

could out of the machine, they fixed the maximum sum allowed. This question should be settled at once, as if the Clubs charge different percentages there will be trouble, and the Government, who at present show great apathy, may suddenly wake up and interfere, either fixing a lower rate, or perhaps do away with the machine altogether.

The Hon. G. McLean and Messrs. Driver and Hazlett—three competent men—have been appointed delegates to attend the Conference, and they are instructed to oppose the creation of a New Zealand Jockey Club, and also to bring under the notice of the Conference that the resolutions passed at their last meeting were published as rules of racing without being submitted to the several Metropolitan Clubs for approval. It struck us at the time as being rather curious that the rules should be published before they were confirmed; but as they have done so many things that were not customary, we took no notice of it at the time. The Dunedin Jockey Club are also anxious to have some of the rules of racing either rescinded or altered. The chief is to do away with the rule fixing the number of races in a day's programme, also fixing the fees for jockeys. These two we agree in. As regards the totalisator rules, we think that Rules 19 and 20 should be allowed to remain as they are, and that in Rule 21, *may* to be inserted instead of "shall," ought to be covered by a new rule fixing the deduction at 10 per cent. on the whole amount, taking the Government tax from that, so leaving the Clubs 8½ per cent. By so doing no additional tax would be imposed on the investors. The new rule that is proposed, *i.e.*, "In the event of a horse or jockey being disqualified on the ground that the horse was pulled or fraudulently prevented from running, the stewards may order all moneys paid for tickets on all horses in that race to be returned, as they may think advisable, less the usual commission," we do not think would act at all satisfactorily, and it might be the cause of an innocent holder of a ticket losing a good dividend.

From what we can learn the Hon. J. D. Ormond and Captain Russell will represent Hawke's Bay and Mr. Mitchelson the A.R.C. Who the other delegates will be we have been unable to ascertain, but it must be remembered that Taranaki was opposed to the formation of a New Zealand Jockey Club, so it will rest with their delegate and the D.J.C. to fight the battle, and in all probability they will not be strong enough to carry the day. It would not at all surprise us to find that after all is over things have not advanced a bit further than they are at present as regards a New Zealand Jockey Club.

The Turf

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THERE is an erroneous impression among the racing public that I am writing under two *nom de plumes*. During my lengthy career as a turf writer I have never had any other than the above, and I am only responsible for what is under that heading. "Pegasus" is quite another writer.

THE V.R.C. meeting commenced last Saturday. The racing on the whole was exceedingly interesting. The attendance of the general public, owing to the threatening weather, was not up to the average, though the stands and paddocks were well filled. The racing commenced with Maiden Plate, which Mr. Wilson's Steadfast (by Nordenfeldt—Nelly Moore) won easily from Havilah, Norbert, and nine others. The winner started first favourite. Mr. Wilson made no mistake when in Auckland in purchasing the Nordenfeldt yearlings, as all of them can gallop. There is always great interest taken in the Melbourne Stakes, as it is supposed to give a line for the Cup. Marvel gave us another taste of his quality, as, following the same tactics as in the Caulfield Stakes, he waited till about a furlong from home, and coming away with a brilliant rush he cut them down one after another, and catching Bungebah, who at the distance appeared to be win-

ning easily, beat him cleverly by half a length. Whimbrel, who did not struggle very gamely when once collared, finished third. Megaphone was fourth and Annesley fifth. The other starters were King Olaf, Sir William, Malvolio, Correze, Muriel, The Tyler, Paris and Tirailleur, who finished last. The winner started at 2 to 1 on him. Twelve horses started for the Hotham Stakes. Pigeontoe, 7st 8lb, was made a great favourite, and justified the confidence of his backers, as he won easily by two lengths and a half from Portsea, 6st 10lb, Bendigo, 8st, third. The winner is a well bred five-year-old horse by St. Albans—Pardon. Up to this season he has done nothing. This is another instance of how horses sometimes improve with age.

The next race was the V.R.C. Derby, for which nine faced the starter, resulting as follows: Strathmore (by Nordenfeldt—Ouida), 1st; Stromboli (by Chester—Etna), 2nd; Oxide (by Sardonyx—Geraldine), 3rd. The Rebel, Swordbearer, Albemarle, Penance, Sternchaser, St. Albans, and Yarran also ran. The betting was even on Strathmore, 3 to 1 Oxide, 5 to 1 Stromboli, 8 and 10 to 1 the others. The flag fell to a wretched start, St. Albans being left at the post. Stromboli jumped off with the lead, followed by Yarran, Strathmore and Penance. Passing the stand Penance went to the front, but soon after Yarran assumed the lead, Strathmore, Albemarle, Penance and Oxide following in the order named. Along the river stretch Albemarle went to the front; increasing the pace at the back of the course, he was leading by about eight lengths. The Rebel and Strathmore lying next. Albemarle led into the straight on the inside, Strathmore, Oxide and Stromboli together in the middle of the course, Penance going well on the outside. At the distance Strathmore had everything beaten, and striding along won very comfortably by a length and a half, four lengths between second and third. Albemarle was fourth. Strathmore is the first horse that has won the Caulfield Guineas and the V.R.C. Derby, and has confirmed his running with Stromboli. Taking into consideration that he commanded his field all through and came when wanted, he must be an extraordinary good colt, and his great trial was no mistake. Huxley, who rode Stromboli, bored Oxide on to the rails when he was coming on the inside at the distance post. If he had not been interfered with then he would in all probability have been second, though he would not have beaten the winner. Albemarle made the running for his stable companion Stromboli, who did not appear to finish very game. Sternchaser and Swordbearer collided at the two-furlong post, and the latter fell, but his jockey escaped uninjured. Cusden rode the winner with a great deal of judgment, and never once appeared flurried. The win was a very popular one, and the stable threw in for a good stake. As it has been a good betting race all through, the ring should not take much harm.

Twelve two-year-olds faced the starter for the Maribyrnong Plate, which Etra-Weenie (by Trenton—Nellie) won easily by five lengths from The Captain, Nobody third. Moonray, who was greatly fancied, ran very fast to the distance, when she tired. The Coburg Stakes brought out the biggest field of the day, twenty-six coming to the post for it. Cardoness, 6st 12lb, got home a length and a half from La Tosca, 7st 2lb. Ascot Vale, 7st 8lb, who started favourite, was third. The winner's price was 10 to 1.

THE attendance on the Cup day was immense. The Cup this year was of unusual interest, as from the first it was declared a very open race, nearly every horse in the race being backed, no horse long continuing his position as favourite. At the start the turned-loose Pigeontoe was favourite, but had nothing to do with the finish. Strathmore was next in demand, and he ran a remarkably good colt, but being blocked on the rails he could not get clear until too late, then, though he ran with unflinching gameness, he could only finish a good third. Paris, who the Sydneyites looked upon as a certainty, never showed prominently in the race after the first mile and a quarter had been traversed. The winner held the position of favourite until a few days preceding the race, when several passed him in the betting, and his price at the finish was 20 to 1. Cobham fell, Megaphone, G'Naroo and Prelude falling over him. Ramage,

the rider of Megaphone, was uninjured, but Cobham had to be destroyed.

The first race of the day was the Hurdle Race, for which fourteen started. Kimberley made all the running, winning easily from Yabba, Fireking finishing a bad third.

The Railway Handicap attracted a field of twenty-one. The favourite, St. Blaise, won by a length from Quality. Prattler two lengths off, third.

Seven horses faced the starter for the Kensington Stakes. Ermine won easily from Fox-tail, Kossuth third.

Then came the Melbourne Cup, for which thirty-four started, the race resulting as follows: Malvolio, 8st 4lb, 1; Sir William, 8st 7lb, 2; Strathmore, 7st 6lb, 3. Tirailleur, Megaphone, Highborn, G'Naroo, Correze, Greygown, Whimbrel, Tantallon, Paris, Annesley, Lyndhurst, King Olaf, Muriel, Prelude, Litigant Gatling, The Tyler, Yowi, Cobham, Oxide, Ronald, Dundas, Carrington, Yarran, Swordbearer, Lancer, Forty Winks, Aster, Firelocks, Pigeontoe, and Portsea, also started. The flag, after some delay, fell to a good start. Annesley first showed in front, Tantallon, Paris, Carrington, Malvolio, Yarran and Correze following. In front of the stand Prelude led, followed by Paris, Whimbrel third. Going along the river Prelude was still in front, Strathmore having moved up to the front division. At the abattoirs Prelude retired beaten, Sir William taking up the running. Cobham, who was here moving up, fell, Megaphone, G'Naroo and Prelude falling over him. Turning towards home Highborn, Oxide, and Correze began to show in front. Strathmore here got blocked on the rails. Oxide led into the straight, Highborn, Sir William, Malvolio, Forty Winks, and Whimbrel following, all in a bunch. Strathmore then got clear, but too late. At the distance Redfern brought Malvolio with a well-timed challenge, and getting the best of Sir William, won by three-quarters of a length; Strathmore, who was coming fast, a neck away, third; Highborn fourth, and Forty Winks fifth.

Thirteen came to the post for the Nursery Handicap, Trieste winning by a neck from The Captain; Vangrave third.

The Yan Van Stakes was won by St. Blaise by three lengths, after a dead-heat with Quality; Bendigo third. The winner was the favourite.

THE Auckland Trotting Club are determined to hold their own if they possibly can, notwithstanding that the A.R.C. Committee have expressed their intention of disqualifying any owners, trainers and jockeys taking part in any of their meetings. The Committee have fixed December 30th and January 9th for their summer meeting. The programme is a most attractive one, no less a sum than £930 being given for the two day's racing. This should certainly produce some good fields. The principal events on the first day is the Auckland Cup Trotting Handicap of 200 sovs., 3 miles; and a Pony Cup Handicap of 100 sovs., 1 mile; and on the second day the President's Handicap Trot, 3 miles, and a Pony Steeplechase of 50 sovs., 2½ miles. There are eight races each day.

A.R.C. SECOND SPRING MEETING.

THE acceptances and general entries for the A.R.C. second spring meeting were declared last Friday, and though chiefly confined to Auckland horses must be considered very good. As the weather has been fine, the training ground has been in fair order; the consequence is trainers have their charges in much more forward condition than they were at the last meeting, therefore if the weather continues fine, there should be some good racing during the two days.

The first race is the President's Handicap, 1 mile. There are thirteen entries, but the acceptances will be declared too late to make any comment on them in this issue, so I must take the handicap as it stands. Many of the horses entered are engaged in several races, therefore at the time of writing, before the acceptances appear, I can only take them as they read on paper. If Baron starts, one need not look further for the winner, but I expect he will be kept for the Prince of Wales' Handicap. Of the others I prefer Quadrant, Warrior, and Kupe.