

the straight, but seeing her falter when Crook commenced to ride her he thought he would make a final effort. He says Retina came back to him, Crown Jewel did not go up. It is said Mr. Martin blames Hill for not having sent him word that Collole could not ride the weight until it was too late to get another good jockey, and Hill blames Collole for not having told him until the day before the race. The stable backed the mare each time she started afterwards, but she went off terribly, and on the second day at Napier Park, when the City Stakes seemed made for her, she could not live alongside such moderates as Bay Bell and Huerfana. I am informed that she will not accept for the Great Autumn Handicap. On her best form she would have a good show in this with 7st 11lb, but on her Napier Park form she has no show.

Owing to the wet weather Mr. Wood, the contractor for the culverts on the Hutt course, has not been able to get his timber on the ground, and the stewards of the Racing Club have now decided to postpone the making of the grass gallop until after the Autumn meeting. They have let a contract for improving the people's, or outside stand, to Mr. J. H. Meyer, the contractor who built the grandstand. The work to be done includes renovating the exterior and remodelling the accommodation in the interior, making it much more convenient. The building of a ladies' cloak-room for the outside visitors is also part of the contract. This will remedy a defect in the Club's arrangements which has provoked several very severe comments.

The two trotting clubs which have been formed in Wellington during the last few weeks have come into collision already. They have both taken the title "The Wellington Trotting Club," and this morning's *New Zealand Times* contained two reports, both purporting to be summaries of proceedings at meetings of the Wellington Trotting Club, one being held at the New Zealand Hotel and one at Johnsonville. Each report says that a programme has been drawn up for a meeting on the Queen's Birthday, one at Island Bay and one at Johnsonville—the amount of added money in the former being £135 and in the latter £130, and the chief event in each programme being the Wellington Trotting Club Handicap of 50 sovs. The Island Bay Club have been beforehand in getting their title registered and being affiliated with the New Zealand Trotting Association, and they have applied to be constituted the Metropolitan Club of the Wellington District, so that the chances are they will become recognised as the premier Club and the other will have to take second place. At present, however, the Johnsonville party swear they will never give way. The collision is very unfortunate, as one good trotting club would do very well here, but the fight between the two is only exciting amusement.

Very good entries have been received for the Wairapa Racing Club and Otaki Maori Club meetings on Easter Monday. The nominations for Wairapa include several horses belonging to the party who threatened to leave the Club owing to the steward's decision in the Tubitarata case, so that it would appear the dissension is healed.

The nominations for the minor events for the Wellington Autumn Meeting close on Monday next, and if they should happen to be as good in proportion as these for the Thompson and Autumn Handicaps the meeting should be highly successful.

The appointment of a new caretaker of the Hutt race-course and the question of endorsing the disqualification of Messrs. Yuille, Nathau, and May will be part of the business of the Wellington stewards at a meeting to-morrow evening.

The following have been appointed officers of the Wellington Trotting Club No. 1 (that racing at Island Bay):—D. H. Crawford, president; C. P. Skerrett and D. G. A. Cooper, vice-presidents; W. Lingard, judge; T. H. Hill, starter; James King, timekeeper; Jas. Pettit, clerk of scales; Alfred King, handicapper; and J. H. Pollock, secretary. D. M. Mackinnon is secretary of the Johnsonville combination.

OUR WANGANUI LETTER.

[BY WIRE.—OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

WANGANUI, March 29.

OWNERS of stallions are reminded that entries of stallions for the Egmont Sires Hack Produce Stakes of 1895 close on the 2nd April. The fee being 3sovs, the nominator of the winning sire to receive 40sovs and a cup value 5sovs. Mr. Thos. Morrin of Auckland is so impressed with the idea that he has nominated all his stallions i.e., Hotchkiss, St. Leger, Lord Raven, Tasman, and Castor. Several owners of foals by Volunteer would like to nominate in this race, but as Volunteer is dead it is reported that Mr. McRae demurs to nominate the old horse. As Mr. McRae comes from a good old sporting family, the rumour must be incorrect, as from personal knowledge of Mr. McRae I think he would nominate the old horse if only to keep his memory green, besides he stands to win £40 and Cup. Mr. Ross has telegraphed to Waikato, asking those who have any yearling foals if they would wish to enter for this event he should be very glad to nominate his sire Natator. From all reports that I hear, I am sure that the Egmont Racing Club will have a good list of sires when they open the entries on Saturday next.

WANGANUI, March 25.

THE Manawatu Racing Club held their Autumn Hack meeting last Wednesday. The weather was showery, but notwithstanding some very interesting racing was the order of the day. The starting was not up to the usual standard that is generally witnessed on this coast owing to the Club's usual starter, Mr. S. Powell being at the Napier Park meeting, where he was wielding the flag, but otherwise everything passed off without a hitch. The attendance was not large, but those that were present backed their fancies very freely, Messrs. Stock & Cohen putting through the sum of £2,500 for seven events. In the Flying Handicap Sisfer was voted a good thing by the knowing ones and was made a warm favourite, but she had to succumb to Homai, a nice-looking bay mare

by Natator, trained by J. Retter. The race needs little description, as on the fall of the flag Homai at once went to the front and won all the way by two lengths. The Hurdle Race was annexed by Nat, who went to the front and made every post a winning one. Pride of the Hills and Mataiwetu finished second and third. For the principal event of the meeting—the Palmerston North Handicap—nine horses came to the post. From a fairly good start Osman and Sweet Dream were the first to show in front, and they remained in the van till half the journey had been traversed, when Entry improved his position. A quarter of a mile from home the field were in a bunch, but on entering the straight the Ascot gelding, Entry, was in the van, closely pursued by Deception and Osman, but the big son of Ascot being kept going by McKeague, who rode a pretty race, stalled off their efforts, and eventually won with a bit to spare by half a length. The mile and a half was cut out in 2min. 49 4-5th sec., which, considering the ground was very heavy and the winner's weight 8st 4lb, I consider to be a fast go. The Electric Handicap, half-mile, was contested by six horses, Phormium Tenax being installed a warm favourite, but after he had led until the straight was reached O'Rourke challenged him, and getting on even terms, the son of Daniel O'Rourke never afterwards gave his opponents a chance, winning as he liked. The Mounted Infantry Race was contested by ten horses, the winner turning up in Pango, with Unity a good second. For the Stewards' Handicap seven faced the starter, Entry, 8st 11lb, again being made favourite, and he justified the confidence placed in him by the public by winning easily at the finish from Strike, who ran a game horse, the time for the mile and a quarter being 2min. 15 1-5th sec. The Welter Handicap was annexed by Natatorial from Nat and Omahu, the only other starters. Full particulars will be published in our Turf Record column next week.

E. Ryder, the light weight jockey who was disqualified at the late Turakina Meeting, has had the disqualification removed by that Club.

Glenelg, the winner of the two hurdle races at the Marton Meeting, is a fine stamp of a cross country horse, and will be sure to make a name for himself later on. His owner, I hear, has already had two or three good substantial offers for him, but he declines to sell. Several good judges here reckon him to be the best hurdle horse in New Zealand.

Entry, by Ascot—Mountain Hare, is another fine big upstanding horse, and without doubt he is a good one, but he is troubled with a leg at present. This horse has only started four times, and has succeeded in being returned the winner on every occasion. He is in Teddy Barnes' hands, who I am glad to congratulate on his turn of luck at the late Manawatu Meeting, having won three races, two with Entry and one with Natatorial, the last win being due mainly to Barnes' own riding.

Darwin, by Muffit, out of Chandler's half-sister Miss Elswick, by Elswick, runner-up in the half-mile at the late Waverley Meeting, is a fine upstanding chestnut, sixteen hands high. He should make a first-class steeplechaser as he is a beautiful jumper and is also possessed of a good turn of pace, the half-mile at Waverley being run in 53 1-2 sec on very heavy going, and he was only beaten by half-a-head. Mr. Morse informs me that, as he has too many in hand, he wants to sell him, the price wanted being £80, and I am certain he would be a cheap horse at that figure.

The well-known steeplechaser Poro-o-tawa has been put into work again with a view of the forthcoming steeplechase meetings. Should this horse stand a preparation he will be hard to beat, but I am afraid that he will not stand the test.

The hack mare Niobe, by Natator—Sunshine was rather badly hurt while being taken to the Sandon races, and is not expected to recover from her injuries.

The hack Strephon who broke down while running in the Hack Race at Wanganui meeting has now recovered, but is to be treated to a spell for a while, after which most probably he will journey to Australia.

Fred Tilly is busy schooling Commotion over big country in view of the forthcoming Auckland Steeplechase.

OUR TARANAKI LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

NEW PLYMOUTH, March 24.

THE Oeo Racing Club have received excellent nominations for their Hack Meeting, which will be played out on April 6th. There are 15 in the Hurdles, 14 Flying, 10 Oeo Handicap, and 17 Pihama Stakes. With a good handicap and fine weather the club should come out with a good surplus.

Taranaki is credited with being the home of "the turf wind-bag," a class of men who are decidedly objectionable. This may be true, but I think Auckland can run us pretty close, considering the language and general conduct of an Auckland racing man while travelling recently from Wanganui to New Plymouth. There are some gents (?) whose association with the turf degrades rather than elevates "the sport of kings." They want weeding out.

J. Rae, the trainer for Mr. Bobbett, passed through here with Morion, on Tuesday last, on his way home from Hawke's Bay. The stable apparently didn't think much of their chance at Taranaki, as they shipped the big son of Captivator home the same night.

Fraternité is all to pieces I hear, and will therefore not run again this season. Mr. Wilson has had hard luck with the colt this year, as the son of the Dauphin—Sissie has never been well since the racing season began.

With a good wintering the colt will be about next season.

I notice that the resolution of the Dunedin Jockey Club offering a £10 reward for the conviction of "bookies" laying totalisator odds, has caused a flutter among the wielders of the magic pencil. The Dunedin Jockey Club appear to me to have been rather hasty in their action.



Dan McLeod, the double, Doncaster and Sydney Gold Cup.

The disqualified trotter Brandy has been taken back to Sydney.

Dennis Morrigan, the jockey, is back in Auckland.

Avondale acceptances close at the office of this paper to-morrow (Friday) at 9 p.m.

Malvolio, Correze, Sir William, and King Olaf have all been struck out of the Sydney Cup.

Egmont Racing Club's nominations for Stallions produce (hacks) are due on Saturday.

J. B. Williamson purchased the well-known trotter Pohui for the sum of £12 last week.

The Hawke's Bay Trotting Club do not close their totalisator until the scratch horse has started.

The Napier Park Racing Club have a rule that only notes and gold shall be taken at the totalisator.

In all probability both Commotion and Whalebone will be contestants at our autumn meeting.

Nominations are due to-morrow for the Auckland Racing Club's autumn meeting, held at Claudlands on April 23rd.

The Turf Record of the Hawke's Bay Trotting Club and Ngaruawahia Racing Club will appear in our next issue.

The pony trotter Captain Russell was out at Ellerslie on Tuesday morning. He has still a particular fancy for the gateway.

Dan O'Meara, the well-known trainer, who went South recently, was the trainer of Bradshaw, by Cast-off—Lady, which won the Flying Handicap at the Waverley-Waitotara meeting, on St. Patrick's Day and paid a £45 dividend.

The roan gelding Hailstone, by Hailstorm, winner of the Maiden and Handicap Hurdles at Takapuna Spring meeting, Avondale Hurdles, Thames Hurdles, and Thames Free Handicap last season, was sold for five guineas by Messrs. Hunter & Nolan on Friday.

Everyone will sympathise with Mr. Alf. Kelly, of Mount Albert, for the loss he has sustained by the death of his two fine yearling fillies, by Fusilade—Kit and Fusilade—Ilna. The former gave evidence of great promise, and was a real beauty. It is feared that both fillies, which died the same week, have been poisoned by some miscreant.

The Ngaruawahia Race Meeting on Saturday last, proved disastrous to some of the "pencilers." A well-known firm of Auckland bookmakers got hold of the wrong combination, another was stone broke, and three Maori gentlemen who have developed into "layers of the odds" produced their empty satchels when called upon to settle up.—*Waikato Times*.

Attention of owners and trainers is specially directed to the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's winter programme, which appears in another column of this issue. The meeting is fixed for the 24th June, and includes three steeplechases; the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase having attached to it 300 sovs. There is also a Hurdle Race of 100 sovs., Ladies' Bracelet of 80 sovs., and Welter of 40 sovs. With such an attractive programme Mr. F. D. Luckie, secretary, may confidently look forward to receiving large nominations.

From what appears to be a good authority we learn that the well-known trainer George Wright, who has been so long and favourably known in Auckland, is about to leave Kohimarama and take up his quarters at Hastings, Hawke's Bay, where he hopes to have considerably more patrons to his stable than he has recently had in Auckland. There is certainly a better field for a trainer of Wright's excellent capabilities in that district, and we wish him every success.