

of the year to the other. Dreamland, by Cadogan—Siesta, half-sister to the flying Day Dream, looked very pink, as also did the Waipawa Handicap winner Seraph, by Albany—Helena. Couranto, by Patriarch—Quickstep, had just returned from Wanganui, where he was reckoned to have a moral over the first day's hurdles, with all his weight. However, there was something the matter with him, for he would not jump, so Redmond says. He did not balk at the last hurdle, as reported, but ran through it. He jumped splendidly before he went away, was in beautiful trim, and as round as an apple. When he came back there was no life in him; he looked to have come down a great deal, and appeared to be a different animal altogether. Maher cannot make out what has happened to him. It was stated he was lame, but no signs of lameness can be discovered about him. He will probably be treated to a spell. Somnambulist, by Somnus—Nil Desperandum, who has given us a taste of his quality on several occasions, looks the picture of health. He is, without doubt, a fine stamp of a hurdle horse. A two-year-old, by Foul Play out of Miss Dargon, occupied an end box. She is a little lady of good appearance, and shows racing qualities. King George, by St. George—Strenua, looked well. This horse should win a race or two if given a show by the handicappers. An animal rejoicing in the name of Fifty Bob (no connection with the Chinaman's horse Seventy Bob, which was provocative of so much amusement at the last Town and Suburban races) will probably be seen in hack company at an early date. He comes off one of the stations, and is said to be out of Neophyte, being consequently half-brother to the Wellington Steeplechase winner Echo. Avis, the erst Poverty Bay horse, by Emir Bey—Mavis, a recent addition to Maher's string, was out in the paddock when I visited the stable. I notice this animal is entered at Wellington.

Jack Griffiths, whose stables are located at Waipawa, has Caloola (a grey horse who can cover ground when in motion), Oring, an aged jumper by The Painter, Deceiver, a young horse, who wants a spell, and a hack called Florrie.



[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE acceptances for the Papakura races are very poor, and what promised to be a pleasant meeting has been to a certain extent spoilt.

The Hurdle Race, for which there were originally nine entries (Val being omitted from the handicap), has only three acceptors. This should be a match between Cloth of Gold, rost, and Stepper, rost. If the former is fit on the day I should prefer him, but perhaps under existing circumstances it will be better to stand Stepper.

Five of the original twelve entries have declared content for the Pony Handicap, and it should fall to either Romeo, 8st 5lb, or Sepoy, 7st 12lb.

The Papakura Cup, the principal event of the meeting has only succeeded in obtaining five acceptances out of eleven nominations, two of them—Pinfire, 8st 9lb, and Leorina, 8st—being in the Papakura stable. One of these should win, unless Ida, 6st 9lb, upsets the pot.

The Maiden Plate (for which the conditions are rather curious, they being "for horses that have never won an advertised race exceeding 25 sovs. in value at the time of entry" instead of start—thus enabling Tuna, who won the Pupuke Cup in a canter at the Lake meeting to start) has the best acceptances of the meeting, nine having declared content. They are, however, a miserable lot of animals, therefore Tuna, 9st, if all right, should dispose of the lot.

Nine were entered for the Steeplechase, but only eight handicapped, Kate being omitted. Of these only three accepted, Kate's being in abeyance. Her weight, 9st 6lb, has since been sent up, and as her owner is content, this will make four. Of them I prefer Kate, though if The Colonel stands up he must be dangerous.

The Novel Race has four scrubbers remaining in, and it had better be left alone.

The Flying Stakes has eight of the fifteen entries remaining in. Of these, Pinfire, 8st 10lb, Leorina, 8st, and Helen McGregor, 7st 4lb, belong to the same stable. The latter, being trained on the ground, should win this race, though Ida, 6st 12lb, may be troublesome.

It is really wonderful the ignorance displayed by the stewards and officials at some country meetings. There is one to take place shortly in the Waikato, when the respectable sum of £155 is added to eight races. There are eight stewards; still they allow the handicapper to allot 6st to horses in the principal race of the day, though correct in all the others. This

again proves the little interest some of the stewards take in the races as long as their name is on the card.

THE Auckland Trotting Club have published a most liberal programme for their Autumn meeting, to be held at Potter's Paddock on April 16. The added money is £415, divided as follows:—£280 to four trotting races, the principal of which, the Easter Handicap Trot, 2½ miles, has £130 added; the balance, £135, going to three pony races, the Autumn Handicap, seven furlongs, having £60 added. Considering the short time the Club has been in existence it has accomplished great things, and has made trotting a popular sport in Auckland. The Committee should bear in mind, if they want to increase the popularity of the Club, that genuine lovers of horses look upon trotting races as an incentive to breeding a better class of animal, not merely to be another means of gambling, also the means of putting money into the pockets of a few. Therefore they should be most particular in their handicapping, especially as, they being the leading Club, the minor ones take their line from them. Ever since trotting was first introduced into Auckland the handicaps have been extremely bad, the scratch horse rarely having a chance, the race generally resting with three or four of the limit horses. The handicappers seem to ignore the first rule of handicapping—never crush a good horse because some fools enter a horse that could not win at any handicap. You have only to attend at Potter's Paddock to see horses continually entered for the big events that are not worth a ten-pound note and have no pretensions to trot, but the owners hope that by constantly entering they will get such a tremendous start that by the "go-as-you-please" style they may fluke a race. I have noticed four or five that have been at this game a long time. At the last Onslow meeting, with the exception of about half a dozen, the animals were not good enough for butchers' hacks, while one or two should never have been allowed on the track. I am of the firm opinion that in all the principal races on grounds like Potter's Paddock the limit horse should not have more than 45 secs. in three miles, and if that does not bring them together, let the scrubbers confine their attention to the minor races. If this is done the value of the stakes would induce more horses to come from other parts; then we should have some first-class trotting, and the Aucklanders would see the inutility of keeping the class of horses they have now in training. At the same time it would not be a bad thing if the trotting judges warned a few of the "go-as-you-please" horses off the track. Owners at a distance, as things are now, will not go to the expense of entering and bringing up a good horse whose time is known, as he is sure to be handicapped out of it. What would Rarus' "gait" require to have been to beat Midnight? As the handicaps are made now in most instances it would require the scratch horse to be able to do the three miles in at least a 7min. 40sec. "gait" to win. Let the handicappers take a sheet of foolscap and figure it out. They will then see for themselves the mistakes they are making. The general public appreciate close finishes in trotting as well as in flat races.

LAST week I went through the Hawke's Bay Cup, coming to the conclusion that Mr. Hunter's selected one Cynisca or Whisper, Retina and Kuline, read the best, though Dolosa, who is a thorough jade, might take it into her head to prove dangerous. Cynisca was beaten in the Wanganui Cup, but she has previously shown a dislike to the course, as when Dudu beat her she reversed her running at Hastings. The accounts about Retina are conflicting; some say that she has gone off, but from what I can learn there is not much the matter, and the party behind her are pretty sanguine. Many have a fancy for Crown Jewel, as they think she won the Wanganui Cup easier than she appeared to do, but I have no reason to alter my opinion that the race will fall to Mr. Hunter's selected one—Cynisca or Whisper—or Retina, and if compelled to stand on one it would be Clifford's mount on Mr. Hunter's selected.

FOR the Railway Plate there are twenty-four remaining in. This race is greatly dependent

on previous running, but taking them on paper I prefer the chances of Whisper, 9st 6lb; Heather Bell, 8st 4lb; and Crestonne, 7st 3lb. Reducing them to two, I like Mr. Hungerford's selected one—Heather Bell or Whakawatea—and Whisper best.

I AM informed that the Auckland Trotting Association has now settled their differences with the New Zealand Trotting Association, therefore it would be well for them to take into consideration some of the suggestions that the Canterbury Horse Owners and Trainers Association have made only I alter them to suit Auckland. There are now three clubs here, and the handicapping is certainly not satisfactory, as in nearly every instance the horse that wins has a long start; in fact few know the distance that rosecs. means.

1. That each club appoint a handicapper for the whole of the races; these to appoint a gentleman that is independent of all the clubs, to act with them also a referee. Let them frame all the trotting and pony handicaps.

2. That an official time-keeper be elected to act for all the clubs, and the time be posted in a conspicuous place immediately after the race.

3. That the handicappers place all horses that have never started in a trotting race on the same mark.

3. That the Auckland Trotting Association include a "Class Trot" in every programme.

I think that these suggestions, if adopted, would give satisfaction, as there is no gainsaying that the Auckland Trotting Association are far away ahead of the others in all minutiae, and carry things out thoroughly.

THE weights for the Sydney Gold Cup, the big handicap of the year, are just to hand. Mr. Scarr has issued a most flattering one, so it will take a great deal of calculation before one can attempt to pick one of the first three, as it must be borne in mind that at this time of the year three-year olds are as good as four. Marvel, 9st 9lb, has evidently been made the chopping block, as he has never done a two-mile journey. I have not time this week to go thoroughly into the handicap, therefore I shall confine myself to a few remarks on those that at the first glance read well in. Strathmore, 9st 2lb, has been taken care of. He is an undeniably good colt, but on Melbourne Cup form Malvolio, 9st, if fit and well, should hold him safe. Sir William, 8st 12lb, has been a disappointing horse, but he reads well at this weight. Zalinski, 8st 10lb, must have a great show if the selected one of the stable. Correze, 8st 8lb, has been under a cloud, but if Mr. Redfern prefers him to Malvolio he must be dangerous. G'Naroo, 8st 4lb, is another that has nothing to complain of. He was one of my fancies for the Australian Cup, but for some reason or other he was scratched. Portsea, 7st 10lb, must have a show, while Forty Winks, 7st 6lb, has got in easily after his Australian Cup form. Yarran and the Rebel, 6st 12lb, are two that read well. Yowi, 6st 2lb, if the ground should be heavy, ought not to be overlooked; but I will go thoroughly into the handicap next week, but at the present time I have an idea that the winner will come from Malvolio, Sir William, Zalinski, Correze, G'Naroo, Portsea, Forty Winks, Yarran, or The Rebel, the two last, and Malvolio and Correze being in two stables.



[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.]

#### DISTRICT ORDERS.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTION PARADES.  
Tuesday, March 22—Victoria Rifles, Newton Rifles, Auckland City Guards, Royal Irish Rifles.  
Wednesday, March 23—Engineers.  
Thursday, March 24—"A" Battery Artillery, Garrison Band; Hamilton Light Infantry, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, March 26—Waikato Rifles, 2.30 p.m.  
Monday, March 28—Thames Naval Artillery, 7 p.m.  
(All parades at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise mentioned.)

THE thirty-first annual meeting of the New Zealand Rifle Association was opened on Friday afternoon, at the new permanent range Trentham, near Wellington. The first shot was fired by Mrs. W. P. Reeves, wife of the minister for Education, who scored a bulls-eye. There was a large attendance of visitors from