

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

Mar.	28, 24	Dunedin Jockey Club
Mar.	23, 24	Napier Park Racing Club
Mar.	30, 31	Whangamata Racing Club
Mar.	30	Oxford Races, near Cambridge
Mar.	31, Apr. 1	Taranaki Jockey Club
April	1	Woodville District J.C.—Hacks
April	2	Helensville Jockey Club
April	7	Waipawa County R.C.
April	7, 8	North Otago J.C.
April	9	Avondale Jockey Club
April	13	Foxton R.C.
April	14	Auckland Trotting Club
Apr.	18	Tauwhare Racing Club
Apr.	18	Wairarapa Racing Club
April	18	Patea R.C.
Apr. 18, 19		Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 18, 19		Canterbury Jockey Club
Apr.	18	Turaunganui Races
April	23	South Auckland Autumn Meeting
April	28, 29	South Canterbury J.C.
Apr. 28, 30		Wellington Racing Club
May	11	Egmont Racing Club
May	24, 25	Dunedin Jockey Club
May	24	Wanganui J.C. Steeplechase
May	24	Takapuna Jockey Club Winter Meeting
May	24	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
June	4, 6	Auckland Racing Club
June	24	Hawke's Bay J.C., Winter
June	29	Napier Park R.C. Winter
July	9	Wellington Racing Club

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

Mar.	25	Dunedin J.C.
Mar.	24	Foxton R.C.
Mar.	25	Auckland Trotting Club
Mar.	25	Avondale Jockey Club
Mar.	26	Patea R.C.
Mar.	30	Oxford Races
Apr.	1	South Auckland Racing Club
Apr.	1, 14, 20	Canterbury Jockey Club
Apr.	2	Egmont Racing Club—stallions
Apr.	4	Wellington Racing Club
Apr.	8, 22	Auckland Racing Club
Apr.	9	Dunedin Jockey Club
April	16	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
May	10	Dunedin Jockey Club
May	10	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Winter
May	12, 26	Egmont Racing Club
May	27	Auckland Racing Club
May	27	Egmont Racing Club—Hack Produce
June	5, 28	Wellington Racing Club
June	17	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June	20	Canterbury Jockey Club
July	25	Canterbury Jockey Club

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

Mar.	25	North Otago J.C.
Mar.	26	Waipawa County R.C.
Mar.	28	Avondale Jockey Club
Mar.	31	Foxton R.C.
April	1	Auckland Trotting Club
April	4	Patea R.C.
April	7	South Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 4, 13, 18		Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 6, 18		Canterbury Jockey Club
Apr.	19	Egmont Racing Club
Apr. 20, 29		Wellington Racing Club
April	30	Bell Block R.C.
May	3, 24	Dunedin Jockey Club
May	7	Egmont Racing Club
May 10, 30		Auckland Racing Club
June	4	Auckland Racing Club
June	8	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June 25, 30		Wellington Racing Club

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

Mar.	25	Woodville District J.C.—Hacks (general entries)
Mar.	26	Helensville Jockey Club
Mar.	26, 30, 31	Taranaki Jockey Club
Mar.	31	Waipawa County R.C.
April	1	Avondale Jockey Club
April 1, 14, 18		Canterbury Jockey Club
April	2	North Otago J.C.
April	6	Wairarapa Racing Club
April	7	Foxton R.C.
April	8	Auckland Trotting Club
April 8, 14, 16, 18, 19		Auckland Racing Club
April	9	Patea R.C. (general entries)
April	15	South Auckland Racing Club
April	25	Wellington Racing Club
Apr.	30	Egmont Racing Club
May 10, 24		Dunedin Jockey Club
May	14	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
May	20	Auckland Racing Club
June	1, 4	Auckland Racing Club
June	17	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June	1, 6	Wellington Racing Club

Sporting Review.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1892.

At the A.A.A.C. meeting held in the Domain on Saturday last, among several innovations the most noticeable was the "Press table." To enable the members of the fourth estate to do their work with comfort, a table and chairs were provided. Seated at their ease and smoking the pipe of peace, the Pressmen saw what they could of the sprint races. At intervals the "Press steward" arrived and administered spoonfuls of information, e.g., "Tompkins 1st, Jinks 2nd, Bags 3rd; won easily by two yards, a breast between second and third; time, 10 1-5th secs." Could anything be more delightful for the reporter? Absolved from all responsibility, and furnished with an official bulletin after each event, his work is positively child's play. "Blessings on the man who invented sleep," quoth the immortal Saacho Panza. And so say all Pressmen of the inventor of the Press table. It is indeed a boon and a blessing. But soft!—the scribe feels a twinge in what he is pleased to call his conscience. Under such conditions, what use is he? His journal, like every other journal, will produce a report of the meeting faithful in respect to results, but without the slightest touch of individuality or originality in describing the races. His sole function is to be a sort of conduit-pipe from the Press-steward to

the public. The committee might just as well write out one report in copying ink and furnish each journal with an impression. In future anybody who can write in pencil from dictation will be a perfectly competent Press representative at the A.A.A.C. meetings. Under the old rule experts representing the Press were permitted to take up any position they pleased to witness an event, subject to such restrictions in regard to keeping away from the judges, and interfering as little as possible with the view of other spectators, as the committee thought fit to impose. Hence independent reports from different points of view became possible, and were actually supplied to the public by the several journals. Now everything is reduced to the dead level of mechanical mediocrity. Moreover, in the event of a competitor receiving unfair treatment from his opponents, or suffering from a mistake on the part of the judges, he had some chance of redress at the hands of the Pressmen. If the object of the innovation is to scotch or stifle all criticism, it has been attained with a vengeance. We are not writing only with reference to the A.A.A.C. meeting, as the "Press table" was used at the last Championship meeting at Christchurch; and we trust that the above remarks will be taken as evidence of an unselfish desire on the part of those whose personal comfort is enhanced by the innovation, to do their best for the advancement of athletics, and the information of the general public.



[BY OLD TURFITE.]

"MAZEPPA," of the *Otago Witness*, writes "that a report has reached Dunedin that the Hon. E. Mitchelson contemplates introducing a Bill into the House next session for the abolition of the totalisator, and that if time is found for the debate on the subject there is little doubt many members would rise to denounce the machine on the general ground that they object to gambling; but this can scarcely be the line that Mr. Mitchelson would adopt. He would be more likely to endeavour to show special cause why the totalisator should be knocked out. It certainly appears to me that he would have great difficulty in arguing such a case, for from all points of view save one—viz., that owners are at a disadvantage, having to come in at starting prices—the supporters of the totalisator would have the best of it. As to that particular point, it would, one would think, be difficult to move the present House to do owners a turn at the expense of the public. But while anticipating that Mr. Mitchelson will have a job to convince Parliament that the totalisator is worse than the system of betting which it has supplanted to a large extent, there may be danger to the machine in that the motion would be supported by members like our Mr. Hutchinson, who object to betting of any kind, and for this reason the Clubs should be prepared in case the question is brought forward. I may say, as I have said before, that I for one am strongly in favour of the totalisator, because I know that it discourages thieving and supports racing in a legitimate manner, and I shall continue to support it until some better system is thought out." I have heard for some time that it has been the intention of the Hon. E. Mitchelson and other influential members who have an interest in racing to introduce a Bill into Parliament to abolish the machine, and it is to be hoped that it will pass, as I totally disagree with "Mazeppa," though he stands up so strongly as champion of the machine. He writes: "I know that it discourages thieving and supports racing in a legitimate manner." It would be interesting to the general public as well as myself to hear from "Mazeppa's" able pen how he knows it. My experience tells me there is just as much thieving going on now as ever, as favoured individuals can give the workers of the machine £50 or £100 to put on for them. Sometimes it is put on in small sums, at others it is rung on at the very last minute. When some of the public, who have backed the horse because they fancied him and he would also pay a good dividend, go to get their money they find about a hundred more

tickets on him than there were five minutes before the machine closed. That it supports racing in a legitimate manner I fail to see, and should like "Mazeppa" to convince me that he is right. My experience shows me that scores of race meetings have sprung up since the introduction of the totalisator which would never have come into existence had it not been for the machine. They only benefit a few. A lot of young persons have been induced to buy horses who cannot afford it; there are also a lot of scrubbers now in training that would never have been thought of if these petty races had not sprung up. The machine, being ready money, offers great inducement to many to let their butchers, bakers, etc., want in order to have cash to invest. I will now go a step higher. An owner who pays all the expenses of his horses naturally expects to recoup himself. Stakes will never do that, and if he backs his horses on the machine he has to share with the public. It affects breeders, because purchasers will not give long prices for yearlings unless they can make them pay. It is also driving all the best horses out of the Colony, and induces men to keep entire and train a lot of scrubbers, which now infest the Colony. I fail to see how in a single way the machine is a benefit to genuine racing, unless it is to enable Clubs to give larger stakes; but a genuine racing man would prefer less added money and more betting. Perhaps "Mazeppa" will be able to prove that I am wrong, but at present he has advanced nothing to show that his theory is right and that we should not be much better without the machine.

MR. SCARR, in making the handicap for the Sydney Gold Cup, has certainly succeeded in producing a flattering one; and the winner will take a good deal of picking. Marvel, 9st 9lb, reads as the chopping block, and it is not likely that he will start. Highborn, 9st 4lb, must be looked on with respect, after his running in the Australian Cup, when he carried the same weight. His running in the Champion Stakes must not have too much importance attached to it, as it was run at a muddling pace, and the gelding was not himself on the day. Strathmore, 9st 2lb, has been raised 6lb. That he is a good colt there is no doubt, but it is asking him to do a big thing, and his stable companion Zalinski, 8st 10lb, reads better. Malvolio, 9st, has nothing to complain of with regard to weight; but both he and Correze, 8st 8lb, have been on the shelf lately with suspicious legs. Megaphone is reported to have broken down in the Champion race and it is doubtful if he will run again. Sir William, 8st 12lb, is a horse that should be watched. He has more than once nearly landed a coup, and he may do it this time. Freedom, 8st 10lb, has got a little more than he deserves; that he will win a good race some day there is no doubt, but I hardly think that this will be the one. Greygown, 8st 8lb, has more than once made a sensation, but the distance will I think be too far. Tirailleur, 8st 4lb, has had a considerable reduction made in his weight, but he has always been in my estimation an over-rated horse; and G'Naroo at the same weight reads much better. He has now 7lb less than when he was backed for the Melbourne Cup; so if the stable rely on him he must be very near the front. Muriel, 7st 11lb, Oxide and Portsea, 7st 10lb, also read well on paper; while Forty Winks, 7st 6lb, must have a show. Lower down comes Yarran and The Rebel, 6st 12lb each. Then amongst the turned-loose division is Yowi, 6st 2lb. As one cannot back them all, and as bookmakers now-a-days will not give a lot against the field I shall confine myself at present to the following, expecting the winner to come from them:—Highborn, Redfern's selected (Malvolio or Correze), Sir William, Zalinski, G'Naroo, Forty Winks, or Yarran.

LOOKING through the yearling sales during the late V.R.C. meeting it appears from the prices realised that the supply greatly exceeds the demand. A few weeks ago "Augur" had a long description of the St. Albans stud. After reading it carefully through I thought there would be some sensational prices, for from his account they were an exceptionally good lot, but when they came to the hammer only two ran into four figures, while many only brought hack prices, the average being 222½ guineas. This will hardly pay. Mr. Gardner, of Bundoora