. About 200 persons were present, including several well-known pencilers from town. The following are the results:—Trotting Race, in saddle, Mr. George's mare; Trotting in gigs, Mr. George's mare; Hack Race, Mr. Scheriff's Bob-tail. Mr. J. Forth's Seaweed won the Pony Race, but he refused to accept the stakes, and the race being run over again, Joker won. It turned out that "Seaweed" was no other than Red Rose. Mr. Davies' (the 'bus proprietor) mare won the Hurdles. A match has been arranged between this mare and The Joker, to take place some morning this week.

We give below the amounts put through the totalisator by Messrs. Adams and Andrews during the past season. Those gentlemen almost invariably worked the machines at the suburban meetings during the past season, and are in no way connected with Mr. Blomfield's totalisators. Messrs. Adams and Andrews always give their patrons and the general public the greatest possible satisfaction, and we commend them to the favourable notice of any racing club requiring their services:—

Pakuranga Hunt Club	...	...	...	22,473	0	0
Avondale J.C. Spring	...	...	...	2,358	0	0
South Auckland R.C.	...	...	...	1,447	0	0
Manuka Racing Club	...	...	...	1,265	0	0
Drury Racing Club	...	...	...	860	0	0
Opunaki Racing Club	...	...	...	857	0	0
Whitford Park	...	...	...	442	10	0
Henderson's Mill Turf Club	...	...	...	2,220	0	0
South Auckland Autumn	...	...	...	1,480	10	0
Avondale R.C. Autumn	...	...	...	1,984	0	0
Te Aroha Jockey Club	...	...	...	410	0	0
Lake Racing Club	...	...	...	718	10	0
Thames Jockey Club	...	...	...	426	0	0
Waipa Racing Club	...	...	...	201	0	0
Total	...	...	...	£17,142	10	0

## WEIGHTS, ACCEPTANCES, ETC.

### WELLINGTON RACING CLUB MEETING—ACCEPTANCES.

#### WELLINGTON STEEPLECHASE, three miles.

st. lb.	st. lb.	st. lb.	st. lb.
Ahus	12 12	Waialebone	10 0
Sentinel	12 2	Oeo	10 0
Taurakaitai	11 11	Gladstone	9 10
Ocola	10 10	Dangerous	9 10
Kangaroo	10 7	Christmas	9 10
Darley	10 5	Rere	9 10
		Otaieri	9 10
		Rough	9 8
		Yardman	9 8
		Roger	9 8
		General Gordon	9 7
		Canute	9 7

THE TRIAL STEEPCHASE.—Dangerous, 10st 4lb; Christmas, 10st 4lb; Chester, 10st 2lb; Roger, 10st 2lb; The Monk, 10st; General Gordon, 9st 9lb; Dan, 9st 9lb; Lucy Glitters, 9st 7lb; Canute, 9st 7lb; Pirate, 9st 7lb; Johnny, 9st 7lb.

HURDLE HANDICAP, one mile and three-quarters.—Sentinel, 12st 9lb; Pyramid, 11st 7lb; Master Agnes, 10st 10lb; Courante, 10st 7lb; Angler, 10st 6lb; Whalebone, 10st 5lb; Christmas, 10st; Oaklands, 9st 11lb; Rere, 9st 10lb; Theorem, 9st 10lb; Newmarket, 9st 10lb; Ival, 9st 10lb; Kimberley, 9st 6lb; Blue Mountain, 9st.

LADIES' TROPHY, one mile on the flat.—Jet d'Eau, 12st 12lb; Norton, 12st; Master Agnes, 11st 10lb; Lenore, 11st 7lb; Reputation, 11st 2lb; Kimberley, 11st 2lb; Waihi, 11st; The Laird, 10st 12lb; Blue Mountain, 10st 12lb; Pirate, 10st 12lb.

## ATHLETICS, ETC.

On account of the small attendance at the Zealandia Athletic Grounds on Saturday last, Mr. H. Deerfoot, the champion long-distance runner of Australia, did not start to run 10 miles against time as announced, his previous record for that distance is 51min 20sec. W. G. George, England, ran the same distance in the same time, whilst W. Cummings, professional, England, did the 10 miles in 51min 6 3-5ths secs.

Mr. Geo. Rodwell's second round in his championship tournament should prove a great success. He has received a large number of entries.

Great preparations are being made by Messrs Geo. Rodwell, and D. C. Mahoney, the manager and secretary of the committee appointed to carry out the complimentary benefit to Mr. "Tom" Collins successfully on the 20th inst. A monster programme will be presented, and already a large number of tickets have been sold.

Duncan Ross, the champion all round athlete, who recently visited this colony, is back again in Sydney, and he gave an exhibition at the opening of the newly-formed Olympic Club there on June 9. He will shortly wrestle Miller.

Franz Zigel, who is only 5ft. 2in. in height, jumped 5ft. 8in. at the annual spring games, New York, recently, which is an excellent performance considering his height.

We are sorry to announce that Mr. E. O'Hare, the well-known handicapper, was taken seriously ill on Thursday evening last, and has been spitting large quantities of blood since. On enquiry at his residence to-day we were informed that "Ted" was rapidly recovering, but is still confined to his bed, and is not permitted to talk to any visitors.

Of the 33 competitors who nominated for Mr. H. N. Simpson's £7 Sheffield Handicap, 26 cried "content" with their handicap, and faced the starter (Mr. Alfred Bailey) on Monday evening, before a moderate attendance, which included the Native Rose Football team, who were present by the kind invitation of the proprietor.

There were some very close finishes, and also some very questionable running, which resulted in Murphy, who was on the 3½ yards mark, being disqualified by the committee. Murphy explains himself by asserting that he hurt his side in a football match on Saturday. Be this true or not, the management deserve every praise for their prompt and decisive action in endeavouring to put a stop to anything approaching crooked running, and it is by acting as they are doing that the Zealandia Sheffields will gain in popularity. In the first round the following were the winners, which entitled them to run in the second:—Cummins, McGuinness, Linden, Goldsborough, G. Murphy, Purdy, Wille, J. Roberts firsts. J. Webber, Miles, Hughes, Laxon, Briely, Colledge, McLean, McDermott, seconds. In the second round Roberts, Linden, McDermott, and Webber were left in, and the final resulted: Linden, 1; Roberts, 2; McDermott, 3.

Three most interesting Billiard matches have recently taken place, between Messrs Pell and Robinson, each for £5 aside 500 up. The first was played at Quinlan's Edinburgh Castle Hotel. Both competitors started level, and Pell won by about 150 points. The second match was played at Hawkins' Queens Hotel, Pell conceding Robinson 50 points, the latter winning rather easily; for the third and deciding match, both men again met on level terms at Russell's Occidental Hotel on Thursday evening last, the game was very even up to 250 the competitors each making breaks of about 40, at this point Pell gradually drew away and won the match with 110 to spare.

## FOOTBALL.

### FIXTURES.

July —Te Aute College (Hawkes Bay) v. Poneke, Wellington, and Petone, at Wellington.  
July 11—Native Rose v. Wanderers at Thames.  
July 18—District Club Matches begin.  
July 21—Te Aute College v. Masterton.  
Aug. —Wellington v. Canterbury.  
Aug. —Wellington v. Otago.

The colours of the newly formed District Football Clubs are as follows:—Grafton, black and white; City, red white and blue; Newton, red and white; Parnell, Maroon; Ponsonby, blue and black; North Shore, navy blue; Suburbs, black.

The City Football Club have sent to Wellington for 50 red white and blue jerseys, being unable to obtain them in Auckland.

Mr. "Tom" Foley landlord of the Shakespeare Hotel, and who is a Vice-President of the City Football Club, is inaugurating a match for Publicans east and west side of Queen St., the proceeds to go to some charitable object.

Mr. Frank Loomb the Captain of one of Gisbornes best clubs, arrived in Auckland by the Tarawera on Monday to take up his residence here, and will no doubt join one of the District Clubs.

The City Football Club will place four fifteens in the field for the A.R.U. competitions as they have nearly 70 playing members on their roll.

The match between Gordon and Whangarei, played at the latter place on Saturday, resulted in a draw, Whangarei got a try which they converted into a goal, while Gordon got three tries. The Country team played a splendid game. The Gordons had perhaps not quite recovered from the rough passage they had going down.

The Hawkes Bay v. Wellington annual match was played at Wellington on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Wellington by two tries to nil. The match was played with line Umpires, and the experiment does not appear to have been at all successful, the ball being repeatedly called back by the Referee without any apparent reason. The first try scored by Wellington was the result of a throw-on, and throughout the game there was a great deal of off-side play, which escaped the Referees notice and which could have at once been detected by field Umpires. "Smiler" played a grand game throughout for Hawkes Bay, and could have gained a try in the early part of the game but instead of running in he potted and missed, the first spell was greatly in favour of Napier who had all the best of the scrums, the Well-

ington forwards showing to advantage in loose play, no score resulted in the first half. In the second spell, Collins the Wellington three-quarter made a good run and passed to Gage, who then sent it on to Speed, who got in at the corner, the Referee awarding an unjust try, as it was palpably thrown-on, Ellison missed the place, after some fast play alternately in the territory of both teams, Caradus got the ball from a scrum near Napiers goal, and slipping round it in the twinkling of an eye registered the second try for Wellington, the shot was an easy one but Campbell missed it. The remainder of the game seems to have been very equal, and was a moderately fast one, the ground was soft and slippery and the ball heavy and greasy in consequence. For Hawkes Bay Le Quesne (fullback), Smiler, and Stewart (halves), Malcolm, Fleming, Morrison, and Hiroa were most conspicuous, while on the Wellington side, Speed and Gage (three-quarter), Caradus and Ellison (halves), Hyland, Cockroft, and Stewart were best.

## TARANAKI FOOTBALL GOSSIP.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, July 3.

On Saturday last, June 27, the first round of the Cup matches in this district was played. Clifton walked over New Plymouth by 9 points to nil at the latter place; Hawera easily disposed of Eltham; and Waimate forfeited to Manganui (Stratford team). I was present at the game between New Plymouth and Clifton, and a more uninteresting display of football I never saw. The play was decidedly spasmodic. The former had no condition in them, the majority of them having embryo corporations of city aldermen. I am certain that I am quite within the mark when I state that the New Plymouth men never kick a ball nor play together until they meet to play in a match. Under such circumstances no team can expect to be any good, and if the local club want to be in the hunt at all this year they must go in for practice. They are the makings of a good team, for the material is in them.

The Cup this year will, I think, be fought out between Clifton and Manganui. I expect the latter to come out victorious.

The Auckland representatives, I understand, play our men here or at Hawera in August next. Unless the Taranaki representatives have plenty of practice together before the match I predict it, even at this early period, a victory for the Auckland boys. Should our men, however, get a month's practice together the game will be well contested.

The referee and the umpires in the match New Plymouth v. Clifton, seemed to have a set of rules of their own. In this district the rules are interpreted in a decidedly broad sense by the referees and umpires.

Tom Hempton is not playing with the New Plymouth Club this year, but I hear a rumour that he intends to play for Clifton against Manganui. I can hardly credit this, as I don't think Hempton is the man to desert the local club, of which he was captain for years.

There is one player in the Clifton Club, and a prominent one, too, by-the-bye, who is extremely fond of striking opposing players when he is collared. Such a practice ought to be stopped by the referee, who has power to do so. They say, however, that the said player always picks his marks. His bump of caution must be fully developed; but some day he may run against a snag.

The following is the Ponsonby Football Club's record for the past season:—Matches played, 6; won 5, drew 1. Tries obtained—Alf. Tanfield 4, J. Mills 3, R. Masfield 3, J. Cole 3, F. W. Edwards 2, T. Roberts 2, R. Bruce 2, F. Murray 1, W. Rhodes 1; J. Breen 1, C. Brady 1, W. Hobson. Goals from tries—J. Breen 3, R. Masfield 1. The Club has played 130 matches; they have won 24, drew 17, and lost 19.

Grafton record for the season is—Matches played 6; won 4, drew 1, lost 1. Points scored—for 33, against 17. Tries scored—W. Elliott 3, W. H. Hales 2, P. Mackie 2, R. McKenzie 2, O. Stone 2, C. Madigan 1, C. Pennagillan 1, H. Stephenson 1, A. Smith 1. Goals from tries—Pennagillan 6, Peace 1. Goal from a penalty—Pennagillan 1.

**VOLUNTEER NEWS.**

[BY TORPEDO.]

[Contributions to this column are invited. All communications should be addressed to "Torpedo," and reach this office not later than Tuesday in each week. Notes from country corps will be specially acceptable.]

**RANGE TIME-TABLE.**

- July 11—"A" Battery, Engineers.
- July 18—Ponsonby Navals.
- July 18—Martini-Henri Rifle Club.

**GOVERNMENT INSPECTION PARADES.**

- July 21—Victoria Rifles, City Guards, Royal Irish, Garrison Band.

The Ponsonby Navals can claim credit for being the only Volunteer corps in the colony to subscribe to the Huntly Disaster Fund. They forwarded three guineas from their substantial bank account for that object.

The Ponsonby Navals are forming a football club.

On Thursday evening last, at the drill-shed, Major Goring presented Major Morrow with a long-service medal.

The Engineers have just sent to England for 50 undress uniforms—£150 worth—and can still show a good balance on the right side of their ledger.

Another Volunteer corps has given in to the present system. The Whangarei Rifles are disbanding.

The Hamilton Volunteer Band are getting up a concert to provide funds for the purchase of band music.

Six "O" Battery members were balloted into the "A" Battery on Thursday last, and another squad of six proposed.

I am now in the position to give any of my readers who may desire the information the present station of any regiment in the British army, or of any ship in the Royal navy.

Lieut. R. Caulton, of the Ponsonby Navals, looks remarkably well in his new uniform; that long frock coat suits him admirably.

Captain-commandant Le Roy was present at the Auckland Naval parade on Friday night to receive his long-service medal, but in the absence of Major Goring the presentation was postponed.

The Artillery Band had a fine muster of 22, under Bandmaster A. Hunter, on Friday night, for their inspection, and it is almost superfluous to say played with their usual excellence.

Captain Parker has been thirty years, and Lieut. W. Smith twenty years, in the Auckland Naval Artillery.

Sergt. "Joe" Orr has given the City Guards best, and has thrown in his lot with his old company, the "A" Battery. "Joe" was for some years one of the smartest gunners in the battery.

Captain D. Millar of the Ponsonby Navals, is an enthusiastic rowing man. He was especially delighted by Sullivan's victory over Dutch, as he (the captain) had some years since predicted a brilliant future for Sullivan after a hard fought four oared race in which Sullivan and Captain Millar were in opposition boats, when the former's crew went down. The worthy skipper informs me that it is ten years since he went in thoroughly for aquatics, and he rowed his last race at the Jubilee regatta.

It would be specially interesting to know how many Volunteer companies in the colony were under the minimum strength at the end of April last. The following are the Auckland delinquents:—Te Awamutu Cavalry, Ponsonby Navals, "O" Battery, Victoria, Whangarei, Newton, and Royal Irish Rifles. How many companies who are not on the above "little list" qualified on paper?

The Ponsonby Navals, now a "tip-top" corps, struck off their roll last January no less than 48 names; and this probably accounts for their being under the minimum two months since. Captain Millar did not believe in keeping so many men on his roll who were either boys or "dead heads," and the result has been a great improvement in the company.

Corpl. F. Kearsley, of the "A" Battery has been promoted to the rank of sergeant vice Sergeant Budd resigned. Kearsley now holds two military positions, and has the unusual honour of donning either a sergeant's or an artillery drum-major's uniform at his own will. I might suggest that he should also accept the vacant Lieutenancy; he could possibly fill the three positions as easily as the two, and, besides, he would look remarkably well in the uniform.

The "A" Battery fire on Saturday for Capt. Geddes' annual prizes. Instead of the usual handicap, the members are divided into alphabetical classes according to their estimated ability, and both reserve and honorary members are included in the lists, and are qualified to fire.

The usual half-yearly practice with the big guns at Dunedin seems to have been very successful. The Permanent Artillery, under Capt. Morrison, fired three shots from the 64-pounders at St. Clair and Lawyers' Head, and one each from the 6 and 7-inch guns at the central fort. White Island was the target, and every shot was a bull's-eye.

My remarks in our issue of the 18th ult, with reference to the ladies of Hamilton fulfilling their promise to present a gold cross to the volunteer who should win the Hamilton Light Infantry Belt two years successively, appears to have been made to some purpose, for those ladies have now formed a committee of six to collect subscriptions for the purpose of presenting Volunteer Pearson with the trophy which he has won, and to make the participation in the object general the subscriptions are limited to one shilling.

Sergt. "Jack" Budd has sent me the following communication:—"A statement appears in one of the weekly papers that my reasons for resigning from the "A" Battery was on account of Gunner Lipscombe being promoted to Quarter-master Sergeant. I wish to positively deny that statement. My reasons for leaving the battery were in no way connected with Corporal Lipscombe's promotion, but were from several other and totally different causes, although had the Quarter-master Sergeant's position been offered to me at the time I would have accepted it."

The most interesting shooting match we have had this year was fired on the Mount Eden Rifle Range on Saturday, the teams being picked from members of the "A" Battery on one side, and members of the rifle companies on the other. It has been a disputed point for the past two or three years which would prove the strongest team, and the result would still appear to be in doubt, for the Rifles only won after a close and exciting match by the narrowest possible majority—one point. The long ranges were taken first, and at the close of the 500 the battery had obtained a lead of 7 points. At the 300 yards both teams tied with 212, while at the short range the Rifles gained the requisite 8 points to win the match. There were several of the "A" Battery's best shots absent from the team, including "Alick" Henderson, and they attribute their defeat to this. They must recollect, however, that the Rifle's team could also have been improved by Stirling's presence. The wind was very choppy, and consequently no exceptionally brilliant scores were made. The following are the scores:—

Names	RIFLE CORPS.			TL.
	500yds.	300yds.	200yds.	
Captain Tobin	18	28	32	78
Sergeant Craig	17	27	29	73
Private Fairs	17	23	31	71
Private McCarthy	18	22	29	69
Col.-Sergeant Skinner	14	23	28	65
Lieutenant Dormer	13	24	26	63
Private J. Preston	16	20	24	60
Private Chatfield	16	14	26	56
Private Osborne	13	16	26	55
Private W. Preston	15	15	23	53
Totals	167	212	274	648

Names	"A" BATTERY.			TL.
	500yds.	300yds.	200yds.	
Gunner Taylor	23	21	29	73
Gunner E. Buchanan	22	22	26	70
Sergt. Parslow	19	23	26	68
Sergt.-Major Doughty	27	16	25	68
Corp. Webster	15	20	31	67
Sergeant Kearsley	14	22	29	65
Gunner McCallum	17	21	29	64
Sergeant H. Doughty	12	24	26	62
Gunner Hazard	4	22	28	54
Q.M.-Sergt. Lipscombe	11	22	20	53
Totals	164	212	266	642

Majority for Rifles—1 point.

We have much pleasure in referring our readers' attention to the advertisement in another column announcing the fact of the opening of the first licensed retail wine establishment in Auckland, by Mr. C. J. Moses, in Karangahape Road. It will be useful for householders to be able to buy pure New Zealand wines at a separate establishment than the ordinary hotel, and we commend the effort to introduce the French and Australian system here. The room is tastefully fitted up, and the whole business conducted on such right lines that it will be a wonder if it is not a pronounced success.

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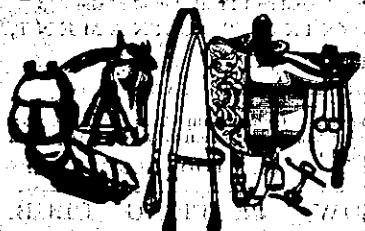
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