

In my notes last week I mentioned that Mr. J. George had entered his horse Melos for a couple of races, and pointing out the absurdity of naming their horses after celebrated horses that are running in Australia, and the confusion that is likely to arise in a future day by this practice. I have been informed by our Taranaki correspondent that Mr. George's colt's name is not "Melos" but Melas. I certainly received the nominations from head quarters, the name being Melos, so cannot be held responsible for the mistake.

ACCORDING to the *Canterbury Times* Medallion has been backed for the New Zealand Cup for all the money there is in the market at 10 to 1; also that a commission has been sent over from Sydney to back him for that event. He may be now considered first favourite. From information received that I can rely upon Medallion is none of the soundest. Even if he was his performances—unless they were crooked last season—do not entitle him to the premier position in the New Zealand Cup. I therefore warn my readers to be careful before they rush into what may turn out a trap.

## Sporting Items

Mr. Breakall's colt by Fusilade—Kattie is said to be a beauty.

Mr. B. Thompson's well-known mare Friendship has been sent on a visit to St. Leger.

The Pakuranga Hunt Club meet will be held at the North Shore on Saturday next.

Sam Fergus, the well-known cross-country horseman, has joined George Hope's stable.

Harry Pell is back again in Wanganui, and has taken charge of Mr. "Nugent's" horses.

Mr. L. Binnie has been appointed handicapper to the Town and Suburban Racing Club at Napier.

The ex-Aucklander, Billy Hatfield, is now in the employ of Mr. H. Dargin, of Hawkesbury, N.S.W.

The Auckland Trotting Club made a profit of close on £50 over their late meeting, held on 26th September.

Mr. Nat Nathan, of Wellington, is about again, after having been laid up for some considerable time.

Pyramus, who won the Hawke's Bay Hurdle Race last June, has again commenced his training preparations for coming events.

Acceptances, and entries for the Ladies' Bracelet, in connection with the Pakuranga Hunt Club meeting, are due to-morrow evening.

Mr. E. D. O'Rorke returned from Wellington on Monday last, and we may therefore expect to see him in the saddle at the Pakuranga Hunt Club meeting on 17th inst.

A correspondent sends us the following:— "Having a few hours to spare I journeyed to Waitara to have a look at Mr. W. Elliot's newly-purchased horse Cruiser, by Robinson Crusoe—Radiance. This horse is one of the most evenly made that I have ever had the pleasure of running my eye over. He shows great quality, and from his conformation you can see that he must be gifted with great pace. He is as docile as a lamb, and is only to serve a limited number of mares this season, as his owner intends to race him at the back end of the year. I was agreeably surprised on arrival to find that Mr. Elliot had secured the services of Harry Knight, who is well known in Canterbury as being a thoroughly reliable and trustworthy trainer, having been in the employ of the late Hon. W. Robinson, Mr. E. Cutts, Stead, and others. Mr. Elliot finding that his time was so taken up with his entires, and of late not enjoying very good health, deemed it advisable to lighten his duties. Knight, on arrival, expressed himself satisfied with the horses and the conveniences, and Mr. Elliot has handed over to him the entire management of the racing string, which will be got under way at once for the Taranaki and Waitara meetings. Knight is somewhat fortunate in having a very promising light-weight in Jimmy McLoughlan, who he will be able to instruct to his own liking. I will touch on the inmates of this stable later on.

Messrs. Stock and Cohen have been appointed to work the totalisator at the meetings of the Town and Suburban Racing Club of Napier for the ensuing season.

The first meeting of the newly-elected committee of Tattersall's took place at the Club Room on Monday evening, when Mr. L. A. Levy was elected Chairman and Mr. M. D. Malavey, Treasurer. Mr. W. Moore, a new member, was licensed as a bookmaker.

The two-year-old colt Sir Roland, by The Dauphin—Avaunt, was submitted for sale at the Haymarket on Friday, and was knocked down to Mr. F. G. Whiting at £19, but has since reverted to his original owner.

Messrs. D. Tonks & Co. offer for sale to-morrow (Friday), at noon, the gates, booths, cards and stalls for the Pakuranga Hunt Club's annual race meeting, to take place at Ellerslie on Saturday, October 17th, and should realise good prices, as this is invariably a very popular gathering.

Jay Russell returned home to Taranaki last week, taking with him the trotters Charlie and Fibre, also the pony Lady Onslow. It was Jay's intention to leave Lady Onslow here for the purpose of taking part in the pony race at the Pakuranga Hunt Club's meeting on the 17th inst., but he was not satisfied with the handicap allotted to the mare.

A special general meeting of Auckland Tattersall's Club is called for Monday next, the 12th inst., at 8 p.m., for the purpose of considering the advisability of rescinding a resolution passed last year charging bookmakers a three-guinea license fee and an annual subscription of one guinea. An advertisement giving full particulars appears in another column.

Messrs. S. C. Caulton & Co. appear to be doing a good business in their Stud and Pedigree Stock Agency. Already they have negotiated a number of valuable sales to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. This week we have to record the sale by them of The Bean, bred by Mr. J. Alwill of Waikato, to a Southern runholder at a good figure. The sale was effected on behalf of Mr. J. Goodwin of Waitara.

We have received the following from Whatawhata:—"A very successful meeting of all interested in forming a Jockey Club was held in the hotel after Mr. Lake's address on Tuesday evening. Over thirty gentlemen put down their names as members of the proposed Club, and expressed themselves in favour of it, as all the settlers about here are disgusted with subscription lists. The meeting was adjourned till the 6th October, when I will forward you all information." We wish our country friends every success in their venture. Hitherto the Whatawhata annual race meeting has been very attractive to the outlying country districts about Alexandra, Raglan, etc.

We have been deluged with applications for our last week's issue, presumably on account of it being the last paper in which our prize coupon will appear. We would gladly have published it again this week to meet the pressing demands of our regular subscribers and others who have applied for large numbers of copies, were it not so palpably unfair to our subscribers in the South, who would be unable to return them in time. The success of our coupon as judged by the large number of envelopes on hand has exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

The Wellington Racing Club's programme for 1891-92 is to hand, during the season they purpose giving £4155 in added money, distributed over four meetings as follows:—Spring two days £895, Summer two days £1625, Autumn £1050, Winter £585. The Spring Meeting is fixed for Saturday and Monday, November 28th and 30th; the chief event of the first day being the Hutt Park Spring Handicap of 175 sovs., 1 mile and a quarter; 125 sovs. is the amount fixed for the November Handicap, 1 mile and a distance, on the second day. There are eight events to be decided each day, and the bill of fare is very varied and attractive. The Wellington Cup of 400 sovs. is fixed for the Summer Meeting, first day (January 22nd). The Wellington Racing Club's Handicap of 200 sovs. 1 mile and a quarter, is the event of the second day. The Autumn and Winter Meetings are also well arranged and provided for. Mr. H. M. Lyon as secretary, attends to the business of the club as usual at the Club Hotel Wellington.

## Athletics, Etc.

### CRICKET.

PRACTICE matches were the order of the day on Saturday. Auckland mustered 26, and sides being chosen by R. Neill and A. M. Beale, a good game followed. Gordon also mustered strong, nine of last years eleven playing the rest of the club. The rest put together upwards of 100 runs, Gilfillan and Palacrit being the principal scores, and H. Lusk, Kelly, Ansenne, Brown, and Williams, trying their hands with the ball. The turf looks in splendid condition, and with a new club—the "Onslow"—starting, as well as increased energy on the part of the Shore men, we may reasonably expect a more lively season than the last. United, Parnell, Grammar School, etc., also had good practices.

### TARANAKI FOOTBALL GOSSIP.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TARANAKI, October 2.

THE season is practically ended here, the Star Junior Club being the only one to keep the ball rolling. On Saturday last they were to meet the Manganui II., but the latter could not raise a team. To-morrow the Stars play the Bell Block, whom they ought to polish off easily. On November 9 the Star Club intend to have a carnival on the racecourse.

### TARANAKI BICYCLE RACING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, Sept. 28.

THERE has been a little excitement in local bicycling circles during the last few weeks, in consequence of a series of events arranged by the Pioneer Cycling Club.

The races were on the road, the distances 1 mile, 3 miles, and 5 miles. The first race was won by J. Bennett, with 200 yards start; J. Ramson (scratch) second, and C. Lever (400 yards), third. The other starters were J. Searle (450 yards), Felloire (200 yards), G. Hendry and H. Inch (180 yards).

The second race was won easily by H. Inch, who had 1min 50sec; G. Hendry (3min) second, and C. Lever (4½min) third. The other starters were Ramson (scratch), and J. Bennett (1min 20sec).

The final event fell to Bennett (1min 20sec), with Ramson (scratch) second, and Lever (5 min) third. Hendry (3min) was the only other starter. The points scored were Bennett 6 (two firsts), Ramson 4 (two seconds), Inch 3 (one first), Lever 3 (three thirds), and Hendry 2 (one second).

A great deal of dissatisfaction was expressed over the last race. It appears that after the handicap for the event was issued, Ramson went to Auckland and bought two machines, one of which he sold to Bennett. The other competitors objected to the use of these machines in the race, as the handicap was made out on the understanding that the machines would be ridden that were used in the previous events, Inch, who had 15secs, would not start for this reason. Bennett persisted in riding his new machine, but Ramson at the last moment very properly rode the one on which he had competed previously. In consequence of Bennett's action all bets were declared "off" before the race, as with a good machine the race was simply a "dead bird" for him. It was absurd for him to argue that he could use what machine he liked, as the handicappers would never have given him 1min 20sec start except for the fact that his original machine was not of the best.

It is to be hoped for the sake of the sport that there will be no more "ringing-in" of machines after the handicap is declared.

We are most reluctantly compelled to hold over our report of the Waikato Hunt Club races, as well as our turf record thereon, till next issue, the same having reached us later than we anticipated. The meeting was an unqualified success.