

Park, sent up twenty-six youngsters, all of good pedigree, the highest priced one being 65gns. for a black colt by Precious Stone—Rarity. Mr. Donald Wallace sent up eleven. The highest price was 80 guineas for a bay colt by Newminster—Violet. Sir Thomas Elder sent up thirty-two, all well-bred ones—the highest priced ones being a bay colt by Gang Forward—Josephine, 450gns., and a brown colt by Neckersgat—Hortense, 510gns., the average for the thirty-two lots not being quite 115gns.

READING through the Australian files that are now to hand it is astonishing to see the diversity of opinion as regards Cusdin's riding of Strathmore in the Australian Cup. That he rode a bad race there is no denying, and he himself admits it. A jockey's mount on a red hot favourite is no sinecure, for if he loses he is sure to come into some unpleasant remarks, even if he does not deserve them, as few owners are good losers. Cusdin says that he was several times interfered with. This is very likely, as there is generally one or two started on purpose to interfere with a great favourite. That Strathmore with everything in his favour could have beaten Highborn on that day I have my doubts. The Champion Stakes was no criterion, as Highborn was not up to the mark on that day, and the race was run at a muddling pace. Many a race have I seen thrown away in the old country through there not being a true pace all through. If the two should meet in the Sydney Gold Cup I expect to see Highborn put down Strathmore again.

THE resuscitated Papakura Club has had a great deal to contend against, and it will not be surprising if their postponed meeting, to be held next Saturday, turns out a failure. This will be regretted by all racing men, as the Club has gone to considerable expense in erecting a grand stand, and otherwise improving the course. The committee, however, have to blame themselves for what must be called mismanagement. They should not have postponed the meeting from last Thursday (St. Patrick's day) on account of a little rain. The morning in town certainly was not favourable; but it was much better up country, and there was really no reason for the postponement. Besides it is not fair to owners, when they have their horses ready for their engagements, to put off the races on account of a little rain. The stewards as a rule consult themselves, and the profits of that *bete noir* to racing—the totalisator. Rule 19 reads thus: "The stewards, in case of urgent necessity, may from time to time put off any races from day to day, or for such time as they may deem expedient, notwithstanding a Sunday intervening." The question now is, when this rule was made was it with the intention of enabling stewards to put off races on account of rain, or other things adverse to their making a large profit on the machine, and fix the date some ten days later. "Urgent necessity," I read means frost, snow, or fog, or the course being under water—not simply a wet day. If it does not the sooner the rule is amended the better, so as to describe what urgent necessity means. It is a well-known fact that some horses like dirt, while others prefer to hear their feet rattle. Another thing—a man gives a long price for the booths, etc., he gets all his stuff on the ground and finds the races put off for ten days on account of a little rain; he therefore has either to give or throw away all his eatables, as they will not keep. But taking the question as regards racing alone, I maintain that the stewards had no right to postpone the meeting for ten days. The sooner this question is settled by a competent tribunal the better, as these postponements are becoming much too prevalent—all owing to the machine. Fancy putting off races in the old country on account of rain!—such a thing would not be tolerated. I have no reason to alter my opinion as regards my selections last week for the different events. The acceptances are very poor, and it looks like it used to be in olden days—a benefit for the Papakura stable. The Hurdle Race will be a match between Cloth of Gold and Stepper—the former for choice. The Pony Handicap should fall to either Sepoy or Romeo. The Cup reads a certainty for either Pinfire or Leorina, unless Ida can upset the pot. Tuna should annex the Maiden Plate, Acacia being her most dangerous opponent. The Steeplechase should go to

Kate. The Novel Race had better be left alone. The Flying Stakes looks a good thing for the home stable and they may select Helen McGregor to do the trick.

MR. HALSTEAD has issued the weights for the Helensville Racing Club's meeting, which takes place on April 2nd. Acceptances are due on the 26th inst. It is worthy of note the great difference Messrs. Halstead and Evitt have in their estimation of certain horses. In the Papakura Cup, the same distance, the latter makes Ingorina give Leorina 10lb, and Tuna 24lb; while at Helensville Leorina gives Ingorina 7lb, and Tuna 24lb. There is, therefore, a difference of 17lb and 10lb respectively. Then again, in the Flying Stakes at Papakura Ingorina gives Leorina 10lb, now she gives away 3lb, making a difference of 13lb. So if Mr. Halstead is right Leorina should be a pretty good thing for Papakura next Saturday. Taking the Helensville meeting as it now stands the Cup reads a good thing for Ingorina, though Rewarewa might slip him up. Cloth of Gold and Assassin are the best for the Hurdle Race. There are seventeen in the Hack Race, but it had better be left alone, as these races are generally "readied" up. The Flying Stakes should fall to either Ingorina or Leorina; though should Brigade take it into her head she will make the pace merry. There are no less than nineteen entries for the Maiden Plate, Kildare and Acacia being the two most leniently treated. The entries all through are good, and if the acceptances are the same there should be a splendid afternoon's sport; but I will have further remarks to make next week.

It appears by Southern files that the Taranaki and Dunedin Jockey Clubs have endorsed the disqualifications of Messrs. Yuille and Nathan, of Wellington, also of R. May, of Auckland, imposed on them by the Wanganui Jockey Club for betting totalisator odds at their late meeting. The latter Club also intend to put an end to ready-money betting at Forbury. What the other clubs intend to do is not at present known, but it appears curious that the matter has not been taken up immediately, as there is no real cause for delay. It is also unfortunate that the W.J.C. did not inflict punishment on the takers as well as the layers of the odds, as things are at present in a most unsatisfactory state—owners of horses not getting a fair chance of winning their money.

ON looking through English and Australian files I came across some items of news that may be of interest to my readers.—Mr. Hume Webster, who committed suicide the other day in his own grounds, has for many years been a large breeder of thoroughbred horses, and had his stud farm at Marden Deer Park, about 20 miles from London. His name has been lately before the public as having been the prime mover in the scheme to get back to England, at a fabulous price, the celebrated sire Ormonde; which was opposed by the Duke of Portland and Mr. Chaplin, on the ground that he was a roarer. Whether the scheme will be carried out now, is a moot question; but there are plenty of breeders in England that will gladly pay 300 gns. a mare for his services. Mr. Webster was largely connected with the Stock Exchange, and it is said that heavy losses chiefly connected with the Argentine Republic was the cause of his rash act. All the sires and mares at Marden Park will be sold in May or June.

THE Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Autumn Meeting appears, from accounts to hand, to have been a great success. Crown Jewel's win in the Cup and the Bourke Memorial Stakes proves that her first win in the Wanganui Cup was not the fluke some people considered it to be. Last week I mentioned in my notes, "Many have a great fancy for Crown Jewel, as they think she won the Wanganui Cup easier than she appeared to do." Retina, though beat, was not disgraced, but Cynisca's running was too bad to be true. Morion was well backed by the local punters, but ran nowhere. In my opinion he is a greatly overrated colt, and inclined to be shifty. When he won the Great Northern Derby it was mainly due to Clifford's riding, as he kept him going, thus finding out the weak points in the others. His two wins at the

Farewell Meeting to Lord Onslow had a little merit in them, but when you come to go through and analyse the field, there was not much behind him. Whakawatea annexed the Railway Stakes and Juvenile Handicap. He must have a constitution of iron and legs of steel to stand all the knocking about he has had this season. Few two-year-olds would have stood it, but the chances are that it will tell against him next year as a three-year-old. Mr. McKinnon as usual picked up a couple of races with his old slaves—Scot Free and Lochness.

THE weights for the Doncaster Handicap are just to hand, and I have not time to go thoroughly through them this week, so shall confine myself to picking out a few. Marvel, 10st 4lb, heads the list. At this weight if fit and well he is not out of it. Stromboli, 9st 3lb, is not badly treated when you take into consideration the way he won the Bourke Handicap, carrying 8st 10lb. The next to catch the eye is Paris, 8st 11lb. Last year he won this race with 7st 10lb in 1min 40sec., but he has run disappointingly this season, and may have lost his speed through being trained for long distances. The Workman, 8st 7lb, is now in Monaghan's hands, and will lose nothing by that; and the way he won the Farewell Handicap gives him a show second to none. St. Blaize, 8st 5lb, is another that reads well. So does The Seine 7st 5lb; and Eileen, 6st 9lb, has nothing to complain of. Taking a shot at half a dozen, the following read the best:—Marvel, Stromboli, Paris, The Workman, The Seine and Eileen.



Dan McLeod at Papakura on Saturday next.

Mr. E. Fraser's chestnut colt by King Cole—Rosalind has been most appropriately named *Royal Rose*.

A younger brother of H. Cusden, employed in the Yaldhurst stable, is spoken of as a promising light-weight.

The privileges in connection with the Helensville races will be sold at Helensville to-day (Thursday) at 2.30 p.m., including booths, gates, cards, etc.

Mr. E. G. Sandall, the owner of Midnight, has now written to the Auckland Club requesting that an inquiry be made to enable him to clear himself from unjust imputations.

The pony Trenton, who is said to be a hammer over the small sticks, was for three years packing gum up North. He is now fourteen years of age.

Mr. E. Hewitt has named his bay colt by St. Leger—Welcome Katie *Ben Godfrey*. As this colt promises to grow into a good stallion he is aptly named.

We are informed that Mr. F. N. Jones refused an offer of 350 guineas for Rarus recently; but the price put on him is 400 guineas, and nothing less.

As a mark of respect to his ancestors, Mr. Wi Pere of Gisborne has named his Ingomar—Steppe brown colt *Mahaki*. This is the colt Mr. I. Morrin sold to Wi Pere for 400 gns.

The imported Foxhound Bilet Dainty (sire Pytchley Prompter, dam Pytchley Dignity) died of distemper last week. This beautifully bred hound littered one lot of pups, but being a bad mother they all died.

In reply to the request of the Auckland Trotting Club to hold an inquiry into the "reversal of form" shown by the trotter Midnight, the Onslow Trotting Club have replied that they see no reason to question Midnight's running at their meeting, and if the Auckland Trotting Club think an inquiry necessary they will probably hold one themselves.

The owner of Fibre, who ran second to Midnight in the Onslow Trot, requests us to state that his only reason for complaining against the interference his horse received from The Broker in the race was in anticipation of the race being run over again, when he hoped to avoid a repetition of the alleged crossing. He expresses himself perfectly satisfied with the result of the inquiry.