

about the pick of the handicap. In the Egmont Handicap, 2 miles, carrying 7st 8lbs, she ran third to Whisper, 8st, and Fraternité, 7st 12lb. She now meets this pair on 10lb and 5lb better terms respectively. The quarter-mile shorter journey should help her home in front of them. I fancy she will need a "power of bateing." Thame, Krina, and Pani may be "lumped" together as uncertain, although any of them might pop up unexpectedly on the scene. The Dreamer, 7st 2lb, on his Auckland Cup running, has a great deal more than an "outside" show, although he did not appear to advantage in the Wanganui Welter; but it was only a 60 sov. event, and perhaps he would prefer "waiting" for this 400 sov. Cup event. I like his chance muchly. Of the others below, to judge by recent performances, none of them have a "ghost of a chance" except Crown Jewel, 6st 10lb, whose penalty of 10lb for winning the Wanganui Cup raises her weight to 7st 6lb. This extra load will greatly discount her chance, but still it is wise to "follow up" form. She may win again, of which, though, I am very dubious, but might gain a place. To sum up the chances of each, I am inclined to look to Retina, Fraternité, and Lochness to supply the placed division.

The Railway Stakes, also run to-day, has many of the same horses engaged. It is therefore difficult to gauge the chances of each, but I shall select Krina, Heather Bell or Raneë Nuna to furnish the winner. Pani might "boil-over" either event.

The Papakura Racing Club, under new auspices and in a re-modelled condition, hold their inaugural meeting on the Papakura course to-day.

"Chestnuts!" I hear someone say. Well, there is no doubt the meeting, and more especially that grandstand, have come in for a good deal of comment at the hands of the turf scribes during the last few days. For all that, I trust the Club will have a successful afternoon of it. The acceptances, except for the Cup, are fairly good, and some good racing should ensue. A lengthy programme of seven events is to be got through, so that each one will require to be run off sharp to time if visitors are to return in comfort.

The Hurdle Race, 1½ miles, has a field of six, and the result should rest between Cloth of Gold and Stepper in that order.

There are six ponies engaged in the Pony Handicap. To my mind there are only three "in it." Sepoy, Walter Scott, and Romeo, and I expect to see them finish in that order.

The Cup is over a mile and a quarter, and this item has an acceptance of five only. Pinfire and Leorina are on their ground here, and ought to know every inch of the course, which may give them an advantage over the others. I fancy their most troublesome opponent will be Capella, who has, if fit and well, a "good say." I shall give the result as

Pinfire or Capella .. .. .	1
Leorina .. .. .	2
Ida .. .. .	3

In the Maiden Plate, one mile, we have a "mixed" mob. This reads a "dead bird" for Tuna, with perhaps Acacia next.

The Steeple ought, from the nature of the "country," to prove an interesting race. The Colonel or Mangere ought to get home first, with Kate close handy at the finish.

The Flying Stakes, six furlongs, is the worst event to pick. Should Acacia be saved for this event, she will be troublesome. The other likely ones are Helen McGregor, Ida, and Raglan. Ida and Acacia are engaged in previous events. Should they each fulfil those engagements, I would place them—Helen McGregor, Raglan, Acacia, Ida. Otherwise, I should say—Acacia, Helen McGregor, Raglan. Sort up this last item to your own liking.

In last week's issue are some good notes on trotting meetings, handicapping, etc.

Many of those notes are worthy of perusal and consideration. There is one part that to my mind cannot yet well be carried out until another season at least, and that is with regard to the application of the first principle of the art of handicapping.

As yet we have only a very limited number of trotters, so that very poor fields would result were that principle to be strictly adhered to at present. There is no question as to the truth of the matter of handicapping that all who really understand the business thoroughly know there is but one guiding and ruling

principle which is mentioned overlapping the whole art of true handicapping. However, I should be inclined, as already pointed out, to allow some small degree of latitude in the case of trotters for a season or so. As an example, take the quality of the "cattle" that started in the last Onslow Trotting Cup, and how many good 'uns do we find. I think I may safely say *one*, and that is Rarus. Had the appointments been made on true handicapping lines the result would have been Rarus first, the rest somewhere. Still the question will have to be kept steadily in view in the future if these meetings are to bring about those results for which the various clubs have been ostensibly created, viz., the improvement in quality of trotting generally and the class of horses engaged therein. I hope these matters will receive that due consideration to which they are entitled, and that permanent and ever increasing good may be the outcome of the repeated remarks of various turf writers.

OUR TARANAKI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, March 11.

THE Egmont Racing Club have issued the programme for their Winter Meeting, on May 11, with commendable promptitude. There are seven events, comprising Handicap Hurdles, 70sovs; Hack Hurdles, 35sovs; Handicap Trial Steeplechase, 50sovs; First Handicap Hack Flat, 40sovs; Egmont Steeplechase, 150sovs; Second Hack Flat, 35sovs; and Final Handicap Steeplechase, 60sovs. The programme appears in your advertising columns.

Many express surprise that the Taranaki Jockey Club do not go in for a winter meeting. If a suitable date were chosen I think this club would make a success of a winter tryst.

Mr. F. Stohr has purchased the trotter Ike from Mr. J. West for, I believe, £20. I wish his new owner every success, as he deserves it for his speculation.

There was a great outcry over the weight allotted Stranger in the first Hack Flat Race at the Wanganui Meeting. He was given 7st 9lb, and won easily, and the second day he carried 8st 13lb, and again won easily. Full particulars of his performances could not have been supplied the handicapper (Mr. Evett) when he treated the horse so leniently in the first race.

An Auckland horseowner and trainer has, I hear, been threatening to play "old Harry" with a well-known Taranaki sport. Why, I cannot find out.

The action of the Wanganui Jockey Club in "warning off" three prominent bookmakers for laying totalisator odds at the recent Autumn Meeting will, it is understood, be endorsed by other metropolitan clubs in the North Island. If this is done it will greatly affect those concerned.

The local holders of The Harbour Light in Tattersall's Sweep on the Newmarket Handicap have been advised by cable that they will receive £1123 nett. Not a bad div. for 5s. each.

My *conferere* the Wanganui correspondent in the last issue of the REVIEW takes me to task for criticising Mr. J. E. Henry's handicap for the First Hack Flat Race at the recent Egmont Meeting. He says that I "loudly condemned the handicap, and especially pointed out that Sheila was badly treated." Now, I never do things "loudly," nor did I condemn the handicap. I certainly criticised the production, and pointed out what I thought were mistakes. Mr. Henry is a public man, and his work is open to criticism, but I don't think he is so thin-skinned as to feel aggrieved at the mild way I pointed out what I considered blots in the handicap. Sheila included. Sheila's running at Marton on March 10 is proof that she was not handicapped on her merits at Egmont. She certainly ran third at Egmont when the others behind Dingo and Ngatioma were easing up, seeing that pursuit abreast on the post was useless.

Mr. J. George's five-year old gelding Armoury, Armourer—Awatea by Day Dawn, carried 6st 9lb to victory in the Flying Handicap at Marton yesterday. He paid the acceptable dividend of £10 6s. Charlie Riley had the mount. Armoury competed unsuccessfully in the York Farm Handicap, won by Rangipuhi. Sheila, the other Taranaki com-

petitor, was unsuccessful in the same events, with 7st 3lb and 7st 1lb respectively.

A meeting of the Taranaki Jockey Club Committee will be held to-night to consider the question of endorsing the disqualification imposed by the Wanganui Club on Messrs. Yuille, Nathan and May, for laying totalisator odds at the recent Wanganui meeting. I shall forward the result. It is understood that an endorsement will affect the horse St. Malo, nominated for the Taranaki Meeting by Messrs. Yuille and Nathan.

Several of our local hacks will have a cut in at Waverley-Waitotara on Thursday next, March 10. Flukem, Sheila, and Armoury will have a go there, and Sirius will run at Sandon the same day. Tonic and Armour, two other local hacks, will most likely also compete at Waverley.

The Inglewood athletic sports were held yesterday. The 100, 220, and 440 yards handicaps fell to Brierly, an Auckland, whose father has a metalling contract on the East Road, near Stratford. Brierly had 8yds, 12yds and 18yds start respectively. The half-mile fell to H. Ford; the hop-step-and-jump to W. Webster; the handicap hurdles to Jonas; the mile to Paul, and the maiden race to Jonas. There were two wrestling events (Cumberland style), one for 11st and under men, and the other for all-comers. Goonan won the former and Twohy the latter. There were about 1400 persons on the ground during the afternoon.

[BY WIRE.]

NEW PLYMOUTH, March 16.

The Taranaki Jockey Club Committee have agreed with the action taken by the Wanganui J.C. in warning certain bookmakers off their course for laying totalisator odds.

Crown Jewel is favourite here for the Hawke's Bay Cup, with Retina and Morion in favour.

OUR WANGANUI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Marton Jockey Club held their usual Hack Meeting on Thursday last, when splendid weather was experienced, the attendance being about 500. The racing was of first-class order, the finishes in all of the events being very close and exciting. The amount put through the totalisator was £2079.

Freewill, Volunteer—Sator mare, broke down badly in the York Farm Handicap, otherwise he would have been very close to being returned the winner. Rangipuhi, the winner of the handicap, is by Feye—Mystery Girl. He is a fine looking bay horse, and should be heard of later on. Before the race started he was priced, but his owner (a native) refused to sell.

Armoury, the winner of the Flying Handicap, is a brown gelding by Amourer—Awatea, Awatea being by Resolution—Confident. This was a popular win for Mr. J. George, who I am glad to say had a few tickets on him, and the dividend was a good one, viz., £10 6s.

Glenelg, the winner of the two Hurdle Races, is a useful horse, and will be heard of to advantage later on, the general opinion being that he is the best horse over hurdles at present on this coast.

Another horse that should make a name for himself is War Cry, a nice looking chestnut gelding, by Volunteer—Master Roe mare.

La Petite Fille, Sou' Wester—Lady Grey, has gone into fresh hands, having joined Mr. T. Hill's stable in Wellington. This is hard luck for Mr. R. Wheeler, who has spared no pains with this mare, who has been on the sick list for some time, and has only just recovered. She finished fourth in the Egmont Handicap, fifth in the Wanganui Cup, and third in the Wanganui Stakes, showing very prominent in all of these events during the progress of the race.

Major George's cheque for the recent wins of Reprisal and the Workman at Flemington amounted to £828. Florrie placed £492 to Mr. Dan O'Brien's credit. Mr. W. R. Wilson secured the largest amount, chiefly by the aid of Strathmore and Zalinski, viz., £5797. Mr. J. B. Clark was second on the list with £3001, while Mr. W. Sayer received the sum of £2234 for Wild Rose's win in the Newmarket Handicap.