

best to stand as she has benefitted by the rest she has had, and in the Flying Stakes at Papakura, if she had been run independently, she would have won easily enough.

THE entries for the Avondale meeting are very good, and considering the quality of the horses engaged, Mr. Halstead has been very successful in his handicaps, though one or two races look pretty nearly certainties, if they are not waiting for the Ellerslie meeting. One thing is noticeable—there are two Transits entered. This is in direct contravention to Rule 64. The minor clubs say it is the duty of the Metropolitan clubs to see that this rule is adhered to. At present it is completely ignored. There are two Strephons, two Torpedos, two Transits, and if one was to go through the list other duplicates could be found. The different Metropolitan clubs should insist on seeing that the rules of racing are carried out by the subordinate clubs. What is the use of having rules if they are not properly carried out? But my work now is to go through the Avondale Handicaps. The first on the list is the Steeplechase, for which there are seven entries. Ingorangi, 10st 12lb, fit and meant for it, one need not look further for the winner, but if he was, I do not think it would be the stable's tactics to show him up in a race like this. Silvio, 10st 7lb, is unfairly weighted as he is played out. Stepper, 10st 6lb, if he can get the course, might have a show. Kate, 10st 4lb, reads the best of the lot, as it is doubtful if the others will get round.

There are ten in the Pony Race. These are races I am not fond of, so shall leave it alone. The same remarks apply to the Novel Race, and I shall confine my remarks to saying that the top and bottom weights should not be out of it.

There are no less than fifteen in the Maiden Steeplechase. Of these Kate is ineligible. The question is, which of them will get the course? I rather fancy that Neli, 9st 9lb, and Tim, 9st 7lb, will.

There is a nice lot of seventeen to pick the winner from in the Maiden Plate, the veteran maiden Warrior, 8st 12lb, heading the list. St. Clements 8st 7lb (if he can get the distance), Kildare 7st 10lb, Tiger 7st 10lb, Acacia 7st 9lb, and Echo, 7st 7lb, all read well.

There are fifteen in the Avondale Cup. Here Mr. Halstead has been most successful. As until the acceptances are made and owner's intentions are known, it is hard to pick the winner, the following all look well in on paper:—Ingorina 9st 5lb, Yattaghan 8st 5lb, Belmont 7st 10lb (after the way he looked and ran at Papakura is out of it if his running was true), Tuna 7st 7lb, Tulloch 7st, Kildare 6st 12lb and Vasator 6st 9lb. If all on the square Ingorina, Yattaghan and Tulloch read the best; while Kildare and Vasator I have reasons to suppose are better than is generally imagined.

There are twenty-two in the Flying Stakes, so there is no use going through them until the acceptances appear and the numbers go up, as it is dependant on previous running: but the following are decidedly leniently treated:—St. Clements 7st 12lb, Vasator 7st 5lb, Tulloch 7st 2lb, Octopus 7st (this horse has never won a handicap, still there is no reason why he should not, as he wins selling races easily enough at all kinds of distances, and depend upon it he will crop up some day when not expected), Echo 7st, and Kildare 6st 10lb.

There are fifteen in the Hurdle Race—such as they are. Ingorangi, 10st 12lb, as I said in the Steeplechase if fit, is not likely to spin. Stepper, 10st 7lb, has got off easily considering the company; Never Miss, 10st 5lb, is uncertain; Cloth of Gold, 10st 4lb, is not fit. Among the ragged division Neli, 9st 9lb, and Ika Vuka, 9st 7lb, especially read well. The latter at Papakura jumped the wing of the hurdle below the stand and should have been pulled up, but he kept with the others for a certain distance and then dropped back. It struck me that the jockey knew the mistake and had a public feeler, but did not like to come too far in case he got into trouble. Capella, 9st 9lb, on paper is turned loose, but those who saw her at Papakura ought to have seen that she is far from fit, and if I am not mistaken she is forward in foal; in fact, she should not be raced in her present condition. Warrior, 9st 7lb, appears for the first time, and I have had no opportunity of finding out how he shapes at the illegitimate game.

A WELL-KNOWN Native interpreter told me yesterday that he had been asked by the Secretary of the A.R.C. to interpret some of the Rules of Racing into Maori.

THE acceptances for the Taranaki Jockey Club Handicap are very poor, only ten out of the original thirty accepting. Of those remaining in Whisper, 8st 10lb heads the list, Scot Free, 8st 7lb, including his penalty, coming next. Of these two Whisper reads the best. Lochness, 7st 12lb, is not badly in, but the trainer of Krina, 7st 6lb, should have his line. Of the others, Awarua Rose, 6st 12lb, reads the best, but my preference is for Whisper, though Lochness and Krina my bring her home. For the Flying Handicap only nine of the original twenty-four entries declared content. Of these I prefer Cretonne, 7st, Heather Bell 8st, and Torpedo, 7st 5lb, in the order named.



[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 PARADE FOR APRIL.

- GARRISON CORPS. Auckland Naval Artillery—Friday 8th, at 7.30 p.m. Ponsoby Naval Artillery—Monday 15th, at 7.30 p.m. "A" Battery Artillery—Thursday 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Auckland Engineers—Wednesday 13th and 27th, at 7.30 p.m. Victoria Rifles Tuesday 12th and 26th, at 7.30 p.m. Auckland City Guards } Garrison Band—8th and 12th, at 7.30 p.m. COUNTRY CORPS. Thames Naval Artillery—Monday, 11th and 25th, at 7.30 p.m. Wairoa Rifles—Saturday, 2nd and 16th, at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Hamilton Light Infantry—Thursday, 14th and 28th, at 7.30 p.m.

SERG. HARRY DOUGHTY, the Champion Rifle Shot of the Colony, received a most enthusiastic reception at the hands of the public on his return to Auckland on Wednesday last. On the arrival of the Mahinapua, which had all her bunting flying, the champion was welcomed by Captain Geddes, of the "A" Battery, and Albert Doughty, his brother, who is Sergt.-Major of the same corps, and driven to town, where it had been arranged to give the crack shot a suitable reception at 5 p.m. Several thousand people assembled at the Railway Station gates, where the volunteers had also been ordered to muster, but, owing to the inconvenience of the hour, there was a very poor turn out, the Navals, under Captain-Commandant Le Roy, being most prominent. The "A" Battery had a gun detachment with one of their nine-pounders, to which was hitched four magnificent greys, Gunners E. Wiles, and Dunningham being mounted as drivers; the detachment consisted amongst others of the famous shots—Parslow, Webster, Taylor, Head, Buchanan, Hazard and Henderson. On arrival, Sergt. Doughty was warmly welcomed by Messrs. J. M. Shera and T. Thompson M.H.R.'s, and many other prominent citizens. The Mayor of Auckland (Mr. Crowther) ascended the carriage and in an excellent practical speech warmly welcomed Doughty, and spoke highly of McCallum's phenomenal score of 17 bulls-eyes in succession at 500 and 600 yards. A number of Doughty's comrades of the "A" Battery then carried him shoulder high from the carriage and placed him on the limber box, the limber being limbered up to the gun, from which was flying the red flag bearing the words "Our Champion," in white letters. This is not the first time the "A" Battery have had the distinguished honour of unfurling this banner, for to my knowledge Bell and Parslow twice are ex-champions. The procession was then formed, headed by the Artillery Band under Bandmaster Andrew R Hunter, which had a muster that did them credit, and to the strains of marching music which that band only can play, "Forward at a walk—March," was the order. Following the gun was a carriage containing His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Crowther), and the Town Clerk (Mr. Phillips) in the seat of honour, while propped up in the seat in front of them were Major Morrow and the senior member of the City, Mr. J. M. Shera, which was doubtless strictly in accordance with Burke, but caused no end of amusement to the hundreds of pedestrians who followed

the procession up Queen Street to the Drill Shed. En route numbers of handkerchiefs from fairy like hands, and impromptu flags tied on the end of broomsticks or anything available, were waved from upstairs windows by bashful maidens on the blushing Doughty, and in more than one instance the scene strongly reminded me of the balcony scene in Romeo and Juliet; in which the champion played Romeo in a manner that would not disgrace Walter Bentley. No win in Auckland could have been more popular than Doughty's, and he is to be accorded a promenade concert to-morrow evening, which will undoubtedly be a great and brilliant success, judging by the enthusiasm displayed in its preparation and the manner in which the tickets are going off.

It is stated that the Duke of Cambridge has written to Captain Osborne (who wanted to resign his commission owing to the reflections cast upon him by his wife's crime in the Spink Pearl Case) to the effect that Her Majesty "could not afford to part with the finest representative of chivalry of the century."—Post.

The District Belt, presented by Mr. J. McCosh Clark many years ago, to be fired for annually, and won twice in succession or three times at intervals before becoming the absolute property of anyone, would appear to bear a charmed life, for no one appears to be able to appropriate the coveted trophy and thus enable Mrs. Clark to fulfil her promise to present another Belt in its place, although Vol. Theo. Fairs has on several occasions gone close to it. The Belt was again competed for on Saturday last, and by a most peculiar coincidence the three top scores are the same as last year. On this occasion Col. Sergt L. Skinner of the Victoria Rifles proved successful.

TORPEDO.

TURF RECORD.

PAPAKURA RACING CLUB.—Saturday, March 26.

HANDICAP HURDLES of 35sovs. Second horse to receive 5sovs from the stake. Over seven flights of hurdles. Distance, 1 1/2 miles. 107 Mr. J. R. Martin's b g Stepper, by Maroro, 5yrs, 10.0, Reid 1 83 Mr. R. Burke's b m Kate, by Ingomar—Kate, 6yrs, 9.8, Crowl 2 102 Mr. S. Cotton's b g Cloth of Gold, by Bothwell—Kingfisher mare, a., 10.0, A. Williams 3 46 Mr. F. Kavanagh's ch h Bryan O'Lynn, by Randwick—Rosalie, a., 10.6, Currie 0 38 Mr. J. Philpot's m g Sepoy, a., 7.12, Gallagher 2 14 Mr. M. Hickey's b g Ika Vuka, by Ariel, 5yrs, 9.9, Woolley 0 14 Mr. M. Hickey's Carbery, by Endymion, 4yrs, 9.7, Collins 0 390 Won by two lengths easily. Time, none taken. Dividend, £1 12s., 10s. tickets.

HANDICAP PONY RACE of 20sovs. Second pony to receive 3sovs from the stake. For ponies 14.2 and under. Distance, six furlongs. 84 Mr. J. McNeish's br g Walter Scott, by Sir Walter, a., 6.7, Creamer 1 108 Mr. P. H. Bourke's br f La Grippe, by Daniel O'Rorke, 3yrs, 7.0, Pennell 2 238 Mr. C. Philpot's m g Sepoy, a., 7.12, Gallagher 3 48 Mr. Johnston's m g Little Nannie, by Maori—Blue Bell, 5yrs, 6.10, Munro 0 48 Mr. T. B. Bell's br m Marriah, by Gillie Callum, 5yrs, 6.7, Hodson 0 526 Won by half a length. Time, 1min 24sec. Dividend, £2 15s., 10s. tickets.

PAPAKURA CUP HANDICAP of 70sovs. Second horse to receive 10sovs from the stake. Distance, 1 1/2 miles. 174 Mr. Walter's ch m Leorina, by Leolinus—Yatterina, a., 8.0, Pyne 1 43 Mrs. J. Leonard's b m Ida, by King Cole—Bragela, 5yrs, 6.9, Smith 2 69 Mr. J. Roulston's br g Belmont, by King Quail—Winnie, 6yrs, 6.12, Creamer 3 41 Mr. J. Matland's b m Capella, by Capapie—Xantippe, a., 6.10, Hodson 0 527 Won easily by two lengths. Time, 2min 16sec. Dividend, £1 13s., £1 tickets.

MAIDEN PLATE HANDICAP of 25sovs. Second horse to receive 5sovs from the stake. For all horses that have never won an advertised race exceeding 25sovs in value at time of entry. Distance, one mile. 37 Mr. W. J. Sayers' br m Transit, by Hippocampus—Venus Transit, 3yrs, 7.0, Creamer 1 59 Mr. Massey's b m Acacia, by King Cole—Akeake mare, 3yrs, 6.7, Smith 2 75 Mr. Marangi's ch g Assassin, by Badsworth—Jet, a., 7.5, Manning 3 16 Mr. W. Paul's br m Hinemoa, late Black Rose, by The Australian—Satyr mare, 5yrs, 7.4, Hodson 0 106 Mr. W. McCabe's b h Mascotte, by Gillie Callum, 5yrs, 7.3, Davis 0 86 Mr. J. Thorpe's br m Jessica, by Billingsgate—Jessie, 4yrs, 7.0, Bird 0 4 Mr. J. E. McGee's b g Kauri Gum, by King Quail—Lavender, 3yrs, 6.10, Munro 0 583 Won by half a length. Time, 1min 50sec. Dividend, £4 10s., 10s. tickets.

HANDICAP STEEPLCHASE of 60sovs. Second horse to receive 10sovs from the stake. Distance, about three miles. 156 Mr. R. Burke's b m Kate, by Ingomar—Kate, 6yrs, 9.9, Crowl 1 235 Mr. J. Rae's b g The Colonel, by Cap-a-pie—Candour, a., 11.0, owner 2 21 Mr. F. Kavanagh's ch h Bryan O'Lynn, by Randwick—Rosalie, a., 9.10, W. J. Williams 0 54 Mr. S. Cotton's b g Cloth of Gold, by Bothwell—Kingfisher mare, a., 9.9, A. Williams 0 466 Won by twenty lengths. Time, none taken. Dividend, £1 6s., 10s. tickets. The others did not finish.

HANDICAP NOVEL RACE of 20sovs. Winner to be sold immediately after the race. The whole of the proceeds to go to the Club. Distance, one mile. 69 Mr. J. E. McGee's b g Comet, by Ariolite—Rangi, a., 7.7, Gallagher 1