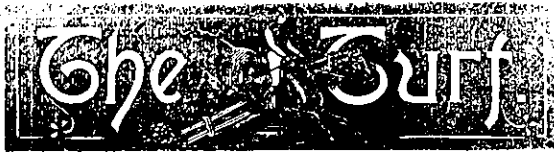


rarely, though he is generally the chief party. A good many years ago the Newmarket Jockey Club had some of the leading jockeys up to question them as to the prevalence of pulling horses. They all agreed that owners and trainers were cognizant of the fact when it was done. Then either inferior jockeys, or a boy in their own stable, was employed to do it, unless the horse was made safe beforehand. A characteristic answer was given by one of them. "If we remember right it was Johnny Osborne." He said there are four to six of us making from £4000 to £6000 a year by riding. What would a betting man have to put down to compel any one of us to run the risk of losing that income? Then the stewards had the power of changing the jockey at the last moment, as was once done at Chester, when the horse had gone to the post, and the "pulling out" soon proved their suspicions to be correct. Then came the jockeys' ring, which was very powerful, and "roping" was rampant. The stewards of the Newmarket Jockey Club were equal to the occasion. By employing detectives they found out the bookmakers who worked for the jockeys, and compelled them to produce their books. The result was they were expelled from Tattersalls, and C. Wood, Loates, and some other jockeys had to retire from the saddle. This has greatly checked the evil, though only the other day a Yorkshire bookmaker and owner of horses was found out and expelled. This being an unusual thing, for a type who are generally pretty clever, caused a good deal of interest. It was in this way—He had entered his horse without particulars with the clerk of the course. He backed his horse outside where they paid ready money immediately after the race, but inside he laid against it and backed the second, who immediately objected to the winner on the ground of irregular entry. As the information could have come from no one except the person that made the entry, suspicion was aroused, and his book was examined—thus the swindle was out. In Australia pulling horses is greatly on the increase, and in the majority of cases the jockey is the one that gets into trouble. It is well known that a jockey will not do it of his own account, and that in most instances a bookmaker is concerned. Therefore, as some of our contemporaries advise, try and sheet home a case to one of them, and the evil will soon be mitigated. From what one reads pulling is not confined to professionals, but has extended to amateurs. At the late complimentary race meeting given to Mr. Bradshaw at Elsternwick, Mr. Cox narrowly escaped suspension, while not long ago Mr. Brewer was cautioned. There is no doubt that "milking" in two kinds of way goes on in New Zealand. The first is done over the principal events. Seldom is there one that a few are not subject to the process. The second is bookmakers accepting with a horse when his owner has no intention of doing so. This is very pernicious, and should be put a stop to with a severe hand, but we are afraid that few stewards or secretaries could detect it as things are done at present.

TATTERSALL'S CLUB.

A SPECIAL general meeting of Auckland Tattersall's Club was held in the Club's rooms on Monday evening last, to take into consideration the advisability of rescinding the following resolution, as carried at a special meeting held on November 7th, 1890, so as to allow rule 3 to remain as before:—"That any bookmaker wishing to be elected before the 1st of October, 1891, shall be charged £3 3s entrance fee, and an annual subscription of £1 1s." "All bookmakers, after 1st Oct., 1891, shall pay an annual license fee of £3 3s, together with a member's subscription of £1 1s, making a total of £4 4s, and all new members elected after that date shall pay a premium of £3 3s in addition." There was a very large attendance, as great interest had been worked up in the matter. On a vote being taken it was found there were 19 in favour of the resolutions and 19 against. The Chairman, Mr. L. A. Levy, gave his casting vote against the propositions, and they were consequently declared lost.

Mersey, dam of Carbine, has dropped a fine filly to Nordenfeldt, and this season it is Mr. W. R. Wilson's intention to mate her with Trenton.



[BY OLD TURFITE.]

MR. EVETT has declared the weights for the Spring Hurdle Race and Prince of Wales' Handicap. He has certainly not displayed his usual judgment, and it goes far to prove that a handicapper especially in the spring of the year cannot do justice to either himself or others unless he sees the horses run, as he does not know the condition they are in. It is not my intention to go thoroughly into the handicap until the acceptances appear, but will only take a cursory glance through them. For the First Spring Hurdle Race Sentinel was allotted 12st, but did not start. He now gets 2lb less, while The Colonel, who won, goes up 19lb, though he makes a noise and does not like two miles. Orakei, 10st 10lb, and Never Miss, 10st 2lb, are surely in their wrong places. Dan, 10st 8lb, was also a non-starter, and he now gets 1lb off him. Mangere, 10st 7lb, has too much, as he is only a hunter, and would never have won in the Waikato if Never Miss had not made a mistake at the last hurdle. Bit o' Blue, 9st 9lb, only goes up 2lb, while Fishmonger, 9st 5lb, gets 3lb off his back. Cynical, 10st, who was nowhere and is moderate, only gets 6lb off. The remainder can be considered of no account, though Karewera, 9st 5lb, may be better than is supposed. At the time of writing it looks a good thing for Sentinel or Bit o' Blue, if they are fit and well.

Now for the Prince of Wales Handicap. Hilda, 9st 10lb, and Cissy, 9st 9lb, only get 4lb and 3lb respectively taken off, though they both ran wretchedly bad; the former also has shown poor form in Napier. It is quite true that they were far from fit, but still they should have performed better. The Baron, 8st 7lb, fairly romped home for the Flying Stakes, and there is no reason to doubt his being able in this company to get the distance. Patchwork, if he will try, and Loch Ness, on the same mark, 7st 10lb, are both leniently treated. The Dreamer, 7st 7lb, who won the Spring Handicap easily enough, only goes up 7lb, while Morion, who was beaten by a good half length, goes up 11lb. Why this discrepancy? It would be also interesting to know from whom Mr. Evett got his information regarding this race. Coalscuttle, 7st 7lb, has 7lb taken off, which is about fair, while Dolosa, 7st 4lb, gets 12lb less. It is always dangerous to hold a jade too cheap. Belmont, 7st, and Warrior, 6st 10lb, are both leniently treated. The remainder with the exception of Roie, 6st 9lb, are, I think, moderate, and it is a question if she can get the distance. Take the handicap as it now reads either The Baron, Loch Ness, Morion (because I am of the opinion that he will run a much better horse than he did in the Spring Handicap with a strong boy on his back), Belmont or Warrior should furnish the winner.

THE running at Caulfield on the first day, as I expected, has caused a great change in the betting on all the future principal events, at the same time it does not throw much light on the Melbourne Cup. The Caulfield Stakes brought out a good field, but as particulars are not to hand of those that started, one cannot form much of a line for the Caulfield Cup. Marvel, as might have been expected, won, Bungebah being second and Dillon third. As Megaphone and Tirailleur were amongst the starters, the race at the present time gives you a rather puzzling idea, especially as Dillon was third. The Guineas resulted in the overthrow of Stromboli by Strathmore, which is not surprising, as his running at the A.J.C. meeting did not prove him to be a colt of exceptional merit, and one likely to win the V.R.C. Derby, besides that, Oxide was too much on a par with him. Strathmore's performance was a good one, but not sufficiently so as to make him such a hot favourite for the V.R.C. Derby, and I fully expect to see him displaced before another week is passed. Sternchaser does not appear to have disgraced himself, but the form he showed does not make him a Derby horse, though he will doubtless greatly improve before the day. The Toorak Handicap brought out

as usual a large field. Zaliniski with 7st 6lb, won pretty cleverly from Clonard 8st 6lb, and Propounder 7st 12lb third. Until one knows what started, it is impossible to form an opinion of the performance. However, Zaliniski's win raises his weight to 7st 12lb for the Melbourne Cup, which puts him out of it.

THE Caulfield Cup—the first of the big events—comes off next Saturday. Though so close to the day it is difficult to pick a placed horse, much less a winner so far distant from the scene of action. Bungebah has for some time been at an absurdly short price in the market, layers having the best of it; recently he has receded to what may be called his proper odds. He has a strong following, and the money that is on him has come from the right quarter. That he is a brilliant horse over a certain distance there can be no doubt, but most of his victories have been in handicaps which are no criterion to a horse's real merits, as a good horse can give any amount of weight to inferior ones, but when he meets Marvel, who is really a clinking good one, in a weight-for-age race like the Caulfield Stakes over his own distance, he goes down rather easily. However, it must be considered there was a good field behind him, therefore he must be looked upon to have a great chance. Dillon, one of my early picks in the Handicap, the same as Bungebah, advanced (to what may be called first favourite) since his running in the Stakes, but has since receded, but as full particulars will not be to hand in time to form a good opinion, one must take things a great deal on supposition. He finished a good third to Marvel and Bungebah. Megaphone, and it is supposed some other good ones were behind him, therefore it must be looked upon as a good performance. Megaphone, and most likely some of the others, have been trained for long distances; therefore, with speedy horses like the two first, there is no doubt they were carried off their legs at the start, therefore one must confine attention to Bungebah and Dillon to get a line. In the Caulfield Stakes, one mile and a furlong, Marvel won easily, Bungebah 9st 4lb defeating Dillon 8st 13lb, by half a length, thus there was only a difference of 5lb between them, now there is a difference of 28lb; allowing that Bungebah was pulling up when he found that he could not beat Marvel, it must at the lowest computation make Dillon 10lb the better horse on this running. Greygown is another that when the weights were first published I mentioned as being well in; he has come prominently into the betting; either he or his owner are inconsistent, as his running will prove, but should he run up to his best form he is quite in his proper place in the market. The only other that I shall mention is Wild Rose; this mare has always been a great fancy of mine. She is possessed of a brilliant turn of speed, and has a suspicious leg, which however is now callous. I candidly admit that I did not expect until lately that this would be her journey, thinking she would prefer a shorter distance, but I have been informed that she has been backed by the right party, who are of the opinion that she can get the mile and a half. However, she is not amongst the acceptors in the list that has been received in Auckland, so she must be supposed to have gone wrong or the party have been cleverly milking her. Some time ago I calculated there would be thirty acceptors. It turns out I was one over the number. The winner should come from one of the following, who were my original selections, BUNGEBAH, GREYGOWN, or DILLON, though Forest King, a most consistent performer, may upset my calculations, as he has come in the market at the finish. I was informed of him some time ago, but did not think it good enough.

THE betting for the Melbourne Cup has undergone great changes, but I shall not go into it until the Caulfield running is to hand. I do not often make a remark about my own writing, but I must say this, that if my readers had followed me all through, and taken the prices then obtainable, they would have had good hedging and would have had money in hand to put on their fancies or stood it out. By the latest advices Paris has advanced in the betting since he has been scratched for the shorter race. His party evidently are convinced that